Sonless Father Takes His Boys to Alaska

A bachelor who loves boys but who has no boys of his own! That is George E. Buchanan, a wealthy coal dealer of Detroit, a hard-boiled business man who thinks that the best possible education a boy can have is the education of travel. He has sent 145 boys to Alaska from Detroit and Vancouver via the Canadian Pacific "Princess" Steamers to Skagway; and now he plans to not only send a group of boys to Alaska the coming year, but he has enlarged his program and his former slogan. "On to Alaska with Buchanan" has a side-partner, "On to Europe with Buchanan!" Buchanan is a Canadian Scotchman who has prospered wonderfully in Detroit. He will tell you he has made money there, but—his big idea is to give the growing boy a chance. The boy says, "I'll do it," but Buchanan knows in his canny Scotch way that the only thing worth having is the thing you have to earn. So he says to the boys: Here's a trip to Alaska, here's a trip to Europe for you, but listen:

"No boy, or man, ever appreciated or got any benefit out of anything he did not work or sweat for. You earn one-third of your passage money, and I will tell you how to do it as best I can; you get your parents to put up another third and I will loan you the remaining third—and you can pay it back to me when you get ready, so that another boy can be sent to Alaska—or Europe." Every boy who has made good his passage money to Alaska, is eligible for the European trip—and the percentage of "make good" boys has been very high, according to Buchanan. Of all these Alaska boys, Buchanan says that two-thirds have voluntarily repaid him, although he has merely put them on honor to do it when they got ready—and he forecloses no legal obligations, because there are none. Any boy, anywhere in the United States or Canada, can qualify for George E. Buchanan's trip to Alaska, or to Europe, and can earn his third anywhere but, of course, he should get in touch with Mr. Buchanan, in Detroit, to learn how to earn his third. All of his boys have a wonderful time, no matter whether they go to Alaska, or to Europe, and when they finish with him they have had a business and travel education worth a whole lot.

CHEERFUL NEWS FOR THOSE WHO MAY DIE

We take pleasure in making the announcement that death as the consequence of disease or old age is generally painless, and that one noted physician, Dr. Arthur Macdonald, of Washington, is devoting himself to collecting facts and figures, which may moderate the prospect of death to millions. It is curious that medical science, perhaps controlled by the law, makes little provision for easing the last moments of persons about to die. Medical science is concerned mainly with the other side of the shield—helping people to live. But it is also true that only in a few diseases, such for instance as lockjaw, does death come in an agony. It is the fear of death which is terrifying, and it is probable that a man must have his own philosophy to conquer it. But the fear that the business of dying is a painful one is just another superstition which may be swept away. There are plenty of people who would not shrink from laying down their heavy load if they knew that the process is in most cases as easy as falling asleep. Above all it must be a relief to those who watch their loved ones' passing to know that it is without suffering, that indeed the act of dying ends whatever suffering may have preceded it.

We Die by Degrees

History is full of instances of death met not so much with fortitude as with an almost contemptuous indifference. On his way to the scaffold Thomas More stumbled and reproved an attendant who had hold of his arm. "Help me up, man," he said. "I am told there will be no trouble when I am coming down." As he lay dying Scarron remarked: "By my word, I would never imagine it was easy to laugh at death." Madame Pompadour, who if she was a fair-minded woman, could have had no fantastic expectations of a harp and flowing garment in the next world, died with a jest on her lips. She was breathing her last, when she opened her eyes drowsily and saw a priest stealing from the room. "Wait a moment," she said. "Then we will leave together." Some of Socrates most interesting discourse followed the time when he had drunk the hemlock and before he died. He walked abou talking of life and [illegible] so little worry about his future state that his last thought was to ask a friend to pay a small debt he owed.

Not Afraid of It

In his last hours Mozart joined with his friends in singing a requiem he had thoughtfully composed for the occasion. When Seneca was ordered to die for the good of Rome he opened a vein in his arm but not finding this quick enough he said: "Death seems to be a matter of some difficulty." So he ordered his slaves to prepare a bath, opened the veins in his legs, composed himself in the bath and passed out as though falling asleep. A very similar ending was that devised by John Galsworthy for the hero of "The Stage," or "Old English" as it was called when adapted for the stage. His hero literally committed suicide by eating a tremendous dinner and drinking heroically, knowing that apoplexy would be the certain result. The saying that "The brave man dies but once. The coward dies a thousand times" applies rather to death in battle, or rather to the courage that makes a brave man face death and take his chances. Violent death must be at best uncomfortable "in that revolting second of the wrench when the blind soul is flung upon the air," as Masefield has it. Nor can death be less than horrible to the man with his senses fully alive who, caught in some trap, sees it certainly approaching. But the approach is worse than the arrival.

Teaching at Fault

Dr. Macdonald believes that most of the dread of the act of death is due to the poets and writers who have rarely treated it in any spirit but that of terror. Moralists, for their own private ends, have represented it as a horrifying reality always at one's elbow, something which we should never lose sight of. The death of the drunkard, the evil liver, the scoffer at things religious, has been painted from a million pulpits in the most dreadful colors. There are on records stories of deathbeds, when the dying man, a devout believer and a model for the community, has been almost crazed with the fear of what was approaching him. There seems to be little difference between the death of the just and the unjust. Happily both die easily. The stories of death agonies, and death rattles and death struggles are for the most part superstition. When strange noises or convulsions occur the dying person is usually unconscious of them. They harrow the beholder, but if he is taught they do not represent the last turn on the rack of the loved one, deathbed scenes will lose much of their shocking character.

Nature's Way

"Nature," explained the philosopher, "always tries to make compensation. For instance, if one eye is lost the sight of the other begrows deaf in one ear, the hearing of the other ear becomes more acute." "Faith", said Pat, "and I believe you're right, for I've noticed that when a man has one leg shorter the other is always longer."

Advertise in the Chronicle. It pays.

WATCHING YOURSELF GO BY

Just stand aside and watch yourself
go by;
Think of yourself as "he" instead of
"I".
Watch closely, as in other men you
note
The bag-kneed trousers and the
seedy coat;
Pick flaws, find fault, forget the man
is you,
And strive to make your estimate
ring true.
Confront yourself and look you in
the eye—
Just stand aside and watch yourself
go by.

Interpret all your motives just as
though
You looked on one whose aims you
did not know.
Let undisguised contempt surge
through you when
You see you shirk, O commonest of
men!
Despise your cowardice; condemn
whate'er
You note of falseness in you anywhere.
Defend not one defect that shames
your eye—
Just stand aside and watch yourself
go by.

And then—with eyes unveiled to
what you loathe—
To sins that with sweet charity
you'd clothe—
Back to your self-walled tenement
you'll go
With tolerance for all who dwell below.
The faults of others then will dwarf
and shrink—
Love's chain grows stronger by one
mighty link
When you, with "he" as substitute
for "I",
Have stood aside and watched yourself go by.

MEANS ONE OR OTHER

Weather Prophet's Predictions Can Be Taken Either of Two Ways

People subject to rheumatism get cold comfort from the Strathroy Transcript:

A local weather prophet, who bases his prediction on the direction of the wind when the earth passed the winter solstice, makes the statement that the wind for the next three months will be from the east. This, as we take it, will mean much warm weather, cold weather, or both. In any event, it spells rheumatism for the rheumatic.

An Infantile Banquet

"You're looking fine," announced the doctor to his patient. "Have you followed my dieting instructions and eaten only what a three-year-old child would?"

"Yes, doctor," was the sad reply. "For dinner I had a handful of mud, one of coal dust, a button hook and a box of safety matches."

CURIOUS MARRIAGE CEREMONIES

Generally speaking, the idea of a wedding is a conventional one but there are cases on record where the tastes of some people have not agreed with this. Indeed, there have been some very eccentric and very romantic marriage ceremonies solemnized. Men and women, the very opposinte in character and disposition, have been united, sometimes the union proving a happy one, sometimes the reverse.

But, having recently heard a good deal about elderly men marrying young girls, let us start our list of extraordinary weddings with one that occurred in a Surrey town some years ago, when all the old folk seemed to run amok. In this instance an old man of seventy-eight years of age (he had been a soldier) led to the altar an aged damsel who had herself seen seventy-two summers. There were three bridesmaids, respectively ager sixty, sixty-eight, and seventy years. All of them were spinsters. The best man was seventy-five, so their combined ages brought the total up to nearly four centuries and a quarter.

Marriages of Freaks

In travelling shows the freaks who help to draw the money from the public, often intermarry, and it is not an unusual thing to find the fat man marrying the skeleton woman and the tattooed man the bearded lady, but sometimes two like freaks marry.

There was a Colonel Grover once who married an American giantess. He too, stood 6 ft. 7 in. The pair, when they appeared in public, used to receive as much as £150 a week.

But possibly the most unconventional and peculiar marriage ceremony on record was that performed years ago by the Consular Agent at Cincinnati. The bridegroom was a well-to-do resident of that town, and the bride lived in Italy. When the wedding was performed the contracting parties were thousands of miles apart.

The Consul filled in a blank certificate, which was forwarded by him to the authorities in Italy, who, in the presence of the parish priest exhibited it before the bride, who in turn affixed her signature, accepting it as her action the marriage became perfectly binding, although, of course, the newly-married couple could not possibly live together for quite a little time owing to the distance they were apart.

The Wedding Ring Omitted

Now a word regarding that all-important little article—the wedding ring.

As is common knowledge, it sometimes happens that this little article is forgotten, and there have been cases where the door-key of the church has had to do duty; but it is not often that that portion of the marriage service, "With this ring I do the wed," etc.' is omitted. Yet there is an instance of this on record. It occurred at Liverpool.

After the party had left the church it was discovered that the clergyman had forgotten these words, and, of course, in their absence, the bridegroom would be relieved of his most serious obligations, to say nothing of the fair woman being minus the ring itself. In this case, therefore, instead of sitting down to breakfast, back the couple hurried to the church, and were thus practically married twice on the same day.

Finally, let us give a few details of what occurs at a marriage ceremony in the Philippine Islands. When the Negritos marry, the whole tribe is assembled, and the affianced pair climb two trees growing close to each other. The branches of the trees are then bent by the elders till the heads of the couple meet, and when the bride's and bridegroom's heads have thus met, the marriage is declared legal.

"NO SUMMER" YEAR IS FORECAST FOR 1927

Now comes Herbert Javrin Browne of Washington, ocean meteorologist and long-range weather forecaster, who, in address at Chicago on Friday of last week, predicted trouble for bears in all grain markets. He has joined other prophets in predicting a "no Summer" this year. He said:

"The crop seasons of 1927 in the northern and southern hemispheres are fraught with grave dangers to the grain harvests of the world.

Weather predictions based on solar radiation and their effect on ocean temperatures indicate a severe year."

Off The Old Block

"Wot you doing, Chile?"

"Nothing, mammy."

"My, but you is getting like yoh father."

RANEY GETS SALARY

Hon. W. E. Raney, it is announced from Toronto, will receive the $1,500 sessional salary as leader of the Progressive group. A following of 10 members is sufficient to qualify him, and there are 13 Progressives.

George Bernard Shaw, contemner of Christmas, seems to be ambitious to take the place of Dean Inge as champion groucher.—Hamilton Herald.

AUCTION SALE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1927, AT Lots 3 and 4, Con. 21, Egremont, the farm stock and implements of Clark Watson. Everything will be sold. See large bills for particulars.

Annual SPIRELLA SALE NOW ON

Everything at Reduced Prices

Phone 119, Mrs. Nichol, Spirella Co.'s Representative

Crusoe Knew What He Wanted And He Got It

One of the most persistent advertisers in the history of success was Robinson Crusoe. He knew what he wanted—a ship—so he put up an ad. for one. He flung up a shirt on a pole, at the top of his island. That, in the language of the sea, was plain to every seafaring man.

The circulation was small, there was no other medium but Crusoe kept at it despite the fact that he got no enquirers for a long time. He changed his copy as one garment after another was frayed out, and in the end got what he wanted.

Crusoe used the best medium at his disposal. The best medium in Durham, Mr. Advertiser, is The Chronicle. It goes direct to the people to whom you wish to tell your story. Use these columns persistently and you are bound to obtain results.

The Job Department

Our Job Department is equipped for your every need.

If you want Letter Heads, Bill Heads, Envelopes, Financial Statements, Office Forms of all kinds, Visiting Cards, Wedding Stationery, Pamphlets, Posters, etc., see us and we will assist you in making your selection from our large stock of papers and various type faces. It will be a pleasure to estimate on any Job Printing you may have. Call and see us or phone and we will call and see you.

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Men's Heavy Ribbed Woollen Underwear:

All sizes, reg. $1.50 to $2.00 for $1.25

Fleece Lined, extra heavy:

Men's 34 to 44, reg. $1.00 for 79c.

Boys' 22 to 34, reg. 75c. for 59c.

Ladies' Silk and Wool Hose, popular colors, reg. $1.00 for 79c.

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