

THE CRY OF THE DREAMER

I am tired of the planning and toiling In the crowded hives of men; Heart-weary of building and spoiling, And spoiling and building again.

WHEN PHYLLIS TOOK ME SERIOUSLY. By Herbert McBean Johnson.

PHYLLIS, I asked, "will you marry me?" "Seventeen," said Phyllis. I looked at her in astonishment.

"Seventeen?" I questioned. "Seventeen what?" "Why, the score, you silly," she responded demurely.

"That's the trouble with Phyllis. If her sense of humor were not so highly developed, I'm sure I would have had her ages ago.

"But her sense of humor isn't as good as it used to be," she continued. "Besides, there are a lot of little things—particularly about your clothes."

"I have," said I, stoutly. "Huh!" snorted Phyllis, in disbelief. "How many proposals have you ever made?"

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"I don't know who was next," interrupted Phyllis, quickly; "do you know?"

"I'm not," said Phyllis, with a certain assumption of dignity; "I'm only twenty-three."

"The very idea!" I murmured in a surprised way. "I never even insinuated such a thing. But you know, I concluded dismally, 'you haven't had a proposal in three weeks.'"

"I would have a new climax for the next one," said I, indifferently. I had expected Phyllis to be affected; instead, she burst out laughing.

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"Quite so," said Phyllis, dryly. "How awful it must be to be laid on the shelf," I remarked sympathetically.

TRUE TALES OF ADVENTURE.

THE VICTORIA CROSS.

JANUARY 29 is the anniversary of the institution of the soldier's most precious decoration—perhaps the most precious decoration in the world—the Victoria Cross.

"The Victoria Cross had its birth during the Crimean war, when Queen Victoria felt that some recognition of the personal daring and heroism of her soldiers in that terrible struggle was needed, and it is said that the designs for the first Cross were made by no less a person than the late Prince Consort, who, needless to say, was most interested in the institution of the decoration and the selection of those on whom it was first bestowed.

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harpoon will penetrate only the least accessible portions of the body. Nor does the title to the hide necessarily pass with making fast the weapon, says Country Life in America.

One afternoon in the Cheeseshowitz-kee River I harpooned a large alligator which towed me up and down the stream for an hour or two and then sulked in its deepest part. I pulled on the line until the boat was directly over him and stirred him up with the harpoon pole.

The former was promptly bitten in three places, but the latter apparently finished him. It was so nearly dark that we decided to carry him in the skiff a mile down the river to where our sloop was anchored.

It was growing dark and the water around us was becoming alive with alligators. While we were reflecting upon our overladen condition our alligator came to life again and shifted ballast until water poured over the gunwale.

"There are drawbacks to hunting in the Great Cypress Swamp. Even natives have been lost and died in its recesses. It is bounded on the east by the Everglades and on the west by a series of impenetrable mangrove thickets, alternating with deep channels.

A HERO OF THE SHIPYARDS. On Friday last a big boiler, weighing sixty-four tons, was about to be lowered into the hold of a steamship at the New York shipyards.

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THINNING OUT FRUIT.

More large fruit, and of better quality, can be secured by thinning out the fruit on the trees. It is a loss of fruit and an injury to a tree when it ripens a large amount of fruit, and the crop next year will also be reduced.

GRAFTING AND BUDDING. In grafting, scions from choice stock are transplanted upon seedlings of unknown possibilities, and also, scions from plants of naturally weak growth are profitably grafted upon sturdier stock.

BEST LANDS FOR FRUITS. Have you noticed the condition of the soil in your orchard vineyard, or berry fields immediately after a rain? If you find the water standing upon the soil, or if you find soil water-soaked, it is evident that the land needs ditching.

BLACK KNOT ON TREES. Plum and cherry trees are more affected by black knot than any other fruit trees, and the trouble is one that should be remedied as soon as detected. Spraying is more or less useful if the disease is not deep seated, but when the wart-like knots are of good size the best remedy is to remove them with the pruning knife or saw.

BRANCH OF TREE TOMATO. If one would be considered quite sane one should not discuss the tree tomato even yet. Otherwise one is likely to be reasoned with gently and informed that tomatoes grow on vines instead of trees.

A WOLF-CATCHER'S ADVENTURE. A wolf catcher of Mont Berra, in the Alps, has had a curious experience with famished eagles. The man was engaged in his trade, and was proceeding to a lonely part of the mountain to rebait his traps when three huge eagles swooped down upon him and circled round and round him as he tried to keep them off with his staff.



Our Admiration. Too often we admire the person who will listen to reason, because he gives us a chance to talk.—Philadelphia Telegraph.

The Grand Jury of Cook County (Chicago) reports an alarming increase in the sale of cocaine.

AN EARLY FLYING MACHINE.

Remarkable Invention by a Portuguese Which Failed to Work.

In the Evening Post, dated the 20-22 December, 1700, is an interesting description of a flying ship then lately invented by a Portuguese priest. Unfortunately, for the glory of Portugal it did not fly, as was expected, 200 miles in twenty-four hours, or at all.

WISE WORDS. Cunning has effect from credulity of others. It requires no extraordinary talents to lie and deceive.—Johnson.

There is not in nature a thing that makes man so deformed, so beastly, as doth intemperate anger.—Young Webster.

The consummation of madness is to do what, at the time of doing it, we intend to be afterward sorry for; the deliberate and intentional making of work for repentance.—W. Nevins.

Command thy servant advisedly with few plain words, fully, freely and positively, with a grave countenance and settled carriage; these will procure obedience, gain respect and maintain authority.—Fuller.

What we count the ills of life are often blessings in disguise, resulting in good to us in the end. Though for the present not joyous, but grievous, yet, if received in a right spirit, they work out fruits of righteousness for us at last.—M. Henry.

When Rubber Was New. "Rubber," said a dealer, "which is so common an article with us to-day, was unknown to us in 1750. Here is what Priestly said of rubber that we have." The dealer brought out a bit of paper and read:

Satire as a Power For Good. A powerful instrument for good might also be found in fiction, if we had among us a new Thackeray, and, further, if the satire were taken seriously, says the Lady's Pictorial.

British Forage Cap. In one respect, at least, the British Army is getting more and more like that of Germany. The new forage cap which is shortly to be served out is said to be more Teutonic in its cut and style than anything which has hitherto been seen on the heads of British soldiers.