

Small-Town Stuff

BY ROBERT QUILLEN

Spanking.

There are a few things that I know considerable about, and there are many things that I know little about, but my ignorance concerning the art of raising children is so complete and all-embracing as to be almost sublime.

When I was a small boy it was the fashion to whip children before and after meals; and when I strayed from paths of righteousness I made the intimate acquaintance of trouble. My trouble was more distressing than Job's. Job sat in ashes, and I couldn't sit anywhere at all for a time.

Having been raised in the faith that a switch in time saves nine, it was inevitable that I should put my faith in switches when I got a child of my own.

She isn't really my own. I adopted her. She was a wee bit of a creature, just learning to walk, and she didn't know how to laugh. But much bitterness had been crowded into her short life, and she knew how to fight and be sullen and yell blue murder.

I courted her, and stuffed her with rich milk until her ribs were no longer visible and then, when she was flatly disobedient, I spanked her. The spanking taught her to obey without questioning, and I clung to the faith of my fathers.

But one day when I had found a tiny switch and purposed giving her a lesson in theory that might be right, she lifted her white face and and looked at me in silence, her blue eyes wide with pleading, and—well, there hasn't been any more switching.

She is an obedient kid with an infectious laugh, and is rapidly learning that nine times seven isn't fifty-four.

Yesterday she made her doll some teddies.

She doesn't need spanking any more. Or it may be that my great love for her blinds my eyes to her faults.

I still believe there is value in spanking. But how in thunder can you do it after you learn to love 'em?

Uncle Gus.

I sat on the counter, with my feet on an empty pickle keg, and kept my eyes on the floor while a fussy little man gave this order to Uncle Gus. The little man was very erect and impudent and arrogant, and the tone of his voice indicated that he felt superior to his surroundings. But his grammar bore some trace of a less

Aunt Het.

"The two most disgustin' things I know of is to see a woman spit an' to see a man with powder on his nose."

exalted existence, and I scented a story. When he had gone his way, Uncle Gus took two quick shots at a cuspidor, batted a thousand, and settled into his split-bottom chair.

"Who was the important citizen?" I asked.

"Trash," said he; "po' white trash with a bunch o' money. Back befo' you was born, the' was three classes o' folks in this country. They was quality folks, an' po' white trash, an' niggers. The war come along, an' a lot o' the quality folks was



killed off, they bein' the first ones in. After the war, ever'body was po' as dirt fo' a long time an' the two kinds o' folks mixed up a right smart; an' now you can't hardly tell one from 't'her, 'cept by the' manners an' the fact that quality folks is kind to niggers while the other kind wants to lynch the niggers in the hope o' provin' the' selves superior bein'.

"That there shrunk-up boll weevil it was what was in here is trash. I knowed his family when nary one o' 'em knowed A from bull foot. The boys went around in the' shirt tails until they was half-grown, an' the girls used snuff an' cussed a streak.

"This here one never went to school none, but he's purty sharp an' he got rich while the doughboys was in France. I reckon maybe he's worth fo'ty thousand dollars. An' he puts on mo' airs than a bo' pig at a fair. Nothin' ain't good enough fo' 'im. An' he tries to see how hateful an' sassy he can be, so's to show folks how important he is.

"I've knowed lots of folks like that. It seems like if you take a man what ain't ever had nothin' an' give him a heap, mos' always gits the notion he is a superior kin' o' feller. But he's afraid other folks won't notice it, an' so he acts biggly and sco'ntul.

"Us folks got to feelin' sorry fo' a one-legged man what was blind in one eye one time, an' we elected 'im county clerk just to show we was kind hearted. An' when he got in office, danged if he didn't git so callin' us the common people an' git so biggly he wouldn't hardly speak to folks.

"I reckon the' ain't no way of abolishin' human nature, but it gives me a pain once in a while.

Deacon Hardtop.

Deacon Hardtop says a preacher doesn't possess the Spirit unless he is meek. Meekness consists in showing a profound respect for the Deacon.

Language was invented in order that men might have some means of expressing their opinion of taxes. You will note that "opinion" is singular. There is only one opinion concerning taxes. It can be expressed in two words: "Damn Taxes."

Taxes and war are the beginning and the ending of a vicious circle. War makes taxes; taxes makes men mad enough to fight; fight makes more taxes.

And here, oddly enough, is the one hope of a lasting peace. In the old days, when hootch was cheap, every man drank or let it alone according to the dictates of his own conscience. Now conscience has an able ally in the person of price. No man can really enjoy wickedness that costs him sixteen hours of hard labor to the quart.

So with war. It is easy to invent a sophism to prove that "Thou shalt not kill" doesn't mean what it says; but when government says, "thou shalt pay taxes," sophisms fall to relieve the resulting gloom. A conscience that doesn't function in the presence of the Ten Commandments is aroused to immediate action by a ten per cent levy on the pay envelope.

There are three kinds of taxes: Direct taxes, indirect taxes, and dodged taxes. Direct taxes are very painful, and are passed on to the ultimate consumer; indirect taxes are designed to be slipped over on the consumer when he isn't looking; and dodged taxes cause great consternation among law makers and inspire them to think up something else to tax.

It is frequently said that any private business would go broke in a year if run as government is run. This is a mistake. Any private business would flourish in spite of waste and bad management if privileged to soak the stockholders to make up the annual deficit.

The business would flourish, but the stockholders might get a little peeved after a few years.

Willie Willis



Little Willie Willis heard this week that warts will leave if you spit on a mule's hind leg. The doctor says it is only a plain fracture and will heal in two weeks.

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GLAD HE TRIED THE TONIC TREATMENT

Through Its Use Strength and Vigor Was Restored.

To be tired after exertion is natural. Rest and food restore the body to normal after such fatigue. But to be tired all the time is a symptom of an anemic condition that will not be corrected until the blood is built up.

Such an anemic condition is so gradual in its approach and generally so lacking in acute pains that it is often difficult to persuade the sufferer to do anything for it. But it is not a condition that corrects itself. If the blood is not enriched the trouble will increase and the nerves will be undernourished and neuralgic pains will follow. Digestive disturbances often result from thin blood, sleep is disturbed and a general breakdown may occur.

Mr. Wilson Johnson, Nineveh, N. S., says: "A few years ago my system was in a badly run-down condition. My nerves seemed always on edge, and I found myself so weak that I could hardly do any work. I suffered from headaches and from pains in the back and under the shoulders, and was often so sleepless at night that when morning came I felt as tired as when I went to bed. I was doing me no good. Then I read the testimonial of a man whose condition had been similar to mine, and who strongly recommended Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. I decided to give this medicine a fair trial, and when I had taken six boxes I felt much better. I continued taking the pills until I had taken six more boxes, and I can only say I am glad I did so, as I am now enjoying the best of health, and I advise all men who feel run down to give these pills a good trial."

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills can be obtained from any dealer in medicine, or by mail at 50 cents a box or six boxes for \$2.50 from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

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THE MAN ON WATCH

"No Woman Knows" is the title of a movie picture. Pray what is there that no woman knows?

People who are in want just now do not read with any good feeling the reports of sumptuous banquets and suppers.

Judging by the number of new doctors settling here, Kingston must be looked upon as a sickly place. However, competition is good in all trades and professions.

There is one Kingston old boy who has done the "come back" trick and that is our friend "Alfie" Pierce. That bear of "Billy" Hughes isn't in it with "Alfie" as a lucky mascot.

It is announced that Kingston will have a tax rate of about forty mills next year. Who dares to say that things about Kingston are not growing?

On top of this comes a scare story from the local Orange orators that there is a gunpowder plot to blow up the Ontario schools. Lawyer Charles will have to make an enquiry into this story, and see if it is only a fairy tale.

A front door is not complete without a letter box, even if it does admit the cold air in winter. Neither is a front door an up-to-date front door without a street number above it.

If there are any more unnamed streets in Kingston, Campbell avenue and Ross avenue would sound well.

The good ladies of the W. C. T. U. should be told that prohibition is not an issue in the federal election, and that if it was there might be a different story to tell next month.

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Perhaps Canada's new parliament will have the courage to permanently fix November 11th as Thanksgiving day. Why so much monkeying with the matter? The people want Armistice day as the annual day of Thanksgiving, so let them have it.

Preacher W. T. G. Brown of Ottawa would strike the word "obey" from the marriage service. The Lampman would go further and strike out also "love and honor," and put in their place the little phrase "try and be good."

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There is one Kingston old boy who has done the "come back" trick and that is our friend "Alfie" Pierce. That bear of "Billy" Hughes isn't in it with "Alfie" as a lucky mascot.

It is announced that Kingston will have a tax rate of about forty mills next year. Who dares to say that things about Kingston are not growing?

On top of this comes a scare story from the local Orange orators that there is a gunpowder plot to blow up the Ontario schools. Lawyer Charles will have to make an enquiry into this story, and see if it is only a fairy tale.

A front door is not complete without a letter box, even if it does admit the cold air in winter. Neither is a front door an up-to-date front door without a street number above it.

If there are any more unnamed streets in Kingston, Campbell avenue and Ross avenue would sound well.

The good ladies of the W. C. T. U. should be told that prohibition is not an issue in the federal election, and that if it was there might be a different story to tell next month.

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