

SIDE TALKS

By RUTH CAMERON

THE EASY PROMISER.

Last summer, in the course of a walking trip, we stopped at a light-house which was a favorite point of interest to tourists.

The keeper had two children and we snapped them with our camera. Then we asked the keeper for his name and post office address so that we could send him copies.

He gave it in a lack-lustre, uninterested way which surprised me. "I suppose your children have their pictures taken so often that it isn't much of a novelty?" I probed, tentatively.

"Yes," he said, "a good many of the folks take their pictures."

"You must have quite a collection?"

"That's the last we hear of it." "Well, no," he said. "You see, the folks always take our address and promise to send the pictures, but most always that's the last we hear of it."

And then I didn't wonder any more that his voice was lack-lustre.

It is so dangerously easy to make generous promises!

And equally easily, evidently, to forget them.

City people go into the country and, struck with the comparative meagerness of opportunity in certain lines, they give off promises to share their, right and left. When they get back to the city they will certainly send magazines and books and postcards and snapshots, and

godness knows what. Then they go back and the country folks watch for the postman to fulfill some of these promises, and watch in vain—unless perchance, like my friend of the lighthouse, they have too much bitter experience to expect any fulfillment.

The Wickedest Thing She Ever Did. Do you remember in "Tribby" how someone asks her what was the wickedest thing she ever did, and she tells about going off on a coaching trip and disappointing her little brother whom she had promised to take on a picnic that day?

Well, I think the wickedest thing I ever did was to promise a very old man at a country place where I went one summer that I would send him some post cards, and then to put it off until it was too late.

To disappoint old people or children comes pretty near being one of the unpardonable sins.

But, someone pleads, one is so busy these days that one simply does not have time to do all the kind things one wants to do.

Granted. But one does not need to make careless promises to do them.

It's selfish never to promise, but isn't more selfish to promise, raise people's hopes, and then not keep one's promises?

Now, please, don't let this make you afraid to promise. But rather, more punctilious about keeping them.



Spiderkin, the giant spider, was eating fairy milk and honey. Why? He wanted to grow bigger and fairy milk and honey will make anybody bigger.

fit a handle to it. What shall we do?"

"The giantess laughed and laughed and the rumbler of her laughter shook the very trees."

"Why, Spiderkin!" she said, "that's easy! We'll use a birch tree!"

And with that she went striding off until she found a tree that suited her, and with one tug of her mighty hand she pulled it up, roots and all, as you and I would pluck a violet.

Next she washed the dirt off the roots, washed the tree in a fairy lake and went back to Spiderkin with the birch tree under her arm.

And then and there they fastened the cobweb parasol to the white birch handle and the giantess was as pleased as pleased as could be.

Returned soldiers at the Esquimaux Military Convalescent Hospital were given a turkey dinner.

Three persons were injured in a read-end collision of two B. C. E. R. interurban cars, at Vancouver.

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Nero Did Not Play on Violin While Rome Burned

Such a Musical Instrument Was Unknown in His Day—May Have Played on The Ukelele

(Kansas City Times)

The story of Nero gleefully fiddling while the flames he had kindled crackled and roared through the streets of Rome is one of the most eminently respectable traditions. It is told in the best families; many reputable artists have written one form or another; several painters have essayed to put it on canvas. It is a corking good story, but it has one flaw—the violin, according to the Roman historians, was not known to the Romans of that time.

If some half dozen unprejudiced investigators are to be credited, Nero must have whistled his idle moments with a banjo or—more likely—a ukelele.

Roger North, the great attorney of King James II, of England, a man of wide learning in many fields, says the Goths devised the violin. In his "Memories of Music," North asserts:

But as to the invention, which is so perfectly novel as not to have been ever heard before Augustus the last of the Roman Emperors, I cannot but esteem it perfectly Gothic, and entered with those barbarous nations settled in Italy and thence spread to all the neighboring nations round about."

Credits Invention to Teutons. George Hart, an English authority, in his "The Violin and its Music," is more inclined to believe that the Teutonic tribes discovered the glory that lay within the pine box and the catgut string. Certain it is that the first reference to the violin appears in the minstrel songs and stories of the Anglo-Saxons, who had a rude four-stringed instrument known as the fiddle.

There were other stories in earlier days widely told and once as widely believed about the violin. One of these legends was that the devil made a bargain with a friar, promising that in return for the friar betraying his religion his satanic majesty would reveal to him the secret of a musical device that would so charm and grip all hearers that the friar could obtain anything earthly he wished. The violin was supposed to have been given the friar as the devil's contribution to the bargain.

The wandering troubadours who often used the violin did not help to gain for it any great amount of favor. Despite the stories of their heroic rescues of fair but ill-treated princesses, the troubadours seem to have been a generally bad lot.

When the Devil Played a Sonata. The devil's connection with the violin appears to have continued up to fairly modern times. For Giuseppe Tartini of Padua, one of the most remarkable violinists and composers of all times, is supposed to have made a contract with the monarch of the pit, Tartini composed many famous sonatas, one of which is the "Sontata du Diable." Tartini, in telling of the creation of this weird and melancholy piece of music, said he dreamed one night that the devil came to him and sat at his bedside. The two made a deal, in the fulfillment of which the devil was to perform all of Tartini's behests. Tartini gave his violin to the devil and asked him to play.

The ruler of the sinful played a sonata so exquisite that Tartini awoke, and in awaking drove away his sinister visitor. Tartini caught up his instrument and strove to retain some of the unearthly passages. Only a vague remembrance of them came to him, so he composed some music of his own about these satanic strains. The composition is one of the strangest ever made for the violin.

But, however, strong a case there may have been against the violin, a more kindly view of its capacity for enchanting music seems to have developed in the end of medieval days. One of the first of the great makers of violins

was a friar, Padre Pietro Dardelli of Mantua. The Mantua school of violin makers probably started from the gray friar's shop.

The Great Violin Makers. The violin still was a rude and unshapely thing until the great masters of the Cremona workshops took hold of it. These were the greatest fashioners of stringed instruments the world has ever known. Today their masterpieces command fortunes.

The Amati family, father and sons and sons and grandsons, were the first of these great workmen. Andreas Amati, whose years of labor extended from 1520 to 1580, was the founder of the great violin-making improvement on those of preceding makers, but his sons, Hieronymus and Antonius, made even better instruments. Nicolas Amati, son of Hieronymus, was the great violin maker of all ages. He lived to be nearly 100 years old, and he trained among others Antonio Stradivari, who was to succeed him as the king of violin makers.

The violins of Nicolas Amati and those of Stradivari to-day are the most valued in the world. It is estimated that there are perhaps two hundred genuine Stradivari violins in existence, and a somewhat smaller number of genuine Nicolas Amatis. The two turned out, it is estimated, about 600 instruments each, but many of these have been broken or lost. Stradivari, who lived to be 92, did not reach his prime as a violin maker until he was past 50. His later instrument are the purest toned violins ever made. Stradavari lived to see his work appreciated and well paid for.

Last of the Masters. Joseph Guarnerius, sometimes called "Del Jesu," from the circumstance of a cross and the letters I. H. S. being on the inscription inside all his violins, was the last great maker of the Cremona school. He, too, came of a violin-making family, several of his forebears having studied under the Amatis. Guarnerius' magnificent violins were not greatly appreciated until Paganini made one of them his favorite instrument in the early part of the nineteenth century. This instrument, now in the municipal palace at Genoa, is unobtainable. Carlo Bernardini, a pupil of Stradivari, is sometimes classed with the great Cremonese masters. His violins are scarce, and it is said that his ability ran more to violoncellos.

There are many spurious Stradivari and Amati violins. It is said the ungrateful pupils of Stradivari faked many instruments, copying his seal. But they could not copy the wonderfully rich and pure tones of the genuine Stradivari violins.

One of the great genuine Strads, in fact, was sold to the evil powers once superstitiously attributed to the violin, is called "The Messiah." Found after being secreted nearly a century on an Italian farm, it is regarded as almost priceless.

Mission district of the Fraser river has just been chosen as a great fruit-growing place.

London, Jan. 19.—The will of Sir Joseph Beecham whose death occurred last October, was sworn for probate yesterday. The estate amounts to \$1,000,000 sterling. The testator left his American property to his son, Henry.

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WEEGHMANN IS NOT WORRIED

Threatened Strike of Players Does Not Affect President of Cubs

ARCHER

Is Cited as an Instance of the Contract Difficulties

By Courier Leased Wire.

Chicago, Jan. 19.—Charles H. Weeghmann president of the Chicago National to-day added emphasis to his policy announced early this week, in dealing with ball players who refuse to sign contracts and offered the case of James Archer, catcher, as an object lesson.

The veteran catcher recently refused a contract calling for \$4,000, claiming that the cut from \$7,500 was too great. Mr. Weeghmann said that he had sent Archer a second contract "calling for considerably less than \$4,000."

"I first sent Archer a contract which called for \$4,000," he said. "This might be considered fair when it is remembered that he batted at a .220 clip and played in 61 games last season. I've sent him a second contract calling for considerably less money than the first and he can take it or leave it as he sees fit or find employment elsewhere. I'm ready to take the same action as I did in this case with any ballplayer who wishes it."

Mr. Weeghmann pointed out that the Chicago club's salary list last season was \$145,000 and asserted that about \$75,000 or \$80,000 is all a big league club can afford. He reiterated former statements, replying to threats by David L. Fultz, president of the Baseball Player's Fraternity to call a strike of the Chicago players on February 20, that the club's special train would leave for the training camp at Pasadena, Cal. on that date "if there is not a single player on hand."

BABY MARKED. San Francisco, Jan. 18.—His coat of arms sketched in indelible ink on the wrist of his baby daughter, gives assurance to-day to Lieut. G. W. von Brincken, military attaché of the German consulate here, that his young wife will carry away no other couples child when she leaves the hospital where their first born came into the world yesterday.

In a panic at the sight of numerous other infants in the hospital nursery, Von Brincken, lately convicted of complicity in the munitions plots, involving the German consul here, catechised the nurses on their methods of identification. Not satisfied with their system, he called for ink and pen.

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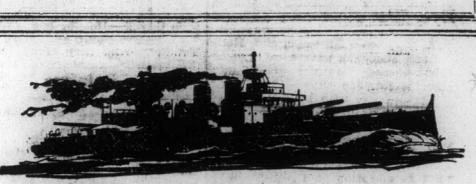
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Keep your business before the public through the best local medium—THE DAILY COURIER.



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The increased German submarine activities in the North Atlantic call for increased cruiser protection for the shores of Canada and the trade routes. Men up to 45 years of age of previous sea-faring experience will be enrolled at once for the

NORTH ATLANTIC PATROL SERVICE
PAY: Seamen \$1.10 Separation Allowance \$20
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Applicants must be of good physique and character and not over 45 years of age.

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Apply to
COMMODORE EMILIUS JARVIS
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THE AGENT.

I do not wish to buy your book, oh, agent at the door. I do not need a shepherd's crook, nor sally to heal a sore. And if I did I'd hie me down along the village street, and buy of men who boost the town, pay taxes and repeat. I took a ride the other day, in my new pastboard car, and saw along the right of way men toiling near and far. They're building up a thoroughfare in which we take much pride, and soon like streaks of lightning there our motor cars will glide. They're grading down the steeper hills and bridging creeks and draws; and who

is paying up the bills? Who is the Santa Claus? The agent from some parts unknown, the smiling gent like you, was never known to cough a bone, to put such projects through. The local business men must bear such burdens on their backs; they pay for bridges and thoroughfare when they dig up their tax. And so when I am needing prunes the merchants of this grad will get my hard-earned pignunes, you bet your lid, my lad. So, to the place from which you came, oh, agent smooth, return! I do not need your quilting frame, nor patent duplex churn.

Be Thrifty!
Good soap is an economy.
It is a necessity in the laundry
and for all household purposes.

SOAP is good soap
N.P. Soap is economical
A big bar costs 15¢
N.P. Soap is thrifty soap!

Again and again fashion demonstrates that for the little lad up to six years of age no other style can quite take the place of the Russian suit. It enjoys popularity because the mothers have agreed that it always looks neat, is the easiest kind of suit to cut out and make,

HOOD'S PILLS

Cure Constipation
Purely vegetable. Best family cathartic.

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BOY'S RUSSIAN SUIT.

By Anabel Worthington.

and with its plain lines and coat closed is very easy to launder when made of a tub fabric.

The illustration shows this distinctively boyish suit to be all that is correct and desirable for the small boy. At a lowered waistline the blouse is belted with self material, neatly confining the fulness. Banding in contrasting color gives a practical but pretty trimming touch to the low round collar, the pocket, belt and cuffs.

The sleeve is uncut, fitted at the lower part with box plait. Either the straight or bloomer trousers may be chosen.

For a play garment St. Nicholas cloth, gingham, linen and the new cotton covert cloth are suitable weaves for selection. For kindergarten wear serge, homespun, chevot and the wool mixtures are excellent materials. Of course, velvet and corduroy may be considered also. There is no difficulty to meet in copying the design—the illustration instructions make every step so clear that a school girl can successfully reproduce the design.

The suit pattern, No. 8054, cuts in sizes 2, 4 and 6 years. To make in medium size requires 2½ yards 36 inch material, making either trousers; 4½ yards of banding.

To obtain the pattern send 10 cents to the office of this publication.

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