

At Home Come in & Chat Awhile

—Ruth Raeburn.

Selections from 'Among the Immortals,' by R. Walter Wright

The Psalms of the Bible so dear to the hearts of thousands have meant much to the author. There are six poems on these great songs. The first opens with clear, ringing notes.

"Peal upon peal—God's great cathedral bells.

Moving with melody the sonorous air Of ages—from Heaven's high dome they bear Glad music through the universe which tells

Creation of all-potent love that swells A father's heart and feels all human care."

The second is entitled David's Psalms. "O seer of Bethlehem, whose songs have thrilled

The listening ears of ages; with the lure

Of Thy sweet lyre, enchanting, yet so pure;

The saint has been with heaven's high rapture filled,

The sinner's tempest of wild fears has stilled.

The soul with Saul-like madness found a cure,

The fainting, faltering heart strength to endure,

And Hope has blessed whom rude Despair has chilled.

And thou for me, O bard of Israel, Hast day by day appropriate melody The ever changing moods of life to inspire

With master-thoughts of God unutterable,

And feed my feeble lamp of minstrelsy With clearer flame than old Prometheus' fire."

From the words found in Psalm 45—"At Thy right hand doth stand the queen in gold of Ophir." The author found inspiration for a beautiful tribute to Queen Victoria.

The Harvest Crown was inspired by a thought found in the 65th Psalm. "Thou crownest the year with thy good-

ness." "Rabbi Ben Abel" was based on the words "So teach us to number our days that we may get us an heart of wisdom."

The sonnet on "Education" was founded on Psalm 147:5: "Great is our Lord, and of great power; His understanding is infinite."

The Book of Proverbs
"The wisdom of the ages Finds rich expression here, Exceeding all the pages Of heathen saint or seer."

This is the first verse of the author's poem on this book and expresses in a few words a picture of the contents of this book of the Bible.

Ecclesiastes
The author received inspiration from this book for three songs and we quote the one that was inspired by the 12th chapter, which is familiar to all readers of the Bible and which begins with the well-known verse, "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them."

Old Age
Must I grow old, and in my heart expire The clarion voices of the infinite, The vast ideals which filled the inner sight

And all the great enthusiasms which fire The soul of youth; and must my being entire

Grow callous to the great world's growing light, And fall and pale 'neath Time's all-shrinking light;

And silenced be my life's full-chorded lyre?

Nay nay, O God, I must be young, nor doubt The coming morrow, with expansive mind

And fertile heart welcome fresh thoughts and find

Uprising new great splendid loves, till A wondering child in spring's full flush roam out

O'er the green fields of immortality."

The Song of Songs
"Jesus of Nazareth! Never as He Spake man, did they not say? If poetry Is thought and feeling at its highest reach

Incaruate in the forms of human speech,

Why wrote He not some epic whose white fire

More potent grows the ages to inspire? Why not—?

Think ye a drama, epic, song, Must written be? The canons all are wrong.

The poet's greater than the poem. Fail to see the drama in life's thrilling tale.

The epic in its mighty purposes,

Song in the heart's love wild vibrations?

This is poetry more sweet, sublime and true

Than pictures that word artists ever drew.

Another of the author's pictures that is very beautiful is "Wild Flowers," whose theme is "The flowers appear on the earth," Song of Songs 2: 12.

We quote in full:
A June Bird Song
The time of the singing birds has come. Song of Songs 2:12.

In the break of a blossoming morning Of the ever-glorious June, I placidly lay and listened To the wild-birds' varied tune.

The lark with its high-keyed treble, The robin's tenor strong, The canary's wonted rapture, We mingled in the song.

But my ear caught a note in the minor, So rich, so appealing, so calm, It came to my heart like a vision, It fell on its wounds like balm.

As one of the long-lost voices, As my mother's used to be, It soothed my fret and worry, It spoke to the child in me.

It called to a soul that is simple, Trustful, unselfish and free; It appealed to my higher nature, It spoke to the God in me.

I had risen with the lark of ambition, On passion and beauty had smiled, Forgot that the heirs of the Kingdom Have the spirit of a child.

O bird of noble contentment! Whatever thy name may be, A voice in the wilderness crying, A herald of Christ to me.

There are voices out-sounding from Heaven, Through Time's tumultuous swells, They say with that bird of the morning, "My child, it is well, it is well."

—R. Walter Wright.

A DEPRESSION SHORT STORY

A tall, smooth-shaven man stepped up to the front door of one of Waterbury's better homes the other day and gave the doorbell a quick, businesslike ring. He was well dressed, his trousers neatly pressed, his shirt clean, his shoes shined. He carried a bundle rolled up in newspaper. No, there was nothing the maid could do; he wished to speak to the woman of the house, if she would be so kind as to step to the door a moment.

"Good morning, madam." His lifted hat revealed a well-groomed head of hair. "I am ready to go to work for you for an hour, day, week or year. If you have a floor which needs polishing, a chair which needs paint, a room which needs wallpaper, a ceiling to whitewash, a small carpenter or plumbing job, I shall be glad to serve you."

She was impressed by his manners and appearance. "I'm sorry," she said, "I can't think of anything in that line. How could you do any such job without ruining your clothes?"

He tapped the bundle. "I have my overalls," he said. "Also a screwdriver, monkey wrench and a few other tools, as well as a few faucet packings."

"That reminds me, there is a dripping faucet in the kitchen. You may repair it if you will."

The overalls were on in a jiffy, and the wrench out. In five minutes the faucet was repaired. The woman of the house by this time had decided that it was as good a time as any to have the kitchen brass polished, and it took him almost an hour. The charge was fifty cents an hour, he explained, while he was actually on the job. He left his telephone number and offered to come on call.

The next day he was called to whitewash the basement. Between times, as he worked, the woman drew from him his story. He was young, about 28, and had a good position with a firm that went bankrupt. He had a bride of a year, and didn't intend to accept charity. So when there were no openings in his line he decided to put to use the ability to handle odd jobs which his father had taught him when he was a schoolboy. He had been working for seven months and averaged enough to keep his family comfortable.

Hit by depression? Yes, but not a knockout blow.—Waterbury Conn. Republican.

BIG MAP OF ARGENTINA

There has been recently placed on exhibition in the library of a Buenos Aires newspaper a giant relief map of Argentina, just completed after 26 years of work by Pablo Fonticelli, an Italian who emigrated to Argentina as a lad. Eight years were consumed in the preliminary work of laying out the map and 12 years were spent in exploration and study to revise it and make it accurate in every detail. The map is on a scale of 1 to 500,000 and is 24 feet by 12 and is complete in the most minute particulars. The maker of the map explored the foothills and ranges of the Andes in order to get accurate information of land which had never before been trodden by humans. In this rough work he was greatly aided by his wife, who accompanied him.

Miss Macphail's Letter

The ten per cent. cut in salaries did not include Lieutenant Governors, judges, army, navy and mounted police officers. There was much criticism in the House of Commons because the salaries of the classes named were not cut, which found sympathy in the country. It is encouraging to those who believe in the influence of public opinion to notice that a special bill was introduced to the House of Commons this week, adding an additional ten per cent. income tax on the salaries of judges, army, navy and mounted police officers. The Lieutenant Governors, being representatives of the King, were exempt. The bill simply meant that the Government changed its mind but wasn't quite ready to admit it. The new move is possibly the best thing that could have happened; we have started something. For the first time special classes have a special tax levied on their incomes.

Mr. Lucas of Camrose, Alberta, suggested that Parliament should pass a bill levying a tax on tax-free bond holders. Many people will respond with a "Hear! Hear!" And while we are about it we might relieve (ex-Senator) MacDougald, Mr. Henry and Senator Haydon of the million dollars they got because of their "nuisance value." Then too, there is John Aird Jr.'s \$50,000. This subject gets more interesting as we pursue it. These at any rate are more able to bear heavy taxes than the people who are today carrying the burden.

Mr. Spotton, member of Parliament for North Huron, made a courageous speech on agriculture in which he urged the setting up of a marketing board. Organized agriculture and experts in marketing were all in favor of it, he said. Mr. Spotton praised Mr. J. J. Morrison, the veteran secretary of the United Farmers, saying that he was the one man in Canada who was big enough to refuse the Premiership of the banner province. And when a man is big enough to do that, he is big enough, in the opinion of Mr. Spotton, to give sitting premiers some advice on agriculture.

Mr. Spotton exhibited real courage in the criticism he offered of the Canada Packers, the amalgamation of what used to be Gunn's Limited, the Harris Abattoir, William Davies Company and the Canadian Packers. "There is practically no competition on the livestock market and the farmer has to sell his hogs and cattle to this combine at their own price. The farmers throughout the province of Ontario, and I believe justly, feel if ever there was an octopus, a devil fish with elongated arms squeezing the life out of the farmer of the province of Ontario, it is the Canada Packers of Toronto. And you can write around the head of that devil fish the name of MacLean, if you wish."

Other excellent speeches were made on agriculture. Mr. E. J. Garland, U.F.A. member for Bow River, Alberta, pointed out that agriculture is the largest single contributor to our financial, commercial and industrial prosperity; yet rural population is steadily declining and farming today is regarded as one of the most hazardous of occupations. The value of farm lands in all Canada has declined in the last three years by \$9 an acre. The value of the wheat crop of 1928 was in dollar value worth 202 million dollars more than the wheat crop of 1931. Mr. Cooze, speaking the same day, showed that the total value of all field crops in Canada in 1928 when measured in dollar values, was worth 700 million dollars more than the total field crop of 1931.

Is it any wonder that there is a business depression in Canada with the purchasing power of the farmer so drastically reduced? Until purchasing power is put in the farmers' pockets and kept there, there will be no return to prosperity in Canada. We are an exporting country; the price which our farm products bring in the British market sets the home price as well and since the British pound sterling does not bring as much in Canadian money as it would if we were on a parity with the pound, we lose the difference which is at the moment, 18c on every dollar.

In my opinion we should at once bring Canadian money to a parity with the pound and so increase the price of all farm products by eighteen per cent. There would be no difficulty at all in bringing this condition about and all those who are interested in seeing the farmers' purchasing power restored ought to make a careful study of this question of exchange.

On the presenting of the Radio Report, the Prime Minister made a noteworthy speech some extracts from which follow:

"First of all," said the Rt. Hon. R. B. Bennett, "this country must be assured of complete Canadian control of broadcasting sources, free from foreign interference or influence. Without such control radio broadcasting can never become a great agency for the communication of matters of national concern and for the diffusion of national

thought and ideals, and without such control it can never be the agency by which national consciousness may be fostered and sustained and national unity still further strengthened. In this stage of our national development we have problems peculiar to ourselves and we must reach a solution of them through the employment of all available means. The radio has place in the solution of all those problems. It becomes, then, the duty of parliament to safeguard it in such a way that in its fullest benefits may be assured to the people as a whole.

"Secondly, no other scheme than that of public ownership can ensure to the people of this country, without regard to class or place, equal enjoyment of the benefits and pleasures of radio broadcasting. Private ownership must necessarily discriminate between densely and sparsely populated areas. This is not a correctable fault in private ownership; it is an inescapable and inherent demerit of that system. It does not seem right that in Canada the towns should be preferred to the countryside or the prosperous communities to those less fortunate. In fact, if no other course were possible, it might be fair to suggest that it should be the other way about. Happily, however, under this system, there is no need for discrimination; all will be served alike. Equality of service is assured by the plan which calls for a chain of high power stations throughout Canada. And the particular requirements of any community may be met by the installation of low power stations by means of which local broadcasting service may be obtained.

"The use of the air, or the air itself whatever you may please to call it," continued the Prime Minister, "that lies over the land of Canada is a natural resource over which we have complete jurisdiction under the recent decision of the Privy Council. I believe that there is no government in Canada that does not regret today that it has parted with some of these natural resources for consideration wholly inadequate and on terms that do not reflect the principle under which the crown holds the natural resources in trust for the people. In view of these circumstances and of the further fact that broadcasting is a science that is only yet in its infancy and about which we know little, I cannot think that any government would be warranted in leaving the air to private exploitation and not reserving it for development for the people."

The session is hastening to an end. The talk is now that we will prorogue on Wednesday. We are finishing up the odds and ends. It was thought the report of the Railway Committee would take a long time, but it was adopted al-

most without discussion. The Post Office estimates which provide splendid material for prolonged rows between French-speaking members on either side of the House, are now being discussed. It is not safe to guess when they will finish.

THE FARM POULTRY FLOCK

"Poultry is at last definitely recognized as one of the essential departments of every up-to-date farm where a program of mixed farming is carried on," states George Robertson, Assistant Dominion Poultry Husbandman. "Not only is it recognized as a necessary department of farm work but more and more farmers are coming to realize that for the capital invested and labor involved there are few if any departments that give as high returns. For the mixed farm, general purpose breeds such as the Plymouth Rocks, which are good both for laying and for the production of market poultry, are recommended. A flock of a hundred such birds carefully managed are returning to many a farmer a profit over cost of feed, of from \$200 to \$500 a year which is something not to be disdained by even the most successful farmers."

Agnes—"Isn't it remarkable how Alice keeps her age?"

Clara—"Yes, she hasn't changed it for ten years."

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"We can thank Long Distance for that cheque"

Old man Carrington was selling his farm and there were two fine teams for quick sale. Bill Smart didn't need them but he thought of a man he knew in the cartage business in town.

Bill called his man by Long Distance telephone that night and arranged to buy both teams for him next day on commission.

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