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THE COMING ELECTIONS.

As was expected, nomination day brought out one of the largest fields of candidates that has ever been named in London. Many, of course, will not allow their names to go before the electors, but at that there will be plenty left from which the ratepayers may make their choice. It is particularly important at the present time that the voters should weigh carefully the bylaws on which they are asked to express an opinion, and also of the views of the various candidates in reference to these bylaws. Not only is a heavy expenditure involved, but on the decision of the voters depends the city's progress. London has been coming into her own rapidly of late. There is every sign that the city's steady and substantial growth is to continue. It is important then that men be elected who are broad visioned and progressive. In the coming year all civic office-holders will have much important business to transact. They will have to make decisions that will either send London forward or set the city back. Indifference on the part of the electors, such as has unfortunately been manifested on many occasions in the past, would be more than usually serious just now. An attendance of six or eight at public meetings held to discuss public questions is not fair to the speakers, not fair to those who have gone to the trouble to arrange the meetings, and altogether against the interests of the city. Unless the electors intelligently understand the issues before them and hear them discussed from various angles, they will be unable to form unbiased conclusions. Unless they see and hear the candidates in action they will be unable to form any real opinion as to whether they should cast a vote for them or not. It is much to be desired that there should be a revival of public interest in the discussion of public matters, and the best way to bring this about is to take part in what is going on, and, if possible, bring a friend along also.

SOME CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS.

"He who forgets his soul is not very likely to remember his intellect," wrote John Howard Payne, the author of "Home, Sweet Home," one new year when he was confined in a debtors' prison. Apparently he was keenly impressed by the fact that he was not only in prison, but also a debtor. His reflections, as set down in his diary, the causes to which he attributes not only his own misery, but that of others, and his determination regarding the future, are perhaps of special interest at this season of the year, when the time for taking stock of ourselves and of making new resolutions is at hand. He says, in part:

"There may be an advantage even in our errors, if we choose to create such an advantage. He who has struck upon a rock in one voyage may fix upon his memory where he found that rock, and thus avoid it, and proceed prosperously when he sails again. The faults of one year, by being judiciously remembered, may be redeemed in the next. I think I discern more distinctly than ever how I can amend. In looking to my soul, I find its eternal interests neglected, and in a state of chaos. How many persons fancy they are good Christians, and yet know scarcely anything of the Word of God, or the rudiments of Christianity? How strange it is that the Bible is always talked about as a work perfectly familiar to us, its possession regarded as a kind of talisman, and even to tear a leaf out of it deemed sacrilege, and yet scarcely looked at, and certainly very little understood. On the contrary, other books much more voluminous are approached and studied with eagerness, whilst the Book, the Bible, is regarded as too immense to be attacked, without almost superhuman resolution, and not sufficiently interesting to be made a subject of elegant and familiar reference! I have neglected the Bible and am almost ignorant of it—though I can talk about it, and persuade myself and others that I am better instructed than my conscience tells me I am. This can be easily corrected, and corrected it must be. With such impressions at the beginning of the year, will it not be at least one gain to have it in my power to say I am well versed in the Bible when the year ends; and this declaration will stand against me if I am not."

PROTECTING THE PUBLIC.

The action of the chief of police in Toronto in rounding up the gunmen of the city, and also the "dope artists," is one which, if followed in all the larger centres of population, may save a good deal of trouble later. Just at this time, when all kinds of tough characters are being chased out of the large American cities, in clean-ups resulting from crime waves, it is reasonably certain that a number of undesirable will make their way across the border. There have been evidences already that daring and absolutely unscrupulous criminals are at work in this district. In the larger cities

the situation is naturally expected to be more acute.

The carrying of firearms is one of the things that seems to be increasing, despite the efforts of the authorities to check it. Figures show that approximately six thousand revolvers were imported into the country this year. What were they for? The records show that only a very small percentage were bought for police officers, bank officials and others who require protection of this kind. The majority of the weapons brought in were not such as are used for military target practice. There are police officials who believe, in view of the facts available regarding revolver imports and the increase in crimes of various kinds, that the time has arrived not only for more stringent enforcement of the regulations in reference to the unauthorized carrying of weapons, but also for the passage of more stringent laws. There is nothing particularly new in this. As a result of occurrences in England it was found necessary to very materially restrict the carrying of weapons. The police there were given the fullest powers under the amendments to existing laws, and what is even more important, were held responsible for carrying out the new legislation. The results were rather surprising, but they were also very satisfactory, as there was an immediate and very noticeable decrease in crimes of violence. There are certain people who, working under certain conditions, find it absolutely necessary to carry a gun. This is provided for by law. But there are hundreds, perhaps thousands, of others who are carrying weapons when they have no business to, and for no good purpose. A general clean-up of "gunmen" of this type would do no harm, and would very likely, as far as the general public is concerned, do a great deal of good.

REMOVING A MENACE.

The advent of icy roads and the worry caused thereby to the drivers of horses when passing over the paved streets of the city, to say nothing of the pain caused to the lovers of animals when they view the heroic struggles of the iron-shod friends of man in their struggle to keep their feet, has caused much comment on the inadequacy of the city's equipment for the protection of life and limb.

That the hand-spreading of a little sand on the sidewalks for the benefit of pedestrians fulfills all the duty of a progressive city cannot justly be claimed. Civilization, to say nothing of the plain common sense, has taught the value of protecting the animals so necessary to the life, welfare and comfort of large communities. The neglect of this duty may justifiably be said to be a serious form of cruelty to animals, and one for which the municipality should be held responsible.

These facts accepted, interest naturally centres in provision of means to assure the most possible protection to our four-footed friends. To attempt to cover the 40 miles of paved streets in the city with sand or gravel by the present method of throwing it out by the hand would be an absurdity; therefore, the question as to better methods arises.

In this connection interest centres in a machine for insuring non-slippery streets, which is in use in many cities in the United States. The machine, which is mounted on two wheels in such manner as to be easily propelled by one man, is in the form of a steel hopper, closed at the mouth by a plate which revolves as the machine is pushed along the street.

The hopper is filled with the fine gravel or sand, and as it is being pushed along this is scattered evenly in all directions by the rapidly revolving plate. Provision is made for closing the hopper when it is being filled or transferred from one place to another. The adaptation of the idea to a light cart or rig would not appear to be difficult, thereby increasing in area the territory which could be covered in a given time.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The man who greets his friends with "Merry Christmas" (hic) on Christmas Eve will find that he will have a large number of callers the next day who just dropped around to return to him the compliments of the season.

It is interesting to note that while our Government removes luxury taxes the secretary of the treasury at Washington is urging additional increased taxes on gasoline, motor cars, motor sales, theatre tickets, tobacco, candy, chewing gum, perfumes and cosmetics, jewelry, and motion picture films.

Letters to the Editor

MR. DENNIS AND THE INSTITUTE METHOD OF VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX.
To the Editor of the London Advertiser:
Mr. R. Dennis is quoted in the Free Press of December 21, 1920, page 17, as stating that he would rather have smallpox than vaccination. He goes on to mention "relatives who are now invalids through the effects of vaccination."

I rather agree with Mr. Dennis in preferring the present mild smallpox to the old methods of vaccination; and it is evident that this is the comparison that he has in mind.

But the institute method of vaccination, introduced here in 1915, and adopted in the army in 1916, is a different matter. This is the official method in London now, and the only method used by the board of health or approved by the board of health. There has yet to be reported a single case of a bad arm following this institute method. To object to this modern method on the ground that the old method often produced trouble is like objecting to the modern operation for appendicitis because of the high fatality of abdominal operations in the early days. I am quite sure that Mr. Dennis and all other intelligent citizens need nothing to convince them of the harmlessness and efficacy of this method except a demonstration; the method is well known and largely used by the medical profession; but the layman naturally has heard little of it, and thinks of vaccination always as it used to be, not as it is now.

For the benefit of all who may be interested, the Institute of Public Health method of vaccination against smallpox is given here as follows: The glycerinated lymph (prepared by the Provincial Board of Health) is used, a single capillary glass tube containing the single drop for each vaccinee. The arm (or leg) is shaved and washed in the usual manner. A very small drop of the contents of the glass tube is placed on the skin with an ordinary sewing needle, sterilized in a flame, ten tiny prickles are made, through the skin, into the very superficial layers of the skin. No blood appears at all. The surplus vaccine is wiped off and the sleeve pulled down. Total time from baring the arm to covering it again, one minute.

Many people, being vaccinated for the first time

by this method, look quite injured when the sleeve is drawn down again, and reproachfully say: "I thought you were going to vaccinate me!" They do not realize that the vaccination has been done during the time while they supposed merely the preparation for it was going on.

The differences from the old method are: First, the infinitesimal amount of vaccine used—only that amount which clings to the extreme point of the needle; and only 1-1000 of an inch of the needle point enters the skin.

Second, the absolute absence of any form of scratching or scraping or cutting of the skin. The 1-1000 of an inch of needle point merely passes into the insensitive upper layer or scurf of the skin, but does not remove any of it.

Third, no blood at all escapes—not the tiniest colored speck. It has been found that the blood drawn in the old method was responsible for much of the trouble, as it dried on the arm and later formed food for the germs.

Fourth, no open scraped or scratched wound is made; the tiny little prick-holes close at once tight—really tighter than before; there is therefore no chance of infection to enter. The old method laid open to the world an area in one of the chief defences of the body against infection, which is an unbroken skin; the new method results in no openings at all.

Fifth, there is in the new method no after-treatment whatever—no fussing with shields, dressings, straps, etc., to protect the wound, as in the old days, for the very obvious reason that there is no wound to protect. The skin is in more impervious condition, so far as the prick-holes are concerned, than it was previously, and there is less reason for a dressing on the vaccinated arm after doing this method of vaccination than before doing it. If the vaccinee insists on a dressing of some kind, I allow it, if they will put it on the other arm—i. e., on the unvaccinated arm.

If the vaccinee does not need protection against smallpox—if he is already proof against smallpox for any reason—he will not "take." If he needs protection, if his body is in a condition open to the smallpox poison, then he will "take," and be protected, thereafter, for the next seven years completely, for many more years partially.

I have myself been vaccinated at least fifty times without any bad arm—and without takes—because I was thoroughly protected as a child. The person vaccinated by this method in almost all cases goes on at work, school, etc., just as before, perhaps staying at home a day or two at the height of the take. Most of those vaccinated by this method do not lose even one day. Now, the mildest of mild smallpox means at least two weeks loss of time, at school or work—and, of course, it usually comes just at the most inconvenient time—just when examinations are due, or in the Christmas holidays, etc. Vaccination can be done at a selected time, before the child goes to school, and all loss or inconvenience is thus avoided. The last adult I saw with the smallpox was "laid off" for three weeks at the busy season, when the loss of time was a very serious matter.

Mr. Dennis's argument that those who want to be vaccinated should be, and the rest left alone to have smallpox, is a wish, would be perfectly all right if the population consisted wholly of adults. I would vote for Mr. Dennis's plan at once in any such community. But we cannot let the young children suffer by allowing smallpox to run loose. They are not old enough to judge for themselves or to decide that they want to have smallpox.

A large part of the population is always careless or ignorant about such matters, and where smallpox vaccination is not looked after sharply the majority of children are allowed to grow up without it. Then comes a big epidemic, such as that in Toronto recently, with its great financial and other losses, and over 3,000 cases.

Remember, that even the mildest of mild disease is worse in young children than in older ones. Almost all the deaths from smallpox are in very young children. These are just the ones that need the protection most. Yet many parents overlook this and consider the young child as too young to be vaccinated—too young to be protected against damage and death!

It will be glad to show this method to Mr. Dennis or others who may be interested. Very sincerely yours,
H. W. HILL.

To the Editor of the London Advertiser:

As a candidate for the board of education in the coming municipal election, I would like to call attention to the usual apathy towards all matters civic. In your issue of Tuesday evening, announcement was made that the school board was to be held in Lorne avenue school and Aberdeen school. Having been an unsuccessful candidate last year, and having visited the schools in the south end of London, I thought I would this year advertise myself in the east end, as I felt sure my defeat was the result of not being well enough known. Accordingly, I set out for Lorne avenue school, which I found dark and the door closed. An Advertiser reporter turned up, an alderman, a candidate for alderman, myself and three others. We conversed on the steps of the school, and separated.

I then set off for Aberdeen school, which was also dark and closed.

Now, Mr. Editor, I want to ask how can the citizens expect satisfaction from their representatives on the public bodies if they make a stab in the dark on someone's recommendation to put in such and such a person? The public should try to see their choice and know what he intends to do. I write on this matter to try and arouse more interest in these things. I am unable to go to dining-rooms and factories to meet the men, as I only have half an hour for lunch.

On the matter of the Collegiate, I am opposed to spreading first to the north, then south and then east. One central school, without too much space occupied for unnecessary gymnastic exercises. Physical exercises are essential, but too much is put on in some instances and too little in others. Too ornate a design is, in my opinion, not essential or necessary. Accommodation with efficient equipment for the best application of the most essential subjects for the welfare of all, and no homework for pupils, are what is necessary. A central Collegiate, with power to add to south and east as required. No unloading of citizens' property on to a public body, and watchful care that all properties are protected, are my main points. Thanking you for space, yours faithfully,
RAYMOND SMITH.

From Here and There

WHOLESALE UNHAPPINESS.
[Galveston News.]
Our idea of a happy home is one in which the husband eats too much, the wife talks too much, and the baby cries too much.

TO OBTAIN THE ALCOHOL.
[Hamilton Spectator.]
Another drawback to prohibition steering a straight course in the United States is the complaint of its naval authorities that "an unprecedented number of repairs to navy compasses have had to be made since the eighteenth amendment became operative, because the compasses have been broken open for the alcohol they contain."

GOOD BUSINESS.
[Baltimore American.]
The great heart of America cannot escape the obligation to provide Europe with coal—not while Europe offers four times what it is worth.

NEWER CONDITIONS.
[Des Moines Register.]
Things have changed greatly within a year. Men are hunting jobs now instead of dodging them.

OPTIMISM.
[Kingston Whig.]
People who have little money are glad they haven't less; people with no money rejoice that they are not in debt; people who are in debt—well, usually they are not the worrying kind.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT CANADA?

ANSWERS TO YESTERDAY'S QUESTIONS.

- 1—The Bay of Fundy is the arm of the Atlantic that separates British Nova Scotia from New Brunswick.
- 2—Nanaimo is an important coal mining centre on Vancouver Island.
- 3—Ontario produces 69 per cent of Canada's plum crop.
- 4—Thorne Mount is a peak in the Rockies on the Upper Athabasca branch of the Canadian National Railways.
- 5—The estimated cost of the new Welland Canal, now under construction, is \$30,000,000.
- 6—Alexander Mackenzie was a representative of the Northwest Fur Trading Company for many years.
- 7—"Massacre" Island, or L'Islet au Massacre, is so called because 200 Micmac Indians were driven into a cave there by the Iroquois and massacred by fire and tomahawk.
- 8—Dr. John Strachan and John Beverley Robinson were the two leaders of the Family Compact in Upper Canada.
- 9—The 91 resolutions of Lower Canada were the statement of grievances sent by the French-Canadians to England in 1835.
- 10—Where is Attikokan Lake?
- 11—How high are the Cobeguid Mountains in Nova Scotia?
- 12—Who was the governor of British Columbia who used his influence for Confederation?
- 13—How long does the governor-general hold office?
- 14—What is the combined area of the Great Lakes?
- 15—Where is Rupert House?
- 16—Who were the "Sons of Liberty"?
- 17—What northern tributaries of the St. Lawrence are navigable?
- 18—What are the three chief resources of Newfoundland?
- 19—Is Newfoundland part of Canada?

Poetry and Jest

THE PILGRIM FATHERS.
[William Wadsworth.]
Well worthy to be magnified are they
Who, with sad hearts, of friends and
A last farewell, their loved abodes
foresook,
And followed ground in which their
fathers lay;
Then the new-found World explored
That so a Church, unforced, uncalled
to brook
Ritual restraint within some shel-
tering nook
Her Lord might worship and his word
in freedom. Men they were who could
not bend;
Blest Pilgrims, surely, as they took
for guide
A will by sovereign Conscience sanc-
tioned,
Blest while their Spirits from the
woods ascend
Among the trees that know no end,
But in His glory for Sinners died.

From Rite and Ordinance abused they fled
To wilds where both were utterly
shown
But not to them had Providence fore-
shown
What heretics are misled, what evils
bred.
In worship neither raised nor lim-
ited
Save by Self-will. Lo! from that
distant shore
For Rite and Ordinance, Pity led
Back to the land those Pilgrims left
of yore.
Led by their own choice free. So
Truth and Love
By Conscience governed do their steps
retrace.

Fathers! Your Virtues, such the
power of grace,
Their Spirit, in Your Children, thus
approve,
Transcendent over time, unbound by
places
Concord and Charity in circles move.

LITTLE HOUSE OF CHRISTMAS.
[Martha Haskell Clark in Scribner's.]
Little House of Christmas, in your
white lane set,
Half-way 'twixt the highways of Re-
member and Forget,
Once a year your windows wake with
welcome taper-glow,
Once a year your gate swings wide to
feet of long ago.

Little House of Christmas, at your
fragrant feast,
All are bidden to the board, the great-
est and the least;
Silk and velvet-mantled Hopes, rub
elbows side by side
With little tattered, beggared Dreams
that creep in wistful-eyed.

Little House of Christmas, all drifted
deeper with snow,
Holly-decked, and sweet with fir, and
hung with mistletoe,
All the rude of all the world, cheer-
less were, and drear,
Were your blinding Yule-legs quenched
that beckoned once a year.

Hands stretch welcome at your sill
the years have thrust apart,
Memories clasp tender arms about
each lonely heart,
Long-lost faces gather close, voices
lost of olden days,
Ring across the holly-boughs be-
neath the taper-gold.

Little House of Christmas, in your
white lane set,
Half-way 'twixt the highways of Re-
member and Forget,
May each storm-blown wanderer,
weary and alone,
Hear some voice call cheer to him
across your lintel-arc.

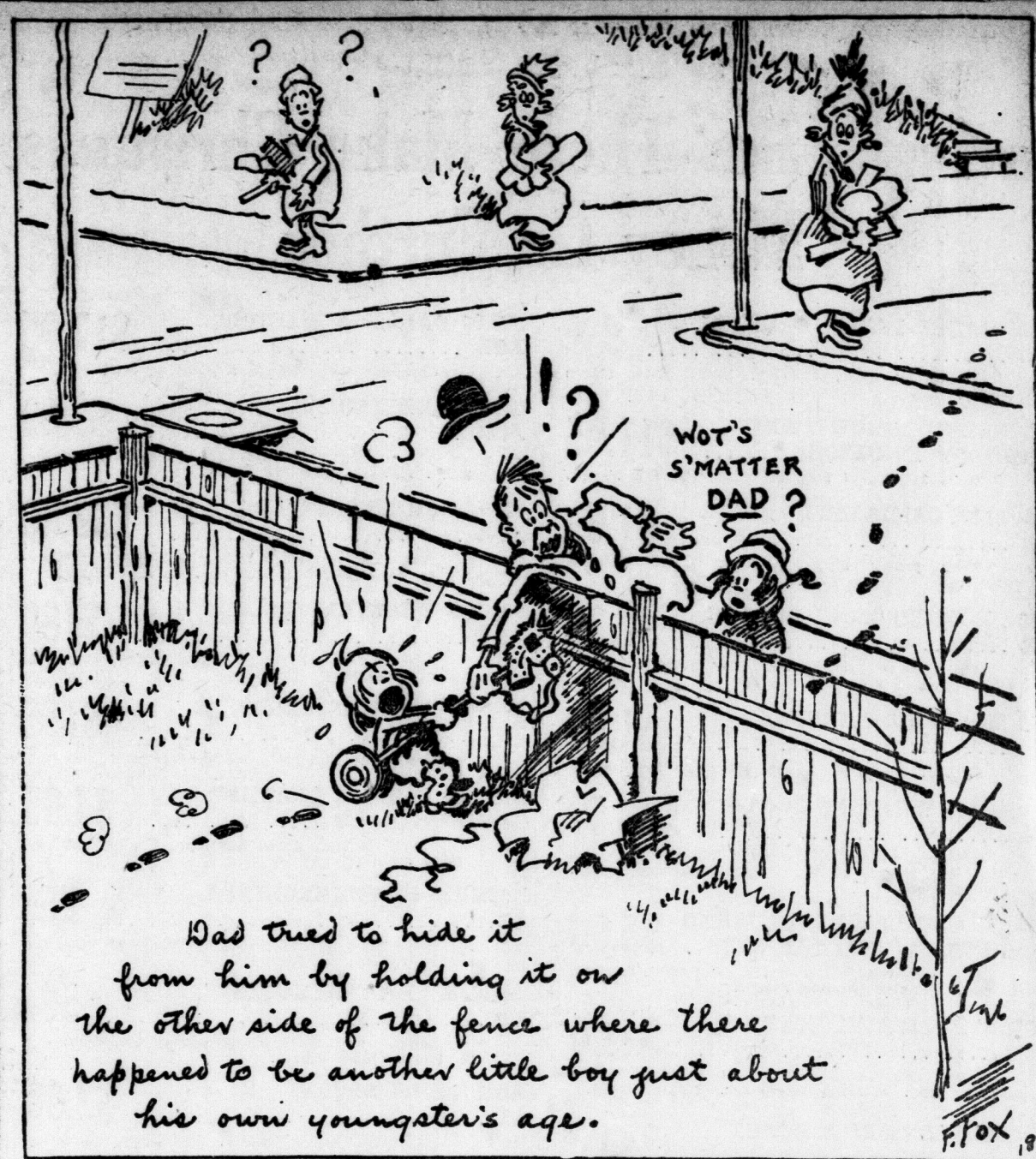
THE SONG OF A TOY WINDMILL.
[Literary Digest.]
The wind blows wild, the wind blows
free,
But what is the whirl of the land to me?
I move to the breath of butterflies,
To the gleam of a song in children's eyes,
To the gleam of red in the sunset
skies—
To the kiss of fate,
Early and late,
To the sigh of the fool and the laugh of
the wise.

For he who made me and shaped my
wings,
And painted my windows green and
white,
Had heard the song that a swift shell
sings
In the bleak, black night.
He had lost an eye and a leg, but he
knew
The secrets trusted to very few;
And soft in the dusk, as he fashioned
me,
He sang this song exultantly:

"Let the hurricane pass you by,
The whirlwind's scream and tornado's
cry;
Move to the touch of truer things—
The gentle pliant that the ring-dove
sings
To the sun-bright edge of the airplane's
wings;
For matters not though the whole
world die,
If a rainbow span the storm-swept
sky."

So—what is the whirl of the wind to
I move to the dream of Eternity?

THE OLD FARM.
[Lucy B. Daniel.]
Back again upon the old farm,
Once again beneath its trees,
I have turned my weary footsteps,
Ah I feel the coming breeze,
I have crossed the old-time threshold



When little Willie came running up as Dad was on his way home with that toy—

And listened within the hall,
But the loved, the haunting faces,
Come no more to greet my call.

By one supreme desire, one high
employ.
Let us draw closer in these narrower
years;
Before us still the eternal visions
spread;
We who outmastered death and all its
fears
Are one great army still, living and
dead.

OLD MEMORIES.
[By Beatrice Redpath.]
As the evening shades gather and soft
shadows creep,
Old memories steal o'er me, tender and
sweet,
Backwards I turn, I follow the trail
Of memory, as lightly she draws back
the veil;
I see every vista, as lightly I go,
Down through the valley of sweet long
ago
With fond play of affection I feel her
soft breath
As fondly she clasps me again to her
breast.

THE UNBROKEN LINE.
[Canon Scott.]
We, who have trod the borderlands of
death,
Where courage high walks hand in
hand with fear,
Shall we not hearken what the Spirit
saith,
"All ye were brothers there, be
brothers here?"

We who have struggled through the
baffling night,
Where men were men and every man
came
While round us brave hearts perished
for the right,
By chalked shell-holes stained with
life's rich wine.

Let us not lose the exalted love which
came
From comradeship with danger and the
joy
Of strong souls kindled into living flame

For was he not once sheltered
With cattle in the stall?
And does he not remember
Earth's helpful treasures all?
And did the Star not beckon
Above them on that night,
Instead of over a palace
Attained with gorgeous light?

FROM THE JAPANESE.
[By Beatrice Redpath.]
Illusion.
In my garden tonight
The trees are heavy with snow,
And tiny candles are alight
On every bough;
But I smell apple blossoms,
And the wings of a firefly
Touched my hand.

Before the Storm,
Heat, . . . tenderness and heat,
The sky seems stretched too tight,
While massed grey clouds
Are as packed forces holding back
the air.

Early Snow.
The leaves hung black,
Limp blossoms without scent
Drooped pitifully;
But in the night the earth has laid
White sheets above its dead.

"YES—FRY'S COCOA makes delicious icing"

Make the ICING for your Chocolate Cakes with Fry's Pure Cocoa

Easily and quickly made this way:—
Mix four tablespoons FRY'S COCOA with two cups powdered sugar; then add two tablespoons melted butter, two tablespoons of milk and a teaspoon of vanilla. Beat until smooth, when it will be ready for your cake. Try it once—you'll want to make icing this way OFTEN.

Remember: "Nothing Will Do But FRY'S"