

DADDY'S EVENING FAIRY TALE BY MARY GRAHAM BONNER

FROG'S BIRTHDAY.

"Goog-a-room," said Grandpa Frog. "What a fine day it is, to be sure."



Grandpa Frog Was Fond of Speech-Making.

"Now, my dears," said their grandfather, "I am very grateful to you all for hopping along and telling me that you wish me those kind wishes."

"Oh, Grandpa, Grandpa," gurgled the little frogs. "We do mean it. It's not silly to say. It's been said for years and years."

"Well," said Grandpa Frog, puffing and panting, for he had spent the morning in search of bugs and other delicacies to give the grandchildren at his party.

"Why, Grandpa?" asked the little frogs.

"Because," said Grandpa Frog, sticking out his chest and rolling his great bulging eyes, "it is impossible to say such a thing."

"It can't be," said the little frogs. "We all said it!"

"That was not just what I meant," said Grandpa Frog in rather severe tone. The little frogs were worried. They were afraid they had said too much.

"What did you mean?" asked the little frogs. "We are often so stupid. But we are young, dear Grandfather, we are not old and wise like you."

"Goog-a-room, goog-a-room," he said. "Of course you could say it without choking, I suppose. Because of course you did say it. But at the same time, it is a senseless thing to say."

"Won't you tell us why, dear Grandpa?" all the little frogs asked.

Grandpa Frog was rather fond of speechmaking, so he got up on the stump, sat on his back legs, and began:

"I am so pleased you all come to my birthday party and I appreciate your good wishes. But it is impossible for me to have many happy returns of the day."

He paused for breath, and all the little frogs said, "Google, google, google, we hope this isn't going to be a sad speech and that Grandpa won't cry. If he did he might let the bugs float away down the pond."

"But how can this day ever come back?" said Grandpa. There will be other days. Yes, other ones. They will be different. They may be rainy days, or sunshiny days, or days when the sun and rain are both here and there is a rainbow. No, I cannot have many happy returns of this day, because this day will never return."

Grandpa Frog's great eyes filled with water. One tear trickled down and he swallowed it. And then he swallowed quite a few. "I am getting to drink tear water," he said. "It's not very good."

"Then don't cry," said little Mr. Hopping Toad, as he called from the side of the pond in his queer grunting voice. "I heard your speech and it was very sad. But dear Grandpa Frog, you have made a mistake. That saying does not mean that you are to have many happy returns of this very day, but that you are to have many happy returns of your birthday! See!"

"Oh, Joy," blinked Grandpa Frog. "Is that what it means? Oh, hurrah, goog-a-room!"

And so the birthday party ended happily owing to the kind Mr. Toad; and the delicious birthday party supper of bugs was not washed away by the tears of Grandpa Frog.

Where Fleas Originate.

Marjorie had just come from Sunday school. She rushed to her mother. "Mother, did you know it says in the Bible that fleas come from rats?" she cried.

"Why, no, dearie. That is news to me. Who told you that?" said her mother.

"It's right in the lesson today," said the little girl, handing her mother her Sunday school paper. And the mother smiled when she read this line, "Flee from the wrath to come."

Laugh and Sing and Hope.

Laugh—it will come all right. Sing—it will soon be light. Hope—it is not in vain. Trust—there is peace for pain. Be brave—and the creed will prove Life is worth while to love, Toil is worth while to do, Joy, in the distance, too, Waits, and the heart that sings Wears loveliest wings.—Baltimore Sun.

TRAINING A GOOD THING.

From all the angles of improved self-respect, physical development, recognition of authority, and a better rounded-out young manhood, the military training has everything to commend it. There is a great difference between the three consecutive years required in some European countries and what is contemplated here. Nor is there any probability that the American spirit would ever lead our officers to assume or tolerate that arrogance and personal abuse of their inferiors in rank which has existed for years in the army life of Germany.

Inasmuch as the camp was many miles from the border, with thousands of troops between himself and Mexico, the private admitted it had not occurred to him. "But you did," continued the officer, "for as sentinel you had authority to stop and challenge the President of the United States." The young man accepted the light punishment imposed with a grateful heart and became one of the best soldiers in his company.

While the military training will do great things for the young man of good family and sterling principle, it will do vastly more for thousands of young men who have drifted into a more or less purposeless mode of life, a class from which the great army of young criminals are enlisted. It will make men of these. A Chicago judge, who sat for years on the bench of both the city and county criminal courts, says: "If every idle young man in Chicago between 17 and 25 were put into a military-training camp today, the criminal cases would decrease 80 per cent tomorrow. And when they finish their training, thousands would have been transformed into real men with respect for themselves, who now respect neither themselves nor anything else."

WHEN CROWS GET TOGETHER.

"Roosts" in Groves of Trees Have Harbored 200,000 Birds.

Writing in the yearbook of the United States department of agriculture, E. R. Kalmbach of the biological survey describes "one of the most wonderful of bird phenomena still existing in close proximity to large cities" in this country; viz., the "roosts" at which crows gather nightly in enormous numbers during the colder months of the year.

A roost is usually a stand of trees, especially pines and other evergreens; though one of the most populous of the earlier known roosts was a low, reed covered island in the Delaware river, entirely destitute of trees, known as the Pea Patch. Crows have also been observed roosting in open fields and on exposed sand bars. Roosts are often in the immediate vicinity of cities. One at Arlington, Va., just across the Potomac river from Washington, was supposed to have contained at the height of its occupancy from 150,000 to 200,000 birds.

Several other equally populous roosts have been recorded, while some observers have estimated the population of individual roosts at millions. Fortunately the birds that gather in one spot in such numbers at night feed over a wide area, as a rule, by day, so that the roost is not so serious a menace to crops in its vicinity as might be expected.—Scientific American.

The Right Man for the Place.

There is neither politics nor favoritism in the selection of Mr. Hoover to take charge of the food interests of this country. The President has approached this appointment in precisely the spirit suited to a war emergency. The opposition manifested in some quarters shows a child's perversity in refusing to profit by the experience of its elders. England tells us all the time: "Begin where we leave off. Don't commit our blunders over again. Let our experience be a lamp to your feet." And yet we want to learn for ourselves and pay the price.

If there is another man in all the country as good as Mr. Hoover for this indispensable work, he would still lack Mr. Hoover's nearly three years of experience. And if a special school of experience had been established solely to train such a man, it couldn't have been better than that from which he has graduated with the highest honors. Mr. Hoover was a very successful mining engineer when the war broke out. He dropped everything to take up the Belgian relief work. He plunged into it with such energy that he jarred the red-tape traditions of the European Chancelleries a good deal.

Mr. Hoover would make a mistake to refuse the salary that goes with the office for which he is named. It is no doubt from a generous and public-spirited motive, but others are not so placed as to maintain a like attitude, and would therefore suffer unfairly in the comparison; and the element of compensation is necessary in order to stabilize the relationship between the Government and the public servant.

All Must Register.

Emphasis is laid by Provost Marshall General Crowder on the fact that no men within the prescribed age limit, except those already in the regular army or navy, the National Guard, in Federal service, or the reserve divisions of the naval service, are excused from registration for military service.

"Even convicts and alien enemies are required to register," says a statement issued. It is added, however, that those liable should not confuse registration with actual drafting for service in the army.

The statement points out also that the application of the draft and calling selected men to colors will furnish the opportunity for those who believe they should be exempted to submit their claims. The process of selection will be carried out, it adds, "by lot, by the fairest system that can be devised."

BLACK TERN (Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis)



Length, ten inches. In autumn occurs as a migrant on the east coast of the United States, and then is in white and gray plumage. During the breeding season it is confined to the interior, is chiefly black, and is the only dark tern occurring inland.

Range: Breeds from California, Colorado, Missouri, and Ohio, north to central Canada; winters from Mexico to South America; migrant in the eastern United States.

Habits and economic status: This tern, unlike most of its relatives, passes much of its life on fresh-water lakes and marshes of the interior. Its nests are placed among the tules and weeds, on floating vegetation, or on muskrat houses. It lays from two to four eggs. Its food is more varied than that of any other tern. So far as known it preys upon no food fishes, but feeds extensively upon such enemies of fish as dragonfly nymphs, fish-eating beetles, and crawfishes. Unlike most of its family, it devours a great variety of insects, many of which it catches as it flies. Dragonflies, May flies, grasshoppers, predaceous diving beetles, scarabaeid beetles, leaf beetles, gnats, and other flies are the principal kinds preyed upon. Fishes of little economic value, chiefly minnows and mummichogs, were found to compose only a little more than 19 per cent of the contents of 145 stomachs. The great consumption of insects by the black tern places it among the beneficial species worthy of protection.

Love.

Love says good-night in the gleaming and dreaming of stars and of moon, And her music is soft as the silken susurrous of rose leaves in June.

Love wakes with the birds in the morning and wakes the sweet dream of the night With the voice of her happiness calling the blooms to lift up to the light!

Love is April morning, Love is bloom of May; Love is dew adorning Lane and woodland way; Love is thirst and hunger, Love is sword and song; Love is life's forever, Too sweet to be too long!

Love says good-night in a whisper, love says good-morning in song,

And the lyric of love is the gladness that helps the old years roll along.

Love says good-night, and the echo rings still in the heart when the gray

Of the dawn brings the lips of her leaning to welcome the world with good-day!

National Prohibition.

The man who would burn a million bushels of grain in this time of National emergency would be branded as a traitor. But even more a traitor is the man who makes a million bushels of grain into beer or whiskey, for he destroys its usefulness as effectively as if it had been burned, and at the same time lessens the efficiency of thousands of men at a time when the Nation needs the best efforts of every one of its citizens. National prohibition is a necessity in the face of the present food shortage. It is one of the most effective war measures that Congress could take.

—Prairie Farmer.

Senator Overman has secured from the War Department 3,000 steel cots and 6,000 blankets for use of the Confederate veterans at the June reunion in Washington.

There is more solid comfort in Dr. Muns' Piles and Eczema Ointment than anything you can buy for 50 Cents.—Advt.

Advertisement for the Washington Account Confederate Veterans Reunion. Price \$7.35. Tickets limited to reach final destination not later than midnight June 21st.

Advertisement for Turner's North Carolina Almanac for 1917. Bigger and Better than Ever Before. Price 10 Cents each.

Advertisement for The Herald Office Smithfield, N. C. Let us do your Job Printing -- Best work and moderate prices. Books at one dollar each.

Large advertisement for Beaty & Lassiter Printed Stationery. The use of Printed Stationery is no longer confined to the business or professional man---Farmers, Contractors, Builders and in fact men in all walks of life are beginning to realize that Printed Stationery costs but little more than the unprinted kind.