Home Chats

By

MARIE ANN BEST

A New Year's Suggestion

Speak a shade more kindly than the year before,
Pray a little oftener, love a little more,
Cling a little closer to the Father's love;
Thus life below shall grow liker to the life above.

—A Subscriber.

The Little Town

It is said God must have loved the common people for He made so many of them. Likewise He must love that little town for He made so many of them and its popularity grows since the automobile makes it more and more possible to enjoy rural life no matter what the occupation.

Is is any wonder that many people prefer the little town to the congested city with its crowded streets filled with strangers, its hurry and the deafening noise of traffic. It feels good to return to the quiet and clean fresh air of the little town where everyone knows everyone else. It is true Mrs. Grundy sometimes allows her tongue to be a little sharp at times, but people are mostly kind and considerate. Even Mrs. Grundy, during a crisis, turns in with a willing desire to help if occasion demands it.

The nearby meadow and woodland are quickly reached if desired where the plump little gray squirrel with his saucy erect plume, balances himself high on a topmost branch, gently swaying with the breeze and busily eating a nut precariously nipped off from the very end of a twig. Oh, little gray squirrel, you too have your troubles, but who would guess it, seeing you gaily swinging there. The gentle roll of the far off hill slowly comes to view, as the warm sun's rays quietly dispel the mist, saturated with the atmosphere o fthe fresh country air. How good it makes one feel to breath it in and rest the eye on the hill's curtain of green.

But if we have a preference for the little town and enjoy the privileges which it offers, it is also up to us to support it in every possible way. Altogether we are the merchant, farmer, doctor, lawyer, editor, clerk, housewife, etc. We are one of these, each earning his or her livelihood.

Then to create community happiness our support is needed at every turn to keep the wheels going smoothly. Sometimes, thoughtlessly perhaps, it is felt a few cents can be saved by going to the city, which, by the way, is more than eaten up in gasoline to carry us there. It is even found to frequently happen that things can be bought cheaper at home than in the city. At any rate, what does the small saving amount to anyway when we consider that to exist the small town needs our support wherever it is possible to give it. The old proverb "Do as you would be done by," still holds good and is as true as in olden days. On starting out in the New Year of 1931 remember your town. Be loyal.

Twilight Hour Story

Chapter 6

What Mamma Hen Did About the Cold Wind

The next morning Mamma Hen thought perhaps it would be warmer outside after the nice warm bright sun would come up, for she wanted to give her babies some fresh air and take them out of the barn. So as soon as they were wakened up and each little baby stretched itself and fluttered its tiny wings they all started ou to be near the big barn door. They were scratching around in the straw finding little tiny stones to eat. For mind you chickens like stones to eat with the rest of their breakfast. Their little stomachs are different from ours because they eat them to keep their little stomachs from aching. But if we ate these little stones we would have a stomach ache, wouldn't we? Just then the door opened and the farmer man's boy, Billy, came and opened the door to get George, the horse. This time he saw the chickies. Last time he came in, don't you remember? they hurried and hid under Mamma Hen before he saw them. But this time they were not so much afraid. When Billy saw them he laughed like everything because they were so cute; not loud though, for he didn't want to frighten them. It's always best not to make much noise when little shy birds or animals are around, isn't it? For they are just as afraid of you if you make a big noise as you would be afraid of a big horse if all at once it would jump around and stand on its hind legs. But Billy knew how to act with these little babies, for early in the summer they had a lot of them running around with their Mamma Hens.

He said: "Well, Mamma Hen, you were a foolish chicken to hatch out four poor little chicks so near winter time. How are you going to raise them, I'd like to know, for it is cold outside even now? I guess you are not a very good Mamma to have little chicks this time of year. Why, all the other chickens were little long ago."

Mamma Hen began to think she was foolish too, and wished she had spoken to the older Mamma Hens instead of running off by herself. Now, because she acted like that, she didn't know what to do with her babies. Yes, I'm just sure these little chickens really didn't have a very good Mamma.

Next Week—"The Cold Wind and the New Mamma."

New Air Stamp Very Distinctive

Color of Smaller Denominations Changed to Agree With World Postal Requirements

Ottawa.—A new pictorial issue of Canadian stamps, conceded by philatelists to be of the highest artistic quality, is being sent to post offices throughout the counry by the department.

The most distinctive production of the group, according to departmental officials, is the new five-cent air mail stamp. It bears the figure of the winged mercury against a background of the globe with the North and South American continents delineated. The color is brown. Many expressions of admiration have already been received by the department from stamp collectors, who describe it as the most attractive air mail stamp issued by any country.

Another striking example of the engraver's art is the blue 50-cent stamp which carries a picture of the historic chapel at Grand Pre, N.S., and the well of Evangeline. The one-dollar stamp is dark green and bears a picture of Mount Edith Cavell in British Columbia. A prairie scene is used in the red 20-cent stamp. It shows grain being reaped by modern machinery. In the background are grain elevators. The Quebec Citadel is portrayed on the dark grey 12-cent stamp. The ten-cent stamp, green in color, bears a picture of the parliamentary library.

In the smaller denominations the colors have been changed to agree with international postal conventions, as follows: One-cent, green; two-cent, red; five-cent, blue, and eight-cent, orange. These all bear a portrait of the King.

Time

The dearest friend to we mortals is Time. We can make up for a great many bereavements, but the loss of Time is irrevocable.—Pauley.

Living Words

Of our great men
Pass not from door to door and out again,
But sit within the house.

Sunday School Lesson

January 11. Lesson II.—The Childhood of Jesus—Luke 2: 40-52. Golden Text—Jesus advanced in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.—Luke 2: 52.

The early Church loved to invent and tell stories of the childhood of Jesus. Many of these have come down to us in the so-called "Apocryphal Gospels"; dreary and unedifying reading they make for the most part, and they bear their incredibility on the face of them. This story of the boy Jesus, arguing with the doctors in the Temple is the only narrative of his boyhood preserved for us in the Gospels, and there is nothing improbable about it. In the boyhood stories given in the "Apocryphal Gospels," the writers are anxious to show that his divinity manifested itself, even in his earliest years, by the amazing, and often grotesque, miracles which he is said to have accomplished. Here, however, the writer seems to wish us to understand that his divinity showed itself in his being a good son of his parents, and in his wonderful character and spiritual insight.

The occasion of this story seems to be a special visit to Jerusalem in Jesus' thirteenth year, when he would undergo a ceremony, which was something like a combination of coming of age and of confirmation, or reception, into full Church membership; he became, in the phrase which the Jews still use, "a son of the Law." It was, therefore, for him a great and memorable occasion in his life.

He would partake of the Passover meal with his family. The ceremonies attendant on the Passover lasted a full week, but only on the first two days were worshippers obliged to visit the Temple. On the third day, therefore, most of those who had come from a distance would return home, for there was little to detain them. We may assume, therefore, that on the third day Joseph and Mary took their departure, and supposed, it seems, that Jesus was somewhere in the caravan.

There was no synagogue or school building in the Temple, but from time to time lectures were given there by the rabbis; some of these would deal with technicalities of the Law, and be intended for those who were making a professional study of it. Others would be of a simpler and practical kind, where, doubtless, questions from the audience and free discussion of difficulties would be allowed. Jesus, who was now a "son of the Law," would certainly be admitted.

Imagination likes to consider what questions Jesus may have asked, and what may have been his responses to draw forth the astonishment of the hearers. We can easily suppose that into some discussion upon a matter of ritual or legal detail he might interject a question, or saying, penetrating to the very heart of religion, but this is only guess work.

Jesus' answer to his anxious parents may be translated, "Knew you not that I must be about my Father's business," or "Knew you not that I must be in my Father's house." On the whole, perhaps the former is more probable, but the meaning might be, simply, that, of course, he would be found in the Temple. The passage does not necessarily or even naturally, imply that Jesus supposed God, and not Joseph, to be his Father, nor can we say, with any confidence that even in his boyhood he knew himself to be the Son of God in some unique sense. We speak sometimes as if we knew just what passed in the mind and soul of Jesus but the Gospels are reticent about his self-consciousness; his inner life was "hidden" in God, and must always be mysterious to us. None the less, the passage suggests a consideration of great importance. It suggests that to Jesus, even as a child, God was first and foremost the Father. To John the Baptist, perhaps, and to the Pharisees, he was first or chiefly, Judge, but not to Jesus. The idea that Jesus comes to save us from the wrath of God has little support in the Gospels.

But the title' "Father,' is open to misunderstanding today. According to some modern ideas, a father should be the jolly and familiar playmate of his children, but little removed from a big brother. The Jewish conception of fatherhood was very different; in the New Testament the name, "Father," has in it awe and reverence and "godly fear." The Jewish father ruled his household, and his word was law in a way strange to modern democratic ideas. Still, no doubt, not sternness and authority, but mercy, patience, gentleness and love are dominant in Jesus' thought of the Father.

"Jesus 'waxed strong.' This odd phrase refers to his whole nature, both as to physical growth, and as to wisdom in the use of strength. Athletes often break down in early life, because, being strong, they are tempted to over exertion. Jesus was a strong, sturdy, active boy, full of life, yet using his strength in helpful and wise ways with the result that his body was wholly free from disease, and in the full powers of his manhood he was capable of great exertion. He took long walking tours throughout Gililee, his perfectly healthy body becoming a valuable instrument for the carrying out of the great tasks of his public ministry."

What New York Is Wearing

BY ANNABELLE WORTHINGTON

Illustrated Dressmaking Lesson Furnished With Every Pattern

2703

A swagger frock of wool jersey in fashionable rust-red shade shows interesting buttoned front closing that adds a tailored air.

Just to be different, it gores its circular flaring skirt and attaches it to the hip yoke in deep scalloped outline.

The collar and cuffs are of linen. It's so distinctive and so practical.

It's simple to make.

Style No. 2703 may be had in sizes 8, 10, 12 and 14 years. The 8-year sizes requires 2⅛ yards of 39-inch material with ½ yard of 39-inch contrasting and 2¼ yards of binding.

It is also very smart in lightweight tweed in brown and white diagonal weave, just like the elders are wearing. It may be worn with a brown suede belt. Make the collar and cuffs of white pique with pert bow of brown grosgrain ribbon at neckline. Trim the bodice with brown bone buttons.

Covert cloth, wool crepe, challis prints and tweed-like cottons smart.

HOW TO ORDER PATTERNS.

Write your name and address plainly, giving number and size of such patterns as you want. Enclose 20c in stamps or coin (coin preferred; wrap it carefully) for each number, and address your order to Wilson Pattern Service, 73 West Adelaide St., Toronto.

Plans to Record Speeches

Berlin——An attempt will be made to get phonographic records of all speeches and interruptions to speeches during the Reichstag sessions of the coming year. If the effort is successful the records will be substituted for the stenographic record of the debates.

Many members of the Reichstag look upon the proposed innovation dubiously, realizing that they will lose the privilege of striking from the official record those of their words which on second thought they deem unsuitable. But others who are not members of the Reichstag favor the plan strongly in the belief that it may bring more dignity and forethought into the debates.

Edison Presented With Questionnaire

Declares That Inventions of the Future Will Be In Health Field

New York.—Thomas A. Edison said recently the outstanding inventions of the future will be in the field of health and that inventors will be biologists and chemists.

Mr. Edison replied to a questionnaire from the Review of Reviews. Edison himself is famous for his questionnaires.

"Sickness is pretty hard on the workman now," said the 84-year-old wizard. "It's hard for them to get a good doctor, and proper care is expensive. There is too much sickness. Something will have to be done about it, and that is where biology and chemistry come in."

Here are some of the questions and answers:

Q.—Do you think your work would be easier if you were beginning now—with business ready to give money and facilities for research? A.—Yes, I was for 45 years hustling for payrolls.

Q.—Do inventors come from necessity—"The mother of invention"—or from scientific curiosity? A.—Most inventors work to earn money to get a modest living for their families. All they want is enough money to experiment with.

Deaths Due to Overeating

Q.—Will science tell us to eat less, as it has told us to drink less? A.—Eighty per cent. of our deaths are due to overeating. After the age of 21 a large variety and quantity of food is unnecessary. All those things crowd the stomach and cause poisons. It takes courage to learn restraint, but all that eating is unnecessary. I find that my weight keeps up on a glass of milk alone, every two hours.

Q.—Is there danger that life will grow too complicated, too speedy, with so many new inventions? A.—No. People will live up to it. The brain, if used, has enormous capacity. People don't begin to suspect what the mind is capable of.

Q.——Is there any inherent difficulty in making television as common as the telephone. A.—Yes, cost and complexity. Locomotives are pretty well developed, but you wouldn't want to buy one and have it in your house, would you? Television is like that.

Poison Gas Not So Deadly

Q.—Do you think the auto-gyro is the coming thing in aviation—the best principle so far developed? A.—Yes, and it came from Spain. They say that Spain is dead. But that man (the inventor) has the egg of Columbus.

Q.—Is it your opinion that poison gas in warfare is efficient and merciful, or a horror to be barred? A.—I think it less deadly than bullets and bombs.

On the wall of Mr. Edison's office in West Orange, N.J., where the questionnaire was presented, hangs a quotation from Sir Joshua Reynolds: "There is no expedient to which man will not resort to avoid the real labor of thinking." Pointing to it, Mr. Edison said to his interviewers, "That is what's the matter with us."

"Did you sit up until the New Year came in?"

"Yep. Our baby is teething."

Thoughts

Thoughts worth repeating will come to any man if he will, with patient attention, step from thought to thought. He may thus, happily, climb to a view or expression of truth which shall lighten and strengthen his own soul, and radiate through an infinite circle of lives and years.

20 Million Year Wood Preserved

Northern Alberta Tar Sands Contain Most Ancient Deposit

Ottawa.—The oldest deposit of preserved wood in the world, its age estimated between 15 and 20 millions years, has been discovered by Canadian Government engineers at Fort McMurray in Northern Alberta. S. C. Ells, an engineer in the federal department of mines and internationally known as an expert on bitumin deposits, made the find which geologists claim to be one of the most important scientific discoveries in recent years.

Deep in the far-famed Fort McMurray tar sands, the wood has lain for millions of years. Sealed tight from the devastating effects of air. When untombed last Summer, it was found to be in perfect preservation. The growth-rings could be counted inside the trunks; the wood might be whittled with an ordinary jack-knife; even tiny insects which fed on the leaves and tender shoots of the growing trees, were preserved in the air-tight chamber. The leaves, themselves were unearthed in fair condition.

Dr. I. W. Bailey of Harvard University, who has been conducting a series of microscopic studies of the wood practically has established the fact that at least one of the preserved trees is of a type that grows today in Japan. Geologists look upon this as still another link in the chain of evidence pointing to the establishment of the theory that North America and Asia at one time were parts of one huge continent.

Of Jurassic Period.

Geologists, who have been working on the discovery say the wood belongs to the Jurassic period, which dates back between 15 and 20 million years. In constructing the process of preservation, the geologists say the wood drifted down large rivers and lodged on sand bars. The logs and trees were buried by the action of the waves but before oxidation set in, the sand absorbed an inflow of heavy petroleum which was the origin of the famed Northern Alberta tar deposits. At the same time, the bitumin insulated the buried wood from the air, leaving it in its original state of preservation until the hand of man forced the secret many millions of years later.

Curiously enough, the basic principle of the wood's preservation, tar or bitumin, was the same as that employed by the Egyptians in mummifying their dead.

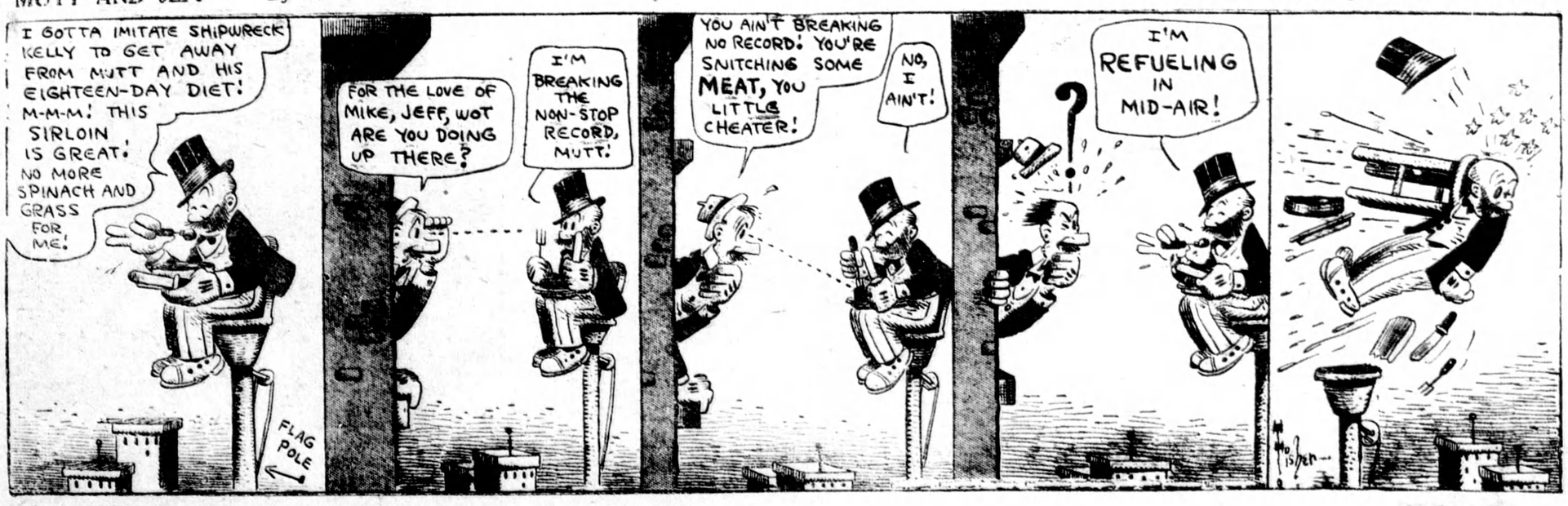
Make Further Studies.

The Dominion Mines Department intends making further field studies at Fort McMurray next Summer and it is probable that geologists from several Canadian and United States universities will be invited to participate. In preliminary excavation work last Summer, the largest tree section unearthed was 40 feet in length with a diameter of 14 inches. Dr. Bailey of Harvard University, who is an authority on such matters, has attached so much importance to the find that he has signified his intention of visiting Fort McMurray next Summer. In a letter to Mr. Ells, he described the discovery as "a most valuable find, deserving intensive study."

Geologists say the find may alter, if not revolutionize, some modern theories on what phehistoric vegetation covered this continent. It is the only known deposit of Jurassic period vegetation preserved in its original state and is looked upon as a more important discovery than the petrified trees of Southwestern United States or the semi-carbonized wood sometimes found in coal-beds.

Dog Whip Saves Life

Prince Albert, Sask.—Unerring aim of the whiphand of Clarke Cheney, veteran dog-driver of the north, recently saved the life of a tractor driver at Lac la Ronge. The tractor driver was hauling a "swing" of fish across Lac la Ronge, 200 miles north of here, when the machine plunged through the ice. Cheney uncoiled the long, snaky dog whip, and whirled it toward the tractor driver, who grasped the lash and was hauled to safety.

MUTT AND JEFF— By BUD FISHER

A Non-Stop Flight Across A Sirloin.