The Little Mountain Girl

I recall walking one sundown on an old upland road that ran over the edge of a long-deserted mountain orchard. It was a place I was very fond of visiting, partly because of the fine view to be had there of the far-shining valley; partly because of its solitude; partly because of the manner in which, from the coign of vantage, the watcher can see how the stars march up the great dome of heaven, as if they were angels in procession, carrying tapers, joyously climbing a mighty hill. I reached the asture just at the right moment. The dark-blue flower of twilight was opening wide. The sky showed lilac lanes, wan gulfs, sea breakers of misty red.

In that high pasture I thought myself alone; but presently, as I sat on the roots of a gnarled and ancient apple tree, two cows with tinkling bells came by. They were followed by a tiny mountain girl, not more than five years old. I knew her well, but I hardly had expected to see her so far away from home at such an hour. She recognized me at once and stopped to talk with me; and the cows, no longer urged, buried their broad noses in the dewy grasses of the hilltop.

"What you doin' out here so late?" she asked, with womanly directness. She, of course, had her work to do; but why should I be loafing around?

"I like to watch the stars come out," I told her, "and I like to see the valley down yonder in the mist."

"Do you like them things too?" she asked, in a tone more kindly than that in which her initial question had been put. "I nearly allus stops here when it ain't rainin'. I don't get lonely when the stars come out."

"Why do you love to watch the stars?" I asked my tiny comrade.

"I talk with them," said the child. "And they lights me home."

In a moment she was gone over the fading hill, leaving me with another treasured memory about solitude. And I never look at the spangled heavens without recalling what that baby said of the stars—"They lights me home." —Archibald Rutledge, in "Peace in the Heart."

Nomads of the Sky

(Animal Life)

Just as the nomad savage wanders to and fro about his wilderness, making his camp here one day, miles away the next, according to the ever-fluctuating supply of the bare necessities of life, so do certain birds pass the greater part of their existence in moving around. Few birds are really stationery during the year; in fact, it is rather the exception for a species to be absolutely sedentary. Many, if not all, young birds are great wanderers, being driven from their birthplace by parents or deserting it voluntarily as soon as parental care becomes unnecessary.

In the autumn, when quarrels and bad friendships associated with mating and nesting in the previous spring and summer are forgotten, many birds become gregarious, and forming into companies, both large and small, undertake roving movements throughout the country—and even the world—to suit their feeding. Bush-cats, larks and parrots are among these nomads of the bird world.

Either as nomads or migrants, the chats cover a great area of Australia in the course of a year, and they consume enormous quantities of insects. One spring I made a rough calculation of the number of insects consumed by twelve families of bush-chats nesting in the radius of an acre at the edge of a tidal marsh. There was an average of three young in each nest, and a conservative estimate made between the time the young were hatched and when they had left the nest, revealed that those 36 young birds accounted for no fewer than 36,000 grubs and insects. It was impossible, of course, to estimate the number consumed by the parent birds.

Beauty of plumage and definite individuality mark the few families of chats in Australia. In point of coloration the crimson chat surpasses both the handsome little orange-plumaged chat and the common black and white member of the order. It is without question one of the dazzlingly beautiful birds of Australia. The forehead, crown, breast, and upper tail feathers are a brilliant crimson, while the throat is white and the back brown—a veritable gem in the outback bush lands. The chats are unique Australian forms. They belong exclusively to this part of the world, having no relation to the whinchat and the stonechat of Great Britain. They go about in flocks, and are most partial to moist localities, such as river valleys and tidal marshes, and most frequently the dry saltbush country in the interior, while, as its name would infer, the "desert chat," or gibber-bird, lives in the more or less arid areas in the north of South Australia, the west of New South Wales, and the country around Lake Eyre and Lake Torrens. All of them make their nests quite close to the ground, usually in tufts of grass, rushes, or briar bushes, and sometimes near the roots of tall thistles.

Many birds desire the company of their fellows in winter, and it is customary to see large flocks of different kinds feeding in field and forest. The gregarious nature of the red-breasted robins forces itself upon our notice a little time after the birds have finished nesting, but this flocking habit is witnessed at its best in autumn, when the birds form into companies and undertake a well-defined migration from highlands to lowlands to escape the rigors of winter. Often the males keep to themselves, and there is nothing prettier than a flock of these sprightly and gaily-colored little creatures moving across the open lands, flying from one stone to another, then to the ground, and to another stone or a fence, and so on, feeding as they go. City parks and suburban gardens are frequently visited by these dainty winter migrants.

Probably the best example of nomadic migration are afforded by parrots and lorikeets. Their movements, like those of the chats and robins, are purely in quest of food, and as this, in the case of the lorikeet, is found in the flowers of the eucalyptus, we find the birds following up the irregular flowering of the trees. When the blossoming of the handsome crimson-flowered eucalyptus in suburban streets and gardens, one is almost assured of observing a flock of musk and swift lorikeets nearby. Just as soon as the flowering is over in one district, they move on to another where the trees are blooming, and in that way they wander throughout the country, breeding in favorable localities when spring comes upon them.

Migrant birds form a stream like a tide that is always ebbing and flowing. Only for a few weeks in the year, when some are nesting, is there a period of "slack water" before the turn. Birds are not only leaving for and arriving from countries on the other side of the world, but are moving from one state to another, and throughout the four seasons movements of one kind or another are taking place. Nevertheless, we see little enough of migration actually in progress, and the ordinary man in the country might never suspect its existence were it not for the complete absence of some species at certain seasons ,or the periodical variations in the numbers of others. Migration takes place very largely at night, even in the case of birds which are not ordinarily nocturnal, and for this reason usually escapes notice. Sometimes, however, the cries of the travelling flocks may be heard overhead on a still night, even from city streets and to the lighthouses round the coasts great numbers of migrants are often attracted, under certain atmospheric conditions, by the blinding glare of the lanterns, when many dash themselves to death against the glass.

The movements of the nomads of the avian world represent incipient migration in the past, which never developed in the species of their ancestors to any greater extent than that we now witness.

Scots View First "Air Circus"

Renfrew, Scot.—Scotland had its first opportunity to see an "air circus" recently when Capt. C. D. Barnard, British pilot, led an aerial pageant at Moorpark Aerodrome here on Sept. 5.

The circus consisted of eight machines, including Captain Barnard's 12-seater Spider, an autogyro, and a French Potez, which was making its first visit to Scotland. In addition to the aerial acrobatics and other carnival features, Mr. J. A. Mollison, who recently made a record flight from Australia to England, gave exhibition flights and practical lessons in aviation.

Chinese Aviatrix Gets Official Appointment

Nanking—Miss Wang Kwei-fen, the first Chinese young woman to receive an American airplane pilot's license, has been given an executive post in the aviation administration of the Ministry of War. She returned recently from New York University, where she studied aviation and qualified as a pilot. She intends to work in Nanking only for one year, after which she will go to Europe to study technical aviation, hoping to assist China to establish its own airplane factories.

Ancient Village Found in Shetland

Glasgow—A prehistoric village extending over several acres of shore land has just come to light in the island of Shetland off the north coast of Scotland.

Excavations were begun earlier in the summer and already relics have been unearthed which point to a Bronze Age survival. It is expected that it will be some five years before excavating operations are completed.

Aviation Laws Taught

Los Angeles—College students at the University of Southern California are offered an opportunity to study the laws of aviation in a new course which opened here this fall. The instruction offered also includes radio law.

In Wales the maternal death-rate has been, during the past forty years, about forty per cent. higher than that of England.

Alice—"I thought you could keep a secret?" Mabel—"Well, I kept it for a week. What do you think I am, a cold-storage plant?"

Star of "Big Swim" Welcomed Home

Margaret Ravior, winner of ten-mile marathon and $5,000 first prize at Canadian National Exhibition last month, for the second consecutive time, is escorted through streets of Philadelphia, Pa., in triumph as a part of elaborate program.

Life Dormant Million Years

U. S. Scientist Declares at Association Gathering

Cleveland.—Dean Charles B. Lipman of the University of California described to the Botanical Society of America the nature of his experiments that convinced him that it is possible for life to remain dormant millions of years.

The report, delivered before the botanists' meeting carried forward previously announced conclusions based on the finding of living organisms in the interior of anthracite coal from deep mines in Wales and Pennsylvania,

Belief of the California scientist that the organisms have been in the coal since it was formed from rotting vegetation of coal-age swamps is founded chiefly on unsuccessful attempts he made to force such organisms into the coal.

In the grinding up of the coal and at all times in the experimental steps he said, the samples were shielded from contamination.

Dean Lipman said: "I believe it is quite possible for a cell like a spore to remain in a state of suspended animation.

His studies warrant, he said, the belief the micro-organisms that he has made to resume animated life and multiply are descendants directly from cells "dormant in the anthracite from the time of its formation," which geologists calculate is from 15,000,000 to 200,000,000 years.

"Talkies" Used In Court Evidence

Melbourne, Vic.—A sound film, specially recorded for the purpose, was recently admitted as evidence in the Supreme Court of Victoria.

The case was one in which $500 damages was claimed by a Melbourne suburban resident for nuisance caused by noises in an adjoining dairy. Before the hearing of the case a sound film recording apparatus was installed on the premises of the claimant, and a record made of the dairy noises during the night. The judge then visited the studio and heard the talkie run through.

Justice Lowe ordered the dairy proprietor to refrain from using his bottling machine between 11 p.m. and 7:30 a.m., and to refrain from causing a nuisance between those hours.

Glider Flies 26 Miles

Rochester, N. Y. — Mr. Hawley Bowlus, glider instructor at the Leroy Airport, recently flew from Leroy to Rochester, a distance of 26 miles, in a motorless ship.

Peddler's Song in Autumn

Ah, 'tis well enough roving in a world of summer skies!
A peddler might be merry then, and not be sore at heart,
With gold and silver trnkets for to match with laughing eyes,
And a little gray donkey and a high-wheeled cart

A peddler might be merry then—aye sure, as I have been.
A-questioning down the country when hills are starred with flowers,
And all the woodland singing, and all the meadows green,
And never a lamplit window for to haunt his evening hours.

For then he'd walk with Wonder, but now 'tis Sorrow old,
A far faint voice that follows him, that goes with him along,
And mocks him on the hillside, and in the valley's gold,
And sweet in roadside gardens filled with autumn robin-song.

'Tis all but him have dwellings, over all the shires,
Over all of England, from sea to misty sea;
And men will come at twilight to their own hearth's fires.
And mice will build their winter nests beneath the wild rose tree.

Aye! 'tis well enough roving when the land is bright,
A peddler might be merry then, before the swallow's flown,
With never a lamplit window for to haunt him through the night,
And he and his little donkey on the dark road alone.

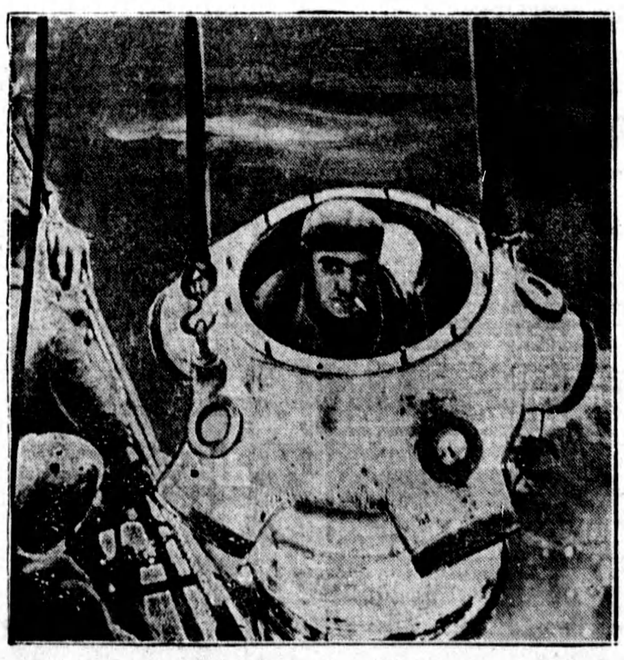
—Hamis Maclaren in the Spectator.

He—"I have something serious to tell you. I love you, dearest."

She—"Is that all? I've known that a long time. I thought you were going to tell me that you had a job that would support both of us."

She—"I wonder why we can't save money!" He—"The neighbors are always buying something we can't afford."

Salvaging of Treasure Nearly Accomplished



For many months salvagers aboard Italian ship Artiglio I have been working to recover gold from steamship Egypt sunk in Bay of Biscay in 1922. Final preparations to raise gold are under way. Here is Fortunato Sodini, one of divers, enjoying a cigarette after a spell in the water in bell-type apparatus.

Canadian Apples Bought By France

Ten Carloads Ordered to be Sold in Vending Machines

Ottawa. — Automatic "coin-in-the-slot" machines will be used for the sale of apples in France, according to a report received from Paris by the Department of Trade and Commerce.

One of the largest fruit importing firms in France has placed an initial order for ten carloads of apples with an approximate value of $18,000, and is considering dealing in the Canadian fruit exclusively. Two thousand of the automatic vending machines will be placed throughout France, and the firm has also organized a series of public auctions for the sale of Canadian apples. Hercule Barre, Canadian trade commissioner in France, working in conjunction with J. Forsyth Smith, Canadian fruit trade commissioner at London, was responsible for the sale to the large French firm.

The extent of the activities in developing the French market for Canadian apples is realized when it is seen that only 2,415 barrels of apples were exported to France from the 1929 crop while 28,261 barrels of last year's crop found its way to that country. There were practically no shipments of Canadian apples to France previous to the 1929 crop.

Berlin Crowds Applaud French Film

Berlin.—Twice every night, one thousand men and women of Berlin crowd one of the city's largest cinemas to applaud a film in which, with very few exceptions, nothing but French is spoken, writes a correspondent of the Christian Science Monitor. Now, this may not seem strange in any other country. But after all that has happened between Germany and France, such an incident is worthy of note. It is not merely a slight conversation that is carried on in French. On the contrary, one mass scene follows another, and French songs, French cheers and the chattering of French crowds sweep down from the screen and fill the vast auditorium. The Germans scarcely understand a word, but they do not mind. They laugh and enjoy themselves like children while they discover that the French are subject to the same feelings as they are. And when Georges Milton, the chief actor in this French film entitled Le Roi des Resquilleurs, makes a final bow from the screen, applause fills the hall. Leaving the cinema one cannot help thinking that in this instance, at least, the moving picture is working for the rapprochement of the people of the world.

World Shortage of Soft Wood Predicted

Jerusalem—A world shortage of softwood in 15 years' time is predicted by Mr. Richard St. Barbe Baker, founder of "The Men of the Trees," who recently addressed a meeting here, writes a correspondent of the Chrstian Science Monitor.

In Palestine the Government Forestry Department has done much to conserve the trees, he said. The Balfour Forest of the Jewish National Fund was established out of voluntary contributions.

The "Men of the Trees" in Palestine, he continued, are now endeavoring to obtain concerted acton. Financial support of some friends in England and America has been enlisted, while a present of 10,000,000 tree seeds was sent to the Girls' Nurseries of the Federation of Jewish Labor by a Chicagoan.

"I see Jerusalem growing apace," Mr. St. Barbe Baker said. "Before it is too late, open spaces for trees should be provided."

3½-Ton Machine Carried by Plane

Perth, W. Aust.—A piece of machinery weighing 3½ tons was recently carried by air over 25 miles of bush to the gold fields in New Guinea, according to Mr. O. S. Lucas, who has recently returned here from the island, writes a correspondent of the Christian Science Monitor.

Mr. Lucas found that the cost of living in New Guinea was high, bread being 2s. 6 d. a loaf, potatoes 1s, a pound, onions 1s, a pound, and meat 5s. A pound of butter cost 4s. 9d. and a dozen apples 7s. 9d. Skilled Australian workers receive approximately £25 a month. The company has put a freezing plant in operation for the employees and also furnishes electric lighting.

Study of Native Tongue Urged in Scotland

Hawick, Scot.—A proposal for the inclusion of Scottish literature in the school curriculum received the enthusiastic support of the Burns Federation at its annual conference held here according to correspondent of the Christian Science Monitor.

The means of realizing the plan lay almost wholly within the teachers of Scotland, speakers pointed out, since they are allowed a large measure of freedom in drawing up the syllabus for literature. Meanwhile, it was reported, good progress was being made in the promotion of the use of the vernacular.

"Short Hair" Declares Paris

Decision Reached at Recent Hair Dressing Convention

Paris.—Women will wear their hair short, with the ear lobes exposed, the International Hair Dressing Congress decided recently, but many Paris experts on the subject merely mumbled "yes? maybe," and adopted a policy of watchful waiting.

The congress was pretty definite in its conclusions, despite the fact that short hair admittedly handicaps the wearers of Empress Eugenie hats and gowns which date back toward the period when the consort of the Third Napoleon was galivanting around Europe.

The hair will be drawn back from the cheeks and waves or curls will appear low on the back of the head and on the neck, the congress decreed. There were 24 nations represented in the competition for the best style of hair dressing. The first prize went to England, the second to Germany and the third to France. The United States was represented only in the judges' box.

Eugenie Hat Blamed

The Eugenie Hat style was generally blamed for the quarrel, for the long-hair style was more becoming in connection with the new dress and hat models. The short-hair advocates, however, were ready to adopt other styles for the winter.

Several well-known exponents of long hair had been letting their locks grow for some months but they cut it all off again at the last minute. Some of them said they found short hair was much more convenient on vacations and at the beaches. They said they would not worry about inability to wear the new hat styles with short hair and many milliners supported them.

The Birth of Jazz

Strictly speaking there was no jazz music before the World War. At least, it was not known by that name. The word jazz was in use, however, in New Orleans, where its origin has been traced, perhaps twenty years before the end of the Nineteenth century. But it was used in the verb form and applied to a rudimentary syncopated type of music as a cue to speed it up, or to enliven it. Some years later orchestras on the west coast began developing this type of music, and in 1914 a complete jazz orchestra composed of two saxophones, cornet, trombone, violin, banjo, piano and drums, played at Los Angeles. A year later this music gained popularity in Chicago and a banjoist and orchestra organizer there named Bert Kelly made an adjective out of jazz and called his own orchestra Bert Kelly's Jazz band. This appears to be the first use of the term "jazz band."

Dogs Deterioating Veterinarian Declares

New York.—A back-to-nature movement for dogs was urged by a prominent Park Avenue veterinarian who has found that the canines of America are being pampered and petted so much that they are subject to fits of hysteria and nervous break-down. Dogs, said Dr. J. F. De Kiralki, can't stand the pace of modern life. Owners feed their dogs Russian caviar or oysters tures to stand up and take it. "What on the half shell and expect the creathose dogs need," said the doctor, "is raw meat. A dog is naturally carnivorous. He'll degenerate into a regular pussy cat if he doesn't get it. And Crepes Suzettes are not raw meat."

Last Course

An English business man was taken out to lunch by a Scottish friend in Glasgow.

"Now," said the host, as he called the waiter, 'this is going to be a real Scottish meal. We'll have cockie-leekie soup, finnan hadies, a haunch of vension, sheep's head, jam roly-poly with brandy sauce, and a bottle of whisky. Now," he turned to his guest "is there anything else you fancy?"

"Well," suggested the Englishman in a feeble voice, "what about ordering a couple of stretchers while you're about it?"

Caution

The hotel manager was passing down the passage one morning when he saw the Boots kneeling at one of the bedroom doors cleaning a pair of shoes.

"What are you doing?" he asked. "Take them down to the basement at once and clean them there."

"Impossible, sir," replied the Boots. "there's a Scotch gentleman inside the room, and he's hanging on to the laces."

The Tax Assessor—"Can you tell me what your husband is worth?"

Lady of House—"I don't know—but you can have him for two cents."