

A SON OF HONEST TOIL WHO FINDS HIS VACATION TIME AT LAST

By NAT J. FARBER, in The New York American

SCHLOIMA Gingold, his eyes sunken, his cheeks drawn and a clawlike hand clutching the bed cover, was lying in bed. At Schloima's head sat Mamma Gingold, a restraining hand on his shoulder. She was saying:

"Schloima, what is the use, You are an old man, nearly seventy-six. You have, thanks to the One above, good children. They want you to stay home, that they should support you. What do you want from us? Why don't you stay home? Especially now, Schloima, you're a sick man."

But Schloima looked obdurate. It had always been his contention that one father can support ten children, but that ten children cannot support one father. This belief is proverbial in the Ghetto, and nowhere is this proverb so untrue. For the Ghetto children that would fail in their duty to an aged parent are few indeed.

PIONEER OF RACE

Schloima Gingold was of the pioneers of his race in the East Side. He had come to that district more than sixty years ago and could recall when one could with difficulty raise a scant quorum, for the services in the improvised synagogue.

Throughout the many years he had worked as a carpenter and with his hands had participated in the building of many thousands of buildings, in the very tenements that today house the great East Side's millions. Schloima had rarely gone west of the Bowery, or north of Fourteenth street. His travels east were confined to occasional trips to Brooklyn cemeteries. These trips had become more frequent in recent years. Few remained of the congregation that he had helped to found.

Schloima married when he was twenty, and for the next twenty years his wife presented him with a son or daughter at almost regular intervals of twenty months. Schloima labored hard to support this brood, so hard that he was never known to have missed a day of his own volition. Work became second nature to him.

INSISTED ON WORK

When his children had attained maturity, and with maturity some of them had attained wealth, Schloima still persisted in the daily grind.

Offers that he takes up a residence with prospering sons and later, grandchildren, in The Bronx, Flatbush or Long Island, were all tersely rejected with the same remark regarding the ability of offspring and parents to support one another. He refused, even, to take a vacation. The Summer vacation season found him with lots of work on hand. The Fall and Winter, when business was slow, were considered undesirable for a vacation. So Schloima labored on.

The recent hot spell, coupled, perhaps, with his advancing years, produced in Schloima a moment of weakness, and he consented to spend two weeks in the country. The old man had barely set foot in the mountain resort when his conscience, a conscience born to unrelenting toil, began bothering him.

RESTS AT LAST

The result, he was on the farm a day when he borrowed the tools of his trade from his host and soon he was sawing and hammering away with even greater industry than when on his regular job. So much so that in the rarefied atmosphere of the mountain resort his heart gave way and he collapsed.

Schloima was back in his bed at home. He was raging inwardly at the enforced confinement. "A man should rest when he dies," he argued.

Mamma Gingold left the old man to make a purchase at a nearby store. She had serious misgivings about leaving her charge. But there was none handy to do the errand, so she went herself. She was gone but half an hour. Her loving old heart fluttered as she opened the apartment door.

Before her, fully clad, gripping his box of carpenter's tools, was Schloima.

He had arrived on his first real vacation. He lay on the floor before her, dead.

THROUGH WITH ROYALTY

WHEN PRESIDENT von Hindenburg of Germany on August third resigned his membership in the order of Knights of St. John, he incidentally severed the last remaining tie that held him to anything of a monarchistic nature. The veteran soldier was a captain in this ancient Protestant order of which the grand master is Prince Eitel Friedrich. As a member of the order General von Hindenburg had to swear allegiance to the former kaiser and to Prussia. In resigning from the order he stated that his oath to support the republic made it impossible for him to continue longer a member of this monarchistic organization.

WOMEN IN PRIZE RING FOUGHT CENTURY AGO

A CENTURY AGO women published challenges in the press to fight with bare fists, and such fights were regular attractions. "Personalities of the Prize Ring," by H. E. Cleveland, a Londoner, quotes many such advertisements. One reads: "On Saturday, June 5, 1795, a well-fought contest took place in a field for two guineas a side between two heroic females—Mary Ann Fielding, of Whitechapel, and a noted Jewess of Wentworth St., two of their own sex being bottle-holders. Fielding fought coolly, and brought her opponent down seventy times. After an hour and twenty minutes she was declared the conqueror."

DIGGING INTO ANCIENT ATHENS

A CONCESSION for archeological excavation in the heart of Athens was recently granted by the Greek government to the American School of Classical Studies.

More than forty United States universities and colleges will assist in the work. The concession covers fifteen blocks northwards and eastwards of the Acropolis and the Areopagus, including the site of the agora (market place). It will be necessary for the Americans to compensate the present inhabitants in that area, about 100,000 in all, for whom the Greek government will provide housing sites elsewhere.

Man is to man either a god or a wolf.

—Erasmus.

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