

TRAGIC INFLUENCES IN LIFE.

Would You be Great? Then Expect Suffering; For it is the Stuff Greatness is Made Of.

I have been reading the tragic, inspiring story of a great man.

His work has enriched the life of every generation since his own; but his life was a long, dark day of suffering.

The man was Ludwig van Beethoven.

He was born in a humble cottage in Bonn in the year 1770. His parents were poor, but that is a minor matter. The parents of most great men have been poor.

Tragedy entered Beethoven's life not by reason of his parents' poverty, but because they were utterly incapable of appreciating the fine spiritual gift that was in the boy.

His father had no thought but to exploit the son's musical talent. At the age of eleven he was playing in theater orchestras and carrying burdens far too heavy for his young shoulders to bear.

His health was poor; there were none to appreciate his genius; and in the glory of his young manhood, when he was just beginning to feel his power, his life was clouded by an irremediable calamity. He began to lose his hearing.

Think of it. A musician, dependent on the fine harmony of sounds for his success—and deaf at twenty-six.

Poverty-stricken, unloved, betrayed and flouted by the nephew for whom he had sacrificed everything, this unconquerable spirit yet gave to the world music that has gladdened the hearts of millions of men and women in every land.

I have no friend; I must live alone (he said). But I know that in my heart God is nearer to me than to others. I approach Him without fear; I have always known Him. Neither am I anxious about my music, which no adverse fate will overtake, and which will free him who understands it from the misery which afflicts others.

And at another time: I want to prove that whoever acts rightly and nobly can by that alone bear misfortune.

No man can read these words, remembering Beethoven's life, without feeling his own soul enriched and strengthened.

It is a significant thing that a large proportion of the great lives of history have been conceived in suffering and nurtured on disappointment and pain.

We think of Lincoln as the great story teller. But if you would know the real Lincoln, look at the deep lines in his face.

Napoleon conquered the world; yet he almost never laughed. He was never really well; never rose from his bed feeling rested; he was so depressed as a young man that he seriously contemplated ending his life. It was a famous writer who said: "What has been well written has been suffered."

"The lives of the great heroes were lives of long martyrdom," says Roman Rolland in the life of Beethoven from which I have quoted. "A tragic destiny willed their souls to be forged on the anvil of physical and moral grief, of misery and ill health."

There is this consolation to you in your hours of disappointment and distress—that suffering is the stuff out of which true greatness grows.

Yield to it weakly, and it will destroy you. Rise a conqueror of it, and by that act you become a finer spirit, a greater man or woman.

"I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto me," said Jesus of Nazareth. By "lifted up" he meant "lifted up on the cross"—crucified. Only by his suffering and death could he become the Cure and Saviour of the world.

There was no short cut, no easier way, to greatness and glory for Him; and there will never be for any man.

—Bruce Barton in Every Week.

Farmers and Patriotism.

During the height of the Liberty Loan Bond campaign just closed many rural communities subscribed proportionately less than the people of towns. The fact was claimed in certain quarters to show lack of patriotism on the part of farmers. We deny the assertion and denounce the ignorance of wilful misrepresentation of those guilty of the aspersion.

The fact has little real significance and is easily explained by natural causes. First, however, we insist that in the present, and every past war in which our country has been engaged, the patriotism of the American farmer has been a shining fact. The minute men of '76 were country boys. It was a farmer who left his plow in the furrow and rode his plow-horse to Bunker Hill to assume command of the little army of patriots. It was mostly farmers who composed the

who won the battles on Lakes Champlain and Erie.

It was the predominately agricultural States which sent their volunteers with Taylor and Scott. It was the farmers of country New England and the Central West which filled the armies of Grant and Sherman. It was country boys who flocked to the standards of Lee and Jackson. It was large towns which made "Copperheads" and saw the only draft riots. The Rough Riders were countrymen except for a few venturesome spirits who had learned country ways.

Not only are country boys forming the larger part of the new national army, but their commanders insist that the highest efficiency of this army demands this leaven of country character, strength and loyalty.

There can be no doubt whatever that the real cause for the apparent relative slow response of farmers to the call for subscriptions to Liberty Bonds was due to the failure of those in charge of the campaign to either appreciate the point of view of the farmer or to understand the difference between the method for reaching him and that effective with town people. This essential difference was used with conspicuous success in Green county, Missouri. A public bond rally was held in every country school house in the country where the issues were explained by men in whom the farmers had confidence. Then every resident of the district not present at the school house was personally visited by a district committee the next day. The result was one of the largest per capita subscriptions in any agricultural county in the country, largely exceeding its allotted quota.

Those willing to vilify the farmer, or ignorant of his real position, have used other facts to his disadvantage in this connection. They tell us that the demand of the farmer—voiced by every national agricultural organization—that farm labor be made a favored class in army exemption is unpatriotic. It is more logical and far more true to fact to believe that the real motive behind this course is purely patriotic. It is adopted as the only sure way of meeting the war shortage of labor needed for the production of food crops indispensable to the success of our armies in the field.

A resolution unanimously passed at the recent annual session of the Farmers' National Congress—with twenty-seven States represented by delegates—sheds some light on the attitude of some of those now engaged in misrepresenting the farmer.

It (this organization) specifically demands from the national congress additional legislation, at the earliest possible moment, increasing the percentage of taxation on excess war profits, to a point at least equal to that now in force in our allied warring countries, to the end that the greatest possible percentage of the cost of war shall be borne by those who profit most by war, in the belief that the conscription of wealth is a measure of necessity fully equal to the conscription of men.

This will go hard with some of the profiteers—it is intended to—but the farmer stands for it and he will see that it comes to pass.

Meanwhile his patriotism has stood every test—including the giving up of higher prices for the wheat he sells and the accepting of higher prices for the bread he buys.—Southern Ruralist.

TEN PRUNING PRINCIPLES.

Pruning the root system lessens the food supply and so retards top growth.

Pruning the tops invigorates the branches that remain, the root system being unchanged.

Removing the terminal buds induces forking and checks wood production.

Unpruned trees tend to wood production.

Summer pruning reduces the struggle among leaves and twigs for light and produces stronger buds for spring.

Winter pruning removes superfluous buds.

Remove dead wood at any time. Generally the best time to prune is in the early spring.

Early winter pruning is not desirable as the healing has to wait till spring.

Prune yearly, not oftener.—Rogers Tree Book.

John Charles McNeill Book Club.

Benson, Dec. 20.—The John Charles McNeill Book Club met with Mrs. J. H. Rose, Thursday afternoon, at three o'clock. The meeting was called to order by the President, Mrs. Whittenton. After the minutes and roll call, the election of officers for the coming year was in order. Officers were elected as follows: President, Mrs. J. R. Barbour; Vice-President, Mrs. O. A. Barbour; Secretary and Treasurer, Mrs. M. T. Britt; Chaplain, Mrs. W. O. Rackley. The books were distributed, and the club adjourned to meet with Mrs. T. T. Lanier in January.

Delicious fruit salad and wafers were served by the hostess.

THEY WILL BE REMEMBERED.

Statesville Landmark.

Folks who can hark back to the period immediately following the War Between the States, remember two things:

Men who had dodged military service, either by direct desertion or through deception and fraud, were held in contempt; and this feeling for them generally extended to their families and their descendants through the years—visiting the sins of the fathers on the children. Some of the type were practically ostracised; others, more fortunate, were tolerated. But few people respected them and the feeling cropped out on all occasions.

Another type held in secret contempt, and often in open contempt, were men who profited during the war. They may have been too old or physically unfit for military service; or may have served in some civil capacity, that permitted them to stay at home. After the great conflict, when the country was devastated and the masses destitute, a few men were found well fixed. They had taken advantage of opportunities and made a stake, sometimes at the expense of men away at the front, or at the expense of the government, which was in the end at the expense of all the people. They were referred to as men who had "kept out of the war" and made money while their friends and neighbors were at the front.

When this world conflict closes all the types mentioned will be objects of public wrath, and if any there be who are falling in any of these now they had better take heed. The day will come when they will feel public wrath. The slacker who dodges military service through deception will be marked. Morally he is no better than the deserter—he who runs away. A greater offender is the slacker in civil life, not liable for military service, who refuses to do his bit; who doesn't buy Liberty Bonds, War-Savings Certificates or Thrift Stamps; doesn't contribute to the Red Cross, the army Y. M. C. A. or any of the worthy causes to help make life easier and better for the men in the ranks; who sneers at meatless and wheatless days and laughs at food conservation; whose sole purpose is to get what he can and do nothing, while others struggle that such as he may live.

Next and the greatest offender of all—although he is only a few degrees worse than the last type described—is the man who engages in profiteering in foodstuffs; who charges unreasonable prices, makes unreasonable profits, engineers deals and manipulates markets to make big money at the expense of the people who must go on short rations because they can't pay the price. A highwayman compared with the hypocrite who robs under cover of law.

God forbid that the military forces of the Huns shall ever set foot on American soil; but some people could be reconciled in a measure to their coming for a little while if they would deal only with the last two classes mentioned—the slackers in civil life and the profiteers. All that could be done to them they would deserve.

Live Stock Shortage in Europe.

The Food Administration has received directly from the French government figures showing the decrease of livestock in France as a result of the war.

On December 31, 1916, according to the official French figures, the cattle had decreased to a total of 12,341,900, as compared with 14,807,000 in 1913, or 16.6 per cent; sheep decreased from 16,213,000 in 1913 to 10,845,000 December 31, last, or 33 per cent; swine decreased from 7,048,000 in 1913, to 4,361,900 at the close of last year, or 38 per cent.

The per capita consumption per annum of meat in France at the present time is estimated by the French government at 69.61 pounds of beef, 11.16 pounds of mutton, and 21.48 pounds of pork.

The French figures emphasize the recent statement of the U. S. Food Administration that the nations of Europe are now rapidly depleting their supply of livestock, and must therefore depend largely upon the United States for their meat and dairy products after the war.—Southern Planter.

Take Care of Farm Implements.

If ever there was a time when it was more important than another that farmers should gather up their tools and implements and place them in dry sheds for protection it is now. The prices of farm tools and machinery are gradually going up and there are now not enough manufactured to supply the demands. Therefore, in order to have tools and implements necessary for producing the crop next year, save those which you may have on hand. You may not be able to secure them next spring at any price.—Southern Planter.

Announcement!

We wish to inform our customers and friends that January 1st our business goes into a cash system. We will not charge any more goods after December 31, 1917.

OUR REASONS

Our Government Officials say to eliminate waste and reduce the cost of living in every possible way. We know of no better way to do this than to pay cash for what you buy for several reasons.

FIRST. We eliminate all the extra expenses of doing a time business such as extra help to do the business, loss of bad accounts, mistakes and loss of friends, having to pay enough profit to make up for the fellow who will not pay at all and sometimes lawsuits and lawyers fees for collecting and many many other things too numerous to mention that naturally go along with a time business. All these things the customer who buys on time and pays his account has to pay for.

Buy for Cash!

If you trade at a cash store your money buys more. you save the difference which is your duty to yourself, your family and your country.

If you pay credit prices you pay for what you get and also help pay for what a good many other people get who do not pay.

Charity begins at home. If you get your money before you spend it you naturally and easily save some of it.

If you spend your money before you get it you are bound to remain poor.

You are offered credit not for your good but for the good of him who offers it.

OUT OF DEBT YOU ARE INDEPENDENT
IN DEBT YOU ARE A SLAVE!

Our cash system will eliminate all extra expenses, reduce the cost of living to the minimum and save you money. WHY NOT TRY IT?

Our store will be closed Tuesday, January 1st in order to arrange our stock of goods and prices for the cash system.

We are going to discontinue some of our lines and for the next thirty days we will sell our stock of Farm Implements, Castings, Hardware, Wagons, Buggies, Harness, Etc., at sacrifice prices.

We invite you to come to our store and let us show you how much a dollar will buy. We will buy what you have to sell and can sell you what you need to buy.

THE CASH BUYS IT CHEAPER AT
Roberts, Corbett
& Woodard's

SELMA, NORTH CAROLINA