

WHEN THE POETS SPEAK FOR US

Origin of Some of World's Famous Old Hymns Dear to All.

These comments on the uniform prayer meeting topic of the young people's societies—Christian Endeavor, etc.—for September 2 is "My Favorite Hymn," "Tell Why—Psalms 133-137-222."

The power of the poet consists in his ability to say in choicest words, what other persons are also thinking. A hymn especially has this quality to collectiveness. It gathers up the aspirations and sentiments of the hearts of the many. It is a curious thing that we often do not realize our own loftiest sentiments until the poet has expressed them for us. We turn to the Psalms, for example, and lo, all the fervor and beauty and reliance upon Jehovah and eagerness for the holiness of those passionate utterances are appropriated as our own. That is why the reading or singing of hymns is a first aid to devotion—and it is also a sufficient reason why we should guard well the character of our hymn books so that no heedless publisher may foist mere doggerel and jingles upon services of Christian worship.

Books of worship and ritual are sometimes called "collects," one reason being that they "collect," or gather up, the common devotion of all the people. This is an office of the hymn. It is an expression of the universal Christian heart. The feelings of millions meet in the words of the poet. Consider how hundreds of millions of yearning spirits have sung such hymns as "Jesus, Lover of My Soul," "Abide With Me," "Rock of Ages," "Lead, Kindly Light." To have written one hymn that lives is a life work for anybody.

When George Matheson, the blind preacher of Scotland, was jilted by his sweetheart when it became known that he was to lose his sight, he penned the words that seem destined to be immortal:

"O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in Thee;
I give Thee back the life I owe,
That in Thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

"O Cross that lifted up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from Thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be."

"They learn in sorrow what they teach in song," it is said of the poets. Out of the heartbreak of an obscure preacher, doomed to death by disease, spring the deathless hymns:

"Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide!
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me."

Probably no poet ever knew which of his lines were to enjoy deathless fame. Some hymns have found a mission far beyond the design of their writers. Reginald Heber's "From Greenland's Icy Mountains" was written for a local church program, with no thought beyond the minute's need; and so also was S. Barling Gould's "Onward Christian Soldiers." Even such noble hymns as "Jesus, Lover of My Soul" and "Rock of Ages" originally had a controversial purpose. Toplady wrote his great lines to confute the uncalvinistic tending of the hymn, however, as he sings like a homeward-bound bird:

"Rock of Ages cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee,
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,
Cleanse me from its guilt and power."

There are many and divers reasons why the noble hymns of the church should be memorized in youth; and a valid one is that the mothers of tomorrow may have them stored up against the day when little children are to be sung to. That person has missed something from his education who does not cherish among his earliest and sweetest memories the singing of the famous hymns of his own mother. I have battlefield memories of soldiers craving "Jesus, Lover of My Soul," and I have heard it sung by many great congregations; but the very mention of the hymn recalls it as a mother's lullaby, sung to comfort a feeble child amid the thronging cares of a home. I would rather have penned "Jesus, Lover of My Soul" than to have preached all the sermons, written all the books and exercised all the leadership of John Wesley:

"Other helpers have I none;
Hangs my helpless soul on Thee;
Leave, oh! leave me not alone,

Still support and comfort me.
All my trust on Thee is stayed,
All my help from Thee I bring;
Cover my defenseless head
With the shadow of Thy wing."

Fanny Crosby lived and died blind and she was not wise, as the world counts wisdom; but her vision of spiritual things was clear and unclouded. I wonder how many persons, in the presence of a glorious sunset, have repeated in their hearts Fanny Crosby's lines:

"Some day, when sinks the golden sun,
Beneath the noisy tinted West,
My blessed Lord will say, "well done,"
And I shall enter into rest,
And I shall see Him face to face,
And tell the story, saved by grace!"

There are no creed lines in great hymns. It was a Unitarian who wrote "Nearer, My God to Thee" and a Roman Catholic to whom we owe, "Lead, Kindly Light." Yet these hymns are found in every evangelical Protestant hymn book, and are sung by peoples of all creeds, and of no creed, except the desire to know God.

One rare and unforgettable night I was traveling over the steep defiles of Mt. Carmel, in the Holy Land. There was danger from brigands and danger from the slipping of the horse's feet on the rocky slopes of the interminable hills. Nevertheless above the wondrous clear Syrian stars and all about me were ancient and sacred memories, and I cried aloud every hymn that I knew, in irrepressible exultation of spirit. The glory of that night could not be expressed in any words of my own; and I was grateful for a storehouse of hymns that could give vent to my ebullience of soul. To every one of us there will come times when the remembered hymns of our youth will be more precious than the treasures of the Orient.

Senatorial Campaign.

- Manning, Monday July 15.
- Dillon, Tuesday July 16
- Florence, Wednesday July 17
- Conway, Thursday July 18
- Marion, Friday July 19
- Kingstree, Saturday July 20
- Georgetown, Monday July 22
- Monck's Corner, Tuesday July 23
- Charleston, Wednesday July 24
- Walterboro, Thursday July 25
- Ridgeland, Friday July 26
- Beaufort, Saturday July 27
- Hampton, Monday July 29
- Barnwell, Tuesday July 30
- Bamberg, Wednesday July 31
- Aiken, Thursday August 1
- Edgefield, Friday August 2
- Saluda, Saturday August 3
- Lexington, Tuesday August 6
- Newberry, Wednesday August 7
- Laurens, Thursday August 8
- Greenwood, Friday August 9
- Abbeville, Saturday August 10.
- McCormick, Tuesday August 13
- Anderson, Wednesday August 14
- Walhalla, Thursday August 15
- Pickens, Friday August 16
- Greenville, Saturday August 17
- Union, Wednesday August 21
- Gaffney, Thursday August 22
- Spartanburg, Friday August 23

State Campaign.

- McCormick, Friday July 5
- Abbeville, Saturday July 6
- Anderson, Monday July 15
- Walhalla, Tuesday July 16
- Pickens, Wednesday July 17
- Greenville, Thursday July 18
- Union, Friday July 19
- Spartanburg, Saturday July 20
- Gaffney, Tuesday July 23
- York, Wednesday July 24
- Lancaster, Thursday July 25
- Chester, Friday July 26
- Winnboro, Saturday July 27
- Camden, Tuesday July 30
- Chesterfield, Wednesday July 31
- Bennettsville, Thursday August 1
- Darlington, Friday August 2
- Bishopville, Saturday August 3
- Sumter, Tuesday August 6
- Dillon, Wednesday August 7
- Conway, Thursday August 8
- Marion, Friday August 9
- Florence, Saturday August 10
- Manning, Tuesday August 13
- Kingstree, Wednesday August 14
- Georgetown, Thursday August 15
- Monck's Corner, Friday August 16
- Charleston, Saturday August 17
- St. George, Tuesday, August 20
- Orangeburg, Wednesday August 21
- St. Matthews, Thursday August 22
- Columbia, Friday August 23

Apparently because she refused to tell him where she secured some money with which she had bought some crackers, George Frazier, a negro, shot his wife, Julia Frazier, a few days ago, on the plantation of Mr. W. D. Mayfield, near Denmark. The woman lived until last Wednesday, when she died as a result of the wound. She was shot with a 32-caliber pistol.

FLOUR EMBARGO HAS BEEN LIFTED

Flour Can Now Be Shipped into State Without Permits, But Wheat Conservation Still Is Necessary.

Columbia.—The embargo on flour, which has been in effect in South Carolina, has been raised by order of William Elliott, food administrator for the State. Since May 15, during the time the embargo on flour has been on in this State, shipments of flour were made into South Carolina only on permits from the Food Administration. The lifting of the embargo means that there may be free movement of flour into the State, without permits, hereafter. The embargo served to cut down shipment of flour from the mills at a critical time and through a period of extreme shortage so far as the wheat supply was concerned. During the embargo, however, there was free movement of flour from one part of the State to another, and no section suffered, which was seen to by the Food Administration.

With the coming in of the new wheat crop there will be relief in the situation, but this does not mean that the public will be relieved from wheat saving. Conservation is still vitally necessary. A hungry, fighting world is to be fed. Only in the United States will there be enough wheat, and the harvest will provide enough in this country only if the people conform with the Food Administration rules and regulations.

SUGAR OBTAINABLE ONLY IN SMALL LOTS

Purchases for Household Use Limited by Food Administration—Sugar Can Be Secured for Canning and Preserving.

Columbia.—Under new regulations issued by the Food Administration and which have already gone into effect, sugar for household use cannot be purchased in larger lots than two pounds by persons residing in cities and towns, or in larger than five pound lots by persons residing in rural sections. These new regulations have been rendered necessary by the sugar shortage, which has become serious. It is unlawful for any dealer to violate this rule, and the seriousness of the situation as regards sugar calls for the most rigid economy in its use.

For canning and preserving fruits and vegetables, which is regarded as very important by the Food Administration, sugar can be obtained in lots up to 25 pounds, but not more than 25 pounds will be sold to any one person in any one month for canning and preserving.

It is necessary, in order to obtain sugar for canning and preserving purposes, that the purchaser sign a pledge blanks for which the dealer has on hand, those being furnished by the Food Administration. The purchaser, pledges himself to use the sugar so obtained for canning and preserving purposes only, and to return to the dealer any portion of the sugar not used for such purpose. Dealers will strictly enforce this rule.

The public is urged by the Food Administration to save every possible spoonful of sugar. There is none to waste. As a matter of fact, the sugar situation is serious. Cuban deliveries have been shorter than were expected. Consumption has been larger. Submarine losses have been heavy, and a reduction of sugar consumption all along the line becomes absolutely necessary, says the Food Administration.

ONLY NECESSARY USE OF ICE PERMITTED

Bulletin Issued by Food Administration Points Out Sources of Ice Waste Which Should Be Avoided.

Columbia.—The necessity of conserving ice becomes important with the summer months ahead, and the Food Administration for South Carolina has issued a bulletin in which some precautionary suggestions are made.

"The call for conservation of ice is prompted not by any anticipated shortage, but in the general interest of thrift and the saving of supplies essential to other important industries," says the bulletin.

The following suggestions are made to indicate sources of waste of ice:

"The practice of shaving ice for restaurants, soda fountains, etc., should be eliminated.

"If ice becomes scarce in a community at any time, a vigorous effort should be made to curtail its use by concerns dealing in luxuries before any reduction is attempted in the amount allowed families using it in moderation.

"Householders should be advised to keep the refrigerator in a cool place, to see that refrigerator doors close tight, and not to put warm food in refrigerators to cool at the expense of the ice.

"Ice should not be used in serving fruit and sea food. Served direct from the refrigerator they are cold enough. Ice should be saved by serving no more than necessary in glasses of water, tea and other drinks.

"The public should not be hysterical over the danger of an actual ice famine. At the worst, only a short accidental stoppage is likely to occur anywhere."

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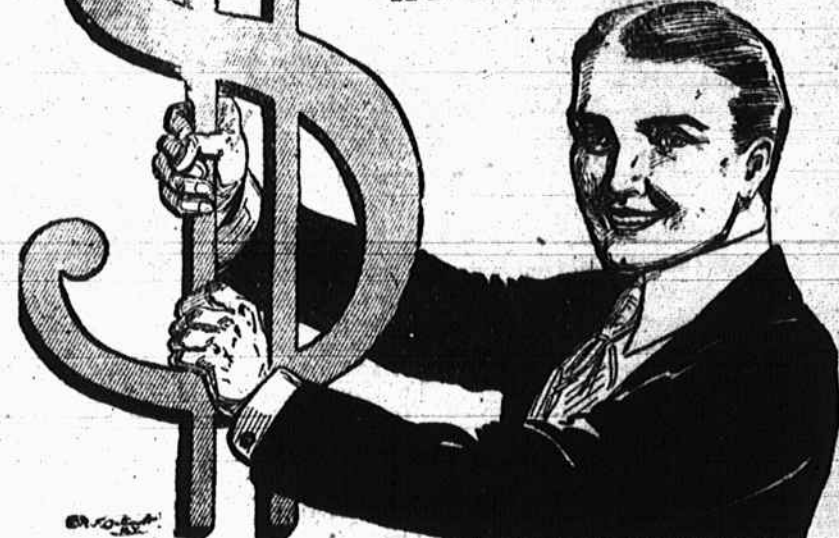
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