

Human Interest Stories

By Brownlee Frix

SOULS COURAGEOUS

One of the victims of the Johnstown flood was a great talker, and just as soon as he reached the Promised Land, he began to tell of the horrors of the catastrophe. To any and all who would listen he would open up in full blast, and describe the flood in detail. Up in a tree, sitting from limb to limb, there was an old fellow with long whiskers who kept interrupting him by saying, "Pooh! Pooh!" Everywhere he went the old fellow was sure to go and what was all he would say, "Pooh! Pooh!"

"Who is that old fellow?" asked the gentleman from Johnstown.

"Why that is Noah," he was told.

One day a fellow who was born in April and whose moods are as changeable as April weather, was suffering with a double back-action case of the blues. His wife had not left him; his friends had not forsaken him; nothing had happened to make him miserable, but he was thoroughly down and out just the same.

Then the mail man handed him a letter. It was from an acquaintance of former years, who wrote that he was in jail charged with murder. In the heat of passion he had shot and killed a man, and wanted a letter of recommendation, believing it might help him at the trial.

"I have not killed anyone! I am not in jail charged with murder or any other crime. My troubles compared to his are absolutely nothing!" decided this April-born one, and there was a rift in his clouded day and the sunshine came pouring through and the blues were gone.

A life of perpetual sunshine like a land of perpetual sunshine is useless to humanity. Have you ever considered what would become of us if Nature's water works would get out of fix? Nature has a wonderful water works system, and the greatest plumber on earth would be im-

potent to repair it, provided it should get out of order. The wind sweeps down over the seas and lakes and bears on its pinions life-giving moisture. Then this moisture appears like rocks and towers in the sky, in clouds sublimely beautiful. Tinted and shadowed with purple and gold and silver and crimson and amber they float majestically above us. Then there is a blackening in the sky and noisy thunder and lightning and the rain comes down to the thirsty earth. Day and night, summer and winter, Nature is busily engaged in distributing rain and snow. The water that now goes over our heads will go back to the sea in the rivers. Stop the cloud system and all the springs and branches and creeks and rivers would go dry and we would soon be gone.

Life is a problem that the wisest little individuals cannot understand. How we hate sorrow and trouble, and yet somehow we are confident that it is good for us, that it is absolutely essential to our best interests.

We cannot imagine the best woman on earth as never having had any sorrow. How could she know how to sympathize with the sorrowing ones if she had never tasted sorrow? My idea is that she is a mother of boys, and that she has spent much time on her knees on their account, and at last she feels that her prayers have been answered; also that she has looked with tearful eyes for the last time on the cold white faces of some of her children. That is my idea of God's recipe for making a genuinely good woman. He puts in plenty of sorrow.

One day a woman was being escorted to an insane asylum. Every time the flagman came through the train and called out a station, she would say, "Let them come. I can face them!" Who had wrongfully accused her or whether her grievance was real or imaginary we do not know. But her slogan was a good one.

We are traveling into an unknown future, some to joys and sorrows, some to riches and some to poverty, some to health and some to sickness, but the final destination of us all is death!

and then what? It is fine for our nerves if we can feel this way about it: Let it come, I can face it!

There used to be an old preacher in Georgia who would begin reading the Twenty-third Psalm like this:

"THE Lord is my shepherd—The LORD is my shepherd—The Lord IS my shepherd—The Lord is MY shepherd—The Lord is my SHEPHERD; I shall not want."

Look where you may for a philosophy that is wholesome and good for humanity in every condition, and if you find anything better than that contained in the Twenty-third Psalm, please let us know what it is!

Life is a crucible in which we are tried. If we can stand true and firm to our higher, noble ideals, through adversity and through prosperity—prosperity, there is the rub—the chances are that we will be pronounced acceptable. Whatever the future holds in store for you or for me, let us face it without fear. Let us be heroes and sheroes through it all.

Insects That Dive.

Among the natural curiosities of Japan are singing insects. The most prized of these is a black beetle named "sumumushi," which means "insect bell." The sound that it emits resembles that of a little silver bell.

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To help with the garden the extension service of the State College and Department of Agriculture has issued three circulars 121, 122, and 123. You have one whether you have written for it or not.

Factors that build communities; the school, the church, the local paper, the home agent, the county agent.

One way of proving your poor judgment is to make a bet.

A burned child may dread the fire, but widowers will marry again.

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