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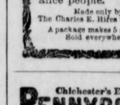
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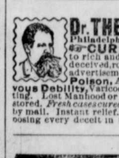
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MRS. M. E. WATTS,
May 13, 1897. Wilmington, Del.

IN RUSTIC WAYS.

The blackbirds whistle all day long
A rhythmic gladness in their song,
And night and morning down the lane
Drifts by the cowbells' rude refrain.

The flicker dips on golden wings,
And far across the meadow swings,
The swallow skims in lines of grace
Like to the curves that painters trace.

Above, below and everywhere
A sense of living thrills the air.
Spring's message through the silent sent,
With earth and wood and sky is blent.

The hedgerow blossoms stain the sod,
The south winds make the grasses nod,
And woolly lambs in awkward play
Down the green hillside ambling stray

Along the blue horizon rim
The lights and shadows sink or swim,
And penciled faintly on the skies
A ghostly half moon's crescent lies.

The blackbirds chant the whole day long
A rhythmic madness in their song,
And dusk and dawn along the lane
Echoes the cowbells' rude refrain.

—Ernest McGaffey in Woman's Home Companion.

ONE GLASS OF WINE.

A Belief That It Changed the History of This Country.

It is said that a single glass of wine probably wrecked the Democratic party in 1860. The story is worth telling. After the breaking up of the national Democratic convention at Charleston the party in Georgia held a state convention. Great excitement prevailed. The leaders of the party could not agree. It was a critical period.

The majority report indorsed the seceders or bolters at Charleston, while the minority report opposed their action. The leading champion of the minority was Herschel V. Johnson, and his followers were confident that his eloquence and logic would carry the day.

It is quite likely that such would have been the case but for an unfortunate misbap. Ex-Governor Johnson began his speech before the noon adjournment on the second day and concluded after dinner.

Old men who remember that speech say that it was a powerful argument, and the impression gained ground that after the noon recess the speaker would demolish his opponents with a few sledge hammer blows.

But the overconfident friends of the minority report were doomed to disappointment. Johnson felt the strain of the morning session so much that he was unable to eat anything, and he took a glass of wine upon an empty stomach to strengthen himself. This was a fatal mistake. That one glass of wine perhaps changed the destiny of the nation!

The great orator resumed his speech, but the wine had nauseated him. He was hazy, verbose and unintelligible at times. His style and argument lacked vigor, consistency and positiveness. His friends looked at one another in despair. The men on the other side were exultant. It was evident that the speaker had damaged his own cause.

Then Howell Cobb and Henry R. Jackson followed each other for the majority report. They spoke with an air of expectant triumph and captured the convention.

The majority report was adopted. It is unnecessary to follow the history of the next few weeks. The national Democracy was completely disrupted and put two tickets in the field. Lincoln was elected and the country was plunged into a civil war. Had Johnson succeeded in inducing the Georgia convention to adopt his conservative ideas, it is safe to say that other southern states would have fallen into line with our commonwealth, and the national Democratic party would have remained united.

This is the story of what a little glass of wine did. It ruined a great party, caused a disastrous war, and besides the loss of life cost the south over $4,000,000,000. Perhaps this is rather speculative, but there are many who believed it a generation ago.—Atlanta Constitution.

Didn't Irritate Him.

Here is a glimpse of the seamy side of life in Cornwall from The Cornish Magazine:

"I'm afraid, Jenny, you irritate your husband with your long tongue."

"Aw, no, my dear Miss Vivian, I'd never say nawthen to en. To'ther day I was 'cmo waitin for'n to come 'ome to supper. Eight o'clock come, an no Jan; 9 o'clock come, an no Jan. I put up me bonnet an shoal an went to every kiddly wink in town, thout Dyke Winsor's. When I come there, there wor Jan. Says I, 'You ugly murderen veilan, theest killed thee fust wife an now theest want to kill me, too,' an he up an knacked me down."

The Sure La Grippe Cure.

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The Sensible Girl.

"No," said the heroine of the "smart" novel, "I can never be your wife."

"But why?" wailed the stricken man.

"Because," she replied, "you do not converse in epigrams."—Philadelphia North American.

It is an easy thing to be a millionaire in Berlin. A yearly income of over $9,000, representing the interest on 1,000,000 marks, is the qualification for that title, which is enjoyed by 2,002 Berliners.

Garlic came from Asia and has been used since the earliest times. It formed part of the diet of the Israelites in Egypt and was used by Greek and Roman soldiers and African peasants.

He Couldn't Grasp It.

Harry, aged 5, was taking his first ride on the cars, and was curious to know the meaning of certain signposts along the track. "Papa," he asked, "what does W. and R. mean?"

"It means for the engineer to ring and whistle," was the reply.

"Well," said the little traveler, "I can see that W. stands for wring, but I can't see how R. stands for whistle."—*Chicago News.*

Horticultural.

Daisy (to her father's gardener)—What do you call those flowers, William?

William—Them be 'ollyoxes, missie.

Daisy—No, William, not hollyoxes, hollyoxen.—Punch.

Sadly Changed.

Dasherly—A good beginning makes a bad ending.

Downtrod—That's so! I didn't tremble a bit during my marriage ceremony.—New York Journal.

A Chilly Undertaking.

If the north pole is discovered—
But it won't be, so we're told—
No one will dare to climb it where
The climate is so cold.

—L. A. W. Bulletin.

Bucklen's Arnica Salve.

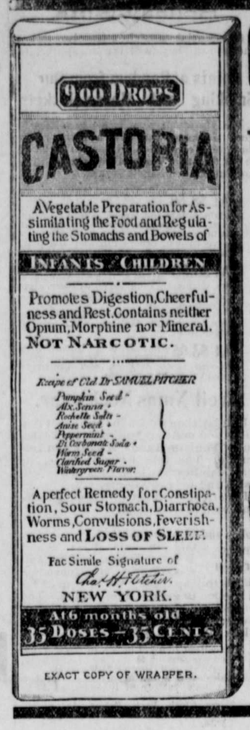
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E. M. Bonwill	Still Pond.
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RELIGIOUS THOUGHT.

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Peace with oneself and one's God lends the soul wings.—Rev. Dr. Newell Dwight Hillis, Independent, Chicago.

God's Goodness.

God's goodness is not manifest so much by his once offering us his love as by his insistent offer of a love that is daily scorned.—Dr. Frank Crane, Methodist, Chicago.

World Demands a Return.

No man ever gets anything from the world worth his having until he gives of himself something to the world that is worth the world's having.—Rev. George W. Stone, Unitarian, Kansas City.

Christ's Atonement.

It is only as we enter into the experience of Jesus, drinking his cup of sorrow and being baptized with his baptism of suffering, that we learn the meaning of his atonement.—Rev. Henry W. Pinkham, Baptist, Denver.

Business of the Church.

The business of the church is to show that Christianity is true, now and here, and that it has something of pressing value to offer the world which no sensible man can afford to neglect.—Rev. S. G. Smith, People's Church, St. Paul.

Make Sure of Heaven.

Better than indulge in dogmatical speculations concerning heaven is to assure ourselves that our "names are written in heaven" and that we lay up treasures in heaven.—Rev. Theodore F. John, German Evangelical, Louisville.

Golden Cords.

Our aspirations are intended to be golden cords linking us to heaven, but when sin comes in and snaps the cord the communication ceases and our ambitions become perverted.—Rev. F. C. Harding, Congregationalist, New York.

Fellowship Born of Love.

The spirit of fellowship born of love to the same Lord and Master is vastly more desirable than a mere external bond of ecclesiastical organization, which may be utterly lacking in true Christian love and service.—Rev. Dr. Robert S. MacArthur, Baptist, New York.

Automatic Morals.

The highest type of morals is not that which is wrought out laboriously in pain and struggle, but which springs forth naturally and necessarily from the character. It is, in short, automatic. It comes out of the life without effort, even without thought or will.—Dr. J. L. Jackson, Baptist, Chicago.

Life's Best Guide.

The Bible is our best guide to life. It may become literally a lamp unto our feet and a light upto our path. There we learn the divine will and our duty. No one can find his allotted place in God's plan who does not follow the divine commandments.—Rev. G. W. Wilson, Congregationalist, Omaha.

Religion as Life's Great Reconciler.

Religion is the great reconciler in life. It broadens, sweetens, deepens human nature. The busy man needs it to save him from overwork and sudden death. He needs it to save him from avarice and materialism, from all the excesses that destroy health and weaken the spiritual nature.—Rev. George W. Stone, Unitarian, Kansas City.

Power of Prejudice.

All thinking persons know the power of prejudice. Yet over this barrier, which seems impassable, did the gospel triumph and 3,000 prejudiced Jews were enlightened and converted under one discourse. Think of such a multitude being disarmed, overcome and added to the kingdom of Jesus, even in the city of his death.—Rev. George J. Mingins, Methodist, Asbury Park, N. J.

Love and Purchase.

Love cannot be bought. There is no relation between love and purchase. You can buy marks of outward esteem, but you cannot buy any man's or woman's love. The rich and powerful are often cut off from companionship with their fellows by the suspicion they are sought for favors they can do, for what they have instead of for what they are.—Rev. W. J. McCaughan, Presbyterian, Chicago.

Patriotism.

Another essential element is patriotism. True patriotism sets the welfare of the nation above all party politics. To men influenced by it there is presented the great opportunity to work in every sphere of life for the true glory, welfare and interest of the nation, and, last of all, there is the most essential element of all, adherence to the teachings of Christianity.—Rev. Dr. R. T. Jones, Presbyterian, Philadelphia.

Man and the Universe.

Man is but a "reed," the feeblest thing in nature, but it is a reed that thinks. It needs not that the universe arm itself to crush him. An exhalation, a drop of water, suffice to destroy him. But were the universe to crush him man is yet nobler than the universe, for he knows that he dies, and the universe, even in prevailing over him, knows not its power.—Rev. William M. Jones, Congregationalist, St. Louis.

Paul's Love For Christ's Church.

The final element in Paul's optimism to be noticed is his love for Christ's church—so deep, so strong, so all pervasive, as to give him joy even in his sufferings in its behalf. The church to Paul was the very body of Christ, the body of which Christ is the head. If we have a like love for Christ and his church, we can find roses where others find thorns, and honey where others find gall.—Rev. A. S. Coats, D. D., Baptist, Buffalo.

Our Influence.

Every one is able to influence some of his fellow creatures and lead them toward a better life, and when we neglect this we are robbing God. If we do not give our fellow men the love and charity which are their due, and if we are mean spirited and selfish, we are robbing God, for Christ said, "Whatsoever ye do unto the least of these, do ye also unto me," and if you neglect his children you rob the Lord.—Rev. T. E. Ryan, Union Mission, St. Louis.

A Narrow Escape.

Thankful words, written by Mrs. Ada E. Hart, of Groton, S. D. "Was taken with a bad cold which settled on my lungs; cough set in and finally terminated in Consumption. Four doctors gave me up, saying I could not live but a short time. I gave myself up to my Savior, determined if I could not stay with my friends on earth, I would meet my absent ones above. My husband was advised to get Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, Coughs and Colds. I gave it a trial; took in all eight bottles. It has cured me, and thank God I am saved and now a well and healthy woman." Trial bottles free at M. A. Toulson's Drug Store. Regular size 50c. and $1.00. Guaranteed or price refunded.

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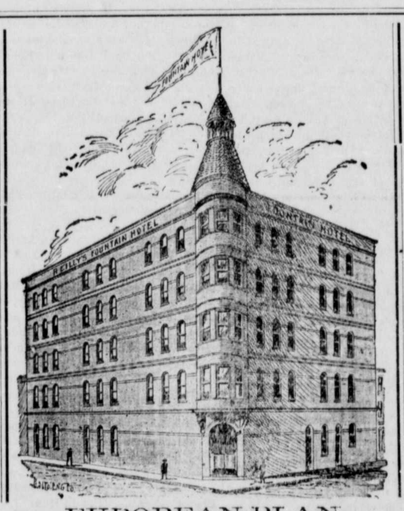
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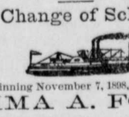
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