

A LIGHTER VEIN

made a mistake," said Plodding. "I told that man up the road I was a little help 'cause I was for the family from whom I was separated for years. I didn't make him come."

"I couldn't see it. He said that I didn't know my family, but he went to help in bringing any trouble on 'em."

By An Aluminum Society

of the courtroom boys of a big way hotel plaintively told of the house treatment that he had had in the early hours of the pre-morning from the enthusiastic of a hilarious dinner party of that kind of a dinner was it? "sympathetic listener."

It was listened by one of them aluminum societies.

A Handy Man

oman in the country recently used in the local papers for a "man."

"I want," he said to the first, "is a man that will do odd about the house, run errands, but never answers back and is ready to do what I want."

"I said the applicant is a turn-out," said a husband who's looking for a man.

Rather Angry

Jim, though he attended Sunday school every week, did not know as much about Scriptural history as he ought to have known. But his sister asked him: "Where Solomon's temple?" he was rather angry that she should think him to answer a simple question that "Don't you think I know any?" he asked. "Well where was it?" his sister repeated. Then he asked her: "On the side of the forehead—course—the same as other. Do you think I'm a dunce?"

He Envious Billy

wish," sighed Freddie plaintively. "I wish I was Billy Smith." Why, Freddie? said his astonished sister. "Billy Smith has none of those things you have. He doesn't have pocket money, and he isn't as fat as you, and he's not so strong. His father never buys him presents or—know all about that, mamma," Freddie, "but—"

And think what nice books you have. And you never have to go out in the cold and wet to carry papers.

Know, grumbled Freddie, and by his mother's strange lack of understanding. "But Billy's a wiggle-waggle!"

Were All Right

the traveler had spent the night at the station hotel, and in the morning after a hurried breakfast, found himself with only five minutes to catch the train. He made a dash for the platform, and then suddenly remembered that he had left his despatch case, containing valuables, on the dressing table in his bedroom. After a moment's hesitation he seized his bag from the porter.

"Quick!" he cried, "run up as fast as you can to No. 63 and see if we left a green morocco despatch case on the right-hand corner of the dressing table."

The youth departed like lightning, the traveler hanging out in the morning window, watch in hand, timing the passing moments with agonizing anxiety. The train was on move as the porter sprinted along the platform, empty-handed.

"Yes, sir," he panted, "that's right; you left it on the corner of the dressing table, sir!"



When She Begins

Dobbs—Does your wife ever go to the club for you when you are out?

Bobbs—No, but she goes for me when I get home.

Bouquets

to occur which some time make us wonder, or if people are just naturally caused will treatment received by the average person. The Standard is very opinionated. Believing that publicity will righten the Standard will print from time to time in publishing these The Standard has no

Doing anything towards this end? He will be looking for the time when he will vote some day. It is to be hoped the new post office is not being held up until election is in the air.

The post office staff did some good work during the Christmas rush and it is not their fault if people had to wait two or three days for parcels. The delay was caused by the department not having supplied enough extra hands to handle the rush. Postmaster King deserves credit for the way he and his staff handled the rush. The Dominion government is getting mighty mean about the labor proposition. Many idle men about town would have been pleased to have a few days work down at the post office during the holidays.

P.T. BARNUM MAXIM WAS THEIR POLICY

BARNUM'S MAXIM

WAS THEIR POLICY

Boston, Mass.—George E. Stillings is gone from this city; gone from his office buildings, his fast car, and even from his county jail. But, gone, he is not forgotten.

The receivership for the Preferred Mercantile company is not yet ended and Burton Payne Gray, the receiver, has even now a suit pending against Mr. Stillings in Vancouver by which he hopes to be able to pay the unhappy contract holders and tapes of that company more than 3.1 cents on their vanished dollars.

The office of the attorney general of the state is also well aware of Mr. Stillings' existence, for of late it has had much correspondence regarding him and his affairs with authorities elsewhere, and as recently as Oct. 7 had a decree normally entered against his latest device, the National Mercantile company.

Came from Kansas City.

George E. Stillings, with his brother, Guy C. Stillings, came to Boston in 1903 from Kansas City, Mo., where for three years they had operated the Preferred Tontine Mercantile company of Missouri, which professed to sell "diamond leases." Fraud orders by the postal authorities and an action by the attorney general put the company into receivership and drove its promoters to Massachusetts.

Here, Nov. 11, 1903, they organized a corporation called the Preferred Mercantile company of Boston, which was substantially a continuation of the old business.

This was their scheme of operations: Purchasers of contracts were to pay \$1 down and then \$1 a week for 109 weeks. Then they would be entitled to receive two diamonds of a market value of \$150, or, though this was not in the contract, might have the \$150 in cash. A lapse of five weeks' payment voided the contract. On the other hand, part paid contracts might be redeemed to the proportion paid in.

Money Company Received

The accounts of the Massachusetts company show that between Dec. 5, 1903, and March 14, 1904, it received \$101,402.75 from contract holders, of which \$46,404.64 was paid for mature contracts and \$30,918.86 went to the

fall, and Dec. 18, 1905, the Stillings brothers were sentenced to a year in jail each.

But all that did not help the contract holders. Stillings had won local notoriety as a high liver and a free spender and that money could not be recovered, and of the money he had not spent there was little that could be recovered.

"It was the custom of George E. Stillings," the master had found, "to take at any time money from the expense fund in any amount. Checks were drawn to cash, the money was charged on the books, and that was the end of it. He kept no accounts, but treated the expense fund as his own. It is impossible to trace the disposition of it."

One Agent Absconds

Many of the agents, when the straits of the Preferred were seen, while continuing to collect installments, did not send them in to the company. Notably was this true in the case of J. W. Baker, general agent for the Pacific coast, the best paying of all agencies, who fled to Honduras with his profits. Comparatively few of the agents made full accounting to the receiver of their collections.

Mr. Gray's report shows that efforts of every sort, from Boston to San Francisco and back again, brought in only \$33,455.97, which, after allowing for expenses, left \$21,241.23. Against this he found valid claims for nearly \$500,000—there being more than 3,300 contract holders. For their benefit a dividend of 3.1 per cent was paid, and to date that is all.

The business of the Preferred Mercantile company was about \$500,000 a year. The National Mercantile company, the old scheme in a new guise, is reported to produce \$1,000,000 a month. George E. Stillings has learned how to capitalize the wisdom of the late P. T. Barnum.

REGINA LAUNCHES SCHEME FOR CO-OPERATIVE HOMES

The Close Settlement movement, recently organized at Regina, Sask., has just issued a memorandum of its objects. It is claimed that the production of grain will become a greater factor in the development of Canada for the next few years at least, and

likely create an artificial scarcity of the staple articles of food for some years to come, and in all probability, the prices of cereals and meat products will be considerably augmented until conditions become normal again. It seems the duty of Canadians in every walk of life to try as much as possible to stimulate the production of food, and every man who is interested in any land should see that as much of it is brought under cultivation as is possible. Our idea to bring a large proportion of this land rapidly under cultivation is to establish community settlements throughout the country by means of an organization into which the management of the land shall be given. That groups of families shall be organized, that each family receive allotment of one hundred and six acres of land; that they shall settle in small villages, and that they shall be located in such a way that while living closely together they will still be near their farms. This will mean organization on the part of the group for the purpose of both buying and selling; one of their number shall be selected by them for the purpose of carrying out the business and receiving instructions as will enable the group to carry on the operations with the greatest efficiency and economy.

"In the estimation of this executive the land will have to be bought on long terms of payment, carrying a moderate rate of interest, and on the amortization plan so that it will be able to work itself out without the settler having to mortgage the land at a high rate of interest."

"The credit of the whole group shall be back of every individual contract, as, in our estimation, this is the only way in which the necessary amount of funds can be made available for the purpose. Experience of Europe has shown that groups such as these can be given a reasonable amount of credit suitable for their needs with absolute safety. When the lands in the hands of the committee is sold, a bond will be given to the owner for the value of the land as agreed upon between the trustee and the owner on the terms of the sale as soon as the land is made clear. In the estimation of this executive these bonds will have a permanent market value, and would be looked upon with the same favor as an investment, as bonds of a municipality or province, at least during normal conditions."

"It may be necessary in the strenuous and uncertain conditions that prevail now that there might have to be some endorsements by a government to give them immediate value, until investors realized their value as they are recognized in Europe."

THE WORK OF THE BIG GERMAN GUNS IN FRANCE.



SHOWN IN SEENALIS, FRANCE, BY THE C.B.

expense fund, leaving a balance of \$24,081.25.

A new set of books was opened March 14, and over night the balance had shrunk to \$4,972.50, there having disappeared \$19,108.75. For the next year receipts were \$494,047.21, of which \$338,865.93 was reported paid to mature contracts and \$155,181.28 charged to expenses, leaving \$104.99.

Mr. Stillings, however, had not been left to ply his trade in peace. On March 25, 1904, a fraud order was issued against the company and its officers and agents, and April 18, 1904, a general fraud order for all postoffices. Other fraud orders were issued against the Stillings brothers, their forty-seven local agents as individuals, at various dates from September, 1904, to June, 1905. These orders, however, merely led to the use of the express companies or to the adoption of aliases by the agents and the mailing of correspondence in plain envelopes.

Stillings Brothers Arrested

Guy C. Stillings was arrested in Boston, Sept. 12, 1904, for violation of the federal lottery laws, and J. F. Kixley and George E. Stillings were arrested on the same charge on the days following. Indicted in November, 1904, they were not tried until the following

this movement has been launched by the Regina Board of Trade with a view of increasing the production of grain. The memorandum is in part as follows:

"At the present time thousands of capable laborers, who before coming to Canada were engaged in farming occupations, have been thrown out of employment by the shutting down of public works, railway construction, city building and other work. These people are splendidly adapted for the hard work connected with the development of a new country and the hardships of the pioneer."

"There are many millions of acres of fertile land in Canada, particularly in the west, uncultivated; these lands are owned by individual speculators, large land companies, by the railway companies, and in some instances by the Dominion Government, and a large percentage is subject to carrying charges of taxes and interest, and is non-revenue producing in its present condition. The statistics of the Agricultural Department of the Western Provinces show the land to be exceedingly productive of all cereals of excellent quality, for which a permanent and increasing market exists in the older countries."

"The present European war will

"It is absolutely necessary that before permanent settlement can be obtained that some amount of credit shall be extended to the groups to enable them to procure at least, at the lowest possible price, the necessary equipment to carry on their operations."

"This executive has made an estimate of what will be required for this purpose, and it believes, after consulting with many people on the subject, that a community of farmers, with their families, starting under such auspices, have a good chance to carry out their obligations, and will become permanent and happy settlers. The credit could be financed by an arrangement between the Dominion government and the banks."

"It is estimated by those who have given study to this matter that there are fifty thousand heads of families, who are trained farmers, available in Canada at the present time for settlement. One hundred and sixty acres of land to each of these would mean that there would be \$600,000 acres of land immediately occupied and brought very quickly under cultivation."

"A great many of the farm implements and facilities would be used by the group in common, one of the ad-

vantages of this system being that it would not be necessary for each individual to have a large amount of implements and equipment which would only be used for a short time. Another great advantage would be that the teams of horses or oxen could be worked together when the accessibility arose, such for instance as in ploughing, and the members of the community not engaged in driving them could be employed in putting up the buildings, fences, and such looking after the general work of the settlement. It is not contemplated, however, that the lands or products should be held in common, each individual would have the benefit of his own industry and labor, each individual of the community would be competing with his neighbor for the highest efficiency in production, and each community in turn would be competing with the other communities for supremacy."

CO-OPERATION DURING DAYS OF THE BIBLE

When Stockmen Condemned the Aristocracy for Killing Lambs and Calves

In common with many of the prophets of Bible times Ahijah, the man who placed Jeroboam over the 10 tribes of Israel, was a rural man, says W. L. Lippincott, Ellish, who outwitted the brilliant and scheming Queen Jezebel, went about preaching in his shepherd's mantle and carrying the shepherd's staff, as if proud of his country origin.

Of Ellish, his successor, we are told that at the time when Ellish offered him a job as his helper he was plowing with 15 yokes of oxen. The fact that this is recorded we would interpret to mean that he was considered a skillful teamster. Amos, the first man who wrote "God" with a capital "G," who first preached that Jehovah was not simply a local or tribal god, as was Marduk of Babylon, Chemosh of Moab, Ashur of Assyria, one god among many, but was the God of all peoples, who judged them not according to their religious creeds and ceremonial rites, but according to their acts, was a shepherd and a dresser of sycamore trees. We might perhaps class him as a general farmer because the fruit of the sycamore tree was used for food, and the bark of the tree was used for building material. The coarse bread was made which was consumed by the poorer classes.

Who But a Farmer?

Who but a livestock man would think of condemning the aristocracy for eating the "lambs out of the fold and the calves out of the midst of the stall?" It was not in accord with his ideas of thrifty husbandry and good breeding practice.

Moses, the man who gave the best brief definition of religion that had been offered in his day, and which has not been surpassed since: "What does the Lord require of thee but to do justly and to love mercy and walk humbly with thy God," was the son of parents who homesteaded on the borders of the Philistine plain when it was thrown open for settlement by King Uziah.

Jeremiah, the stalwart progressive in religion, who was tried for heresy because he was farseeing enough to predict that if the people did not change their ways their enemies would over run the country and destroy the cities, was a farmer. The rest of the town, was from the little country village of Anathoth, which lay a few miles north of Jerusalem. The regulars in religion thought the temple could not be destroyed and considered him unorthodox when he said it could.

Saul on the Range

When Saul first comes to our attention in the Old Testament he was out on the range looking for his father's asses that had broken away from the plecter or escaped the wrangler. Later we find him coming after the herd out of the field. David was a red-headed farm boy called from keeping the sheep to have Judge Samuel pass commissions upon him to his father and point out the great possibilities he saw in the boy.

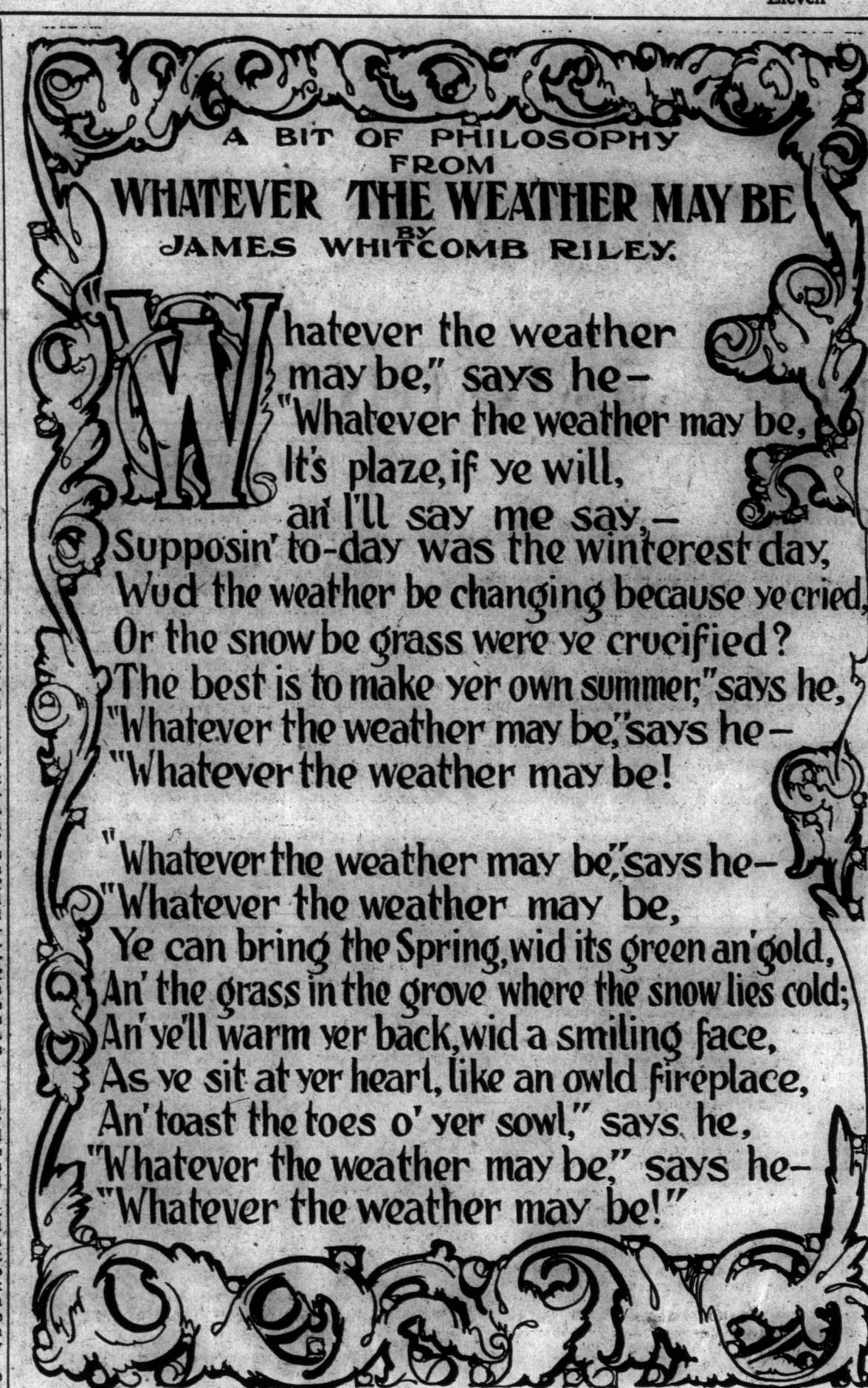
The problems which confronted the people of the Old Testament and the questions involved in current legislation have a ring just as modern as the tremendous preponderance of country-bred folks who were listed among the great ones of Israel. One of the problems which they had solved and which we have not, was that of co-operation among farmers. Another was the question of concentration in the ownership of land with its attendant evil, the absentee landlord.

The laws deal with titles, modes of inheritance, land tenure, the removal of landmarks, live stock regulations, sanitation and hygiene, the conservation of soil fertility, pure breeding and even the question of immigrant farmers. And at least one conversation is recorded upon the subject of the wickedness of city life.

You will not find the subject of co-operation discussed as such in the Old Testament, perhaps, but you will find it put into practice.

In Farm Villages

So far as can be learned, there were no isolated farm houses where single



families live alone. As a general thing a number of more or less related families united in forming a rural village. These were not cities in any sense, nor even small towns, but little hamlets set in the midst of fields and hills. The country districts were dotted with these tiny villages and we find constant reference to them throughout both the Old and New Testaments. In the land laws of Leviticus it says: "The villages that they find they have to do it. It's a case of self-preservation now as much as it was in Bible or early colonial times. The enemy is not the same, save in the characteristic of being a common enemy. Then the necessity was military; now it is economic and social, but it is just as real. And there are those who have studied this question deeply, who feel very certain that the time will come when the American farmers will again be gathered into farm villages, as the farmers of Germany have already gathered, under the pressure of economic necessity and as a part of a broad program of co-operation."

WHOEVER LOVES IS NEVER OLD

When life has been well spent age is a loss of what it can well spare—muscular strength, organic instincts, gross bulk and works that belong to these. But the central wisdom which was old in infancy was young in four score years and, dropping off obstructions, leaves in happy subjects the mind purified and wise. I have heard that whoever loves is in no condition old. I have heard that whenever the name of man is spoken the doctrine of immortality is announced. It cleaves to his constitution. The mode of it baffles our wit, and who ever comes to us from the other side. But the inference from the working of intellect, having knowledge, having skill at the end of life just ready to be born—affirms the inspiration of affection and of the moral sentiment.—Ralph Waldo Emerson.

The reason for this gathering into

villages was that the farmers were under the necessity of co-operating against the attacks of enemies from the desert and the surrounding countries. They co-operated just as the sturdy pioneers of our own early colonial days co-operated in the use of the stockade—because they had to. And the trend of the times seems to be that the farmers of today are co-operating more and more for the same reason—because they find they have to do it. It's a case of self-preservation now as much as it was in Bible or early colonial times. The enemy is not the same, save in the characteristic of being a common enemy. Then the necessity was military; now it is economic and social, but it is just as real. And there are those who have studied this question deeply, who feel very certain that the time will come when the American farmers will again be gathered into farm villages, as the farmers of Germany have already gathered, under the pressure of economic necessity and as a part of a broad program of co-operation."

THE SHIP UPON THE IRISH COAST

Once upon the Irish coast a great ship was wrecked and went down beneath the waves. However did it happen, people wondered. For the captain was cautious and skilful, and the weather had not been severe enough to occasion such a disaster. But the great ship was wrecked, and under water. But so much interest was felt in the matter, and so many questions as to the why and wherefore were brought up, that a diving bell was sunk. A thorough examination was made. What had caused that wreck? The ship had deviated widely from its chartered course, that was evident. But what had caused it? With a careful captain, and weather only moderately inclement, how had it happened that the ship had steered so far from its course?

The examination went on. Finally they came to the compass, and examined it carefully. Inside the box of the compass they found a tiny bit of steel, evidently the small point of a knife blade. And how had it come there? The day before the wreck, a sailor had been sent to clean the compass, and he had made use of his pocket knife in the process. All unconsciously he had broken the point of the blade and had left it in the compass box. So tiny was the broken bit that it had escaped his notice. But that bit of knife-blade influenced the compass to such a degree that the needle was widely deflected from its proper bent. The great ship was guided by the little compass, and the little bit of steel in the compass box wrecked the vessel. On such a trifling thing may the safety of many lives depend.

And it is upon trifling things that the happiness, the contentment of a soul may hinge. How jealously we must watch these trifling things!

The morning hour has gold in its mouth.—Franklin.

BEFORE CHRISTMAS AND AFTER

