

The Acton Free Press

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1923

IT CAN BE DONE

If you can't be a pine on the top of the hill,
Be a scrub in the valley—but be
The best little worth by the side of the rill;
Be a bush if you can't be a tree.

If you can't be a bush be a bit of the
And some highway's some happier make;
If you can't be a muscle then just be
A bone.
But the liveliest tree in the lake!

If you can't be a highway then just be
A trail;
If you can't be the sun, be a star;
Dish it out like that you win or you fall—
Be the best of what you'll ever eat!

—Douglas Mallock.

FATHER MADE NO WILL; IT COST MOTHER \$100.

"When my father was dying he said to me: 'Sell everything and give the money to mother.' But in the will, that all was written down, and I have to pay a legal fee of \$100 to get it out. I have to pay a lawyer \$100 to get it out."

"When my father died, he left his \$2000 estate in the bank, live stock, and farm implements, two of the five steady farmer boys that made up our family, and mother that he made it will have funds on death bed."

"What about the \$2000?" asked one of the most important articles of the kitchen furnishings.

"Sometimes the trouble with these presumably modest young people is that they are cowardly—they are unwilling to assume responsibility for what they do. The characteristic that explains their attitude should be modesty."

"It's true that you find what's doubtful attractive in the girl, but in addition to finding the girl attractive, you hear the beauty of it as well."

"There in the vague whisper of the breeze in the tree-tops—of the most soothing sounds in the world—the vague rustle of dead leaves. The atmosphere of the little room becomes clear and definite—though you may not know them by name, you will soon find yourself picking out the notes of the different instruments."

"I often hear that different trees have different sounds. The wind in the oak has a different whisper from the wind in the birch, even as it is different when blowing over the maple or the spruce."

"And thus in a few weeks you will find yourself knowing instinctively what sounds to listen for. You have learned to distinguish. You are well on the way to the landscape as clearly as your eyes do."

"Do not take your modesty for granted. If it is leading you to turn a deaf ear to appeals, to help look it over carefully. You may be surprised to find what he has just told you because you didn't follow all he said. You will take it all in at once."

"I am greatly impressed with the sentiment in a brief line that I came across recently. 'Here is it: The best way to get even is to forget!'

"It is an art to forget as it is to remember."

"How our friends would grow with their weak points and really enter into exploring expeditions for their greater qualities."

"The good points can never be discovered, however, if we have in our heart the least bit of envy or revenge toward the ones who would make happy those who help us."

"It is wonderful gift to be able to get on with all sorts of people. To a large extent this is an inborn gift—but it can be cultivated and made more perfect by study and practice."

"Success calls for hard work, the hardest sort of work, and it is easier to pander than inability to tell up our faults and bring them to light."

"And hadn't any bottom—or at least a middle—bottom to stand on?"

"It is a good idea to get out of the real estate goodness knows what the outcome would have been. The division of property among the heirs may be another factor that must be considered."

"The will is a simple thing. It requires no more time to write than is occupied by the average conversation over the crop outlook or the political situation. And a will is simpler than the simpler the will the better. Great lawyers admit this." Chief Justice White of the United States Supreme Court, left very simple, a will and spent three dollars to have it drawn and the family fibbed. "I had no real estate, goodness knows what the outcome would have been. The division of property among the heirs may be another factor that must be considered."

"This is my last will. I give, bequeath, and devise to my wife, Letta M. White, complete and perfect ownership of all my right, every kind of land and nature, wherever situated, appointing her executrix without bond and giving her certain thereof."

"I have given the White will brings out another good point—that of no bond for the executor. Usually the executor of a small estate—of one of the family, perhaps the widow or the maid of honor, as the red tape and cost of a bond are unnecessary."

"The smaller the estate the greater is the need for a will. Small estates cannot stand the test of litigation and the need for the money is usually more pressing. Yet a simple will can divide a large estate, as for instance in the case of E. H. Harriman. His will read:

"I, Edward H. Harriman, of Arden, in the State of New York, do make, publish, and declare this my last will and testament as follows:

"I give, devise, and bequeath all my property, real and personal, of all kind, to my wife, Mary Harriman, to be held absolutely and not in common with her, and to her to bequeath and appoint the hereby nominate and appoint the said Mary M. Harriman to be executrix of this will."

"I especially the Harriman will was drafted by high calling legal talent and may well serve as a model for us of lesser estate."

"It is best to have a competent attorney draft the will. This cost very slight. When there are absent heirs as in our family, it is well to mention them specifically, noting why they received nothing. Some relatives recommended, when an estate is left, the widow, that each child be willed a small amount, say \$50, to avert contest on the grounds that the children were born or born after the will was executed."

Sometimes a will is taken home for further discussion before it is signed. If it is signed in the presence of two disinterested witnesses and executed by the testator declaring "I acknowledge this to be my last will and testament," the document is legal. Witnesses should be persons whose signature may easily be proved.

"Witnesses make a will? Every one with a cent to the man's dependents." Then let somebody know where you keep your will. A banker recently told me an interesting story. "A young widow, Mrs. Farmer," he said, "came to me to ask if I had her husband's will."

"He told me he had made one giving me all his property. She declared, 'But I've looked everywhere and can't find it.'

"I had to tell her we didn't have it, as now unless she goes through a legal process, the real estate will be ex-ecuted, the rest will be left to the widow for nineteen years, or until the youngest child becomes twenty-one. She'll have had to sell to educate the children on her third," P. H. Werts, New York.

FEELING MUSIC

"What in the world do the old folks know when they say we're 'just' musical in my playing?" A young, slightly grumpy girl put the question to a friend, indicating that some one had come to him with a complaint and expected by the testator declaring "I acknowledge this to be my last will and testament," the document is legal. Witnesses should be persons whose signature may easily be proved.

"The mechanical organ which operates a player piano has no brain or nerves and therefore is not musical or musical in the strict sense of the word. When it is in action, it makes a noise, but it is not musical in the strict sense of the word. Unless you think the music and hear it internally as it were, you will find that the old folks are justified when they say there is no music in your playing."

A FACT!

"This fellow, Skinner, tried to tell me that he had the same automobile for five years and had never paid a cent for repairing it. It's the fat man. 'Do you believe that?'" "I do!" replied the thin man. "I did his repair work." The Farmer.



Poetic Incidents Which Take Us Back to Early Days

In these days of oil feed furnaces, coal-heaters, electric ranges and hydro-heat, the old wood box day has become a forgotten era. What acom-

panying the wood box was one of the most important articles of the kitchen furnishings.

It was kept out in the kitchen and was long and deep and wide, And the poker hung above it and the angel stood beside it.

And the big black cookstove, through its great smoke from end to end,

Bowed to look as if it loved it well.

Its cracked and knothole lid And its long legs, all hinged fastened on the heavy lid.

And hadn't any bottom—or at least a middle—bottom to stand on?

It seemed to the old housewife, when you hurried out to fill it, so's to get outside to play.

In the chilly winter mornin', when the bed was snug and warm,

And the frosty snow tickled 'neath the nose, and the fire crackled 'neath the stones,

And your breath rose of the pillar in a smoky cloud of steam,

Then the old wood box was a warm and empty box—p-dancin' through your dream.

Came it pounded at your conscience, screamed in aggravatin' glee,

"Would you like to sleep this mornin', and git up in the dark?"

Landed plain it is that minute—and had and driven snow.

And the slab of oak awaitin', piled and ready to go raw.

Never was a wood box frule, never was a wood box all right, and every wood and nature, whether real, natural, or mixed, whenever situated, 'apointing her executrix without bond and giving her seisin thereof.'

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