



Folks Back Home By Robert Quillen

Sketches by J. H. Striebel

Uncle Gus.

"I'm kind o' pooly this mornin'," confessed Uncle Gus, as he leaned forward to touch a match against the red belly of the stove. "Rheumatism's got me. When a feller's got rheumatism, the ain't nothin' in the world o' value, exceptin' maybe it's hope. An' sometimes I think the ability to hope was the greatest thing God give to folks. It's hope what keeps folks from crawlin' in a hole an' dyin'. You'd think rich folks would be full o' the joy o' livin', an' po' folks wouldn't care much whether they lived or not; but it ain't that way. Rich folks ain't got much to hope for. They've got ever' thing they need, an' nothin' to look forward to exceptin' another day o' plenty; but po' folks lives on hope. They know things can't get much worse, an' they hang on somehow, hopin' maybe to-morrow will bring somethin' better. If I knowed I'd have rheumatism ever day from now on, I reckon maybe I'd curl up an' die; but hope keeps me expectin' the pain to quit an' so I manage to stay cheerful. If it wa'n't fo' hope, son, the wouldn't be no buildin' or educatin' or courtin' or marryin' or nothin' else, an' the human race would die o' dry rot in a few years like as not."

Concerning Bosses.

The man you work for is either the directing head of an institution in which you are an important co-operating cog, or he is a Boss with a capital B. If he is a directing head, you are lucky and he is lucky. If he is a Boss, both are unlucky. The fault may be his, or it may be yours. If the fault is his, he is a two-by-four who hasn't sense enough to conduct a business and thinks he is being efficient when he is meddling with the employees and interfering with their work. If the fault is yours, you are a sorry workman who can't be trusted to handle your job without supervision. In the former case, you should get a new job. In the latter case, you should learn to handle the job you have.

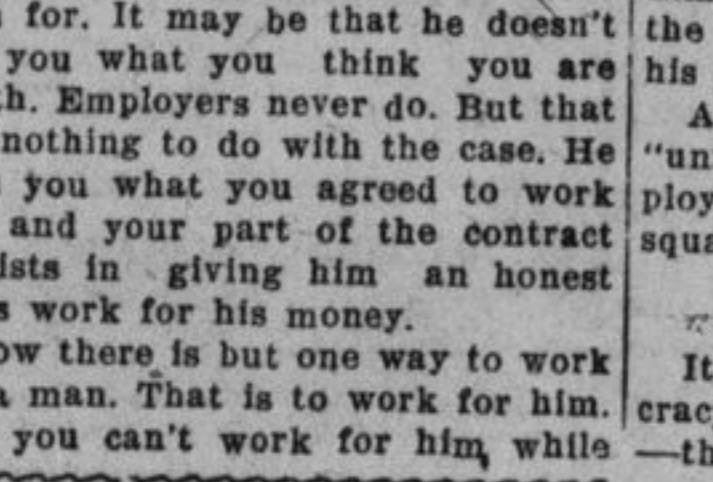
Aunt Het.

"Women always like to think their preacher is in delicate health; but when he comes t' dinner, they cook up enough to plumb ruin a well man."



The Girl Across the Street.

Usually the girl across the street lifts her voice in song as she goes about her morning duties, and her enthusiasm in the performance hurls the melody through open windows to echo up and down the street and proclaim to the world that industry is the mother of happiness; but this morning silence hung upon the neighborhood like a pall. We were a little uneasy, but as the morning advanced the girl came calling and drew daughter into a cushioned corner to share her sorrow. It appeared that the butcher's boy, wanting other diversion, had called upon her last night without invitation, and being alone with her in the dim hallway after an evening of monosyllabic conversation, had shown symptoms of desiring to kiss her. "I know he was going to do it," wailed the girl. "I just know it; and I had to be right distant and haughty to scare him off, because we had onions for supper; and it'll be just my luck if he never tries it again when I'm fixed for it."



Willie Willis.

Willie was sick Monday from eatin' too much candy. He bought it with his own money, having made sixty-two cents by charging boys two cents to look at his ball.

safe for democracy, the great man will call the humble man Mister and the humble man will call the great one Bill.

Such democracy is neither possible nor desirable. For man will not labor except by laboring he can win rewards; and all rewards are vain and profitless things except they bring him the privilege of putting on airs before his fellows.

The cry for a democracy that will level all ranks comes from those who stand at the bottom, never from those who have reached the top. The men who would divide all wealth are the men who have little, not the men who have much.

But in a land where opportunity is equal the man at the bottom who now yearns for democracy may to-morrow become a Congressman or a millionaire; and having thus gained distinction, he will feel that Fate has denied him a portion of his earnings if his fellow-men do not cheer or bow before him and concur in his belief that he is a superior being.

The standard of greatness varies with the passing generations; it cannot be fixed until progress is stayed. The ambition of men is not to equal a standard, but to excel other men—to become the big duck in the pond—to drive a car equipped with a greater number of cylinders than the car possessed by the neighbor.

The desire to excel is born of vanity, but it is a wholesome desire, and in it is the germ of all the progress, art, research, discovery. Why run a race if there are no cheers for the winner?

A democracy that guarantees equal opportunity is greatly to be desired. A democracy that promises equal rewards to the wise and the foolish, the weak and the strong, is a dream of madmen or knaves, and, please God, must remain a dream while the world stands.

GRANT ALLEN.

By George Iles in Montreal Gazette.

Grant Allen was born in Kingston, Ont., on February 24th, 1848. His father, the Rev. J. Antisell Allen was a clergyman of the church of England. In 1861 he removed, with his family, to New Haven, Conn., where his son became the pupil of a tutor from Yale College, near by. Next year the lad was sent to school at the College Imparziale in Dieppe. Thence he proceeded to King Edward's School, Birmingham. In 1867, at nineteen, he entered Merton College, Oxford, winning a scholarship of eighty pounds a year for five years. In 1871 he received his degree as Bachelor of Arts. Two years later he became professor of mental and moral philosophy at the newly-founded Government College, Spanish Town, Jamaica. Here he remained for three years, until the college was abolished as a failure.

On his return to England, Grant Allen wrote many articles on science-made-easy. These found little or no favor at first, and he underwent serious hardship. Little by little his popularity grew, until his income stood at about a thousand pounds a year. This happy change in his fortunes came as a result of adding fiction to fact, romances to expositions in botany and psychology. He began with "Our Scientific Observations on a Ghost," and "My New Year's Eve among the Mummies," both published in "Belgravia." These were followed by "Orestes & Windis in his 'Strange Stories.'" In 1884 appeared his first novel, "Phyllis," bearing the pseudonym "Ocell Power." Then followed "In All Shades," "For Mamie's Sake," and other works, of which the last was "Hilda Wake," issued in 1900 by Grant Richards.

But the field which Grant Allen would have cultivated, had the choice been given him, was not fiction but science. As a boy he had gathered and studied flowers on Wolfe Island, near Kingston, where he lived. Year by year botany became his pursuit and his passion. Dr. Sydney H. Vines, Sheraritan professor of botany, at Oxford, when Grant Allen died, said: "In his botanical works—of which the most important are 'The Colours of Flowers,' 'Flowers and Their Pedigrees,' Grant Allen showed that he possessed in a high degree the qualities which go to make the true naturalist. Every page gives evidence of an exceptional power of accurate observations, which made him the first-rate field botanist that he undoubtedly was. But he was much more than this. His observations in the field were but the raw material upon which his eager and well-trained intelligence proceeded to work. Each fact at once raised the question of how? and why? so that the careful study of a single common flower suggested various more or less complicated prob-

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ECZEMA FOR FIVE YEARS

Allen resided at Dorking, with George Meredith as a neighbor and warm friend. Afterwards he removed to Hild Head, where he could make his home the year round if he wished.

To Make You Smile

Mrs. Homer (in need of a cook): "Have you a letter of recommendation from your last employer?" Applicant: "No, ma'am." "Why did you leave your last place?" "Because the husband and wife were always quarrelling." "Indeed! And what were they always quarrelling about?" "About the way their meals were cooked."

A man, whose family pride was more marked than his love for music, asked a friend to come and hear his daughter sing. After she had finished, the proud father said to his friend: "Well, how do you like it? What do you think of her execution?" The reply came swiftly "I'm in favor of it."

Mrs. Greames: "It is so trying. My husband is always late. I've been waiting for him since seven o'clock, and now it is nearly eight." Walter: "What time did you arrange to meet him?" "At five o'clock."

Property Man: "The stage is about to be uplifted, Bill." Electrician: "What do you mean?" "This here prop-list for that there farce-comedy company in, the offing doesn't call for a bed in any way, shape, or form."

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