

Sheep and Lambs.

The Independent includes this among the poems which it advises its readers to learn by heart.

All in the April evening, April airs were abroad, The sheep with their little lambs Passed me by on the road.

MASS IN A MAIL CAR.

A Unique Incident.

The first Mass was offered by our Lord in the Upper Chamber at Jerusalem. Since then, His priests, following the injunction of their Master...

The Universe is indebted for the following account to a priest of the Cleveland diocese, to whom a member of the mail crew so singularly favored, first related it, and who kindly wrote the facts as here given.

It was on a fast mail train, bound for Chicago. Christmas morn had once more descended on the land. Daylight was just beginning to break through a pile of snow clouds that hung in the eastern sky.

The staff of the mail car was composed of five staunch Catholic lads, who had resolved the night before, to hear Mass and go to their Christmas duty at the earliest possible moment.

After Mass, with brimming eyes, he gave to each his blessing, and as all the boys slyly pressed their "Christmas offering" into his unwilling hand, he could no longer restrain his feelings.

Such was the Christmas Mass arranged by a brave railroad crew, and, as our informant well remarked, "probably it was the only one ever said in a post-office on wheels."

Beautiful Customs. In Russia beggars knock at the doors or windows of dwellings, bow to the ground, and mutter: "For Christ's sake!"

Another Russian custom, still more touching, is called the practice of secret charity. A family is known to be in want, but too proud to beg.

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"What are you going to do now, chief?" inquired the conductor; but the chief was already pulling aside the berth curtains to call the half-wakened priest.

"Come on, Father, get up; you must say Mass in a queer chapel this morning. The chance is too good to let it go by. I'll be bound—"

As we reached our own car a clearing ringed voices struck up the beautiful Christmas processional, "Adeste Fideles," and, involuntarily, all of us, including the priest, who, by this time, had been enlightened as to our situation, joined in the chorus.

In the farther end of the car we found a pile of mail bags, some of them registered, whose aggregate value of contents amounted to thousands of dollars, if not more.

And that Mass! It is, indeed, doubtful if ever a priest at the altar was served by a man, wearing instead of altar garments, a suit of overalls and one of "Uncle Sam's mail-slinger" uniforms.

"It is cold, dark midnight, yet listen To the patter of tiny feet. 'Tis it one of your doors, fair lady, Who whines in the bleak, cold street? Is it one of your silken spaniels Shut out in the snow and sleet?"

"My dogs sleep warm in their baskets, Safe from the darkness and snow; All the beasts in our Christian England, Find prey, wherever they go— (Those are only the homeless children Who are wandering to and fro.)"

"Look out at that farthest corner Where the wall stands blank and bare— Can that be a pack, which a peddler And not a sister-woman Has left and forgotten there? Out there in the frozen rain?"

"Our beasts and our thieves and our chattels Have weight for good or for ill; But the poor are only His image, His presence, His word, His will— And so Lazarus lies at our doorstep And Dives neglects him still."

Many of the verses of this "Chaplet" reveal a deep religious spirit, and have for their inspiration confidence in and devotion to the Blessed Virgin. Several of them are still sung in Catholic churches.

The character of this noble woman was one of rare loveliness, in which were blended strength and gentleness, and abiding love for all that is noble and pure and beautiful.

Adelaide Procter was no idle dreamer of dreams; she was not one to sit weakly by and deplore the evil condition of things. She sounded the keynote of her character in "Now." It expresses perfectly her sense of obligation to those about her, her sympathy and desire to help and encourage.

"Rise if the past detains you, Her sunshines and storms forget; No chains so unworthy to hold you As those of a vain regret; Sad or bright, she is lifeless ever

A TRIBUTE

To Adelaide Anne Procter, the Gentle Poet.

Perhaps of all the writers whom the world calls poet, none ever shrank more modestly from laying claim to that title than did Adelaide Anne Procter, and yet the thousands into whose hearts her beautiful lines have sung their way, delight in laying upon her tomb the laurel wreath which, in life, her self-depreciation would not permit her to wear.

The daughter of a well-known author, Barry Cornwall, as he appears in the literary world, Adelaide Procter gave evidence, at an early age, that she had inherited her father's taste for letters. Charles Dickens, who was a dear friend of her father, relates of her that before she herself could write, she would beg her mother to copy her favorite bits of poetry into a tiny note-book.

Remembering Him who had not whereon to lay His head," her heart was wrung by the thought of the unfortunate without food or shelter, who, through the cold nights, wandered wearily through the streets, or found some wretched hiding-place from the fury of the storm, in doors o'verment ways.

"Night Refuge for the Homeless Poor," Miss Procter, who had become a Catholic about nine years before, threw herself heart and soul into the work. "A Chaplet of Verse," was published in 1862, in the interests of this Refuge. One of these, "Homeless," pictures vividly the necessity for such an institution in a city where poverty seemed the one unpardonable sin.

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On the second day of February, 1864, in the midst of a useful and brilliant career, Death, the "beautiful angel" of her song, closed the gentle eyes forever. Surely, it is not too much to believe that the end of that pure, earthly life was the beginning of the heavenly one, and that she had found the answer to her fervent prayer in "The Shrines of Mary—"

"At each one, a Mother of Mercy! 'Till I kneel at the last and brightest— The throne of the Queen of Heaven."

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Cast her phantom arms away Nor look back, save to learn the lesson Of a nobler strife to-day."

In both there is the same idea of the irrevocability of the past, but in the former there are harsh accusation and condemnation of wasted opportunity, while the latter breathes sympathy, not blame, and encouragement for the future.

Miss Procter holds in literature a place peculiarly her own. One cannot draw a just comparison between her work and that of others, equally high in popular esteem; but one can say with truth that to read her poems is to love their writer. The soul uplifting strains, sweet and unstudied, as the lilt of the wild birds; their revelation of a pure and tender woman's heart; their very simplicity forming, perhaps, their greatest charm, they take a hold on one that time only strengthens.

Her most enthusiastic admirers must admit that others among the women writers of the century have surpassed Adelaide Procter in some respects—in richer fancy, greater elegance of phrase, or more classic style, it may be—but the high, clear note of her song, with its ring of truth and beauty, brings her into closer sympathy with her readers. It always seems to me that Longfellow might have had her in mind when he wrote of the post "Whose songs rush from the heart As rain from the clouds of summer. Or tears from the eyelids start."

Songs have the power to quiet Yours and mine— Has been sent by love more tender, more complete, More divine; That it leads our hearts to rest at last in heaven. Far above you: Do I take you as a gift that God has given— And I love you!"

"Earth forges joy into a chain Till fettered love forgets its strength, Restores the heritage at length And bids love rise again and be Eternal, mighty, pure and free."

There is about Miss Procter's poems none of the morbid introspection or pessimism that obtains so much lately. Now and then one hears the passionate soul cry for home and rest, but the prevailing tone is one of hope, courage and incentive to higher and nobler life. Her greatest ability lay in the direction of the lyric. "The Lost Chord" and "The Storm" are sung wherever the English tongue is spoken. Shining brightly forth from the galaxy of shorter poems are "One by One," "A Woman's Question," "Fidelis," "Judge Not," "A Little Longer," "A Vision," "The Angel of Death," and "A Woman's Answer," while of the longer poems, "A Legend of Brezgenz," "Three Evenings in a Life," "A Legend of Providence," and "Milly's Expiation," are the best.

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When, when he when he suffered, I myself to him I... One of the brethren, to which indeed, perhaps, is to be conceded no condemnation in court, and it need not even opinion; no, it who share in it, that may be of not of much weight judged, to be have not done, gives misliterate cross to bear.

hear people all permanent brethren some one, that them? It is of that the person false accuser, is guilty of rash judgment, her heart actual and feel not of under an obligation making it, and God. No, the greater, that he about us that would not be.

Nor is it enough are many things judged guilty that so we can punishment that we escape a g. No, we say it so would rather than many wrong that that would not we feel as if I think, then for our heart's kind, we must Peter gives us. We must take shadow of the Apostle's leaving us a should follow Christ is the resort for all the world, as well we may as well wait till other tells us: let us to be ready for. Let us consider significant are that can be v. sinners that v. that which was Saint of saints merely Holy. Source of all every virtue by the maledictor damned not shameful death not merely one of His own people to save, turned lived all the accusers made.

And let us in truth God, made insensible injustice by it by the homages those on earth loved Him and Him. No: it is in this way the false charge sharp piercing through His heart that He could His infinite pity to sin only man's physical sufferer.

Yet, as the did not defend ing to drink. When wild not again Himself, will done, we nor took the sinners accusing His case.

Let us then poor way, Grace to do a under accusation, move, when concerned, to be guilty of turn, but making excuse wrong they believe And, lastly, pains to abs. thoughts or v. bers, thus ex which we have.

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