

BOOKS AND MEN.

How closely men resemble books! For instance, when one merely looks at covers dull or bright with sheet, he never can tell what is between. Until he reads. A gaudy dress may be the cloak of emptiness. While bindings, plain and poor and thin, may hold a wealth of thought within.

Men are like books! Made page by page To count the records of their age— Telling a story all may read, Trying to sow achievement's seed, Delving in mysteries of the deep, The open plain, the mountain steep, Spreading the wisdom of the world, And keeping freedom's flag unfurled.

Like books, some men are good, some bad, Some humorous, some dull and sad, Some shallow, others strong and deep; Some are but fiction, others, truth, Some reach old age, some die in youth; But just a few can dimly see The goal of immortality! —James Courtney Challiss, in Success.



AMONG the 400 American teachers who went to Manila on the transport Thomas were two Chicago women, sisters and teachers of the public schools of the city, who had successfully passed the high-grade examination demanded by Professor Atkinson, and were very happy to be en route to the Philippines.

But their reasons for going to the new American colonies were neither educational nor patriotic, as I happened to know. This is one of the tragedies of life involving an ordinary private soldier which is not written in army records, but the story engraven on the hearts of two women needs no embellishment. The young soldier had served his country and was rewarded with a hospital stewardship in Manila. The two young women were his cousins. He was engaged in a way to both, but he could only marry one. It was a toss up—heads to win—and Georgia won. There was so little difference in their size and appearance that the two sisters were often taken for twins. Both were small and quiet, limited by the narrow entourage of a teacher's life, to which they had been born and bred. Their soldier cousin, who had been reared in their family, was the idol of their hearts. That he could only marry one made the tragedy of their lives, but if indeed he was to marry Georgia, which was not absolutely settled in their love-deluded minds, why then Julia would be a sharer of their home and happiness; either one was ready to welcome sacrifice because of Tom.

Tom, the scapegrace, the ne'er-do-well, who had kept them all on the anxious bench until he enlisted, when Uncle Sam took him by the scruff of the neck, shook him up, and gave him such a taste of army discipline that the young man pulled himself together and made a very fair soldier, with occasional doses of guardhouse medicine. It was after one of those riotous relapses that in a spirit of penitence Tom had written to his cousins suggesting that they come to Manila at the expense of the Government, and, incidentally, that he wanted a wife to keep him in order, addressing the letter to Georgia.

It was a memorable voyage for those two, who had never in their lives before seen the world outside of the



State of Illinois. They were surrounded by a remarkable company of teachers, who had been chosen from the many normal universities of the country, all of whom were strangers to them and to each other before meeting on the transport at San Francisco. Yet it is a matter of history that thirty couples became acquainted, engaged and stopped at Honolulu to be married within a period of ten days. The diversion of these hurried courtships relieved the tedium of the voyage for the little sisters.

When the transport was anchored off the mouth of the Pasig River awaiting the visit of the American sanitary inspector before steaming up to the wharf in Manila town, the two girls—shy and brown as quails—sat with Tom's last letter open before them reading directions and laughing over his promise for their future comfort. "We're to have gowns of 'pina' cloth," said Georgia, reading aloud with reservation, "and we will ride in a tram car where the conductor blows a horn that sounds like the wall of loud souls."

"And he will take us to ride on a 'quizez,' in which the soldiers go on larks." "He won't go on larks any more," said Georgia with decision. "We must make his life so happy that he will find his best entertainment with us."

"O," said Julia, referring again to the letter. "he says here that he has engaged a Filipino girl to wait on us. She wears a short, picturesque gown, and has a braid of lustrous black hair hanging down her back, and can say a few American words. She is very pretty, but a half-caste. We must have her picture taken and send it home. I hope she likes Americans."

"I wonder if Tom is as anxious to see us as we are to see him," said Georgia.

"No, the dear fellow, it would not be natural. We have not been in any danger in the past three years. I have heard teachers are a favorable risk for life insurance, so few of them die."

"Oh, do you think Tom will come on board with the inspector?" Georgia was getting very nervous.

The boat came out with the inspector, but no Tom. He had been ordered on duty, they said to each other, but it was two lonely little schoolma'ams that were finally landed in Manila and found no one waiting for them. No, yes, a young man in a uniform of the U. S. A. came running forward looking from one group to another. When he saw the two little women he took his hat off.

"You are expecting to meet Tom Dewar?" he said, haltingly.

"Yes; he is our cousin," answered Julia, who, though the youngest, was the bravest, "and he knows we are coming on this steamer. Oh, do you know him?"

"We belong to the same company, fought side by side and drank from the same canteen. He was my best friend," said the young soldier solemnly.

"Was?" Georgia caught at his use of the past tense. "Has something happened to him? Is he—"

"How can I tell you? Oh, why was this cruel duty put upon me? May I ask which of you was—was engaged to marry Tom?"

"Both of us," said Georgia, who did not know in the least what she was saying.

"Neither," responded Julia, drawing herself very erect.

"That is well," the young soldier gave a sigh of relief at Julia's stiff denial; "then you will not be shocked to hear that Tom Dewar is—"

"Dead?" Both girls spoke as if one voice and gasped for breath.

"No, married! To a native Filipino girl, who has taken him home to her parents. I'm awfully glad you don't mind it, and since I was Tom's friend I hope you will let me be yours, and be of some service to you in his absence."

It was manfully spoken, and the two little, lonely, crushed women followed him mechanically into the new, strange world of the Philippines, from which the enchantment of romance, beauty and love had dropped forever, leaving an arid desert of duty—because of Tom—M. L. Rayne, in the Chicago Record-Herald.

The Basle Clock.
In the accounts of journeys in Switzerland of the last century it is often remarked that the clocks of Basle were an hour too fast, says La Federation Horlogere Suisse. Tradition reveals to us the origin of this custom. When, five centuries ago, the city was besieged, the enemy designed to make a surprise when the main clock should strike one. The clockmaker who had charge of the public clocks learned in time the signal of the attack, and set the apparatus so that it should strike 2 o'clock instead of 1 o'clock. The enemy were disconcerted and abandoned the assault. In memory of this happy deliverance of the city the clock was still allowed to strike an hour in advance, and the other clocks were regulated by this one. So, for centuries, the time of Basle was one hour in advance of that of the rest of the country.

The clockmaker, who by this ruse prevented the anticipated attack, and who was venerated to the end of his days, made as a souvenir of this event a mechanical chef d'oeuvre in the form of a human head, which he placed at the side of the clock in such a way that it looked in the direction whence the attack was to proceed. Every minute this head stuck out its tongue, as if to mock the enemy.

Menelik's Remedy Against Lightning.
A most interesting medical report has come from Abyssinia. Dr. Mazzetti, who has been studying tuberculosis for the American Medical Association, says Ethiopia is especially free from the disease. The doctor thinks that in time to come, when Ethiopia is somewhat more civilized and the means of communication are better, it will be an ideal place for those suffering from consumption, and may become most popular on that account.

Speaking with Menelik of death the Italian physicians found that he greatly feared lightning. He has always ready sulphuric ether and a syringe. He saw one day an Italian doctor inject ether into a man unconscious from a shock of lightning, and has since considered it an infallible remedy. His bottle bears the inscription: "Remedy against lightning." In the beginning of 1897 Menelik commissioned some Italian doctors to set up a model pharmacy at Addis-Abeba, which was soon done, but its contents now require renewing. Each bottle and drawer bears the name of its contents in Italian and Abyssinian, while the illnesses for which each may be used are named in a large book kept personally by the Negus.—Pall Mall Gazette.

Raised by Discs.
The ranks of British airship inventors are swelling with new plans and designs, the latest being that of Edward Mote, of Islington.

This inventor has constructed a successful model of a machine having an entirely new mode of propulsion. The method employed is the use of discs placed on each side of a platform, which is suspended from and hanging between two compound balloons. These revolving discs are made with a double action, which continues automatically on an "interior" and "exterior" plane, obtaining a level propulsion on both sides of the platform. The action of the discs is reversible, and can be worked horizontally or vertically, thus providing a lifting as well as a driving power, notwithstanding the weight of the machine.

Sanitary Particulars.
No fewer than 4000 landlords have refused to provide a proper drainage system to their houses, in accordance with the new sanitary regulations. The Municipal Council has now to decide whether it shall undertake 4000 prosecutions, or do the work itself and sue the landlords to recover the cost afterward.

COST OF LIVING GREATER

Increase in Prices of Food Products Throughout the Country.

HIGH MEAT RATES TO CONTINUE

Farmers Find It More Profitable to Sell Milk and Corn Than to Furnish Veal and Pork — Price of Meat Highest in Nine Years—The Grocery Trade Situation—Effect of Corn Failure.

New York City.—Whatever may be the influences, natural or artificial, at work, it can no longer be disputed that food products, not only in New York City but throughout the country, are steadily rising in price. In groceries this new and startling development is not so marked and it is said by many to be of only a temporary nature. In meats the situation is one to concern not only the housekeeper but the meat trade itself.

One butcher said that the present price of meats is the highest that he has known in nine years; that is, the highest price to be maintained for any length of time. During the winter of 1895-96 prices were slightly higher for a brief period.

One wholesale dealer of this tradesman's acquaintance, who, during his forty years' experience in the wholesale meat trade has traveled all over the West, remarked to him recently that there would be no cheap beef for a year or two to come. At the present time, the butcher added, all meats, with the exception of veal, cost the consumer two cents more than in the summer. Veal itself is six cents higher.

This increase came suddenly about the first week in September, the dealer explained, and there was no indication of a return to former prices. Instead, he predicted that the price of meats will increase from a cent to a cent and a half within the next three weeks, and he is of the opinion that these abnormal rates will continue for three or four years.

Further, he said, the rise of six cents a pound in veal was due to the good prices obtainable at present for milk. Farmers find that they can get more profit out of milk than out of veal, and are allowing their calves to become cows.

Many reasons are advanced for the increase in cattle and hog products. The principal one is the failure of the corn crop. Farmers estimate that for each bushel of corn eight pounds of merchantable pork should accrue. With a price of six and three-quarter cents for pork, the farmer has a total of fifty-four cents as returns from his bushel of corn, to set against seventy-five cents, which his corn commands.

This line of agricultural reasoning also applies to cattle, and during the year thousands of acres which were formerly devoted to grazing were plowed and planted for grain. The "cornstalk disease" has also thinned the ranks of the beef producers, and the heavy losses on ranches in winter, due to inadequate housing, have by no means decreased. All these have combined to make costs higher to the consumer.

While systematic efforts will doubtless be made to remedy this existing shortage and farmers outside the great cattle districts will probably turn their attention to the business to face the corn crop. Farmers estimate that it is generally conceded that those prices cannot be materially altered for some time to come.

Meanwhile, the cattlemen, with depleted herds, are forced to raise their prices, the wholesalers are compelled to follow, and the retailers are in turn laid under the necessity of levying increased tribute upon the army of consumers.

In the grocery trade the situation is very different, and if any vegetables or fruits have advanced in price the increase has been directly traceable to crop failures, as in apples and potatoes. Fresh laid eggs and butter are higher than usual, but this was explained by one grocer as merely the annual winter increase in price. The marked rise in cold storage eggs was the work of "a combination," which, he said, cornered this section of the market, as it had done last winter. Canned goods were higher, owing to the rise in the price of tin, but with the exception of oats, practically everything else was on a normal basis.

YOUNG JEKYL-HYDE EXPOSED.
Chicago, Ill.—A graveyard robber by night and a prosperous contractor by day, such is the strange dual life of Charles Stark, now working out a fine at the Bridewell, vainly endeavoring to conceal his identity from the young woman who has promised to become his bride.

Stark was captured while despoiling graves in Graceland Cemetery of their framed floral pieces. He confessed that for ten years he had systematically robbed the different cemeteries, and selling them to small florists. He says he was trained by his father and began looting cemeteries when he was eleven years old. Until his exposure Clark was accounted one of the most prosperous and honorable young contractors in the community.

To Reduce Military Force in Cuba.
President Roosevelt and Secretary Root, at Washington, have decided upon another reduction of the military forces in Cuba. This action was taken after receiving a report from General Wood at Havana that a reduction could be made because of the tranquil condition of Cuba.

An Armistice in South America.
A three weeks' armistice was arranged between the opposing Colombian and Venezuelan armies in South America owing to the heavy rains.

Bulldog and Horse in a Fight.

A fierce battle was waged on Sunny Slope avenue between an imported bulldog and a dapple-gray delivery horse, driven by a feed merchant. The merchant went out with a load of feed. After unloading he was lifting the wagon round to get out of cramped quarters when the bulldog came up. The dog was friendly with the man and then passed on to the horse. The horse kicked at the dog, and in less than no time a sanguinary fight was in progress. The horse was hampered with harness and wagon shafts, but used its front and hind legs with telling effect. Time and again the dog was hurled for several feet by terrific kicks from the horse, but each time the dog came back to renew the battle. The dog direct its whole attack at the legs of the horse.

The driver was trying to hold the frenzied horse by the head and could do nothing to get the horse or the dog out of danger. Blood was streaming from dozens of wounds in the legs of the horse, and the dog was continuing the fight with three broken ribs, a broken paw and one eye nearly out of its socket, when some men on the street ran to the rescue and by main force pulled the infuriated dog away from the horse. Both animals are so badly hurt that they may die, blood poisoning being likely. The dog was sent here from San Francisco a few days ago to be taken care of.—San Francisco Chronicle.

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