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E. W. McCREADY,
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THE EVENING TIMES

New Brunswick's independent newspapers.

These newspapers advocate:
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Honesty in public life
Measures for the material progress and moral advancement of our great Dominion
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Semi-Weekly Telegraph and The News

ST. JOHN, N. B., FEBRUARY 22, 1911.

MERCY TEMPERED BY JUSTICE

In a local court yesterday two undesirable citizens who were found guilty of a serious offence were described by the presiding judge in very harsh language, which seemed to be wholly deserved. But here, as in many previous cases, mercy stepped in to temper justice, and the prisoners appear to have escaped with what amounts to a reprimand.

No doubt the judge in this, as in other cases, was moved by what he considered to be excellent reasons, and, no doubt, he had exceptional opportunities to judge of the merits of the case, which opportunities are not shared by the general public.

Nevertheless it is probably safe to assume that most people in St. John would very much like to have another form of justice tried for about one year, if only as an experiment. If for a year the magistrate and the county court judge of St. John, and the judges in the superior courts, were to give each and every guilty prisoner as much punishment as the law allows, the result might work hardship to an individual here and there, but it is not improbable that crime and vagrancy would become much less frequent in this city.

In criminal circles news travels rapidly. If some such course were followed, and St. John were to gain even a short-lived reputation for severity, it is probable that the word would be passed along, among little crooks and big ones, that this vicinity is not a healthful one for thieves and men who prefer drunkenness, idleness and begging to hard work. How would it do to make the experiment? Having tempered justice with mercy for a while, why not temper mercy with a dash of justice?

YOUR TAXES

Alderman Hayes, than whom there is no better-intentioned member on the Council, says that he opposed a plebiscite on the single tax because he did not understand enough about it to enable him to support it intelligently. The alderman does not yet indicate his intention of making himself familiar with the subject; of rising up early and sitting up late so that he might study it in all its bearings and reach a position in which he would be able to decide it on its merits. But he is the sort of man who will soon get at the facts.

This is a question that is going to come before the Council at a later date. It is not settled now; no question is until it is settled right. Among the aldermen who hold the reins of government, or at least who hold what Carlyle calls, "The spigot of taxation," it is feared there are many who "do not know." They are not experts; they have no particular knowledge of the subjects they are called on every day to deal with. And among their managers of departments, the citizens have an uneasy feeling, that a similar lack of knowledge prevails. Bungling and inefficiency is what they suspect these departments are suffering from, rather than from dishonesty.

Now even one man who doesn't know can cost the city much treasure. Failure is want of knowledge; success is knowing how. It is only by knowledge that we can break through the obstacles to the city's progress and conquer success. In the last analysis it is ignorance that wastes; it is knowledge that saves. The forces of progress in the city would be perpetually paralyzed under present conditions. We would be like a mechanic with a chest of one hundred tools all complete, but with knowledge of the use of hammer, saw and gimlet alone. If sleep is the brother of death, ignorance is full brother to both.

A considerable amount of knowledge of the single tax has leaked out among the citizens generally, even if it has escaped the Council. There was the letter from the Mayor of Vancouver to our own Mayor a short time ago, explaining at some length and with much enthusiasm how it worked in that city. Just now Mr. Fels of Philadelphia is taking Mayor Taylor of Vancouver over to England to tell them, in some of the cities there, what a great success the plan is in British Columbia. Mr. Fels is doing this at his own expense. In that letter to Mayor Frink to which we referred, we are told that as a result of the single tax, seventy-five per cent of the toilers own their own homes. The reduction of the tax on improvements has caused the city to go forward by leaps and bounds, and it has attracted an enormous number of families from Seattle and neighboring American towns. Building operations in Vancouver have exceeded those in any other coast city, and in this connection the mayor gives figures showing the increase. Besides this the press of the city has published much information about the plan within the last six months; books, pamphlets and abundance of literature regarding it also are easy of access; so that it would seem that for public men to remain ignorant of this live subject implies minds sealed against instruction, or complete indifference.

PENNY BANKS

The announcement that the school trustees may start penny-banks in connection with the school of the city is an interesting one. These banks are simple devices to teach children to save. Any school can start one. No association is needed. All that is necessary is the permission of the school board and the co-operation of some bank to receive the weekly deposits. The Bank of New Brunswick indicates its willingness to co-operate, so there is no obstacle in the way of the movement. In most school banks the roll-call of the children is made every Monday morning, and the amount of each deposit and credit is checked off on a card.

In Europe these banks have long been used and are acknowledged and proved to be one of the most practical educational factors in the schools. Perhaps the idea has been carried to a greater extent in Belgium than in any other country. There, too, the savings-bank has had the most remarkable development. The savings-banks of that country have become international, and any one depositing in the savings-banks of France, Belgium or Holland can transfer his account to any of these countries without cost. In 1881 these banks, in Belgium issued savings cards to which the children can attach stamps of ten, five or two centimes (one cent), and which, when they amount to a franc, can be deposited with the savings bank in any branch or in any post office. At the end of 1902, out of a total of 1,151,756 pupils, 360,000 had about 10,000,000 fr. in the banks. These savings-banks in Belgium are also co-operative loan societies; that is, they are allowed to make loans to various funds of social benefit, such as societies for erecting working men's dwellings; and more than 33,000 houses have been erected by this means.

As the chairman of the school board said, they have proved successful in Toronto, and there is no reason why our children should not have the advantage of a system that teaches thrift, the value of pennies, and saves much careless and often useless and vicious expenditure.

THE PANIC-MONGERS

Some days ago the Montreal Star made a hysterical appeal to Sir Wilfrid Laurier to save Canada from his own policy of enlarged trade relations with the United States. The Star's article occupied the first page of its issue, and it has since been turned into an advertisement which is being published throughout Canada and paid for by Conservatives who hope thereby to scare timid voters. The Star's contention was that if the trade agreement went through our railroads would be ruined—"we will utterly shatter the costly steel framework of this nation, the bridge over the wilderness north of Lake Superior will be broken. Confederation will be cut at half-a-dozen vital points."

The Toronto Globe thoroughly exposes the Star's folly. It says:

"For a few days after the Star's prophecy business men held their breath awaiting the first tremendous crash of 'the costly steel framework of this nation.' But a curious thing happened. The C. P. R. is, of course, the most important part of the 'costly framework.' On the day upon which the 'Trojan Horse' was turned over to Canada—that is to say when the reciprocity agreement was signed—C. P. R. stock sold at 209 1-2. Yesterday, after all the talk of ruin to our railways as a result of the 'breaking of the bridge' over the wilderness and the cutting out of the east and west haul, C. P. R. sold at over 212. If there are any patriots among the operators in C. P. R. let them keep both hands on the stock. Should it go up any higher its flight will indicate all too plainly that there is not a bit of real apprehension of injury to Canadian railways as a result of freer trade with our neighbors.

"Take the canners' case also. The canners are still protesting that ruin stares them in the face. Yet the price of Canadian Canners common, which was 48 when the agreement was made, has already advanced to 57. The holders of the stock are thinking of memorializing Mr. Fielding to send on some more canned ruin and lay in a stableful of Trojan Horses."

Since the Globe's article was published, C. P. R. has touched 218 on the London market. The very business interests for whom the Star professed to be speaking have refused to take alarm, and the country generally is not only not afraid of the proposed trade agreement but is anxiously hoping that the United States Senate will put it through. If it does, the agreement will be ratified at Ottawa and will go into effect immediately thereafter.

It is noteworthy that Conservative papers like the Ottawa Citizen and the Victoria Colonist have repudiated the Star's attitude, and have said that however much difference there may be with respect to questions of policy between the Liberals and the Conservatives, Canada is too solidly British in sentiment, too independent, too well devoted to the Empire, to be moved from its steadfast allegiance by greater freedom of trade with the United States. And surely this is the common sense view.

THOSE RAILS

At the Hampton Liberal Convention Hon. C. W. Robinson made a statement concerning certain rails of the Albert Southern Railway, and the connection therewith of Messrs. Fowler & Jonah, which statement appears to have somewhat excited Mr. W. B. Jonah of Sussex. Mr. Jonah was found in Fredericton by a correspondent of the Standard on Thursday, and he intimated with some show of indignation that he meditated legal proceedings against Mr. Robinson and The Telegraph. Mr. Jonah admits that he caused the rails of the Albert Southern Railway to be taken up and to be sold, and he says the money received for them will be accounted for in due season. The Telegraph hastens to assure Mr. Jonah that if it should subsequently appear that the money derived from the selling of these rails was devoted to charity by him and his partner, this newspaper will not hesitate to proclaim the fact, and it doubts not that Hon. Mr. Robinson will be willing to do likewise.

Mr. Jonah's statement contains not a few interesting features. The rails of the Albert Southern were well spiked down and should, ordinarily speaking, have been immune from ordinary methods of attack, but it appears that Mr. Jonah or his agents wrenched them away notwithstanding the indignant protests of Premier Hazen, who is Attorney-General of this province, and who might well have backed up his protest with all the machinery of the law at his command. Mr. Jonah, so far as he is able, gives Mr. Hazen the clean bill of health, for he says:

"I may say that Premier Hazen did not initiate or in any way promote the taking up of the rails, but, in fact, sent us a very strong protest against our doing so. I personally had charge of all these proceedings and Premier Hazen never gave me his consent or made any suggestion other than to protest against the rails being removed."

From this it must be assumed that Mr. Hazen, as a lawyer, a statesman, an Attorney-General, did not believe that Mr. Jonah had any right to remove the rails. In fact the Albert Southern had many creditors, some of whom asked Mr. Hazen not to permit the removal of the rails until they had some assurance that the proceeds of the sale would be distributed equitably among those who had valid claims. Mr. Hazen, however, if we are to accept Mr. Jonah's statement, contented himself with a protest which had no effect.

Mr. Jonah says that his firm was retained by Mr. W. A. Trueman of Dalhousie, and Judge Wells, a preferred creditor. Mr. Trueman, according to Mr. Jonah, is trustee of the estate of the late Hon. G. S. Turner, and as such held "a trust deed conveying the said road, and also held it under an executed judgment and sheriff's deed." Mr. Jonah understood that both the local and the Federal governments claimed to have liens upon the road and rails, but Mr. Jonah says he looked into these matters and advised his clients "that these liens, if any existed, were inoperative, and there was nothing to prevent their realizing on these assets for the benefit of the creditors." And under Mr. Trueman's instructions, Mr. Jonah says, the rails were taken up and sold. Mr. Jonah says further that "the whole Albert Southern Railway business is not yet disposed of, but so far as settlements have been made and receipts paid over to us, we have made complete returns to the trustees, in whose hands the funds now are."

The Telegraph would be unwilling to promote any difference between Mr. Hazen and Messrs. Fowler and Jonah, but since Mr. Hazen is said to have protested against the action of these gentlemen it may be assumed that he did so because he believed the local government had a lien upon the railroad and that its claim had to be considered before that of any one else. If this were the case it is strange that Mr. Hazen did no more than protest.

However, taking Mr. Jonah's statement at the face, it would seem to be clearly in order for the Attorney-General to make public a full statement as to the amount of money realized and as to the manner in which it has been distributed, the amount that was devoured by expenses, the amount retained by Messrs. Fowler & Jonah, the amount secured by Mr. Trueman, and such ghastly details as to any sum still remaining as may be of interest to the other creditors and to a jealous public. The people of New Brunswick would welcome more particulars as to the spectacle of the Premier standing helpless before Messrs. Fowler & Jonah in an earnest but fruitless effort to keep these gentlemen from tearing up the rails of the Albert Southern, which were not only well spiked down originally but which were believed also to be additionally secured by means of a lien by the province. Pending a statement by the Attorney-General, Hon. Mr. Robinson and his followers in the House will no doubt deem it necessary to demand very full particulars as to this whole business of the Albert Southern, and the connection therewith of Mr. Jonah and the Attorney-General. And if the issue of the affair is to reflect much credit upon these gentlemen The Telegraph will not be at all backward in giving the facts publicity.

HOME TRADE

Mr. Foster takes it for granted that the trade of the country will all flow East and West instead of between the provinces as heretofore if the trade agreement is ratified. This implies that all or nearly all of our present interprovincial trade is artificial, manufactured and kept alive only by the tariffs.

A people will not trade under any condition unless they think it profitable to do so. No "protection" is needed to enable us to avoid buying something we do not want. It is needed only to keep us from getting something we do want to buy—to prevent us from doing something we want to do—self-denial by law. But the very fact that a duty is imposed on an article does not imply that in the absence of the duty there would be no home trade in that article. There are many natural conditions that favor trade between the different provinces of Canada, and these conditions will always obtain.

If this were not so, nothing but a permanent tax on the traders would cause trade to flow between the provinces. But it is absurd to suppose that the public is always going to allow itself to be taxed to enable the home manufacturer or producer to serve it without rivalry. To get goods cheaply is precisely the problem upon which the most intense application of the brightest minds of the world has been directed for hundreds of years. It is unfair to assume that the Canadian cannot hold his own in any test of shrewdness and application. At no time has there been more progress in the direction of securing beneficent results in these lines than during the last few years, when governments have interfered less and left citizens more and more to do as they pleased. If the citizens of Canada are to find it so much more profitable to trade with the United States when the restrictions are removed that they will no longer trade with one another, then remove the restrictions. The trader is a better judge of his own wants than his neighbor or his representative can possibly be. He will not go far for his goods if he can get them near. But to insist that he does not know his own business and that the politician must attend to it for him, is intolerable.

To argue that the whole of our interprovincial trade, or that a large portion of it, is artificial—made and protected by the tariff—is simply to argue against protection. It was never the intention of the system to produce results like that in any country. It is not a tax—at least not in intention—in which the citizens agree to be mulcted, to enable a manufacturer to carry on an unprofitable business. Its idea is to nourish a legitimate industry, with the assurance that in a very short time it would be able to demonstrate its success. Trade may be directed, as Mr. Foster seems to think, for a time, but it is the most impertinent tyranny to imagine that it must for all time continue thus if the channels prove to be artificial.

The fact is that by far the largest portion of our trade in Canada is not artificial, and it will not be affected by a lowering of the tariff. The large amount of it will still continue in interprovincial channels. But the proposed trade agreement will arouse, as nothing else could, our languishing agricultural industries, bring back our young men from the cities, and from foreign countries, to the deserted farms to carry on with new enthusiasm and enterprise the different activities which will spring from freer trade.

CIVIC EXPENDITURE

A contemporary argues at length that the fact that civic expenditure has increased immensely during the last ten years is not necessarily evidence that our civic administration has not been good. The writer of the article mentioned contends that expenditure in St. John must increase, and that it is unreasonable to expect that a change of system would reduce taxes.

So far as we have observed, criticism of the great increase in expenditure from 1901 to 1911 has centred on this point: that while the increase has been very large, it has not been accompanied by a corresponding increase, or anything like a corresponding increase, in betterment of service in any of the departments which have devoured the money. Whatever might occur under any new system of civic government, the present form of administration must be held accountable for the results it has obtained, and its failure to obtain a fair return for the money expended from year to year must be regarded as clearly established. Civic government as we have had it under the direction of seventeen aldermen has spent more money year after year without giving the citizens a dollar's worth of service for a dollar, and under such circumstances the increased expenditure constitutes one of the failures of the present form of government.

Taxes have been increased, and it may be necessary that they shall increase still further; but before the rate is again allowed to go up the present taxation law, and the present method of assessment, should be changed very materially. At present the burden of taxation is most unjustly divided. The rule is that real estate, personal property, and income, shall each be taxed at the same ratio; but while this is done in principle, intent of the law is defeated by the assessors, who either are not able to learn, or do not wish to find out, what many citizens ought or ought not to pay under the rule laid down. Many of the figures on the tax list from year to year are both absurd and unjust. This has long been known at City Hall, but while one or two attempts have been made in the direction of taxation and assessment reform, they have not been carried through, and matters have remained in the same old rut.

The manner in which money has been spent on street betterment has long been a bad joke. In regard to the progress and comfort of the city, the common council has been most neglectful. If an extortionate rate has been charged for bad gas the aldermen have considered it none of their business. In Toronto the city has secured seventy-five cent gas, mainly from the activity of the City Council. In most cities the question of cheap power for manufacturing purposes has been taken up by the civic authorities; but while St. John would be benefitted immensely if it could add cheap power to its other manufacturing advantages, the Common Council has neither knowledge of nor interest in such a question. Its policy has been reactionary to a degree. When there has been trouble in any of the departments it has undertaken the work of investigation with reluctance, and in almost every instance has made a farce of it.

There are, beyond doubt, some citizens who believe that none of these matters can be improved, and that the only thing to do is to allow things to run along as at present. Perhaps that is the easy way. But a great many more citizens are of another opinion. After many years of slow growth and discouragement, St. John during the last few months, has begun to show undoubted evidence of progress and expansion. Its people were never so confident as they are at present. The year upon which we have just entered is commonly regarded as the most hopeful in our history. Many citizens, therefore, believe that now when there is a prospect that the city is really going ahead at a good rate, we should add progressive civic government to our other advantages; the sort of government that would administer civic affairs in a business-like fashion, that would be efficient, wide awake, energetic, and generally fitted to administer the affairs of Greater St. John.

An elective commission, such as has been proposed, would be, in effect, a council of five members, each member having one department to administer, and being held responsible for results therein. Instead of meeting once a month and wasting endless time in large committees where useless talk is the rule, this small body would be frequently in session and would be constantly working for St. John. The old system has broken down. It is time to introduce new methods. This year is a good year to make the start.

THE POWER OF CUSTOM

Customs may be as wise as laws, but they are always more popular. Upon their side are arrayed sometimes the convictions, but always the prejudices, of men. They are spontaneous. Some are very long-lived. The puppet play of Punch and Judy has enjoyed immense popularity in Western Europe for a long time. The Faust legend has been developed by the puppet plays. Punch has changed his character through the years, being now a blackguard and a criminal, but his antiquity gives him a secure place in the customs of ancient peoples. To the Sicilians a puppet play is a book, a picture, a poem and a theatre all in one. It teaches and amuses at the same time. It is still what it has been for 3,000 years. In England in the sixteenth century Punch began to degenerate. He took away the role of "Old Vice" and became more and more depraved. Punch is a Neapolitan rendering of "Maccus," a character in the stellans. "Maccus" in Etruscan means a little cock. Punch is not in modern customs, and is almost unknown in America. A modern offshoot of Punch is Lord Dundreary.

The tastes of the crowd are manifested in the long life of some plays and sports. We read the great dramas which have become a part of our world literature, and we force from them our ideas of the current intellectual interest of the time of their origin and of the society in which they were produced. Such inferences need to be corrected. They are certainly erroneous. The Greeks were not all of them, nor any of them all the time, on a plane of classical severity and correctness. For from it. They were cold, cruel and fond of sensual pleasures. The great dramas and epics were enjoyed by a very few, just as is the case in regard to Shakespeare among us. The great populace of no society has ever found its amusements in purely intellectual suggestions. With us popular amusement is found in the circus, negro minstrels, the variety show, opera bouffe, and motion pictures. Stupidity is always funny. A violation of propriety, caricature and burlesque of types like the pedant, dandy, Puritan or the rich and great, always raise a laugh in the crowd and are relished by the crowd. They are constant elements of farce and fun. They have been so for thousands of years.

The crowd always delights in any degradation of the things which the selected classes prefer and try to impose on all. They rejoice to see the restrictions trampled on which have been imposed as the rule of life. The crowd worships its heroes frantically while they are in fashion, but it likes to turn about and roll them in the mud of satire, in order to teach them who made them and how easily it can unmake them. When it wishes to do this it calls on the satirist for assistance. Satire is the reversal of respect and admiration. Satire is blasphemy until a thing is doubted. It never gets into action until the mischief is done. It never squelches a folly at its commencement. A protective tariff is a grand object for satire, but while the masses believe in it satire is powerless. But now that it is becoming universally suspected and doubted, satirists are no doubt sharpening their quills preparatory to laughing it out of court, as Don Quixote treated chivalry.

It is possible to arrest or to avert such aberration in the customs of a country in the beginning or in its early stages. It is, however, very difficult to do so, and it would be very difficult to find a case in which it has been done. The effort to arrest it consists of necessity in a prophecy of consequences. Such prophecy does not appeal to those who do not forsee error and harm. Even when the consequences are apparent, as in the case of the United States tariff, it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to remove the evil. The pension system there is another case in point. Both are corrupting and both are capable of extreme peril to democracy. Both are easily used by politicians to corrupt the voters with their own money. It was believed that the pension system would die by its own limitations. Present conditions show it taking on a new vitality. It is more likely to live and to cause other evils in order that it may not die out. If we notice the way in which, in this case, people let a thing go on in order to avoid trouble, we may see how vicious customs come in and grow strong.

NOTE AND COMMENT

The Arboricultural Society deserves every encouragement from the Common Council and from citizens generally. In Winnipeg and in other cities where the climate is not so favorable to the growth of trees as our own is, many streets and squares have been beautified by planting trees and vines and taking good care of them. The local society is planning to do much of this sort of thing in St. John and everybody will wish it success. It is a thoroughly public spirited movement.

* * *

The Standard says that Mr. Jonah has explained Hon. Mr. Robinson's statements in connection with the Albert Southern Railway. That is to say, the rails have disappeared and Mr. Jonah promises in good season to tell exactly what has become of the money. The Standard would do well to wait until it has seen the details of Mr. Jonah's statement. That statement may be quite satisfactory, but it has not yet been produced. Mr. Hazen's explanation is also to come.

* * *

Representative Bennet of New York introduced at Washington on Thursday a resolution requesting the President "to commence negotiations with the British government to secure the annexation of Canada to the United States." The House committee of foreign aaffirs yesterday threw out Mr. Bennet's resolution, thereby refusing to make a joke of the proposed trade agreement. Mr. Bennet has made an ass of himself, and certain elements in Great Britain and in Canada are taking advantage of his nonsense in an effort to create the impression that there is some danger attaching to greater freedom of trade with the United States. The Conservatives, feeling that they have no hope in a fair fight, are trying the old dodge of accusing their opponents of disloyalty to the Empire. It is a very old device, but on this occasion it is going to prove to be a very futile one.

* * *

The Standard could not find space in its news columns for a decent account of the Liberal Convention at Hampton, but in yesterday's issue it devoted a column to an attempt to ridicule the excellent ticket selected. By the time the votes are counted the Standard will be unable to discover anything humorous about the situation. The Hazen government in Kings county will fight on the defensive from this time on, and it will be a very surprising thing if Mr. Jones (the patriot who sold the lumber to the Central Railway) and Mr. Murray and Mr. Sproul are not retired to private life when the people have another chance to decide as to their merits. The conduct of the Hazen party in regard to the roads and bridges in Kings county should be sufficient in itself to beat the present representatives. There is a talk now of an attempt to put Mr. Sproul off the ticket, but doubtless Mr. Sproul will have a word to say as to that.

To make a tough steak tender, rub it on both sides with vinegar and olive oil, thoroughly mixed, and allow it to stand for two hours before cooking.

When running dates, figs or raisins through the food chopper add a few drops of lemon juice to prevent the fruit from clogging the chopper.

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FAMOUS GEMS OF PROSE

LIFE AND LOVE

By Kate Douglas Wiggins

(From Penelope's English Experiences; "What the Dream Voice" said to Penelope in chapter 15.)

IF THOU wouldst have happiness, chose neither fame, which does not long abide, nor power, which stings the hand that wields it, nor gold, which glitters, but never glorifies; but choose thou love, and hold it forever in thy heart of hearts. For love is the purest and the mightiest force in the universe, and once it is thine all other gifts shall be added unto thee.

Love that is passionate yet reverent, tender yet strong, selfish in desiring all yet generous in giving all—when this is born in the soul, the desert blossoms as a rose. Straightway new hopes and wishes, sweet longings and pure ambitions spring into being, like green shoots that lift their tender heads in sunny places; and if the soil be kind, they grow stronger and more beautiful as each glad day laughs in the rosy skies. And by and by singing birds come and build their nests in the branches; and these are the pleasures of life.

But the birds sing not often, because of a serpent that lurketh in the garden. And the name of that serpent is satiety. He maketh the heart to grow weary of what it once danced and leaped to think upon, and the ear to wax dull to the melody of sounds that once were sweet, and the eye blind to the beauty that once led enchantment captive. And sometimes—we know not why, but we shall know hereafter, for life is not completely happy since it is not heaven, nor completely unhappy since it is the road to heaven—sometimes the light of the sun is withdrawn, and that which is fairest vanishes from the place that was enriched by its presence.

Yet the garden is never quite deserted. Modest flowers, whose charms we had not noted when youth was bright and the world seemed ours, now lift their heads in sheltered places and whisper peace. The morning song of the birds is hushed, for the day dawns less rosily in the eastern skies, but at twilight still they come and nestle in the branches that were sunned in the smile of love and watered with its happy tears. And over the grave of each buried hope or joy stands an angel with strong, comforting hands and patient smile; and the name of the garden is Life, and the angel is Memory.

Uncle Walt
The Poet Philosopher

THE CONTENTED MAN

My neighbor's bought a motor car, in which he travels fast and far. I see him burn up mile on mile, and put on forty kinds of style. I also see some folks turn green when gazing at that new machine. But I'm contented just to walk, when I must chase around a block. My soul for splendor never begs—I point with pride to my fat legs. There are no better legs in town; they bear me gaily up and down, through crowded street and quiet lane, and ne'er revolt, and ne'er complain. I do not have to paint them green, or fill them up with gasoline, or fuss around with wrench and maul, to make the blamed things go at all. I do not carry traps in kegs, to make repairs on my fat legs; I do not send them to the shop, because they don't blow up or stop; they do not skid or bust a tire, or leave me stranded in the mire. They do not run poor victims down, and mash them up from heels to crown; they do not honk or hiss or toot, to scare some horseman's nervous brute. Year after year they bravely walk, my good fat legs, that never balk. I would not trade my trusty limbs for any car that snorts and skims beneath its load of idle rich, until it dumps them in the ditch.

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WALT MASON.