Home Chats

By

MARIE ANN BEST

"My business is not to remake myself, but to make the absolute best of what God made."—Browning.

A Unique Summer House

The summer house need not be of elaborate design or of great expense. Indeed the simpler the building the cooler and more enjoyable it will be. A boy at home could easily make the kind described.

Secure posts by thinning out the tops of willow trees. Then trim and cut to proper length, and set in eight holes, three feet apart, forming an octagonal shaped upright foundation on which a pyramid top can be built.

To the top and upper parts of the sides short strips should be nailed to form simple designs finishing off at the top with some decoration.

Within the summer house, at suitable height, a seat should be built consisting of short strips of branches halved.

Quite often the willow posts will send out shoots which extend from the top in all directions. They continue to grow and by interlacing form a natural and attractive roof for the summer house.

Twilight Hour Story—About Chicks and Other Little Friends.

Chapter 9

It was getting pretty cold outside now. In fact it was just about time for Thanksgiving Day. That is a nice time in the year, isn't it? Do you remember last Thanksgiving, when the big juicy grapes were ripe and the apples all rosy and sweet? In fact it is the time when everybody gets ready for winter, isn't it? All the good things to eat which took all summer long to grow are ripe then, and are brought inside the house or the barn or the cellar, somewhere so Jack Frost can't get a hold of them. Then all winter long everybody and you and I and little Jack Horner and Dolly Dimples will have all we want to eat even though there is ice and snow outside and everything frozen up hard. Then enough is put away for the animals too. That is for the animals who live with us. Let me see what animals do live with us. Well, on the farms what kinds are out in the big warm barns? Of course the barns are not as warm as our houses because, you must remember, animals have fur or feathers, so they don't want it so warm. Well, in those barns, if you look all over you'll see great piles and piles of hay, and it is lots of fun to play in it too, isn't it? Then there are great big boxes of oats and wheat and everything that animals like and the animals are the horses and cows and pigs and chickens. Oh, a single house full of chickens grow big and fat and lay lots of eggs for Mamma Lady and Daddy and Billy. Of course, the little boys and girls who live in the city or town haven't got a barn, very likely, so they just have a kitty or a dog who like to snooze in front of the warm fireplace.

But in our story it is nearly Thanksgiving Day, and Thanksgiving Day comes because we have so much to be thankful for, don't you think? I'm sure mother can think of many other things too, which you will want to be thankful for besides all these good things to eat, won't she? We only need to think a little and find that the world is just full of wonderful things.

Do you remember what you had for Thanksgiving dinner? It's just awfully good when we have roast chicken or turkey, isn't it? I guess most people have roast chicken on that day, don't they? It must take a great many chickens to feed everybody. And do you know, little girls and boys, the chickens don't mind after they grow up if they are used for chicken roast. No, they don't. In fact, that is why a lot of them were born. So they just have a good time while they are here, and they can have such a good time if we take good care of them, feeding and watering them and keeping their little houses clean and giving them a nice bed while they are here. Then they give us their good bodies, all fat and sleek, and —puff—just as easy as that, they are gone, leaving behind them good chicken roasts, and then another little chick comes to take its place.

Well, this Thanksgiving Day Billy went to his auntie's in the city for a while. He had a good time there too, I can tell you. She took him to some fine picture shows and showed him the store windows all lit up so brilliantly and full of such beautiful things. You see, Billy's home was in the country and this was all new to him. So he enjoyed it immensely. But after a while he began to think about Rover and Fluffy, and he wondered how Jimmie Chick and three little chicks that looked so much alike were getting along and oh, he was getting homesick to see his Mamma and Daddy, so when the two weeks were over they all got in Uncle Will's car and off they started to bring Billy home. So next you'll hear about what happened when Billy got home again.

Sweets Induce Early Rising

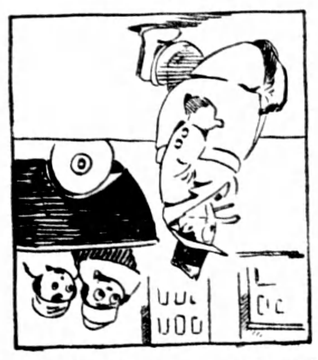
Saratoga Springs.—That there is as much truth as poetry in the expression "sweet sleep" is shown, we are told in a bulletin issued by the Colgate University Press Bureau, by the record of an inter-collegiate slumber contest recently conducted between men students at that University and girl students at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs.

The contest, conducted on a scientific basis jointly by Dr. Donald A. Laird, director of Colgate's department of psychology, and Dr. Linus W. Kline, Skidmore psychologist, ended in a walkaway for the girls, and indicated that the most restful and refreshing sleep was the reward of those who went in for diets rich in sweets and other carbohydrates. We read:

Furthermore, the sweet-eating girls were said to be much sweeter and prompter about rising in the morning than the Colgate men and their sister students who went in for more ascetic eating. Most of the young men at Colgate had to be called at least twice before they could be aroused from their slumbers. The Skidmore girls bounded out of their beds at the first note of the alarm clock.

Each of the 136 Skidmore students and 140 Colgate students who participated in the experiment reported daily over a period of two weeks on 225 items of data which had to do with their mode of living, their emotional states, and their reactions to physical exertion.

A classification of this data showed that the two contestants having perfect sleep scores were girls who consumed the largest quantities of sweets. It also showed that the girl students in general slept about 15 per cent. better than men students.



Mrs. B.—"Are you sure Harold is engaged to Miss DeCash?"

Mrs. C.—"Well, I hear his tailor has let him have another suit of clothes."

Twelve Canadian Oaks

There are twelve species of oak in Canada according to the Forest Service, Department of the Interior; one (the Garry oak) is found in British Columbia, the remainder in the East.

Sunday School Lesson

May 3. Lesson V.—Jesus in The Home of Zacchaeus—Luke 19: 1-10. Golden Text—The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.—Luke 19: 10.

ANALYSIS.

I. JESUS IN THE HOME OF ZACCHAEUS, 19: 1-7.

II. ZACCHAEUS REPENTS AND REFORMS, 19: 8-10.

I. JESUS IN THE HOME OF ZACCHAEUS, 19: 1-7.

Jericho was a very rich and very famous city. It had many times been destroyed and had as often arisen from the dust. The site of the city in the time of Christ seems to have been some six miles west of the Jordan Rive and six miles north of the Dead Sea. It was a rich city for two reasons, first because there are but two laces where the Jordan can be crossed, one here, one further north by the plain of Esdraelon. A very large amount of merchandise, therefore, passed inevitably through Jericho. In the second place, the city was situated in a veritable little paradise. It was called the city of palms. Here, too, were famous rose gardens and fragrant balsam plantations. Jericho was therefore known as "the sweet smelling." It follows that the chief tax-gatherer of such a place, or, as we might say, the head of the customs and taxes department, was a man of great importance, a man, too, who, if he were not honest, would have unrivalled opportunities for "feathering his own nest."

Zacchæus' Hebrew name would be Zachariah. He was a man of small stature. We are not told why he wanted so much to see Jesus. It may have been idle curiosity to see the man whose name was on every one's lips and who had quarrelled so publicly with the Pharisees. Or Zacchæus may have been moved by a more religious motive, having heard that this new teacher in Israel did not despise nor refuse to consort with men of his class. Or rumors may have gone round that Jesus was planning or expecting some great "sign" at the coming Feast. Or, again, Zacchæus may have been interested in Jesus only as a miracle worker. At any rate, the effect of Jesus' visit on Zacchæus was very different from anything he had anticipated.

It seems that this incident of the meeting with Zacchaeus took place as Jesus was on his way up to Jerusalem for the Feast, where he made his last, great appeal to the nation, and where he met his doom. If Jesus had any hope that he would prevail in his great challenge to the Pharisees and Sadducees in Jerusalem, it must have seemed important that he should draw all possible popular support to his side, and that he should not unnecessarily alienate any who might sympathize with him. We cannot but wonder, therefore, at the courage which led him, at this critical moment, to go out of his way to favor with his presence the man who was probably the most hated person in Jericho, the man who stood for compromise with the Roman power and epitomized all that most most obnoxious to the fanatical nationalism of the day.

II. ZACCHAEUS REPENTS AND REFORMS, 19: 8-10.

When Zacchæus says in v. 8, "the half of my goods I give to the poor," he is making a declaration of his purpose, not stating his habit in the past. In Exodus 22: 1 the man who has stolen one sheep is required to restore four, and fourfold restitution is known to Roman law in the case of a man caught in the act of robbery. It is not plain whether Zacchæus' repentance and solemn reparation are due to something (unreported) that Jesus had said to him, or simply to the fact that Jesus came to his house.

In any event, we should compare and contrast the impression made upon notorious rogues by Jesus and by Christians. Christians have always denounced robbery, rapacity and swindling. They have not infrequently lost their tempers with the wrong-doer and have done their best to get him punished by any means in their power. No doubt they have often expressed a concern for the wrong-doer's soul, but they have generally felt that punishment must come first.

Here, however, we have no reason to think that Jesus denounced Zacchæus. It would seem that already "in his heart of hearts" Zacchæus had often denounced himself, and his excuses were for the public eye only. Jesus showed no inclination to "get Zacchæus punished," for he was only concerned to get Zacchæus changed. Jesus never for a moment condoned sin, or suggested that it did not matter. Indeed, in his presence, men realized their sinfulness in a way that no scorching denunciations would ever have effected. But Jesus made it plain that, in spite of sin, he loved the sinner and believed in him. We may assume that in some dim way Zacchæus realized the nature and character of Jesus. This made Zacchæus realize, as never before, his own wretched sinfulness. But, in addition, he realized that this spotless person, who knew him through and through, yet really liked him, believed in him, called him to be his real self. Then something broke in Zacchæus and he was a converted man.

There can be no real repentance that does not carry with it inevitably the attempt, so far as possible, to put right the evil we have done, no matter how much of publicity and scandal this may involve. Verse 10, is the unique gospel of Christianity.

Lazy England!

An Irish Colonial in Truth (London) —(Andre Siegfried, writing in the London Times, has accused the Englishman of being lazy, and refusing to learn foreign languages.) It is high time that the relative baselessness of these charges was given some of the publicity to which the charges themselves have been exposed. Speaking as an Irish Colonial who has lived a little in four continents, I can say with absolutely no desire to work off a paradox or score by cheaply pretending black to be white, that the English are the finest linguists among the big nations of the world. . . . John Bull has more faults than he can afford in this world; but do let us remember his job of moving from his nineteenth-century pre-eminence to a new stability is more awkward than that of any other struggling nation. When he was making war, America, North and South, was making economic whoopee. When, afterwards, he was paying his debts, France was making economic whoopee. Poor old J.B.! The strain upon him has been terrific, and the only reason that he hasn't crocked is because he is the sturdiest and most resourceful fellow in the world.

Canada's Future

Sir Henry Thornton in the English Review (London): There is no reason for alarm concerning Canada. It has not been necessary to disrupt organizations in this country because of the slump, and when the recovery, which is certain to come, does get under way, Canada will be in a position to make the best of her opportunities. Her people have been fortunate in that they have suffered probably less than those of any other country during the recent depression; her resources are still awaiting development to a very large extent, and her sources of wealth are unimpaired. When the demand comes with recovery of the countries to which Canada looks for her markets that demand is likely to be on a larger scale, even, than that to which we have been accustomed.

Canadian Bird Sanctuaries

The total seabird population of the ten sanctuaries along the north shore of the gulf of St. Lawrence in 1930, according to the National Parks of Canada, Department of the Interior, not including young birds hatched in that year, was 100,836. The birds were of sixteen different species, mostly seabirds. Altogether Canada has now more than forty bird sanctuaries specially reserved for bird protection purposes.

A small and pugnacious man was arguing with a parson about certain incidents in the Bible. "Take the story of Daniel in the lions' den," he said. "I can explain that for you. It wasn't a miracle. What happened was that when Daniel's friends heard he was to be cast into the lions' den they had the lions gorged with food so that they had no appetite when Daniel was put beside them." "That's interesting," said the parson; "and now tell me this. Would you go into a den of lions even if you knew they had dined well?" "Well . . . er . . . yes, I would," said the man, a little uncomfortably. "And if you did," said the parson, measuring the little man, "I feel sure the lions would have one look at you and say to each other, 'Boys, we've forgotten the savoury.'"

What New York Is Wearing

BY ANNABELLE WORTHINGTON

Illustrated Dressmaking Lesson Furnished With Every Pattern

Here's slimming lines for the woman of heavier figure.

And a smart dress that will answer many needs for the lovely spring days that are not so far away.

The bodice has a deep cross-over vest, one of the best means to conceal breadth. The softly falling jabots lend a pretty effect and contribute much toward its slenderness.

The yoke of the skirt is cut to the smartest depth to narrow the hipline. The seaming, tapering as it does to a deep point, is decidedly length giving.

Printed crepe silk in midnight blue combines with plain matching blue crepe, with white embroidered mousseline in this lovely model.

Style No. 3038 is designed for sizes 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46 and 48 inches bust.

Size 36 requires 3¾ yards 39-inch, with ¾ yard 39-inch contrasting and ¼ yard 39-inch all-over lace.

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.

"Tom sent me a brick by parcel post, but I got even with him."

"What did you do?"

"Passed the word along to a number of agents that he was figuring on taking out more life insurance."

Fiction by any other name would be a falsehood just the same.

"Nobody can ever set anything right if everybody is equally wrong." —G. K. Chesterton.

Canning Industry Shows Increase

According to a recent report the pack of vegetables in Canada showed an increase of over 60 per cent. in 1930, while there was a decline of about 11 per cent. in the pack of fruits. These comparisons are based upon officially issued figures, which relate to quantities not to values. Other figures for an earlier year show that the Canadian industry supplied over 80 per cent. of the home market for these products. This comparison, which is for the year 1928, is for values, which provide the only common denominator between production and extended trade.

The outstanding feature of the report on the pack of fruits and vegetables in Canada is the large increase shown in the production of tomatoes, peas and corn. The pack of tomatoes increased over 1929 by nearly 104 per cent., peas by almost 165 per cent. and corn by 19.5 per cent. The increase in the total pack of canned vegetables was 3,646,382 cases, or 64.8 per cent. The total pack of canned vegetables, exclusive of canned soups, amounted to 9,272,480 cases, the figures being based on 24 No. 2 cans to a case. In 1929 the pack on the same basis was 5,626,098 cases. Tomatoes with 4,025,283 cases comprised the bulk of the 1930 pack. Peas were next in order with 2,553,983 cases, followed by baked beans with 1,096,042 cases and corn with 1,066,330 cases.

While vegetable canning showed great expansion in Canada last year, the pack of canned fruits in 1930 fell considerably below that of 1929, dropping from 1,101,188 cases that year to 978,570 cases in 1930, or slightly more than 11 per cent. This is accounted for by the large decrease in the apple pack, which fell from 331,691 cases in 1929 to 20,957 cases last year. Substantial increases, however, were noted in the pack of pears, peaches and cherries, pears being up by 101,722 cases to a total of 339, 106 cases, peaches an increase of 64,973 to 155,728 cases and cherries up by 51,131 cases to 146,286 cases canned last year.

In 1928, when Canadian canners supplied 84 per cent. of the home market, the total pack of canned fruits and vegetables was valued at $14,823,295. The imports were $4,463,097 and the exports $1,687,258. In 1930 the imports of canned vegetables into Canada were valued at $1,461,185 and the imports of canned fruits at $2,954,415. Exports of canned vegetables in 1930 were valued at 5631,015 and of canned fruits at $250,271.

Skyscrapers

Philadelphia Ledger: The first skyscrapers were novelties. They were limited because they offered an opportunity to make small plots of ground pay large dividends in congested areas. But times are changing. Now the tendency in municipal planning — and in the larger architecture of designing cities for health, light and convenience—is away from the spire of offices grouped on top of each other around an elevator shaft. And despite the fact that the Chrysler Building, the Empire State Building and similar inhabited obelisks continue to rear their young heads high above America's streets, the time is coming when American architectural achievement will be devoted less to height and more to mass, line and stability.

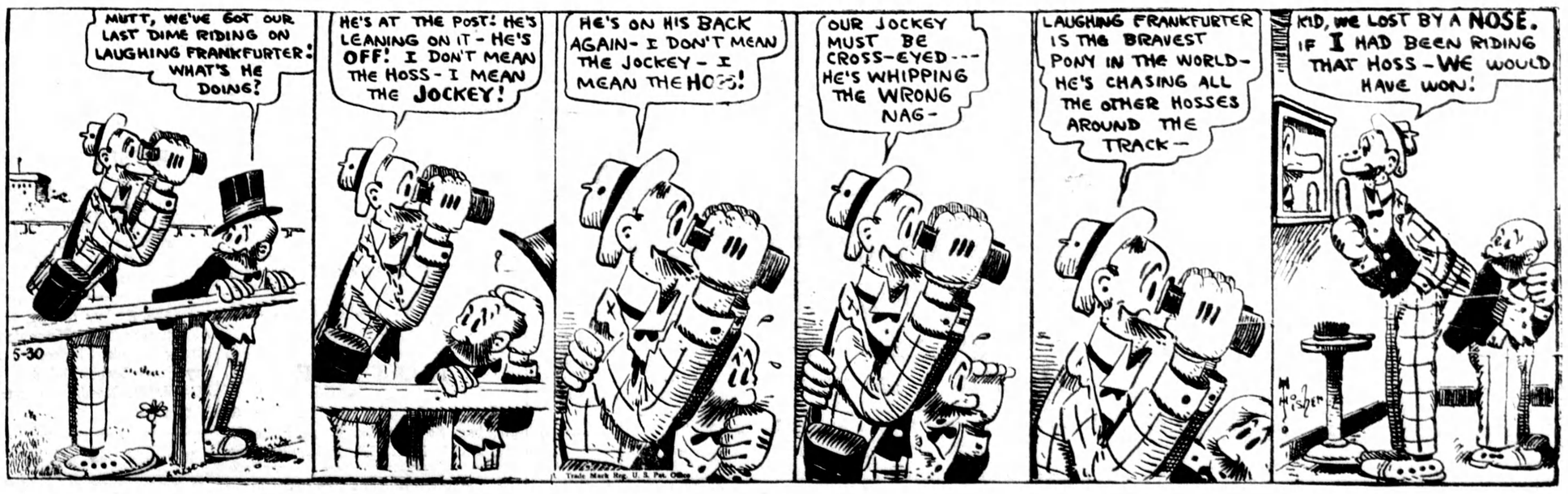
Proof Against Bullets

Glass used for the "hull panes"—not portholes now—of a new liner is of a special kind that has withstood a pressure of twenty tons.

In one test of this glass, a piece of it weighing fifty-six pounds was dropped eighteen feet onto a steel plate. It came through this ordeal without showing even a crack.

But glass nowadays can be wonderfully resistant. In certain tests of a bullet-proof glass recently a .303 bullet was fired at it at a range of five yards. The glass plate under test was about an inch and a half thick and was made up of three layers. The bullet starred the first layer, but made no impression on the second.—Answers.

The biggest thing on earth is a tiny cinder when it's in your eye.

MUTT AND JEFF— —By BUD FISHER.

A Giraffe Would Have Won by a Neck.