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Golden Hair And the Raven

Once upon a time there was a good tailor who had seven sons. By and by, a little girl was born, a little girl with bright blue eyes and long, golden curls.
The tailor had no trouble in making a living, but he believed these boys ought to work. They thought differently. All their time they spent in seeking pleasure.
One day the father was taken ill and died. The mother tried to get the boys to work, but they still would do nothing. She did the best she could, but it was hard to earn enough for such a big family.
One day the boys came home after having a good time, and she talked to them about work. "We would much rather play," they said. "The boys were standing in the kitchen arguing and talking about what they had been doing that day, and the mother, sad, tired and worn out, said—
"Oh, I wish you were seven ravens, and then you wouldn't bother me so much."
No sooner were the words out of the mother's mouth than one by one the boys turned into ravens and flew out the window. The little blue-eyed, golden-haired girl stood by her mother's side and saw the seven ravens disappear.
"Oh," said the mother, "perhaps that wasn't best, but those boys did worry me so."
After that, she and the little girl lived in the house all alone, and the mother had no trouble to make a living for just the two. But the little girl was always thinking of her brothers and wondering where they

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were, and what they were doing. She wondered if they were good as ravens.
One day she said to her mother—
"Dear mother, please let me go and find my brothers. I think that if I would go and find them and bring them home again they would promise you they would be good."
She begged and pleaded with her mother until at last her mother said—
"All right, my dear, I will let you go."
So she took a little ring that the baby girl had had that was too small for her to wear and put it on a chain and hung it around the little girl's neck.
"Now," she said, "be careful where you go and what you do. I am sure that no harm will come to you and that you will find your brothers."
The little girl wandered through the wood for days and days, and finally one day just at evening she saw a queer little house up in the trees. She stood looking at the house for a long, long time. Finally she noticed that there were just seven windows in it, and she said to herself, "I am sure I have found my brothers' home."
She waited beneath the tree and finally she saw coming through the sky seven ravens. "One by one they entered the little house, each at a different window," she said to herself, and waited and soon the biggest raven came and said: "What is this here?"
But the little girl was sleeping, so he left her there as she was. The next day the ravens flew away early in the morning, while the little girl was fast asleep.
When she woke up, she knocked on the tree, but she didn't hear the ravens in the house, so she climbed up in the tree and went into the little house. There she found their breakfast all ready for them to eat. On the table were seven bowls, each with something in it—that reminded her how hungry she was. She tasted what was in the biggest bowl, but she didn't like it at all. Then she tasted the next, and the next, and the next, until finally she came to the last one, and that was just right. She sat there a little while, and then she began looking over the house. And finally she found a little pair of stairs, and she went up the stairs and there she saw seven beds all in a row.
She got in the biggest bed first, but she didn't like it at all, and then she got in all the beds, and the last one was soft and comfortable, and she went fast asleep.
Soon the seven ravens came flying home, and this time they missed the little girl from the foot of the tree. They went in the house and the biggest raven said:
"Someone has been trying my breakfast."
And the littlest one said:
"Someone has been trying my breakfast."
And all the rest said:
"Someone hasn't been trying my breakfast—she just ate it all up!"
Then they went upstairs to see if that someone was still in the house. The biggest raven said:
"Someone has been lying on my bed."
And the rest said:
"Someone has been lying on my bed."
But the littlest raven said:
"Someone has been lying in my bed and here she is now. What a pretty golden-haired girl she is!"
Then the biggest raven came close and looked at her, and he said:
"See that little ring belonging to my sister. Don't you remember? This must be our sister."
So they sat there by her bedside until she awoke, and when she saw them she said:
"Aren't you my brothers?"
"Yes," said the oldest raven. "We know you by the little ring that you wore when we were at home."
"Do you like this life?" said the little girl.
"No," said the brother. "We don't. Won't you come home with me, then and be good and I am sure that mother will fix it so that you can be boys instead of ravens."
"Ah," said the biggest raven, "could we truly be good enough for that?"
"I am sure you could," said the little girl.
"Then we will go home," said the ravens.
And the biggest raven said:
"Here is something I want you to take home with you when you go," and he handed his sister a little case. "It is just some of the things that we have collected while we were here in the wood."
"But how will I get home?" said the little girl.
The biggest raven said:
"We will take turns and carry you on our backs."
So the biggest raven took her on his back, and in her hand she held tight the little box that they had given her.
They took turns carrying the little girl until finally they were back where the mother lived. They flew in the window that they had flown out of a long time before, and when the mother saw them and saw her little girl she was happy again in spite of the fact that the boys had been so bad.
Said the little girl to her mother:
"The boys have promised that they will be good."
And then the boys all said:
"Yes, mother, try us once again."
"I hope you will be good and I hope now that you can try as boys instead of ravens."
No sooner were the words out of her mouth than the boys were boys again instead of ravens. Then they took the little box of jewels that the sister had and sold them, and with the money built a beautiful home for their mother, and she never had to work. And the mother, the seven boys and the beautiful little blue-eyed golden-haired girl, lived happily in this home for many, many years.

Oh, for the Burg!
Don't miss the last chance for the Burg. 88. Thousand Island leaves Friday 8.30 a.m. Fare 50c.

ITALIAN SOLDIERS FURNISH MUSIC IN THE TRENCHES

Reservists Permitted To Take Their Mandolins With Them To The Front.

Chicago Herald.
With the entrance of Italy into the great European struggle the mandolin has been added to the class of instruments in special favor in the trenches. The reservists of Italy have been begging to be permitted to take their mandolins with them to the front, for in the Italian is an organ grinder for commercial purposes abroad he is a mandolin player for his own affairs of love and war at home.

A contingency unprovided for in connection with Italy's intervention according to music has been the demand for Italian national music in England. Theater and restaurant orchestras in London have shown such an eagerness to add it to their repertoire that a prominent Italian publishing house in London has been unable to cope with the demand. The Mameli hymn, "Fratelli d'Italia," which was sung with fervor during the last war with Austria, has been completely sold out and bids fair to rank next to the "Marchia Reale" as the most popular Italian composition during the present campaign. Both Mercantini's famous "Hymn to Garibaldi" and "The Bersagliere," the song of Italy's crack regiment, however, will give it a close run for second place.

Coaling Warships At Sea.
How the British vessels of war are coaled, while sailing through heavy seas at a rate of twelve miles an hour, without hindering their activities in any way, is told in the Manchester Guardian:
A collier, packed to the hatches with coal, gets into touch by wireless with a battleship whose bunkers need to be replenished. On sighting the vessel, the supply ship manoeuvres until it is within four hundred feet of the battleship. The collier then dispatches a small boat that carries two cables, one end of each is attached to the masthead of the supply vessel. The lines pay out as the boat advances, and when it reaches the warship the sailors fasten the cables to the stern of the ship on the port and starboard sides.
The two ships, therefore, travel in a straight line fastened together while from the mast of the collier to the deck of the warship stretches a transport cable for carrying coal bags. Sacks of coal that weigh a ton are hoisted from the foot of the collier's mast to a platform at its head, below which there is a net to protect deck hands from falling pieces of coal. By means of winches that run on the cable, automatic winches force the load along the sloping transport line at a rate of three thousand feet a minute. On reaching the deck of the battleship the load is automatically released, and the transporter starts on its return journey.

By means of this apparatus sixty tons of coal can be carried every hour across the gap of water that separates the supply ship from the battleship. The great advantage is that both vessels can move at the rate of twelve knots an hour while the coaling goes on.
Public Spirit Inherited.
A young man named Harvard, a descendant of the founder of university of that name, recently received his bachelor's degree. Two days afterwards he sailed for England to begin his studies for a law degree. The story had a romantic beginning. In 1908 inquiries were made about the descendants of the Rev. John Harvard, a relative of the founder of the university. In London Lionel Harvard was found, a young man bent on entering the ministry, but lacking means. The trustees of Harvard made him an offer, which was accepted. The Boston newspapers photographed him and made much of him, and he was anxious not to allow his head to be turned. He calmly remarked: "I did not come over here for the particular purpose of making a fool of myself."
This is the story collected from various sources by Public Opinion. It is creditable to the good sense of the young man and his readiness to obey the call of duty.—From the Toronto Star.

Freedom In Russia.
The spirit of equality and brotherhood universally prevalent in Russia is the spiritual foundation of all democratic government. Strange as it may sound to the English theoretician, Russia stands for democracy. To outward appearance the Russian Government is an autocracy, but that autocracy is of an essentially democratic nature. The Russian Empire is a huge peasant commonwealth, a federation of forty thousand democratic republics, thousands of which have retained the socialist and collectivist organizations of the "Mir," or village community.
And it is because the Russian is animated with that noble passion for freedom, it is because he is not politically servile like the Prussian, it is because the Slav refuses to be a slave, that we may look forward with every confidence to the result of the new Liberal Constitution which the Russian people conquered in 1905.—Dr. Sarolea in "Everyman."

Portable Hospitals.
The London Lancet has a notable article on the high death-rate among the wounded, which, on the figures given by the British Prime Minister, shows 24 per cent, as compared with 22 in the Crimea and 20 in South Africa. Knowing what we know about the Huns and their methods, the fact is less surprising than the medical journal seems to think. The article in making these concerned look around; for the writer points out that trench warfare "will not go on for ever, and now is the time to prepare for the very different conditions that will prevail when we are once again able to carry out rapid movements." Then, as he says, "tent hospitals that can be dismantled, packed in carts or railway trucks, conveyed in any direction, and put up again in a few hours, are likely to be especially useful."

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Labor Day, September 6th

Round trip tickets will be issued to points in Canada at Single First Class Fare, going and returning September 6th only. Or Single First Class Fare and One Third, good going September 4th to 6th inclusive, and returning until Sept. 7th. Tickets will not be good on trains between Toronto and Montreal. For full particulars apply to J. P. Hanley, G. P. and T. A. Cor. Johnson and Ontario streets.

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