

Plunkett's Talk.

"The seasons are different, folks are different, everything is different from what it used to be," said Plunkett, as he squared his chair around to face Brown.

"Thar's no difference in niggers," said Brown.

"The elements are getting in such er fix that you don't know where to build nor how to build nor where it is any use to build at all."

"You're right," said Brown.

"We used to build our houses to suit the springs and er fellow was mor'n apt to have er branch close by ter water stock. If you build in er valley or beside er branch these days ther is mor'n apt to come erlong one of these cloudbursts and wash thunder outen everything and and it's been that way and getting worse and worse ever since the war."

"Guano's the cause," suggested Brown.

"We used to think a dove-tailed log house would stand all storms and folks were all serene in one of 'em. Now er cyclone will come erlong and pick up a hewed-log, dove-tailed house, and knock thunder outen it as easy as if it was er pen built outen broom straws."

"You're right," said Brown.

"We used to plant corn in February and cotton in March, and the frost would sweeten the 'simmons by the last of September. You can wear er linen duster now till Christmas and need an overcoat till the first er June."

"You're right," said Brown.

"This fellow will tell you one thing is the matter and another fellow will tell you something else is the cause of the change of the seasons, and they get me addled so darned if I know whether I'm Plunkett or some other fellow."

"Guano! Guano! Guano is the whole cause!" exclaimed Brown, as he slapped his hands on his knees.

"Some of the scientific fellows say it's cutting down the trees, and some of 'em say it's filling the country with railroads and wires, some of 'em calls it er vacuum and some one thing and some another, and so it's been ever since the war."

"It's guano," said Brown.

"In my school days we had pictures of hurricanes in the books and our teachers would tell us erbout their great rippings eround in Africa and it was one of the strange things we used to listen to. It's not strange since the war. Every child in the land now knows more erbout cloudbursts and cyclones than the best school teachers in my young days, and er baby three weeks old will prick up its ears when the thunder roars."

"It's guano," said Brown.

"My notion is that this using of so much chemicals is what's the matter. They do now what the Lord never tried to do—make ice in the summer time. They make whiskey with chemicals, and its chemicals this and chemicals that and chemicals tother thing. Guano is made outen chemicals and it's spread all over the country. It escapes and gets up in the elements and works up these cyclones and cloudbursts and it busts things financially with the farmers and it's er darned bust and will bust the country if we do not quit it."

"Religion is different, too," said Plunkett, with a frown at Brown.

"Scientific fellows addle us with science, and sensational fellows with sensation."

"Sharps are going erround getting up money on one religious scheme or another, till they tell me that they are now selling wings to fly to glory on."

"We laugh at the poor south Georgia nigger for giving up money for these wings, but I've seed the day when the methods of some of our most popular preachers of these times would have been held in the same contempt as are the tricks of these pretended Mesias. We've got to change and get back to the good old time religion or the country's gone."

"You're right," said Brown.

"You can't teach the Bible in the public schools of these days, and yet the country is crazy over the question of public school donation. The boys used to work in crop time and go to school in er log house durance lay-by, and the sharpest traders and shiftiest fellows I ever seed were the knife-swallers of the old-time country school. The greatest thinkers and the best men were produced by these schools, and the happiest people that the world has ever known were those

who mixed labor with education and spiced it all with abundant faith in the good old Bible.

"You're right," said Brown.

"The mothers and fathers used to take the little children upon their knees and learn 'em er verse from the good book every night after supper, and these little verses were repeated by the children upon the opening of school in the morning. You can't do that now. Fereigners have got too much to say about it—the country's too free, and we're goners if the thing keeps on. Let us get back to the old Bible and simple ways, hang the sharps and sensationalists or come up and acknowledge that we won't stand freedom."

"—Sarge, in the Atlanta Constitution.

LONG AFORE HE KNOWN.

Just a little bit er feller—I remember still— Us to almost cry for Christmas, like a youngster will.

Fourth of July's nothin' to it!—New Year's ain't a crowd!

Easter Sunday—Circus day—jus' all dead in the shell!

Lordy, though! at night, you know, to set around and hear!

The old folks tell the story off about the sleds and deer.

And "Santy" 'skootin' round the roof, all wrapped in fur and furs—

Lang afore I knowed who "Santy Claus" wuz!

Us to wait, and set up late, a week or two ahead; Coudn't hardly keep awake, ner woudn't go to bed!

Er little stavin' on the fire, and Mother settin' here Darlin' socks, and rockin' in the skeezy rockin' chair;

Pap gasp, and wonder where it was the money wuz!

And quar' with his frosted heels, and spill his kummys;

And me a dreamin' sleigh bells when the clock 'ud whir and buzz,

Lang afore I knowed who "Santy Claus" wuz!

Sits the fireplace up, and figger how "Old Santy" coud!

Manags to come down the chimney, like they said he woud!

Wish that I could hide and see him—wondered what he'd say!

If he looked up erber layin' for him thataway! But I bet on him, and liked him, same as if he had turned to gas on the back and say, "Look here, my lad,

Here's my pack—jus' he'p yourself, like all good boys does!"

Lang afore I knowed who "Santy Claus" wuz!

Wish that yam was true about him, as it 'peared to be!

Truth made out er lies like that us'n good enough for me!

Wish I still was so confident! I could jus' go wild Overboard 'n' up my skeezy, like the little child Climbin' in my lap to-night, and beggin' me to tell 'bout them reindeers, and "Old Santy" that she loves so well,

I'm half sorry for this little girl-sweetheart of his—

Lang afore she knows who "Santy Claus" wuz!

—James Whitcomb Riley.

A Remarkable Dream.

Belief in dreams has received new adherents in Lincoln county, Me., owing to some strange circumstances attending the finding of the body of Elbridge Call.

The account is given by The Bath Times as follows: For three or four days there are four hundred people had been diligently scouring the woods and examining the ponds in the vicinity, when a brother-in-law of the missing man in whose care Call's motherless child had been left, dreamed that he had found the body of Call drowned under a bridge.

After telling his wife and others of his dream he started to follow down a creek not far from his farm, over which his dream had located a bridge. Upon arriving in Dresden he sought his intimate friend and brother-in-law, Mr. Bowman Myers, and they both made their way to the little stream from a directly contrary direction from Call's home, and under the old country road stone bridge, so old that old people say that it was built before their time, they found the body.

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Great damage has been done in this section by the late rains. Up to yesterday it was generally conceded that the crops had been seriously injured, and last night the climax so to speak came in the heaviest rain that has been known in this section in a long time. It poured down in torrents and continued to fall at intervals the greater part of the night. The dams at Fox's, Rowland's and Parrish's mills near town were washed away, while Amos' mill house and dam are both gone. The destruction to property has evidently been great and we expect to hear of other damage done throughout the country.—Henderson Gold Leaf.

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