

WHAT AM I THANKFUL FOR?

I'm thankful for each happy day
I see a little child at play;
For every pleasant flower that grows
On each refreshing stream that flows;
For mountains towering to the skies,
For every bird that sings and flies.
I'm thankful for the rain and sun,
For robes of green, the earth has given.
Upon the hours of nights and days,
From sunbeams threads of gold and rays.
Of light the sun doth wean
From off the ocean's breast of green.
To climb the sunlit stairs to God,
And drop again to blosom the land.
I'm thankful for some work to do,
I'm thankful that God gave me you!
That friends He's sent me undeserved,
Who love have given unreserved.
I'm thankful for my cat at night,
And for the breaking of the light.
That summons me to work and play
Another wondrous, happy day.
—Rev. William L. Stidger.

THANKSGIVING DAY:
NOVEMBER 7

Greatly to us, on at least one day a year, to remind ourselves of the blessings received that we ought to be thankful for.
We may well be thankful, for example, to a subject which redeems human character from a charge, which otherwise would be against it, of certain ungratefulness of gifts.
The gift of peace we appreciate now after the long misery of the years of war.
This year, in the season we have learned to value most, through the fact that however we sow, it is God alone who gives the increase.
The ordinary things of life, our friends, our relatives, the life-sustaining water, the ability to enjoy food and sleep, the power to work, for example, we are very likely to accept as a matter of course, without a thought of thanks.
For our own souls' sake, we cannot afford to lose the opportunity Thanksgiving brings of joining in the thanksgiving.

We thank them then. O Father, for all things bright and good, For seed-time and the harvest, For life, for health, our food, Accept these gifts.
For all Thy love imparts, And what Thou dost bestow, humbler, thankful hearts."

After this we must not dumb beasts existing only to turn over Father's gifts into material increase!

Thanksgiving Day is the national protest against such materialism, a day for humbly turning over to the fatherly benevolence of the benign Creator of all things visible and invisible.

THE DUTY OF THANKSGIVING

"And be ye thankful," was an apostrophe to all that had been done, should cheerfully repeat it to all. We feared that too many people look on Thanksgiving Day simply as a day of pleasure, associating it with feasting, and a general time of mirth, and quiet, but not of the real meaning of the day. It is, of course, in keeping with the purpose of the festival, that friend should befriend friend, and that our fathers should be thanked to the extent with good thoughts on this day set apart for an expression of gratitude for these bounteous blessings we daily received.

In gratitude in said day the most reprehensible of all that had been done are doubly ungrateful who mark this day with a special feast, and utter no word of thanks for the bounties of which we are particularly blessed.

"How sharper than a serpent's tooth is an ungrateful child!" cried King Lear, when his two daughters, shamefaced by his heart-breaking, and desolated by his two daughters' shameful ingratitude.

"We all have sins, but we are not of them; Father who art in heaven," and with what sorrow must He see so many who never utter a word of thanks, and often are openly defiant and rebellious, despite all the abundant blessings they have received from His hands.

Should we forget, then, while it is surely that there should be an annual national expression of thanksgiving for the abundant harvest we have reaped, and the rich heritage we enjoy, it is also, indeed, right, and all the more duty in all things, and all the more to give thanks" for the multitude of our daily blessings. Most of us are liberal enough in presenting our petitions, especially for material wants, to the Giver of all good things, but after we have received the bounties we craved, and even more than we asked, or thought, how bound we are to neglect to return thanks thereto! Of how many, and how often, it is true, as Mrs. Browning says:

"And lips say God is pitiful;
Who ne'er paid God he pitied."

LONDON PLACE NAMES

Originally Hyde Park, in London, was the name of the hunting ground of St. Peter Westminister. At that time it covered nearly four hundred acres. In 1528 it was conveyed to King Henry VIII. In 1622, the park was described as "the hunting ground called Hyde Park" and was sold by order of Parliament for seventeen thousand pounds. De Gramont referred to Hyde Park as "the hunting ground where King Charles and his courtiers played the game that was called pale-milie." That game, now known as polo, was first introduced into England by the Portuguese, who were expert in playing it.

London's famous Rotten Row, it is interesting to know, is supposed to be derived from the French Roulé de la Rotonde, meaning "the King's Drive." Rotten means "badly made," the grounds where King Charles and his courtiers played the game that was called pale-milie. That game, now known as polo, was first introduced into England by the Portuguese, who were expert in playing it.

A LADYLIKE DESCENT

"Frances," said the little girl's mother, who was entertaining callers, "you will be surprised to learn that you could hear all over the house now go back and come downstairs like a lady."

"A few moments Frances entered the room. "Did you hear me come down this time, mother?" she asked.
"Yes, dear, I can plainly hear you come down with both your voices," said her mother. "Come down like a lady the second time, when the first time you made so much noise."

"The second time I slid down the banisters," explained Frances.

The Free Press Short Story

PEGGY MAKES THE BEST OF IT

"I KNOW it's hard to have to spend Thanksgiving on a railroad train," Peggy's father looked down at her sympathetically as they hurried along through the dark, cold streets to the station.

"We'll have to make the best of it, though," he sighed. "You always have me to comfort you, and I'm not older than you are ever since. I'm sorry as you are that we can't go to grandmother's, as usual, but of course you couldn't go away up there alone, and I have to leave you on Friday morning. There's nothing for you to do but to go with me to-night."

"Just think of seeing my father only once a year," explained Peggy. "I don't see him all stand."

The old man smiled, and then led her on to tell of herself.

"So you don't think you'll like living in Chicago?" he asked, after she had told him about their prospective trip.

"Perhaps after I've lived there a while I'll like it," answered Peggy, blushing, "and when she was a baby, Peggy had been father's 'umbrella.' There were just the two of them. She was the only one left, father and son could sit together to comfort him as Peggy could."

Peggy, after I've lived there a while I'll like it," answered Peggy, "and when she was a baby, Peggy had been father's 'umbrella.' There were just the two of them. She was the only one left, father and son could sit together to comfort him as Peggy could."

"It was hard, though, she admitted, to leave the old man behind, and she had hurried along the street toward the station.

"Not only would the trip to Chicago mean that they must miss Thanksgiving at grandmother's, up in the little city of the church."

The old man's eyes misted over the window.

"You say your father's a good accountant," he asked suddenly.

"Peggy," Peggy gave a enthusiastic smile, as she always did when father was mentioned.

"Baxter and Webb—that's the firm we're working for in New York," he explained of his father's occupation, "and he's been with them since he was a boy."

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