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THE BLUE AND THE GRAY

By the flow of the inland river,
Whence the fleets of iron have fled,
Where the blades of the grave-grass quiver,
Asleep are the ranks of the dead.

F. M. FINCH
1861-1865

The Phantom Parade

THEY tell me that pink-cheeked soldiers march
On Memorial day in the big parade,
In uniforms that are stiff with starch,
And with shining button and flashing blade,
But I smile in a sort of superior way—
I know who parades today.

SOUNDS the bugle, frail and wild—
Frail as the last blue wisp of smoke
That curls from the mouth of a gun defiled,
To dance with the echoes the shot awoke,
And wild as the scream of a welt of soul
Impaled on a phantom pole.

OF A sudden a whisper cleared the street,
And the air grew thick with the muffled tread
Of a host of flickering, shrouded feet,
And a column of shades floated overhead,
Wan as a shaft from the paling moon
At the death of an afternoon.

AND the brasses blared in the street below,
While an angel chorus welled on high,
And burnished swords flashed to and fro
On the ground while gray ghosts lit the sky
With the flash of a thousand banners massed,
Over graves of a glorious past.

AND from early morn till the sun was low
The thin, gray column filtered by,
Until on a sweet, wild bugle blow
It melted as melts a reluctant sigh,
And my heart was ashes that somehow burned
With the glow of a light returned.

THEY may tell me that pink-cheeked soldiers march
On Memorial day in the big parade
In uniforms that are stiff with starch
And with shining button and flashing blade.
But I smile in a sort of superior way—
I know who parades today!

—B. A. Heimbinder, in the New York Times.

IN FLANDERS FIELDS

We are the dead; short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders Fields

JOHN McCRAE
1914-1918

Symbol of the Day

Memorial day will ever remain the most sacred of all our holidays. We visit the last resting places of our near and dear loved ones, who in the peaceful avocation of life have quietly slipped away from our sight, and in loving memory we place our offering of flowers on their lowly resting places. We do not forget them in our busy working days, but on Memorial day we seem to come nearer to them, and the great peace into which they have entered seems to encompass our hearts as we bridge the gap that has come between us with our offering of flowers.

They are not lost, they are not gone,
'Tis only they have slipped away,
And put celestial garments on,
To help us keep Memorial day.

—Wisconsin Agriculturist

Borglum Memorial

The Gutzon Borglum Memorial to the Wars of America, at Newark, N. J. Photograph shows the front view, looking north.

Record of Longevity

A Scotswoman, Margaret Melvil, who was reputed to have lived to the age of one hundred seven, renewed several teeth after she had reached her century, while Rebecca Roney, a resident of Norton Folgate Poorhouse, cut two new teeth at one hundred two.

Englishman Named Clouds

Ancient astronomers named the stars and constellations, but clouds were first named and classified by an Englishman in 1803.

WARNING AGAINST KNIGHTS OF ROAD

Practice of "Picking Up" Strangers Proved by Records to Be Harmful.

With the opening of fine pleasant weather the "sons of Esau," who have been "holed up" are again afoot on the highways of the nation, according to a motorist who doesn't follow the practice of "picking up" strangers on the road.

These restless souls, made impatient by an enforced sojourn in one place for the months of the rains and cold, are now in a hurry to be "going somewhere else."

Going Anywhere.

They are going north or south and some east or west. Few know whither they are going or how far. All that seems to interest them is a change of scenery, a new environment, new faces.

No matter on which highway one travels nowadays there one will see numbers of these "birds of passage" trudging along the road going somewhere, anywhere.

Some of them are honest workers who are seeking new jobs, and lacking the necessary railroad or stage fare, are making the journey on foot. But most are merely "tramps," "weary Willies," "bos."

There was a time when these latter "birds of passage" made a practice of giving their "patronage" to the railroads exclusively when they made their "long jumps." They rode the rods or blind baggage and the "side-door pullman" was travel "de luxe" to these gentry.

In recent years they have made a radical change in their methods of travel. The increasing number of passenger automobiles and trucks has been making the highways easy for them. Now they travel by auto—when they can.

And that is just the trouble. They so very frequently can and do. Motorists, most of whom are far more kindhearted and generous than they should be for their own good, do not hesitate to stop on signal from these "knights of the road" and carry them as far as they desire to go.

Regret Generosity.

There are many instances where autoists have regretted this generosity. It has resulted in their being found on the roadside, sans auto, sans purse and almost sans life itself.

Police annals throughout the nation are full of such cases and yet human nature is such that motorists will keep on doing the same thing time after time, heedless of the warnings contained in newspaper accounts of theft and almost fatal assaults by members of this army of "ride-grafters."

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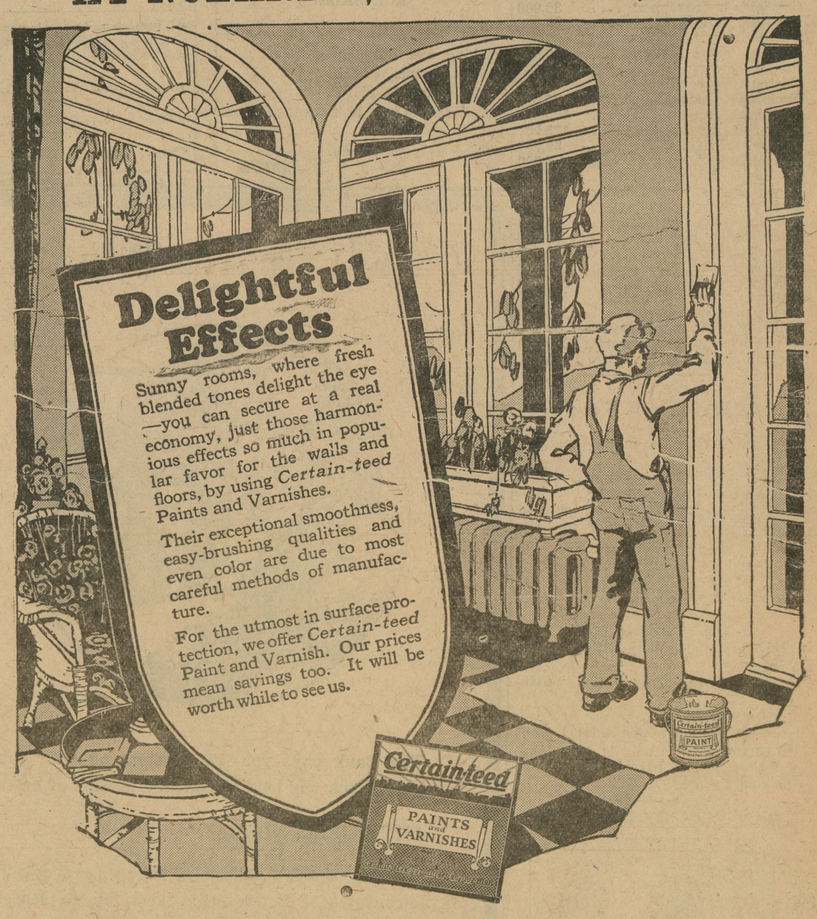

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