

Selections from Longfellow.

Life is the gift of God, and is divine.
If you wish a thing to be well done,
You must do it yourself, you must not leave
it to others!

There is none,
So visionary, or so void of sense,
But he will find a crowd to follow him!

To noble heart Love doth for shelter fly,
As seeks the bird the forest's leafy shade.

Speak, and be brief.
Waste not the time in useless rhetoric,
Words are not things.

Oh, yes; a tower of strength indeed,
A present help in all our need,
A sword and buckler is our God.

It is good to pray unto God; for His sorrow-
ing children
Turns He never from His door, but He hears
and helps and consoles them.

The tidal wave of deeper souls
Into our inmost being rolls,
And lifts us unawares
Out of all meaner cares.

The Origin of Some Famous Hymns.

The circumstances that inspired some of our great devotional hymns must deepen the interest in both the song and the singer and reveal that mighty kinship of human souls, that divine sympathy, that confers deathless fame on a few simple verses, soul-biographies living in song.

"Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me." "This greatest of hymns was written in 1775 by Rev. Augustus Toplady, a very learned English divine, who died at the early age of thirty-eight. The hymn has the rare, wondrous spiritual ecstasy he revealed in his daily life. In his last illness he said: "I cannot tell the comforts that I feel in my soul; they are past expression. It will not be long before God takes me; for no mortal man can live after the glories which God has manifested to my soul." The marble tablet over his grave says: He wrote "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me."

Mrs. Vanalstyne, better known as Fanny Crosby, the blind poet, wrote the hymn, "Safe in the Arms of Jesus," for music in twenty minutes, but into it was put the essence of her whole life of faith. Miss Crosby, after a day's jostling through the city streets, guided by some loving hand, returns to her little room and pours forth her soul in song.

Of the many hymns written by Mrs. Sarah Flower Adams, the only one that has survived is the hymn, "Nearer My God to Thee," based on the Bible story of Jacob's vision at Bethel, the imagery of which narrative it follows most faithfully.

One day Charles Wesley was sitting by an open window, looking over the beautiful fields, when he saw a little bird pursued by a hawk. The poor thing, weak and frightened, in seeking to escape from its enemy, flew into the room and found refuge in Wesley's bosom. As the poet was then in great trouble and needed the safety of a refuge, the consolation of help from a higher power than his own, the incident seemed to him a divine message and, thus inspired, he wrote the famous hymn, "Jesus, Lover of My Soul."—William George Jordan in May Ledger Monthly.

Lesson From the Flowers.

One may readily find the lessons of good in common things. Common tasks and toils are not without their compensations. Common days well spent make the years of a good and happy life. Words of cheer by the wayside are the things which express the character within, and which make the lives of others less irksome and happy. The deeds of every day which are not an artificial and hot-house production and are not sold for money are by far the most valuable to the world. Where generosity and kindness and love are made the common flowers of each day's life, there is happiness within and blessing without.

We have the best authority for saying we must call nothing in all humanity common or unclean. Our eyes are always seeing differences among men, and our judgments drawing lines of distinction. But there was one who walked among the flowers of Palestine, and said the common lily was to him more gorgeously arrayed than Solomon, and in the human soul of publican and sinner saw a child of God and an heir of heaven. How he loved and sought the common people of his land!—Central Presbyterian.

Count no duty too little nor round of life too small, no work too low, if it comes in thy way, since God thinks so much of it as to send his angels to guard thee in it.—Mark Guy Pearse.

Striking Contrasts—1827-1901.

(Prepared by the Youth's Companion.)

In 1827 the United States consisted of twenty-four states—Florida, Arkansas and Michigan were territories.

In 1901 the United States consists of forty-five states, seven territories and a number of islands in the Pacific Ocean and in the Caribbean Sea.

In 1827 the vast country west of Arkansas, Missouri and Illinois was known as the Great American Desert, and was inhabited only by Indians.

In 1901 there are nineteen states and four territories west of the Mississippi river.

In 1827 there were few farms west of the Mississippi river. Only the states of Missouri and Louisiana and the Territory of Arkansas were settled.

In 1901 the same region supplies—to mention one crop only—one-fourth of the wheat consumed in the world—about 600,000,000 bushels.

In 1827 the population of the United States was between eleven and twelve millions. The area in square miles was about 1,048,000.

In 1901 the population of the United States and Territories is 76,295,220, and is distributed over an area of 3,698,865 square miles.

In 1827 there were seven thousand and post-offices in the country.

In 1901 there are seventy-five thousand.

In 1827 it took five weeks to cross the Atlantic.

In 1901 it takes five days and a half to reach Europe.

In 1827 travel was by stage-coach and on horseback. Strictly speaking, there were no railroads in America. There was a sort of tramway with wooden rails running from Quincy to the Neponset river, a distance of three miles. Over this rough track horses hauled granite from the Quincy quarries to boats that carried it to Charleston to be used in building Bunker Hill Monument.

The "Stourbridge Lion," imported from England, was the first locomotive in America, and was used by the Delaware & Hudson Canal Company. The road was sixteen miles in length, and was opened in 1829, two years after the founding of The Companion.

The first American locomotive was built by Peter Cooper in 1830 for the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad. History says that at the trial of this new marvel it succeeded in beating a car drawn by a horse.

In 1901 the total mileage of railroad in the United States is 187,781 miles—enough to circle the globe more than seven times. More than half the railroads of the world are in this country, and they give employment to 928,000 people.

Some Observations.

It is hard to be poor, but it is worse to be hungry.

The woman who loves often has not a "tender," but an adjustable heart.

The house without books, flowers and pictures is not a home, but a dwelling.

We seldom recognize Happiness until she has gone and closed the door after her.

Music may sooth the savage breast, but verily, discord maketh the gentlest savage.

No home is so dark that a sun-beam may not steal in the guise of a good woman.

There is charity so ostentatious that it is more cruel to the sensitive than open scorn.

The reason some persons never see Hope is because they keep their eyes closely bandaged.

The country doctor may lack urban polish, but he makes up in self-sacrifice and extraordinary versatility.

If you wish to be hated look incredulous when some one declares they "never closed their eyes all night."

Pet dogs, spoiled kidlets, inquisitive old persons and officious youths should never be allowed to appear before guests.

"Miss Prim" is not chosen when men are seeking "a royal good time," but she is frequently when they are seeking a wife.

Dogs and youths are loyal to those who are kind to them. Regarding their tormentors they are as vengeful as elephants.—Ex.

The greatest firmness is the greatest mercy.—Longfellow.

Dreyfus' Own Story.

A powerful chapter from one of the most remarkable of recorded human experiences, appears in McClure's Magazine for May—Captain Alfred Dreyfus's Own Story of his arrest, degradation and transportation to Devil's Isle. To this story is added a portion of the diary kept by Dreyfus on the island, for his wife, and referred to so often and so mysteriously in the Rennes trial, but never made public.

A more intense and convincing expression of human agony than that found in these fragments is inconceivable. From first to last it is evident that the sufferer is bewildered and maddened by what has befallen him, and that all which keeps him from insanity or death is his determination to prove that his persecutions are powerless to overthrow what he calls the "sovereignty of the soul." These dramatic passages make it clear, too, that Dreyfus was compelled to undergo on Devil's Isle every ignominy and hardship his jailers could devise, even to close confinement in a hut, enclosed by palisades and shut out from air and light, with double irons on his legs throughout the night.

The book from which this remarkable document is taken, containing the story of Dreyfus's entire five years of suffering and imprisonment, is to be published by McClure, Phillips & Co. in May.

Life.

O great Eternity!
Our little life is but a guest,
That bends the branches of thy tree,
And trails its blossoms in the dust.
—Longfellow.

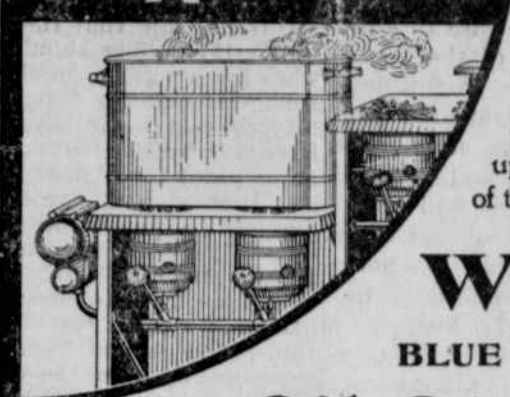
The May Magazines.

The World's Work, now beginning its second volume, has won its way rapidly. The May number covers important topics in Russia, Austria, England, Mexico, Cuba, besides many American matters. Of important national interest is "The Solution of the Cuban problem," by the man who has been most prominently connected with the matter, Senator Platt, of Connecticut. John Kimberly Mumford, in a strikingly illustrated article, describes the Russian political advance on Asia. There are vivid character sketches of James J. Hill and Secretary Gage, and editorial tributes to ex-President Harrison and to General Funston. A group of three articles, "The Public Library and the Public School," "The Author and the Publisher at Peace," and "The Author as the Printer Sees Him," will have great interest for book lovers.

The contents of the May issue of Everybody's Magazine are very varied. They range from a superb character study of Chief Croker of the Fire Department, contributed by Lindsay Denison, to a compilation of opinions of prominent actors and managers on "How to go on the Stage," gathered by Franklin Fyles. An admirable story of a deer's life, "Terror," by Maximilian Foster, "Making Rain by Electricity," a study of Elmer Gates' curious experiments in Washington; stories of the newspaper world, "Adventures in Newsgetting," by Allen Sangree, a study of Mrs. Piper, the famous medium, by Mary C. Blossom. The Novel Bequests, by Eugene P. Lyle, Mrs. Kasebier's photographs, J. P. Mowbray's "Making of a Country Home"—all will be found readable, entertaining and informative.

The contents of the May Magazine number of The Outlook are as usual varied and interesting. Miss Mary B. Hartt's "The Passing of Niagara," enters a vigorous protest against the encroachment of commerce and manufactures on the beauties of Niagara. Mr. Jacob A. Riis continues the story of his life, called "The Making of an American," and tells many amusing and pathetic incidents of the struggles for existence of a young foreigner in this country. Dr. Lyman Abbott's series called "The Rights of Man: a Study in Twentieth Century Problems," takes up the philosophy and true meaning of "Law and Liberty." An interesting article by Lillian W. Betts on "Gloucester, a Fish City," is illustrated by photographs showing types of character and typical scenes, especially taken for this purpose by Mr. Clifton Johnson. There are several portraits of important men and women of the time, poems and sketches, together with the usual very full treatment of the news of the week, and notes of books just published.

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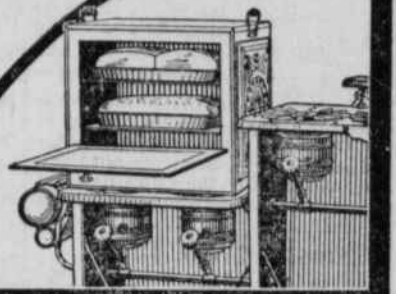
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The two great serials, "TRISTRAM OF BLENT," by ANTHONY HOPE (now in progress with full synopsis to cover former installments), and "Rosalynde's Lovers," by Maurice Thompson, to begin April 27th, will be read with absorbing interest throughout the whole South. This is your opportunity, and only 50 cents for a full year of it. Think of it! 50 cents.
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