## HONEST ABE. U. S. M.

The Rural Mall Carrier Relater a Case of Poetry.

(Copyright, 1908, by C. B. Lewis,) EVERAL times of late when I have had mall for Uncle Joe White at the Red Bridge farm I noticed that he was looking I noticed that he was looking worried and out of norts, but I naked no questions and he volunteered no information until the other day. Then, as I drove up he said to me:

"Abe, I'm in a heap of trouble over my son Dan, and I want your advice."

"And what's the matter with Dan?"

"Well, about four weeks age he took poetry, and he's been actin' like a tarnal fool ever since. I can't get one day's work a week out o' him. He's at that poetry from morning till night, and many a night he's up till midnight. He's got an idea that he's a new Tennyson and that he's going to become a great man. I've argued and coaxed and threatened, but it don't do no good.

"Here's some of the stuff he's written, and I want you to read it and tell me what you think." The first poem handed up read as fol-

She's false to me, the girl I loved; My happiness she's shattered; My heart will never love again Because my faith is scattered.

The second one read: Talk not to me of life and love, Talk not of roses red; Talk not of buds and sunsy skies, But rather of the dead.

"Has he been in love and got the throw down?" I asked of Uncle Joe. "Not as I know of. He jest seemed to feel that way, you see. Here is one that is different."

The one that was different read: "To arms! To arms!" Bir Henry cried.
"To arms, my brave defenders!"
And each one buckled on his aword
And tightened his suspenders.

Then to the fray Sir Henry rode And to the fray was follered, And every time he killed a man Most gleefully he hollered.

"I don't know a durned thing about cetry," explained Uncle Joe, "but i do know when a feller is making a fool o' himself. That's what Dan is doing now, and I want to stop him. I'm not going to board and lodge and clothe him and let him sprawl around on the grass and tinker poetry. He was eating dinner the other day when he jumped up to write this down:

The flowers of May are nothing to me.
And nought are the roses of June:
I would lay down and expire for the love
of Mariah
And die in the full of the moon.
MAbe, is listed foot or a poet?" asked
Uncle Joe, as I unlabed reading the

"A little of both, I think," I replied.

"Will he ever git rich as a poet?"
"I hardly think so."

"Then, durn his hide, he's got to quit this nonsense and git into the cornfield. I want to do what's right by my children. Abe, but they've got to do what's

"Right now, when Dan ought to be hustling with a boe, be's out under an apple tree writing poetry with his tongue handing out and his eyes rolled up. If you say so I'll go out there and jump him two feet high and scare all

the poetry out of him?
"I wouldn't be too sudden, Uncle
Joe." I answered

"How too sudden?"
"Well, I'd give him a little warning-"Yes, Abe, and what eise?" asked

Then you can sort o' walk aroun



THE POST AT WOUL

"And with that I give Dan a b'ist?" gueried Uncle Joe.

"You do." "With both hands?"

"And as I lift him up my right boot

"And his first jump toward the cornfield is fully ten feet, and he won't even top work when the dinner born

"That's it. Uncle Joe." "And he'll let up on poetry and tend to business?"

"For evermore."

"Abe, I'm your friend for life, and I'll have Dan cured of his postry and working in the cornfield before you are

out of sight or break a leg a-trying!"

A Bad Advertisement.
"While my business has been steadily creasing for years," remarked a druggist. "I find I don't sell as much hair

restorer as I used to."

"Perhaps people are not so credulous in these days," suggested his friend."
Besides, after trying many of the preparations in value aman would nat-

urally stop buying them."
"No," continued the druggist, "I don't think those are the reasons. Human nature is as credulous as ever, and the ranks of the baldheads are being constantly recruited. I guess I must look for the reason nearer bome. Twenty years ago I wasn't bald myself."-Philadelphia Ledger.

To Save Being Surfeited.

This youngster, like most boys, is very fond of his paternal grand nother. She took charge of the house while the mother went away for a week not long

One day he was rather ob-treperous and the grandmother remarked: 'If I had the care of you all the time, Guy, I shouldn't allow you to do many thing that I overlook this week. I am afraid you wouldn't love me so much then."

"Well," replied Gny, "I suppose it would be like ice cream—if we had it all the time I spose we wouldn't care much about it anyway."-Chattanoogr

Star Artist.



New York Herald.

Combination of Discomforts.
"I see that those progressive Mexi-leans get the latest weather report stamped across the envelopes of the

"Well, it must be enough to make a man feel pessimistic to get an envelope stamped. Continued rains and much colder, with an unexpectedly large bill inside."—Cleveland Plain Bealer.

"Tve found out why Shobbore is so conceited. He told me himself."
"He did? Well, that's refreshing."
"Yes. He said be spent half his life trying to make people think well of him without success. Then he decided that the only way to get a thing done is to do it yourself."—Cincipnati Commercial Tribune.

"Oh, yes?" he suid. "I'm quite expert with my automobile now. What I know about road racing would fill an inter-

"What you don't know about it," re-plied the candid friend, "may fill a grave for you soon."—Philid lphia Press.

ndure him. I like strong, stern browed see of industriable will. "Graelous! What for P! "They are so case to manage."—Elfe.

Jenkins Aren yeu man ave told a lie?
Chambers Well, and I don't wish to se quite so rude as that, but I will say this: Yen'd make a very good weather prophet.—Chicago Journal.

nan with the hald been also. -You

Connor, whose books, "Black Rock" and "Sky Pilot," have placed him h the very front rank of Canadian story tellers, in private life is the Rev. Charles W. Gordon, a Presbyterian minister of Winnipeg.

Ralph Connor came of stolld Scotsish stock. His father, the Rev. Daniel Gordon, went to Canada in the early forties, finally settling in the village of Glengarry, in the Indian lands, and there the author was born forty-three years ago. He was educated at Toronto university, subsequently taking a three years' course in theology a

The nom de plume of Ralph Conner came to the Rev. Mr. Gordon in a



RALPH CONNOR, THE NOVELIST.

rather curious way. He was discour aged over the appropriation that had been made by a certain missionary committee for wors in the mining camps of western Canada. Disbeartened, he went to the editor of the Westminster, a weekly published in Toronto. This editor, an old college mate, told him to wage his campaign for mission funds through his columns

He wrote his first sketch. It is now the first chapter of "Black Rock." Th editor was delighted with it, but what should the author be called? The signing of his real name at the time might have provoked criticism from the mis-sion board. He telegraphed to Mis-Gordon asking what unme should be

Mr. Gordon received the telegram late in the evening, just as he was finishing a report to the inissionary society. His eye lit upon the heading of it, which was abbreviated as fol-lows: "Brit.-Can. Nor. West. Miss. Soc." The two syllables "Can" and "Nor" struck his fancy, and he telesome allp of the telegraph operator the message reached Toronto, "Sign Connor." The editor prefixed the name Ralph, and so Ralph Connor was

Raiph Connor's books have been won derfully successful, and his work as an author, so strangely begun, has brought substantial rewards as well as fame Besides "Black Rock" and "Sky Pilot" be has written "The Man From Glen garry," "Giongarry School Days" and "Beyond the Marshes."

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