MEN AND WOMEN OF TO-DAY

A Cabin Boy's Romance.

Forty years ago a full-rigged ship was sailing up the great Indian river, the Hooghly. On board was a wistful-looking ship's boy polishing the brasses, and doubtless watching the great city unfolding itself to his admiring gaze.

That boy's next visit to India was in the capacity of Viceroy and Governor-General, five years ago.

It was in these words that the Earl of Birkenhead recently epitomized the romantic career of the Marquess of Reading, who has returned on the completion of his term of office.

The new Marquess is fond of recalling his experiences of those seafaring days. I once heard him say that he learnt more at sea than he probably would have done at Oxford. His two years before the mast were followed by a short time on the Stock Exchange. Afterwards he became a barrister, and in less than ten years was earning £40,000 a year.

Mrs. Baldwin at the Wicket.

Recent references by Mr. H. L. Collins, the Australian cricket captain, to the cricket prowess of Mrs. Baldwin, wife of the Prime Minister, surprised many people who did not know of her interest in the summer game.

In her earlier days, Mrs. Baldwin was a very keen cricketer, and used to play for "The White Heather Club," composed entirely of women members. Mrs. Baldwin, then Miss Ridsdale, lived at that time at Rottingdean, near Brighton, and she was regarded as one of the club's best players. Her batting average, she said recently, was sixty-two in the year that she married.

Nowadays Mrs. Baldwin does not play cricket. But she is a frequent spectator at Lord's, and has taught her two sons all that they know of the game; in the case of one of them, this is saying a good deal.

Well Earned.

To be given an honor or a decoration and not to be criticized is a distinction that falls to few. No one has found fault with the bestowal of a G.C.B. on Sir Frederick Ponsonby, Keeper of the King's Privy Purse. Sir Frederick, who has rendered great service to our last three sovereigns, is one of the most popular and respected of Court officials.

It is his task to disburse all the money granted for the King's personal use. He has discharged what is a heavier responsibility than most people realize with great tact and courtliness.

THE "INVENTION" OF NEW PLANTS

FRUIT WIZARDRY ADDS TO THE WORLD'S WEALTH.

White Blackberries, Stoneless Plums, Thornless Gooseberries Produced by Burbank.

Just one new plant of the thousands invented by the late Luther Burbank has added $17,500,000 to the annual income of the United States. This was the Burbank potato, which took the inventor five years to produce.

There is no more wonderful romance in the history of invention than that of this Californian nursery gardener, who died just recently. In 1898, Burbank was making a good living out of a large nursery garden; but all his thoughts were turned to the production of new plants, and he sold out in order to give his whole attention to plant breeding. Listen to what he has said of his experiences during the next few years.

Couldn't Afford a Microscope.

"I knew what it was to feel the pangs of hunger. I have slept in noisome places when I had no roof to call my own. I have fought off fever when I had not money enough to pay for the daily pint of milk which stood between me and possible death, and for years I could not afford a microscope, so important an instrument for my work."

Yet, in one year before he died, 6,000 men, "embracing the very pick and flower of the scintific life of two hemi- asking for more light upon his work. spheres," visited Burbank, and he received nearly a hundred letters a day

One of Burbank's most amazing achievements was to reform the cruelly spiny desert cactus. He induced it to shed its spines and produce smooth leaves fit for feeding cattle, while its fruit reached a perfection never attained by that of the wild cactus. Roses, blackberries, raspberries, and gooseberries he also persuaded to shed their horns.

Hustling the Chestnut.

This man of miracles did as he pleased with plants. The dahlia is a lovely flower, but its odor is coarse, and to some people unpleasant. Burbank produced one with the rich, delicious scent of a magnolia.

Walnuts and chestnuts produce valuable nuts, but take long to come into bearing. Burbank produced a new chestnut which began to bear at a year old, and had a fine crop the second year. He made a new walnut which grew so fast that in thirteen years it was six times the size of an old-fashioned walnut twenty-eight years old.

He produced 300,000 distinct varieties of plums, some stoneless, and all different in foliage, fruit, and keeping qualities; 60,000 different peaches and nectarines; 5,000 almonds; 2,000 cherries; 2,000 pears; 3,000 apples; 1,000 grapes; 5,000 walnuts; and 5,000 chestnuts; besides many thousands of other fruits and flowers.

Twenty Years for a Bloom.

This plant wizard made 65,000 experiments with blackberries, out of which he saved one plant only—his famous white blackberry. He used sometimes as many as a million different plants in one test, and more than once rejected almost every one of a million new products. He would keep only the best, and once burned 65,000 two and three year old berry bushes in one bonfire, and had fourteen other bonfires of similar size on his place in one summer.

Money he made in large amounts, but he would not spend it on himself. All his earnings went back into his experiments. Some years ago he confessed to having put $250,000 of his own earnings into his work. No patent can be obtained for any improvement in plants, and Burbank often said that he was glad that was so. He put untold millions into the pockets of others and found his reward in the joy of having done good work.

The triumphs of the plant inventor are gained by patiently observing the laws of Nature, and by experiment. At the outset the inventor may take two plants and sprinkle the pollen of one flower upon the stigma of the other, thus producing a new plant, which perhaps breaks away from the form and character of both parents.

Following this comes the selection of the very best plants or flowers created by a series of such breedings. The instruments are simple—very often only a camel's hair brush, with which to remove the pollen, and a watch-glass in which to carry it. But the patience required is endless.

Some years ago a perfect montbretia, of a deep orange color, was shown at an exhibition of the Royal Horticultural Society. It was exhibited by Mr. G. O. Davidson, who had spent twenty years in evolving it from the original weedy-looking montbretia from South Africa.

"The bloom you see here," he said, "has only been obtained after weeding out some 50,000 unfit flowers."

There are in Britain several great plant inventors, among whom the most notable are the Garton brothers, of Warrington, and Sir Rowland Biffen, Consulting Botanist of the Royal Agricultural Society.

Farmers all over the world owe a debt of gratitude to the Gartons, who have produced celeals (wheats, barleys, and oats), not only of finer quality than any previously known, but also freer from disease and giving much heavier crops.

Help for Farmers.

Crossing wheats is delicate and difficult work, for the flowers are self-fertilising. Just before the bloom shows, the lesser embryo kernels are cut away with the dissecting scissors and the remaining florets robbed of their anthers. If any trace of pollen is left in the floral envelope, Nature will complete the fertilising herself. When pollinated, a tiny hood of tissue paper must be drawn over the head of wheat, so as to prevent any meddlesome insect bringing pollen from another flower.

Beardless barley, which is also a much heavier cropper than older sorts, is another of the Garton inventions. A variety from Nepal was imported to act as one of the parents of this new barley.

The Gartons have done for cereals what Luther Burbank has done for flowers and fruit, and farmers who use their seeds can grow from fifty to one hundred per cent more wheat to the acre than their fathers could. The value of the plant inventor's work is beyond price, for it is he, and he alone, who can save our descendants from the food famine which will threaten if populations keep on increasing as they are doing at present.

Labor Saving.

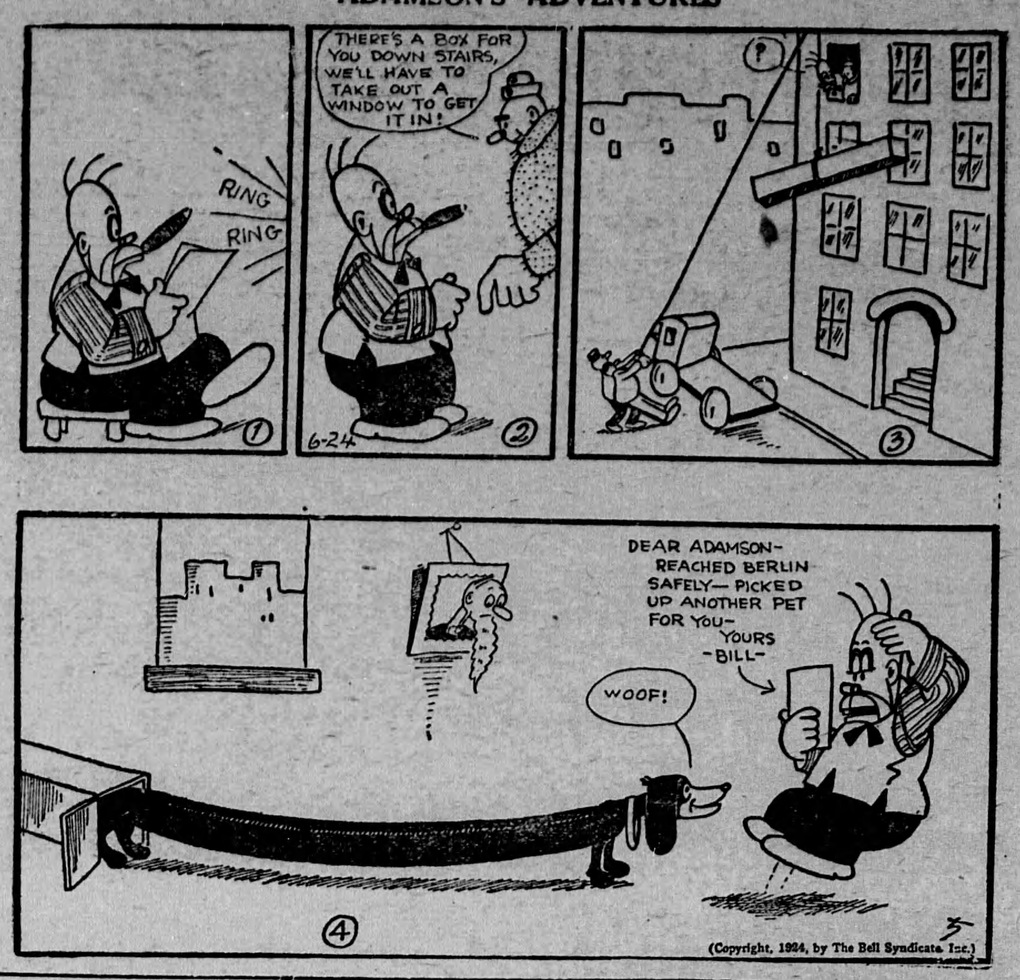
"Bobby, I see your music teacher coming. Have you washed your face and hands?"

"Yes'm."

"And your ears?"

"Ya, the one that will be next to her."

ADAMSON'S ADVENTURES



Nature and Hobbies.

Learn to love that great wonderland —out-of-doors. Be a lover of nature, not one who is simply willing to tolerate the gentle winds, the rays of the sun, the song of the birds, but one who eagerly climbs into nature's lap to hear her relate her stories. . . .

There is always something to learn and to enjoy in nature. Even if one is on a desert, there are still the sky, the clouds and the sand-grains at one's feet. The greatest and most perfect picture gallery in the world is out-of-doors; yet, at first it is extremely difficult to select one scene from among them all, and have eyes for it alone. To do this is the power of the artist. He of skilled eye for beauty sees something in nature, which if taken from its surroundings, would be perfect in itself.

Begin to study bits of nature, single out pictures here and there, forget their great mass of surroundings, and try to find how much you can discover in a little. The practice will make nature nearer and more beautiful to you; it will quicken your selective power, make you a poet and an artist; it will picture itself in the music you play and be reflected in the music you think. . . . Remember there are many poets who do not write.

Natrue monopolizes more hobbies than all the arts combined. You might spend all your hours out of doors watching her phases, and after a lifetime come away a child. Nature is wonderful because she is exhaustless. The wonders of "Arabian Nights" are surpassed in any part of your garden plot.—Thomas Tapper, in "Chats With Music Students."

Sir James Cantile Dies; Famed English Surgeon.

Sir James Cantile, noted surgeon, died on May 29th, in London. He was a close friend of the late Dr. Sun Yat-Sen, helping him to escape from imprisonment in the Chinese legation in London in 1896.

Sir James Cantile was the founder and president of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, 1921-23, and latterly was consulting surgeon of the Seamen's Hospital Society. His career in medicine dated back to 1872, and included such service as head of the cholera expedition to Egypt in 1883, dean of the College of Medicine for Chinese, 1889-96; plague officer for London, county council and consulting surgeon in London for the Northeastern Railway Company. He wrote many books on medical and surgical subjects.

Sir James was born in 1851. He was created a knight in 1918.

Sailors.

"So the shark took your leg?"

"Yes, but I wanted a new one, anyhow, the old one being too short."

The Child in a Muse.

The North Wind in his igloo sits
Where arctic waters roll,
And weaves white blankets of the snow
To wrap the frozen Pole,
The East Wind has a bubbling pot
He stirs and stirs away,—
The brew of storms, o'er which a steam
Of fog hangs thick and gray.

The West Wind is a sailmaker;
He fashions out of cloud
Royal and main and flying jib
To make a tall ship round.
The South Wind is a lazy blade
A child of sun and spring;
He frolics with the birds and bees,
And never does a thing.

—Minna Irving.

New Royal Baby "Takes After" Her Father.

The Duke and Duchess of York's baby daughter "takes after" her father rather than the Bowes-Lyons of her mother's side.

The new Princess is blue-eyed and fair-haired, and very much resembles the children of the King and Queen in their early infancy. Owing to this fact Mayfair has been speculating whether, like her father, the baby will be left-handed.

Queen Mary, herself, like the little Princess, is recorded in the royal family letters as having been an especially pretty and good-tempered baby, who never cried at night.

Votes for Women.

Artist—"This picture is a bit of ancient Greece, entitled 'Votaries of Artemis.' "

Mrs. Talltimber—"My, I didn't know the Greek women had votes in them days."

Sons List Ex-Crown Prince as Rural Squire.

Wilhelm and Louis Ferdinand, sons of the former Crown Prince Frederick William, have entered the University of Bonn, the traditional alma mater of the Hohenzollerns.

Wilhelm will study law and Louis Ferdinand will take a purely cultural letters and science course. In the Matriculation papers was the question as to their father's occupation. The youths designated the former Crown Prince as "Gutsbesitzer," which means estate owner or country squire.

Lamps and Lights.

No doubt the foolish virgins of whom Christ told us in the parable had excellent lamps. If there were changing styles in lamps, these girls very likely had the latest, most attractive and most popular. Some of the lamps may have been old, genuine antiques, family heirlooms, greatly cherished and proudly displayed. The old ones were doubtless well polished. It was an important occasion, and the lamps were all in good order.

They lacked only oil!; and there came a time when there was need of oil.

Having had a share in perhaps a thousand weddings, it does not surprise this writer that five of the virgins forgot something. Bridesmaids frequently do. And what was more easily forgotten than oil? Oil was such messy stoff, and so liable to soil a wedding garment. There surely would be other girls there with more oil than they needed. It would be easy, they may have thought, to borrow some when it was needed. Unfortunately it was not. There is something tragic in the preparation which had filled the minds of these girls for weeks beforehand, but which lacked the one thing which they were most certain to require.

All in all, we are doing quite enough for the outside of life. We spend quite enough for automobiles and amusements and for such comfort and culture as we have. But the spiritual requisites of life are not cheaply borrowed at a minute's notice at the midnight hour of need.

No man can ride in two automobiles at once, and no young woman has need of more than one fur coat at any one time. We soon reach the limit of the good that can accrue to us from material things. They have their value. They are not to be despised. The wedding fast and the wedding garment and the wedding festivity are all legitimate. But none of them are marketable in exchange for oil.

These were in all probability very attractive girls. If they had been at the wedding, their costumes would have been admired, and they themselves would not have passed through the throng unnoticed. It was unfortunate that they were not among those present.

Epitaph.

For those, inspired with certainty, who going
Exultant ways to death, obeyed high laws;
And for those others who, bitterly knowing
Their cause was futile, stayed to serve their cause.

—Rupert Croft-Cooke.

Some lower forms of life can exist without oxygen.

Public Libraries Keeping Pace With Increased Public Interest in Music.

The provision of music in public libraries is something which is receiving much more attention than in former years.

The Metropolitan Borough of Finsbury Library, in London, England, was one of the first to provide music, and during recent years considerable additions have been made. A classified catalogue of the collection has recently been issued, and a casual glance through its two hundred and fifty pages reveals the comprehensive selection of music which is available.

The catalogue is divided into three parts: Music, instrumental and vocal; history and criticism of music; and instruction and study of music. All collections and albums containing music by various composers have been analyzed and classified, and each piece is catalogued under the composer's name. Works of individual composers have also been analyzed and classified, and by this means the catalogue shows all composers represented in the collection, and also their work in any special form.

Instrumental music is represented by works for organ, piano, violin, 'cello, string and quartetes and larger combinations of strings full orchestral pieces and military band music. The vocal music includes vocal scores of operas, oratorios, cantatas, and a large number of songs for solo voice. In all sections there is music to satisfy both the cultivated musician and the amateur. Good indices are provided, enabling the inquirer to find out what compositions by a given composer are in the library or what the library has of any certain form of music. To other public libraries building up their collections this catalogue should prove most useful.

Piano Playing Increases in Favor of Audiences.

With the growth of the piano, it has become possible to play for much greater audiences. In the time of Liszt, piano recitals or concerts at which the piano was a solo instrument were given in halls for about six hundred or seven hundred people, even less. Now recitals are given also in halls for from three to five thousand auditors.

The piano made to meet the genius of Franz Liszt has made this possible. This larger and grander instrument demands a very different technical treatment than that which Cesi employed with his ten books of exercises, which were very largely devoted to digital training as dissociated from the rest of the playing apparatus. No longer is piano playing a mere matter of lifting the fingers from the keyboard and hammering them down. The muscles must have more swing to them. In fact, the whole upper part of the body must have the suppleness, ease, grace and spring that characterize the muscles of a great dancer. Moreover, with the playing apparatus in this condition, it is possible to transmit the musical thoughts of the brain to the fingers, so that each finger becomes a kind of individual sub-artist painting colors, yet controlled. In the old-fashioned school of which Cesi was the exponent, the colors were missing. There might have been perfection of design and great accuracy, but, compared with the modern style it was like comparing a colorless etching with a great oil painting.

The Value of Early Musical Association.

Parents whose musical education has been neglected should not deny their children that which they have been unable or unwilling to attain. Because a man cannot read he does not deprive his child of the opportunity of attending school. A musical education, that is an appreciation and knowledge of good music, is not expensive in these days of moderate-priced instruments.

And early association with good music is of inestimable value to every child, and this can only be obtained outside the large cities by means of the phonograph. To many parents who intend giving their children musical instruction, the question perhaps arises as to whether a phonograph in the home might not detract from the study of the piano or the violin. The opposite effect of the phonograph in the home can perhaps be more easily understood when it is realized that to attain a degree of perfection in any subject such as music, the creative instinct, the desire to produce, must be sufficiently strong to make the necessary effort and labor well worth while.

The Inevitable Phrase.

Finality of expression is one of those literary qualities instantly recognizable in the event, and not in the least susceptible of analysis. There is the unerring selection of the word, the precise turn of phrase, the ultimate fitness of form, plus something beyond definition which, along with these others, contributes to the feeling of inevitability.—David Morton, in "The Sonnet To-day—and Yesterday."

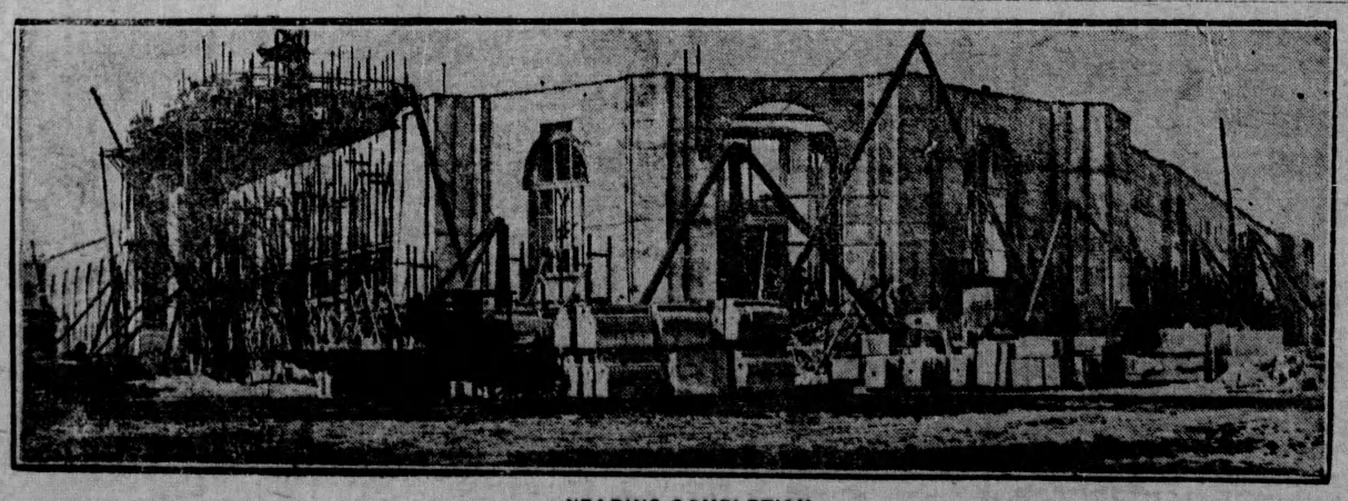
The Official Reply.

An old soldier, on leaving the Army, wrote to his colonel as follows:

"Sir,—After what I've suffered, tell the Army to go to blazes."

He received a reply in the usual official manner:——

"Sir,—Any suggestions or inquiries as to movements of troops must be entered on Army Form 123XYZ, a copy of which I am enclosing."



NEARING COMPLETION

New Government building for the Canadian National Exhibition, Exhibition Park, Toronto, shown in the final stages of exterior construction. The building, which will house the government exhibits, will be ready for the fair opening in the autumn. The estimated cost is half a million.