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Early Morning Dreams.

Sometimes I wake up as the dawn is beginning to steal in the east windows of my bedroom. As I lie there in the dim light my white dressing table looks like some ghostly figure, the little white chair before it, like some lesser ghost at its prayers. My bathrobe thrown across a slender rocking chair makes a grotesque figure out of which the imagination could make anything, the bent figure of an old witch resting a minute after a night of restless travel, perhaps. The familiar objects of my room become creatures of a strange and mystic country in the dim light of dawn.

Even the sounds of early morning are sounds from another country. The blasts from factory whistles calling the laborers to their tasks are not the sounds of factory whistles to me. I am in another town, a place that is the port of ships that sail from many lands, I can almost whiff the fresh air from the sea. And the whistles that I hear come from boats that ply on the river, from ferry boats, and from ships that sail the seven seas. The thin, piping blast comes from a nervous little ferry boat hurrying forth on an early morning mission. A mellow whistle brings vividly before me a big liner carefully searching her way through the morning mists into the harbor after a long voyage. And there's a freighter answering the voice of the big ship. I can almost see the ships, the navy boats with the blue jackets astir on their decks, the merchant ships at quiet anchorage, the tugs, and the big gray liner carefully searching her way through the morning mists.

And then a shaft of sunlight comes through the window and slants across my room. The shadowland of imagination is gone. I'm in my own room miles from the sea. The ghost at its prayers is only a simple little chair. My blue bathrobe looks not at all like an old witch. All the white furnishings stand sanely about the room. And there are beloved pictures in their accustomed places on the walls. Across the room is the picture of an old pal of mine. Several years and many miles have separated us, but her familiar face smiles across the room at me and I smile back. There's another little picture hanging in a gilt frame across beside my dressing table, a light house on a bleak, rock coast. Once I was upon the Maine coast and I visited that very spot. Now I call to mind the rosy-faced old man who kept the lighthouse. For forty years he had seen each night that the lights were burning to warn ships of the four had gone to sea, had become captains of ships, and had given their lives to the sea. The fifth son, he who kept the lighthouse, could never go to sea because he was a victim of mal de mer when he so much as sailed across the bay. There was a little white cross down on the sharp rocks bearing this, "In Memory of the Ann Arundel, the good ship wrecked on these rocks December 24, 1880." The lighthouse keeper told me how the ship went to pieces one fearful Christmas eve when the wind was a thing of terror on the sea.

On the wall beside my bed hangs another picture that I love. It's the picture of a girl at her knitting. She is busy with her needles, a soft flush on her cheeks, her sweet lips smiling. I have studied her closely, and I know her. She is a gentle creature with quiet hopes, gentle loves

Mrs. Tom Thumb Dies At Old Age

Middleboro, Mass.—Countess Primo Magri, known to the general public as Mrs. Tom Thumb and one of the best known Lilliputians in the world, died at her home here Tuesday after a long illness. She was 77 years of age and had traveled around the world several times, under the management of the late P. T. Barnum.

Countess Magri was the daughter of James S. and Hulda Bump. Count Magri, her husband survives.

One of the world's most famous dwarfs, Mrs. Tom Thumb, who was correctly but less popularly known as the Countess Magri, measured only 32 inches in height. Born in Middleboro, Mass., she outlived all the professional associates of her generation. Her first husband, General Tom Thumb, has been dead for 30 years. Her sister, also a dwarf, still smaller, died 35 years ago. The parents were of large stature and numerous children born to them, with two exceptions, were of normal size. At birth Lavina Warren, for such was Mrs. Thumb's maiden name, weighed six pounds and at the age of one year she was of normal size. For the next nine years she grew slowly, and then suddenly stopped altogether. At 70 her hair was still jet black, and fine black eyes sparkled from a full, round, dimpled face, and her voice was always soft and sweet.

Her first public appearance was at the age of 17, under the management of a cousin who operated a "floating palace of curiosities" on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers before the civil war.

She met P. T. Barnum in 1862. Then began her great career under his management. It was a tour of triumph through the camps of the civil war and foreign capitals. It is said that her photographs are in more family albums than any other person's in the world's history.

Her public career occupied 56 eventful years. During this time she traveled over the civilized world and had been introduced to nearly every crowned head and eminent person in every country she visited.

"It has been asserted," said this remarkable little woman, "that General Tom Thumb had kissed more women than any other living man. I can with equal assurance assert that I have shaken hands with more human beings in all stations of life than any other woman in existence. My travels have embraced Europe, Asia, Australia, Africa and America."

Accumulating a large fortune, Mrs. Thumb made her farewell tour in 1912. Her second husband, Count Magri of Italy, is also a dwarf. He became a naturalized citizen of the United States shortly after his marriage to Mrs. Thumb.

James Stucky Says, "Rat Cost Me \$125 for Plumbing Bills."

"We couldn't tell what was clogging up our toilet and drains. We had to tear up floor, pipes, etc., found a rat nest in basement. They had choked the pipes with refuse. They had choked the pipes with refuse. The plumber's bill was \$125. Rat Snap cleaned the rodent out." Three sizes, 25c, 50c, \$1. Sold and guaranteed by L. L. Critcher.

and happy thoughts. It does me good to associate with her, she's so restful.

The sun gets persistently bright, and the thought of the day's work urges me. The realities and the possibilities of another day are with me as I get out of bed. There's no telling what splendid thing may happen today.—Statesville Landmark.

A Business Proposition.

Capt. J. J. Laughinghouse of Pitt county severely criticizes the State Prison Board for selling the State Farm. Capt. Laughinghouse was superintendent of the State Prison during Governor Kitchen's administration. He says the farm that is being sold is much more valuable than anything the Board can buy for the same money in North Carolina. He further contends that authority to make the sale was obtained in a questionable manner—that the bill was "slipped through" the last General Assembly was "slipped through" the last General Assembly without proper discussion and publicity.

We have considered the sale of the State Farm as a purely business proposition. The present Prison Board is composed of some of the very best business men and farmers of the state. Mr. B. F. Shelton, one of the members, is at large and successful a farmer as there is in Eastern North Carolina. He lives within fifteen miles of the State Farm. The other members are Messrs W. M. Saunders, big business man and farmer of Johnston county, Frank Gough, merchant and farmer of Robertson county, A. E. Smith, manufacturer and business man of Mount Airy, and the chairman of the board, Henry B. Varner, editor and remarkably successful business man of Lexington. These gentlemen, we understand, have been investigating the matter for two or three years and after going over the whole proposition voted unani- mously to sell the present farm and buy another. We are willing to risk their judgment.

It is rather surprising that a gentleman of Capt. Laughinghouse's information should be laboring under the impression that this deal has been handled in secret. According to the dispatches from Raleigh the proposition to sell the State farm and move the prison has been under consideration for the last three years. It was considered seriously by the General Assembly of 1917. A committee was appointed by that Legislature to investigate the matter. Its report was published. In the General Assembly of 1919 the matter again came up. A hearing was held by the committee. The bill was reported favorable and, if we remember correctly, was debated in both houses. It was passed by overwhelming majority, authorizing the Prison Board to use its discretion in selling the farm and moving the prison.—Winston-Salem Journal.

France Says Army Goods Bring no Profit.

The French government has issued formal denial of reports of France making great profits from the sale of the surplus stocks of the American expeditionary force which it purchased during the fall. The government asserts that its profits have been fixed at a rate designed to cover only depreciated from exposure, possible errors in the inventory, cost of doing business in the commodities on sale and the supplying of a fund to meet the unpaid requisition claims against the Americans which France took over as part of the purchase price.

"These Rats Wouldn't Eat My Best Grain," Says Fred Lamb.

It's hard to keep rats out of a feed store. Tried for years. A neighboring store sold me some Rat Snap. It worked wonders. Gathered up dead rats every morning. Bought more Rat Snap. Haven't a rat now. They wouldn't eat my best grain when I threw Rat Snap around." 3 sizes, 25c, 50c, \$1.00 Sold and guaranteed by L. L. Critcher.

Work a Blessing, Not a Curse.

"He also that is slothful in his work is a brother to him that is a great waster."—Proverbs 18:9.

"For the people had a mind to work."—Nehemiah 4:6.

In the Book of Books—of which it has been well said that it is not a library in itself, but that it is greater than all other libraries, a book which it took the Almighty 1600 years, speaking through 40 men, to write—is to be found wisdom, human and divine, and the two extracts which we have quoted might furnish a text for many a sermon just now. The first states the great truth that the man who "is slothful in his work is a brother to him that is a great waster. Both classes are condemned by the Almighty Himself, and they should be condemned by every man who recognizes that work is the divine instrumentality for the development of body and mind of the individual and for the saving of the world.

The second quotation relates to a time when the people of Israel "had a mind to work." In the hour of emergency, when their country was at stake, they concentrated their activities night and day upon work. No time was to be lost in the great effort which they were then making to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Thru their heroic work, when all the people joined together and all "the people had a mind to work" success was achieved.

The people of America must have "a mind to work." Into their work they must throw the whole energy of their nature. The "slothful man" and the waster must be regarded as slackers unworthy of the respect of anyone.

Any organization which seeks to limit the labor of the members, any individual who is slothful in business who wastes his own time or that of his employer, and the one who is a waster of the substance of others, or of the country, will, unless they change their methods, never be classed as people who had a mind to work. They are not workers; they are shirkers, slackers, and their number grows alarmingly great.

Men are being taught that work is something to be shunned when they should be taught that that it is God's appointed way for all mankind's advancement.

God Himself works, and in all of his divine teachings of the Bible there is one increasing strain in favor of work. "The slothful man," and the man who has not a "mind to work" are going directly contrary to the teachings of that Almighty.

This nation needs to be taught the dignity of work. We need to glorify work—work on the farm and in the mine and in the factory, work in the office, work in the schoolroom, work in the pulpit. Men who have derided work, or who have sought to limit the output of laborers not merely by unduly reducing the hours of labor, but by reducing the amount of work that a man may do in a given time, are flying directly in the face of the teachings of the Bible.

Work is a blessing, not a curse.—Manufacturers Record.

You can do some things next week, but some you cannot. So don't wait, act now! Insure your house before it burns.

Insure your health before you get sick. Insure your life before you die for then it is everlastingly too late.

I sell the best policies at universal rates

GEC. F. BLAIR,
Blowing Rock, N. C.

Arguing Taxes.

The general assembly of North Carolina moreover decreased the state tax for state purposes to 11 2-3 cents. The total tax rate in Davidson county and all purposes in 1919 is 1.71 2-3 on the hundred dollars, and is divided as follows:

State tax—11 2-3 cents on the hundred dollars valuation.

Roads—60 cents on the hundred dollars.

Schools—78 cents on the hundred dollars.

County tax—19 cents on the hundred dollars.

Pensions—4 cents on the hundred dollars.

So we see that 35 per cent of the taxes paid by us comes back to us to maintain the roads we now have and to extend them to sections which have heretofore been neglected. Of the amount 45 per cent comes back to educate the children of the county, 7 per cent comes back as pensions for our Confederate veterans and their widows, and 11 per cent goes to pay the expenses of running the county government. The last item is made up of salaries of the county officers and the expense of part maintenance of the health department. The foregoing explains, where the money goes. Every citizen is entitled to know and should know that the taxes are properly expended.

In conclusion we desire to say that the increase in the taxes of 1919 over 1918 has no connection whatever with the revaluation work which is now being carried on in the county. When this work is completed, we feel certain that certain that the tax rate will be cut from \$1.72 2-3 on the hundred to not more than 40 cents on the hundred, so that nobody will be hurt, as it is not the purpose of the revaluation act to collect more taxes than in 1920 but its main purpose is to equalize taxation so that every citizen will carry his proportionate part of the tax burden. The result will be that in 1920 there will be thousands of tax-payers who will pay less taxes than in 1919. At the same time there will be a few hundred who will pay more taxes in 1920 than they have ever paid before simply because they will, for the first time in their lives begin to pay their proportionate part of the taxes. The revaluation act is not going to hurt anybody. It will only place the burden of taxation on the shoulders of the people in the proportion that they are able to pay.—Lexington Dispatch.

Will You Spend 50c on Rat-Snap to Save \$100?

One 50c pkg can kill 50 rats. The average rat will rob you of \$10 a year in feed, chicks, and property destruction. Rat Snap is deadly to rats. Remotes after killing. Leaves no smell. Comes in cakes. Rats will pass up meat, grain, cheese to feast on Rat-Snap. These sizes, 25c, 50c, \$1. Sold and guaranteed by L. L. Critcher.

Where necessity ends desire and curiosity begin: no sooner are we supplied with everything nature can demand, than we sit down to contrive artificial appetites.—Johnson.

To provide against every important danger by the employment of the most promising means is the office of wisdom but at this point wisdom stops.—Blair.

WANTED: MEN OR WOMEN TO take orders among friends and neighbors for the genuine guaranteed hosiery, full line for men women and children. Eliminates darning. We pay 50c an hour spare time or \$24 a week for full time. Experience unnecessary. Write International Stocking Mills, Norrisstown, Pa. 10-9-10.

Drops the Sugar Trust.

The Government's sugar equalization board is to be dissolved December 31, and the official attempt to control the sugar situation will then come to an end. Matters could scarcely get much worse, and the public will have to take the risk. The Government however, gives promise of protection to the extent of entering upon a "vigorous prosecution of dealers caught profiteering. There is not very much encouragement in that. It is Charlotte's experience that the Government has made a poor showing at sugar control. The Sugar Administration, itself, undertakes to justify its manifest failure by the statement that it has had "neither the facilities nor power" to handle the situation. In future there will be no attempt to set a price on sugar or to control its distribution, and every sale will be treated on its merits. It will be the duty of district attorneys to suppress profiteering under the Lever act, and it may be put down as a certain fact that those dealers who are disposed to embark on profiteering enterprises in sugar, emboldened by the record of prosecutions in the past will be encouraged to take chances. The Department appears inclined to prepare the people for further rises in sugar, one reason advanced being that for the Cuban Supply. American buyers will run up against European competition.—Charlotte Observer.

Methodists Save Belgian and Serbian Orphans

Southern Church Buys Homes in Brussels and Belgrade and Supports Serbian Refugees in England.

Nashville, Tenn.—The Centenary Commission of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, will specialize in caring for the children of Belgium, Serbia and other stricken countries of Europe, according to an announcement made by Dr. W. B. Beauchamp, the director-general. Dr. Beauchamp and a Church Commission have just returned from Europe.

For this purpose a large home, formerly a famous boys' school, has been purchased at Uccle, a suburb of Brussels. Several hundred children can be accommodated in this building, and the Methodists will assume entire responsibility for them and their future. Another home has been bought at Belgrade, Serbia, and here the underfed orphans of the Southern Slavs will be given medical attention and cared for. A staff of women physicians, secured from Scotland, will be in charge of this home.

Still another orphanage has been taken over at Paversham, England. This home already contains more than a hundred Serbian children, orphaned refugees who were taken from their homes during the Austrian invasion.

Plight of Children Deplorable.

"One can scarcely imagine the plight of the Belgian and Serbian children," declared Dr. Beauchamp. "The mines of Northern France have been flooded or filled with concrete by the Germans, and thousands of children will literally freeze to death this winter."

"I have seen them living in the old trenches and dug-outs left by the enemy, with little to eat save what is gathered from the passers-by."

Relief stations will be established as quickly as workers can be obtained and supplies sent. These will be at Brussels, Ypres, St. Quentin, Montdidier, Belgrade and other centers.

The Centenary Commission is seeking for two young physicians, eight nurses, a dozen women social workers, and a number of superintendents and directors to reinforce the relief staff. These will be sent abroad at once.

The Church has a fund of \$5,000,000 for this purpose. It is a part of the \$53,000,000 fund which was raised in the recent Centenary Drive.