

# Listen, World!

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY ELSIE ROBINSON

## THIS TALK IS ABOUT RESPECTING AGE

I have always admired the terrific audacity of snake charmers, fire eaters, sword dancers and others who make their living by risking strange and unpleasant deaths, but I maintain that after writing this article none of that ilk will have anything on me.

For I'm about to discuss the respect due from Youth to Age. And I'm going to discuss it in the reverse. Which, I maintain, makes any fire eater's performance look like a kindergarten game. Here's what started me: "Dear Miss Robinson—

"In our Club the other day there was a very earnest discussion on 'The Influence of the Older Woman on the Younger Girls.' Some said, in the light of the 20th Century they had no influence on younger girls; others said they did, but could not recall a definite instance in which they were influenced by an older woman.

"If you feel so inclined we would like for you to write an article on the above subject. We would all appreciate it, and I am sure it would be very profitable to us. I have always enjoyed your articles, and trust you will continue to write as interestingly in the future as in the past.

"I am, respectfully,  
Mrs. E. G."

Now, of course, the conventional answer to give to this good lady is that young people are influenced by older people and that the jails are filled with misguided juveniles who bitterly bewail the fact that they weren't so influenced. Yes, that would be the soothing and conventional answer. But unfortunately it would be a lie—like so many other soothing and conventional answers. So I'm not going to give it.

A great part of my work, literary and social, deals with young people, the ages ranging from infancy to legal maturity. I work with these young people in the most confidential capacity, and I cannot escape a knowledge of the powers which make for good in their lives. And I regret to state that the influence of age is seldom amongst those present, save in a negative and often unwholesome sense.

If there is any modification to that statement it would be this: Boys are often influenced by the masculine record, even when they do not yield to the influence of individual men. But the typical, lively girl of 1923 has a feeling of indifference if not downright contempt toward the record of the average woman of the older generation.

Theoretically, of course, age should exert a potent influence on youth. But we are dealing in facts. And the hard fact is that age never has exercised much of an influence on youth, and in these chaotic post-war days even that little has vanished.

This fact is becoming more widely recognized amongst the elders, and great is the bitterness which it is causing. For countless generations Age has taken for granted that Youth should render it respect. History does not record that the result always came up to the expectation, but the Respect Tradition nevertheless carried on with undiminished vigor.

The absolute economic dependence of youth on age was largely responsible for this. Also Fate had not as yet called Age's bluff. It looked as if the older folks were making a good job of society, Youth might argue and rebel, but the Established Order of Things stood unshaken.

The time came at last when the Established Order of Things was no longer unshaken. In 1914 began that terrible expose of the civilization, which mature brains had wrought and for which it demanded respect and obedience from immature brains. And Age was proven a failure. Its boasted wis-

dom and righteousness flickered to ash in the roaring hell of war. Youth, browbeaten and despised, turned to and fought that war. And Youth, triumphant, and tremendously inflated by that triumph, has emerged from that war with respect, seemingly, for neither God nor Man.

Now, of course, this isn't quite right. But it's very natural. It's human to despise a Tin God when once it's proven tin. And Age has certainly proven itself to be a Tin God.

"What an outrageous statement!" I hear some of the elders protest. "Do our years and experience count for nothing?"

Yes, you've had experience, dear Elders. But what have you done with it? Has it really made you any wiser, any braver, any more subtle or intelligent? Or has it simply made you timid, intolerant, crabby and cautious? Doubtless you will claim you are the former and deny the latter charge. But Youth, from whom you demand respect, and who stands there judging you, thinks differently. Youth says that you have knuckled down to experience or run away from it.

As for those boasted years—why should mere years add to one's power? A mud flat may be as old as the moon but what social standing has a mud flat? Why should a fat waist line and poorly-jowled command a hearing? Nine times out of ten they are the signs of slothfulness and greediness rather than of dignity and acumen.

These are the thoughts of Youth which I am giving you. And although Youth is cruel, Youth is also clear-eyed. Why does Youth turn from your sermons and warnings and follow the call of some reckless young rebel of his own age? Because in the recklessness of that young rebel lies the hope of Human Progress.

I'm not saying that Youth is wise enough to know that such recklessness is more sane than the caution of age. But the instinct of Youth is still healthy. Instinctively Youth follows the right call. And all your mandates and mutterings won't hold him back.

"Yet young folks do need to be guided," you protest, "and surely older folks were meant to guide them."

Yes, young folks do need to be guided and older folks were meant to guide them. But Age can't guide Youth by boasting about years which are obviously a handicap and experience which has plainly been met with stupidity or cowardice. Age can only guide Youth by speaking the language of Youth and thinking the thoughts of Youth. And this is not only possible but is really the best thing in the world for Age.

How shall we who are older speak the language of Youth? First by ceasing this silly pretence that we are wiser and better and more powerful simply because we are older. By frankly acknowledging that we don't know it all. By abandoning ourselves once more to curiosity and foolishness. By taking a chance whenever a chance presents itself. By letting ourselves be argued with and laughed at and contradicted. By letting ourselves become little children again.

If you will do that, whatever your age, the children will follow you as once they followed the Pied Piper of Hamelin Town with his piping whistle that answered the tune in their own young hearts. But as long as you try to hang on to your dignities and prerogatives they'll pass you by with a smile of contempt and go on their adventuring way.

# 3 Good Reasons for Thanksgiving



"I am 55 years of age. 30 years ago I took an Endowment Policy for \$10,000. with the London Life.

It comes due to-day—it was a participating policy—I have let my profits accumulate at compound interest—To-day I have received a cheque for \$10,183.70 - \$180.16 for every \$100 paid in."



"I am 30 years of age—I have just taken a 'Canadian Series' Whole Life Policy for \$30,000. with the London Life.

It will cost me only \$485.00 per year. If anything happens to me the future of my wife and children is secure—I have created an Estate! Later in life, if all is well, I have the privilege of changing it (without loss or further medical examination) to any policy more suited to my later needs."



"I am 65 years of age—At 25 I took an Ordinary Life Policy with the London Life Insurance Company.

For 38 years my family were safeguarded and still are—for if I should die tonight my wife would receive the full amount of my policy. Meanwhile, the original premium of \$18.40 per thousand has been steadily reduced and I am this year paying only \$4.32 per thousand for my insurance!"

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## The London Life Insurance Company

HEAD OFFICES LONDON, CANADA  
Agencies in All Principal Cities  
District Representative W. WALTERS King and Brock Streets

I  
"ALL THE WORLD IS GOING TO THE DOGS! CRIES AGE. CHILDREN LAUGH DEFIANCE WHILE THEIR PARENTS RAGE."

II  
"RUDE AND WAYWARD YOUNGSTERS MEET COMMANDS WITH YEARS, ALL OUR ADMONITIONS FALL ON HEEDLESS EARS!"

III  
"SURELY MAN-KIND'S FATED AND THE WORLD'S ASKEW WHEN THE YOUNG REFUSE US HOMAGE THAT'S OUR DUE."

III  
"WE WILL RENDER HOMAGE, BOLDLY ANSWERS YOUTH, WHEN YOU PROVE YOUR COURAGE, POWER, WIT AND TRUTH."

IV  
"WHY SHOULD I RESPECT YOUR YEARS? WHAT HAVE YOU TO SHOW FOR THEM?"

II  
"WHY SHOULD ANY YOUNGSTER MEEKLY DOFF HIS HAT IF YOU'VE NAUGHT TO SHOW BUT PEEVISHNESS AND FAT?"

V  
"HUMAN WORTH IS RECKONED NOT BY LENGTH OF DAYS BUT BY STRENGTH OR WEAKNESS WHICH EACH MAN DISPLAYS."

VII  
"AND IF POMPOUS ELDERS ACT BUT HALF ALIVE, THEY'LL WIN NO MORE HOMAGE THAN A BABE OF FIVE."

ELSIE ROBINSON



## Fortify Now

Against the sudden changes of temperature which are such a shock to the system

MILD one day, cold the next. Warm and dry indoors, cold and damp outside. These sudden changes waste vitality at an enormous rate. If the benefits of summer temperature and outdoor life are to be maintained it is necessary to fortify the system against this strain of sudden change of temperature.

The fresh air, the more natural foods, the exercise you take in the summer time help to get your blood rich and your nerves steady.

How to retain this benefit to your health is the problem now confronted.

It is worth while to try to keep well and there is nothing like Dr. Chase's Nerve Food to help you.

If you are down it will help you up, but it is so much easier to keep well than

to get well that we like to dwell on this side of the picture.

Disease germs are harmless to a body strong enough to fight them—to a body supplied with an abundance of rich, red blood.

Instead of becoming an easy prey to coughs, colds and all sorts of contagious diseases you find that you have the reserve strength to fight them off and to feel that you are master of your health.

By fortifying your system you also protect yourself against worry, for worry is fear of the future and nothing is so trying on the nervous system.

Begin to-day to store up vitality in order that you may fight the battle for health all through the trying weather and win. You will not follow this treatment long before you will realize that you are feeling stronger and better and enjoying life as only one can when health is at the high water mark.

## Dr. Chase's Nerve Food

Feeds into the blood the very elements which are necessary for the creation of new nervous energy, new vitality and good health. 50 cts. at all dealers or Edmanston, Bates and Co., Ltd., Toronto.

### NEW WEST INDIAN CABLE TO BE LAID

Will Connect Turk's Island and Barbados — Trinidad and Guiana Branches.

Washington, Nov. 9.—Plans for the construction of a new cable from Turk's Island to Barbados have been agreed upon between the British government, the Canadian government and other colonial governments concerned. It was learned officially.

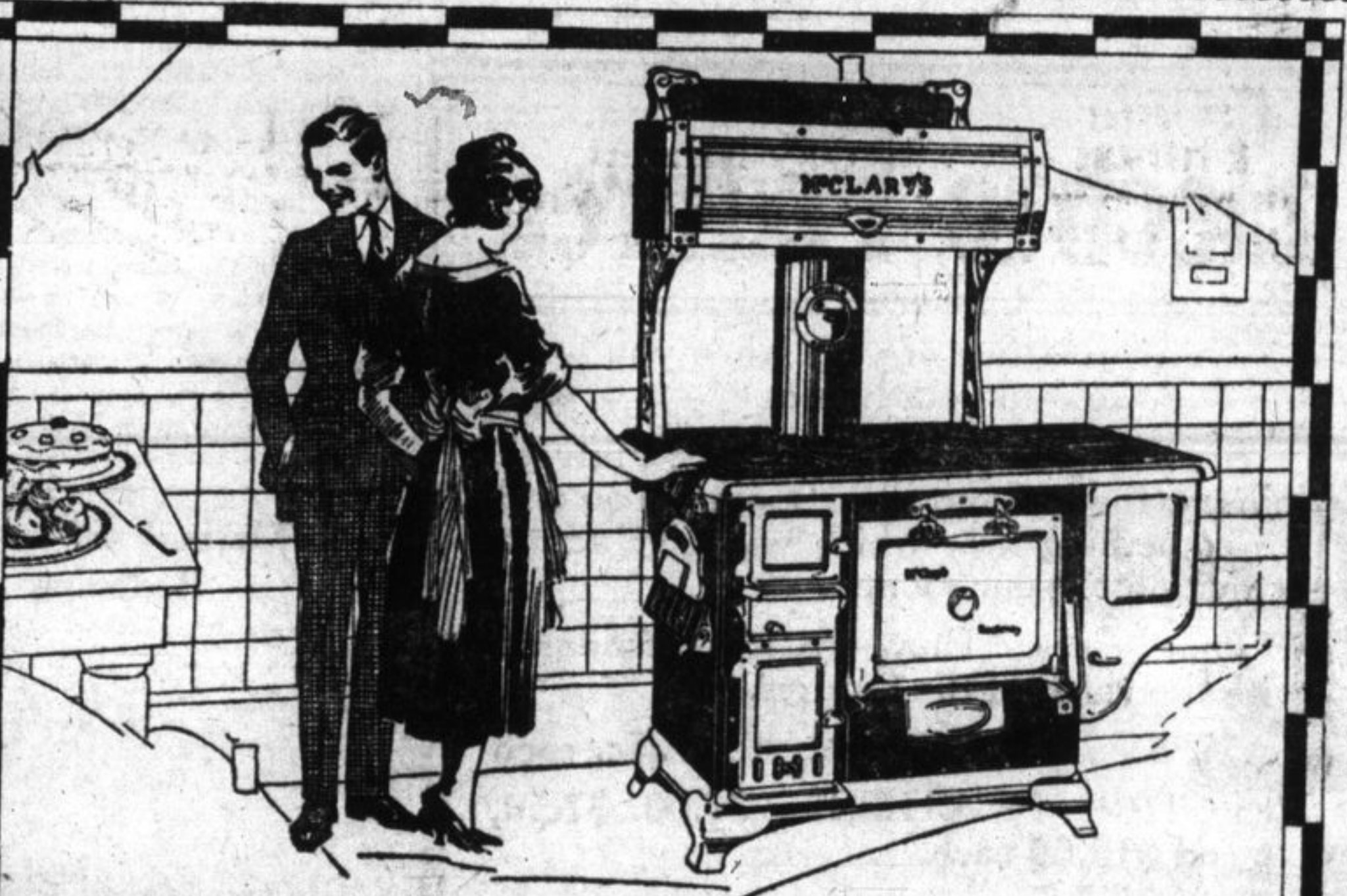
At Barbados the cable will bifurcate to Trinidad, on the one hand, and British Guiana, on the other, and the smaller islands of the West Indies will be served by means of a number of wireless stations, subsidiary to the cable, which will connect with the central cable station at Barbados. The new cable also will connect with Canada via the Halifax-Bermuda cable.

Bids are about to be invited for construction of the cable, which has been regarded by British experts as one of the weak links in the Imperial communications system. At present West Indian colonies are served to a large extent by the West Indies and Panama Company, but the Imperial government, through Sir L. Worthington-Evans, postmaster-general recently took up the question of communication to these islands with a view to providing communications in case that company ceased to function.

At Ottawa, on Tuesday, Ida Cyrilla, third daughter of the late J. H. Pullen and Mrs. Pullen, Ottawa, was united in marriage to Percy W., eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Barnes, Brockville.

Sir Henry W. Thornton, president Canadian National Railways, was elected a member of the executive committee of the Association of Railway Executives, in New York on Thursday.

J. G. Campbell, Deseronto, has joined the C. N. Express company staff at Bygonesville, C.N.R. Station. Modesty is always inseparable from true merit.



## A Range That Makes You Proud

His appreciation of the tempting, beautifully-baked things that come from the oven of the Kootenay adds not only to the good cook's satisfaction, but enhances the happiness of the home.

A man anticipates the good meals that he knows his wife will bake with a Kootenay Oven.

And well he might, for the Kootenay co-operates with all its cooking ability; it is made of Armco Iron. Its oven heats quickly, evenly and holds its heat with a small fire.

Not just a stove—The Kootenay is a master cooking range.

Ask your husband to go with you to McClary's dealer when you wish to buy.

# McClary's Kootenay

SOLD AT BUNT'S HARDWARE 388 KING STREET

Law is the highest expression of the system of nature, which ordains what is right and forbids what is wrong.

Remains of a Roman house, fitted with central heating, still exist below the London Coal Exchange London, England.

We must not say that every mistake is a foolish one. Each one sees what he carries in his heart.