

## Empty Rooms

By EFFIE MAURINE PAIGE.

### PART I.

Mother's hand lay quietly on father's arm as the heavy car rumbled over the rough country road, and every now and then she would look up at him for reassurance.

The chauffeur wondered what sort of wild goose chase this would turn out to be—two old fogies out joyriding in the early morning—but a generous gold-colored bill lay softly in his pocket and "he should worry."

Over the brow of a hill, along a smooth stretch of road into the cool of a wood and just beyond, was the house. The car, slowing up at father's order through the tube, came to a stop before a low, gabled building overgrown with vines and roses, its yard tall with grass mixed with stray sweet william, heliotrope, pinks, verbenas and hollyhocks.

The chauffeur was doubtful—should he leave these two old folks here alone at 9 o'clock on a summer morning?

He looked at the shuttered windows, at the overgrown path, at the tall elms that bent protectively over the roof. Just an old broken-down house—an empty house, land deserted! He sighed and was about to offer protest when father smiled and announced:

"It's our old home. We'll go in—by and by!"

There was no need for further questioning even by a boy so young and inexperienced as the chauffeur. The eyes of the old man, the straightening of the drooped shoulders, were enough; but when he saw mother's little hand still resting confidently on father's sleeve, looked into her radiant, memory-filled eyes, he lifted his cap again, reverently, and returned without a word to his car.

They were still standing outside the gate when the car slipped over the last hill-top and out of sight. "It's the same old home, Bess—the same old home," "Yes, father, it is!"

They stood like two children looking at a Christmas tree—hearted too full of joy to speak, wishing they might dance and romp to clear away the intensity of feeling. But, being in the seventies, they simply stood quite close together and looked and looked at the old home.

Thousands of pictures kaleidoscoped before their eyes with memories that came with the fragrance of spice pinks—the gold of the climbing roses—the sunset door step and the tall elms. No one but ever stood in pictures at a great painting with more reverence and appreciation than these two whose hungry hearts saw every trail of the great artist's brush on this canvas of their life.

The quiet early morning of a summer day made a beautiful setting. Birds twittered happily in their tree homes, cow bells tinkled in pictures beyond, a distant train whistled; all a part of the quiet, unheard, unspoken, except at some of the great pictures.

Mother, looking lovingly up at father, followed his gaze to the branches of the elm, which hung over the west bedroom, and, seeing what he saw, laughed happily.

"It wouldn't be home, Dan! If there wasn't a nest on that branch!"

A beautiful orchard oriole flew over the side of the nest and off across the fields, and father looked questioningly down at mother, whose eyes met his with the same expression.



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## Farthing Newspapers.

Do you know how we first came to have our daily newspapers?

We are said to be indebted to the Italians for their introduction.

The first newspaper was written and published in Venice, and was called the "Gazetta," the name of a farthing of that country, and the price of the paper.

Some say, however, that the name "Gazetta," from which we get our "Gazette," was derived from the word "Gazzera," meaning a magpie, or chatterer. Still, the world's first newspaper was a Venetian one, was monthly, and under Government control.

It has been commonly supposed that the first English newspaper made its appearance in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and that its publication took place in order to convey to the people the tidings of the approaching Armada with Spain.

"The English Mercurie," published by "Authentic," was first printed at London, by her Highness' printer, 1588. Its mission was to contradict false reports, and although it is preserved in the British Museum, this newspaper is said by one authority to be a forgery of the eighteenth century. No genuine newspaper, it is added, has been preserved of the sixteenth century, excepting for some pamphlets under the title of "News from Spain."

At one time an attempt was made to crush the newspaper press of England, and in 1712 a tax, or stamp duty, was imposed—a halfpenny on a newspaper of half a sheet or less, and a penny on papers of a single and above half a sheet.

## Positively the Last Word.

Do you know the last word in the dictionary?

It begins with the last three letters in the alphabet, placed in their reverse order, and it means an "Indian libel," a dragon fly having a large head, narrow face and very large eyes. The word is "zygoma." This is in the New Standard Dictionary.

Webster's New International stops one short of this, listing its final word as "zythum," explained as being "a kind of ancient malt beverage," which the Standard calls a "very excellent beer that Diodorus, though wholly unacquainted to it, affirmed to have been inferior to the juice of the grape."

Together, then, the two dictionaries, with beer and a dragon fly, make fairly unimportant endings.

Reading up the Z column from "zythum," one must traverse strange territory for a distance of sixty-two words before one reaches "Zuter Zee," the first—or rather the last—fairly well-known term in the dictionary. Between this Dutch sea and the libel, the fly is a semidesert country studied numerously with such thorny obstructions as "Zygaenidae," "Zygoma," and "Zygomaillars."

No wonder you were unacquainted with the last word in your dictionary. You are excused.

## Wealth of the World.

It is reassuring to learn on high authority that the world's wealth is still expressed in twelve figures—that, if it were possible to realize it, it would represent over a hundred thousand and millions in good gold; and that of this colossal sum John Bull can lay claim to nearly a sixth, says a London newspaper. He still remains the richest man on earth, with the solitary exception of his cousin Jonathan.

Figures that run to thousands of millions convey nothing to the unaided mind; and if we would gain any conception of the world's riches we must juggle a little with them. Let us in fancy convert them into gold. We shall then find them represented by a cube, going nearly as high as Nelson's monument in Trafalgar Square—a cube more than 40 yards in each dimension, and containing as much gold as all the mines of the world could yield in a thousand years.

So heavy would our cube be that it would outweigh three times the population of Australia, all Australia, and England to-day could not raise it a fraction of an inch from the ground; and its transport by rail would tax the powers of twenty-five thousand locomotives.

Of the world's wealth it is interesting to know that towards every dollar of it, farms contribute, approximately, 30 cents; houses, 20 cents; railways, 8 cents; and merchandise, 6 cents; leaving 36 cents in the dollar for wealth of all other descriptions.

## No Taxes There.

Can you imagine Canada a country with no taxes? Think what a Utopia we should live in if we were free from Income Tax and all other similar burdens! One can hardly help being envious of a State with no taxes, even though it is, in point of size, the smallest republic in the world.

San Marino is the oldest, as well as the smallest, republic, and it only covers an area of twenty-three square miles.

This tiny republic is to be found in Central Italy, on the Adriatic, and at no great distance from Rimini. It differs from all other republics in another point, which, while finding favor in the eyes of a certain section of the public, would hardly do so in the eyes of the majority. Not only has no taxes, but it has no crime.

The heart of this little State is as big as itself, for it took its part in the Great War by declaring war on Germany in 1915.

Keep Minard's Liniment in the house.



## Woman's Interests

Means To Govern the Child.

To claim that a child can be governed entirely by love and moral suasion is to set at variance the wisdom of one supposed to have been the wisest man who ever lived. Yet there is a growing theory which is being borne out by actual practice that children do yield to gentler influences than those advocated by the aforesaid wise man, and that by appealing to the better instincts, commending the good qualities rather than arousing antagonism by direct opposition when undesirable tendencies are manifested, the child is led along in the desired direction, unfolding and developing its life as no doubt nature intended.

It is impossible to say what would have been the result in any given case had an opposite course been pursued, but it is undoubtedly true that many children possessed of a violent temper had it made worse instead of better by being ruled by force. A case of this nature calls for rare good judgment and self-control on the part of the parent. If by any degree of tactfulness an outbreak can be avoided and the child safely guided past the danger signal, it is the far better method to pursue.

There are occasions, however, when a firm hand is necessary, even so far as to follow the wise man's advice. Yet it is doubtful if whipping a child ever did any real good, although it usually furnishes a convenient safety valve for the temper of the parent.

The older one grows the more sympathy one has for children. This is why grandparents are usually not in favor of much punishment. Things look different than they used to, and minor offenses seem insignificant enough even to be overlooked entirely rather than to indulge in a hand-to-hand encounter which some otherwise excellent parents seem to consider a necessary accompaniment to good government.

One little girl who is of a rather nervous, excitable temperament yields instantly whenever matters are approaching a crisis if it is suggested that she go and put on her very best dress. While engaged in this fascinating occupation every vestige of temper vanishes and she becomes the most tractable child imaginable. Her mother considers this better than having a scene or trying to conquer her by reason of superior physical strength. Often the suggestion of a visit to the barn to see the calves or little lambs or even to gather the eggs, answers every purpose in routing the gathering storm cloud.

I am reminded of a six-year-old who was quite inclined to make things lively if crossed in his wishes. Left to himself he was goodness personified. Yet he could not always be left to himself. Lying on the floor of the living room he was amusing himself by lifting first one foot then the other and letting it drop heavily on the carpet.

His mother said nothing for a few minutes, evidently thinking he would turn his attention to some other direction. Finally, without even a suggestion that he stop making the noise, she said: "John, do you know there are some roses out there on that bush? Don't you want to go and pick some for a bouquet?" John scrambled eagerly to his feet, his face fairly shining, and was off after the roses. When he came back he was too busy arranging them in a bowl his mother provided for the purpose, to even think of resuming his former occupation. Who shall say this is not a better way than so many "Don'ts"?

We are all of us more or less susceptible to the law of suggestion. Any physician knows this, and it is made useful in many ways by the medical fraternity. Praise is better than fault-finding. Emphasize the good, be generous even to a child with "Thank you, dear," and nine times out of ten it will respond readily to a parent's wishes. I cannot believe any parent looks back with satisfaction upon severe punishment of children.

## When You Start Cleaning.

For the inexperienced housekeeper, here is a good rule for cleansing agents. Use one-half teaspoon washing soda, one tablespoon borax, two tablespoons of ammonia, or one teaspoon of lye to each gallon of water.

For scouring—Use whitening mixed with water for iron and porcelain, with water, alcohol or ammonia for silver.

Use rottenstone mixed with sweet oil for brass, copper and pewter. Use bathbrick for steel, iron and zinc.

Use fine steel wool for aluminum or hard metal surfaces and wood. For Woodwork—Painted, use a cloth wrung out of suds made with white soap. Soap applied directly dulls the paint.

Enamelled—Use hot water only. No soap.

Oiled, Varnished or Shellaced—Use oiled dusters and mops. If very dirty, wash as painted wood, then rub with a cloth sprinkled with linseed oil or furniture polish.

Waxed—Use dry cloths and mops. Oil softens the wax.

Linoleum, Oilcloth and Cork Carpet—Dust daily with covered broom, soft brush, or dry mop. When in need of washing, wring cloth fairly dry, from

soggy water. Too much water gets underneath and rots floor and covering.

In wiping down walls, use light strokes with broom covered with cotton flannel bag or a lamb's wool brush. If you bear on hard you rub in the dirt.

## Home Queries.

I have no recipe for butter crackers as the sale ones are called—but am sending one for Graham crackers.

Graham Wafers—One cup of butter, one and one-half cups of sugar, the whites of three eggs, and one and one-half teaspoons soda, six teaspoonsful cream of tartar, one and one-half cups water, Graham flour to knead. Sift soda and cream of tartar together six times, then sift with the flour. Cream, butter and sugar, add eggs slightly beaten, then water and flour alternately. The Graham flour may be sifted into the mixture to incorporate the soda and cream of tartar, and the bran which remains in the sieve may be added last of all. Roll very thin, cut in squares with a sharp knife and bake until a delicate brown on a cookie sheet. Prick each wafer with a fork after they are laid on the sheet.

Reader—Flat wall paint may be used to renovate window shades. To use it, remove the shade from the roller and tack tightly to a table or smooth surface large enough to hold the curtain. Apply the paint evenly, and then go over with a dry, clean brush to remove streaks.

## Ringing Traders.

When the company are seated in a circle, the player who begins the game says to his neighbor on the right: "Let me trade you my—" naming any article that he chooses. "What will you give me for it?"

The other gives as his answer the name of an article that rhymes with the first. For example, if the first player says, "Let me trade you my hat," the second player may answer, "I will give you my bat."

The shrewdly becomes skilled in his turn and proposes to the neighbor on his right another article—for example, "plate," to which the answer might be "skate."

If any player is unable to think of an article that rhymes with the one proposed, he pays a forfeit, provided the one who proposed the article is able, when challenged, to give a rhyme himself. If he cannot he, and not the other, pays the forfeit.

## The Staff of Life.

Ordinary white bread contains 40 per cent. of water.

The "fat" in bread is just 1 per cent. of its total ingredients. The rest is made up of protein (the basis of life), starch, sugar, dextrin, cellulose (indigestible) and mineral matter.

New, mature bread is extremely hard to digest, because it produces no appreciable flow of saliva in the mouth during mastication. A slice of ordinary day-old bread is not digested until it has been in the stomach two and a half hours.

During the process of baking, bread loses a large quantity of its nutrient. Just short of three-quarters of the "fat" is lost, and an inroad is made on the protein, etc.

Wheat can be eaten in its entire state if soaked for a long time in water, then boiled in milk, and sugar added. This is "trumenty."

Real brown bread is made from stone-ground flour, manufactured from the whole grain.

An expert has stated that if this wholemeal bread had been eaten and white bread forbidden the present national decay of teeth would never have happened.

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## Engineering Professor Throws Light on the Famous Depth Charges.

A writer in The London Daily Mail says:

Although the depth charge was the most powerful of the weapons that checked the operations of the U-boat, thus leading indirectly to the collapse of the central powers, I imagine that not more than ten people in every thousand would be able to explain just what a depth charge is. Jack Tar himself, who knows most things, could not tell you how and where it came to be constructed.

Manchester University did, in fact, make the first depth charge. It would be inaccurate to say it was invented by us; like the tank, the depth charge is nobody's child. But we can honestly claim that it was our Engineering Department which experimentally developed the depth charge to the commercial stage.

It was one of the many odd problems set us by the Admiralty. They asked us for a 15 in. bomb-thrower which would project a weight of 1 cwt. a distance of 500 yards by compressed air. We supplied it. They asked us for a shackle which would stand a pull of 1 ton and melt after being immersed in the water for a certain length of time.

New Use for Toffee.

It was a novel request, and probably the Admiralty thought they had set us a poser. The object was to discover a contrivance which would shackle a mine and its stinger together on the belt of the resolute in a mine-laying submarine had dropped all its "eggs," when, with the melting of the shackle, each mine would rise to the determined height.

We solved that particular problem with a sugar shackle—by pouring molten toffee into a cavity dovetailed in a metal shackle. It was so devised that it could stand a pull of one ton and a third during the forty-five minutes that the sugar took to melt.

After the first year of war several men from our laboratory took up responsible positions in H.M.S. Vernon, the navy's research department, at Portsmouth, and it was through the Vernon that the investigations into the question of how to conquer the U-boat first came back to the Engineering Department at the university.

Two alternative designs of mechanism causing a heavy charge to explode at a fixed depth under water were sent to us for criticism, modification and experiment, and, after some months of patient experimenting, we were able to hand over to the university-instrument maker the final design from which under our supervision, the first fifty depth charges were made.

Knocked Out U-Boats.

Our aim was to produce a simple mechanism, thoroughly fool-proof, which would go off at the pressure at which it was set. The depth charge consisted of a case containing 200 lb. of T.N.T. (trinitro toluol) with an attached mechanism provided with a flexible diaphragm and a piston which depressed a spring in such a way that the spring was compressed in proportion to the depth below the surface of the sea. By a simple arrangement worked by a lever on the outside of the depth charge the amount of compression required to fire the charge could be adjusted to suit any depth.

In practice one spring was released at forty, a second at eighty feet. The firing gear was so arranged that a trigger was released when the spring was compressed by the amount corresponding to the desired depth. The trigger fired a detonator; the detonator exploded the T.N.T., and—that was the end of the U-boat.

Facts.

Stone cannon balls were used as late as 1889.

The Turks massacred over 300,000 Armenians in 1915.

The sun rotates on its axis in about twenty-five days seven hours.

The popular garden plant, the Michaelmas daisy, is really an aster. Nearly all Australian railways are State, or Government, owned.

The arteries of the human body have walls consisting of three thicknesses.

Jerusalem antichokes are very fruitful, and immune from frosts and insect pests.

Articles of War were drawn up for the British Army as early as the 15th century.

West Australia, the largest State in the continent, has an area of over 975,000 square miles.

The earliest cannon were made of leather or wool, strengthened later on with bands of iron.

All clouds are within six and a half miles of the earth. Above that height they do not exist.

A mechanical arm and hand made in 1599, and still in working order, is preserved at Nuremberg.

The Atlantic, the second largest of the four great oceans, has an area of 30,000,000 square miles.

The great dam across the Nile at Assuan is one and a quarter miles in length, and has 180 sluice-gates.



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