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Home Journal

A Department for the Family

People and Things the World Over

Commander Perry's "snow baby" may have been born farthest north, but there is a young lad in Kincardine who is a close second, viz., Herschell Stringer, son of his lordship the Bishop of Yukon and Mrs. Stringer. He is named after Herschell Island, where he was born. That island is in the Arctic Ocean, north-east of the Mackenzie River. He was born when his father was a missionary among the Esquimaux.

* * *

The *Edmonton Journal* is offering six cash prizes of the total value of \$100 for the best stories by Albertan authors, dealing with Albertan life from any standpoint. In addition to the prizes any other stories deemed good enough for publication will, if used, be paid for at the rate of \$5 each. Dr. Tory, president of the University of Alberta; Mr. A. B. Watt, editor of the *Saturday News*; and Miss Katherine Hughes, archivist of the province of Alberta, have consented to act as judges. Manuscripts may be sent in until the 10th December.

* * *

A Chicago man, named W. L. Saunders, claims to have discovered perpetual motion. The device is used as a window attraction and has been running continuously for two months. It consists of a wheel made entirely of glass, with 12 hollow glass balls, on each of which is painted the figure "6" or the figure "9" according to its position on the wheel. The figures are sixes going up and nines coming down. A nine is more than a six. The nines going down on the left overbalance the sixes that are going up on the right and in this manner the wheel is started and kept turning without any other power. So delicate is the wheel's adjustment in its balance that the painted numbers are enough to start it going.

* * *

For some time past efforts have been made to raise funds in order to protect from ravages of wind and weather and the encroachment of drifting sands the ruins of St. Piran's oratory at Perranzabuloe, said to be the oldest Christian relic of its kind in England, says the *London Standard*. It is now proposed to build a protecting house of concrete around the ruins. If this protection is not forthcoming it is probable that "the lost church," as it is locally known, will be again buried beneath the sands which covered it for so many centuries. It is generally believed to be the original Church of St. Piran, to whom the Cornish miners give the credit of first showing them tin, and who was one of the most notable of the many Cornish saints.

* * *

At a meeting of the board of directors of the Manitoba Agricultural College, held recently, a department of household science was established, in order that a course might be put on for the benefit of farmers' daughters who desire to gain a thorough knowledge of such subjects as cooking, dressmaking, laundry work, and the care of the sick in the home. The first course will open on May 3 next, continuing until August 19, and those who enter will be able to reside in the students' dormitory. Steps have been taken to secure as head of the new department a lady who has considerable experience in the teaching of these subjects, and she will have as her assistants teachers who have been specially trained in household science work. From the enquiries which have been already received at the college, it is evident that this new course will be quite as popular as the course for young men has proved to be.

Unhappy Marriages

Some pessimistic and gloomy souls hold that the world is getting worse and worse all the time, and refuse to be comforted by the assurance that it only appears to be degenerating because the press and the wire have made it possible to lay all the deeds of infamy open to the public gaze. Is it for the same reason that the belief is general that people of eminence in art, music, literature and the drama are unhappily married? They live in the light of publicity and consequently the details of their lives show up more startlingly than those of the school teacher, the plumber or the merchant.

A writer in a recent magazine shows the spoils he has gathered in a hunt among the married lives of some famous Englishmen of letters—sixty-eight of them, to be exact. Out of that number there were twenty-four who were bachelors. Like Mr. Dooley they knew about marriage the way an astronomer knows about stars, by studying through a glass all the time.

November

What is as rare as a day in November
When the sun shines?
It is a gift of love to remember
Away in the pines,
Away where the hedges are scarlet
with berries,
Where the hips and the haws are as
ruddy as cherries,
And the leaves are like pictures of
warmth or of beauty
On blackberry vines.

The sun of November, when autumn is
ending,
Brings a message of cheer;
The God of our love with His sun is
befriending
Our life as the year.
The hand, which our griefs and our
pleasures has holden,
Can give us a fading time fruitful and
golden;
Though seasons may change all is well
with His children,
Then let us not fear.

MARIANNE FARNINGHAM.

Among those who clung to the single state, the most famous were Keats, Charles Lamb, Macaulay and Herbert Spencer. Of those who wed only fifteen are labelled satisfactory experiments, and these include Bunyan, Wordsworth, Moore, Darwin, Tennyson and Browning. The gap between the satisfactories and the definitely unsatisfactories is bridged by Sheridan who was wed "not unhappily,"—a rather hazy description; by Scott, "not quite sympathetically," and by Leigh Hunt, "not quite happily." These "not quites" are rather pathetic, even the little rift within the lute could not be kept secret.

There remain, then, twenty-six whose marriages were emphatically unsatisfactory, as far as the writer of the article can discover. He lays the blame of the domestic infelicity not so much on the literary temperament as upon the fact that the writer, more than most other men, does his work at home. "He sits in his study, with his wife, so to speak, outside the door. If she is a discreet lady she does not lift the latch too often. But it is inevitable that they see a great deal of each other. There is no occasion for the husband to embrace his spouse on the doorstep after breakfast, before he starts to catch the 9.15 train to town. He can caress her

all day if he likes. Privileges so easily obtained are not always valued. He is about the house most days, and his wife is about him more or less; and if they get on each other's nerves a little, who can be surprised? Not all wives would resist interrupting the composition of an epic by deferring till the late evening the announcement that the cook was drunk or that the kitchen boiler had burst; not all authors would accept the interruption in the right spirit."

He seems to hesitate to lay the blame on either side particularly and balances fairly well. Mr. Dooley in discussing the "home lives of geniuses" takes a view slightly in favor of the wife who has taken a great deal upon her hands when she marries a genius. "Ye see, Hinnissy, why a woman oughtn't to marry a genius. She can't be cross or peevish or angry or jealous or frivolous or annything else a woman ought to be at times f'r fear it will get into th' ditchn'ry iv bio-graphy, an' she'll go down to histhry as a termygant. A termygant, Hinnissy, is a woman who's heerd talkin' to her husband after they've been marrid a year. Hogan says all janiuses was unhappily marrid. I guess that's thrue iv their wives, too. He says if ye hear iv a pote who got on with his family, scratch him fr'm yer public lib'ry list."

A Hundred Years of Peace

The Canadian Peace and Arbitration Society, whose president is Sir William Mulock and whose headquarters are Toronto, has issued a small four-page pamphlet dealing with the aims and plans of the society. Among other projected plans for the future is the centennial celebration of the period of peace which Canada has enjoyed since the close of the war of 1812. There is not space to reproduce the pamphlet in full, but some of the extracts given below will provide food for careful reflection:

"This Society seeks to save Canada for Christian civilization. It is the Canadian expression of an international movement to bring 'Peace on Earth.'

"The consequences of war are disastrous to civilization. It destroys commerce. It injures the victor scarcely less than the conquered. The common people are crushed with ever-increasing burdens of taxation—robbed of the result of their toil—for armaments of destruction to slaughter their brother workers who have done them no harm, with whom they have no sort of quarrel.

"An ever-vaster proportion of the income of nations is spent on war, so that there are no funds to carry out reforms, sanitary, educational and other phases of civilization. One shot from one of a thousand guns cost more than the salary of a skilled teacher for a year!

"Canada is the least war-cursed of all the nations. For a hundred years she has had no war. She has no burdensome national debt incurred by war. She has no heavy pension list. Canada, therefore, should lead in a policy of Peace by every honorable means. Whatever her ultimate duty may be in defence of the Empire, she must not give way to panic, nor pledge her support to Britain in every war, regardless of its justification. The loyalty of Canada is simply unquestioned. Men and money would be lavishly given if needed for defence or for a cause Canada deemed right. Ignorance and designing men may influence that spirit to swell the forces of a militarized empire. Or, intelligence and good-will may awaken the apathetic forces of righteousness and progress and help to develop an empire to lead all nations in peaceful evolution to the federation of the world. If Canada chooses the first it means in a few years the expenditure of millions, the sacrifice of her sons, untold woe to her homes, a history marred for ages. A tenth of a million—a cruiser—spent now in missionary work for international peace, would do much to cement the whole world in a league of perpetual amity."