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BURDETTE JOKED ON HIS DEATHBED

Wrote Humorous Letter to an Old Time Friend.

FOUND FUN IN EVERYTHING.

Agreed With Henry Ward Beecher That Joke in Pulpit Was Not at All Out of Place—Declared That "People Are the Funniest Things This Side of the Grave."

Bob Burdette, a humorist to the end, could crack a joke when death was knocking at the door. This is demonstrated in a letter written by the famous humorist to his lifelong friend, the Rev. Dr. J. G. Walker, pastor of the Mantua Baptist church, West Philadelphia. When Burdette lived in Bryn Mawr twenty-five years ago he frequently visited Dr. and Mrs. Walker at their parsonage.

Burdette's letter, written on his deathbed, reads in part as follows:

"My health is sadly broken; permanently so. I still write a little every week, but my pulpit and platform days are yesterday's story. I go out to drive a little daily and see a few people—mighty few.

"I enjoy life. I love to live, though it isn't nice to be sick. I don't know just what the matter with me; chronic pancreatitis I think the doctors call it. Do you know, until it went on strike I never knew I had a pancreas, and I'm mighty sorry I ever found out."

Instance of Humor.

A fugitive instance of Burdette's rollicking humor was a letter home to his flock in Los Angeles during his first trip to Europe. He dated the letter from "some distance out in the damp," and said in part:

"The scenery along this route, although somewhat monotonous, is splendidly irrigated. But it seems too early for the growing crops. Nothing has come up yet except on shipboard, and that has gone overboard. The route is not nearly so populous as the Santa Fe trail over the desert. We have just two kinds of days—the days we see a ship and the days we don't."

The veteran humorist found fun in everything. While he was forced to abandon it in the pulpit largely because of the reputation he had made for fun making, he agreed with Henry Ward Beecher that a joke in the pulpit was

not at all out of place. It was, as Beecher said, "When you are fighting the devil shoot him with anything."

Burdette died with the conviction that there was not only just as much fun in the world today as ever, but "a great deal more, because," as he said, "there are more people in it, and people are the funniest things on this side of the grave."

On the occasion of his sixtieth birthday Burdette, asked by a newspaper man how it felt to be sixty years old, replied:

"Well, my boy, it feels rather crowded. There are so many more people in the world than there were when I took up my homestead claim. When I landed on this planet there wasn't a soul in Los Angeles that I would go across the street to shake hands with. (There was no city of Los Angeles, in fact.)"

"A great many old people say they feel just as young at sixty as they did at twenty. Is it that way with you?"

"Not by forty happy years, my boy. No man, and fewer women, can be as young at sixty as at twenty. When I enter a room now I instinctively select the chair I want to sit in. I pick out the one that is the easiest to get out of, for it takes me longer to get up than it did at twenty. I do not love the kind-hearted, stupid people who insist on my sitting down in a cavernous easy chair with a backward inclination and a foot rest which I cannot reach, for then there is a life and death struggle when I would emerge.

"Strokes of Paralysis."

"But you are still very vigorous."

"Oh, I do my daily stunts. But I don't rush at my work with a war-whoop, as I used to do. I have a stroke of paralysis every day right after my noontime dinner. It lasts about an hour and is incurable. I break and lose more spectacles every week than I used to break in five years—when I didn't wear any. I can hear a great deal better than I did in young er days, for I can't hear a thing with my left ear, and I use that—oh, very, very often—to rest the one I can hear with. So, though I don't hear so much, I hear a great deal better—much better."

"Is there as much fun in the world as there used to be?"

"More—a great deal more—because there are more people in it, and people are the funniest things this side of the grave. Monkeys tire me, but people amuse me."

"Would you like to be young again?"

"Indeed I would, my boy. And I'm going to be—when I get to be about ten or twenty years older. But I don't want to be young again in this world, because then I would grow old again. It is a sign of weakness—intellectual, physical and moral weakness—to want to be younger in this life. A man ought to be assumed to have such a feeling. One of our boys, Robert, once

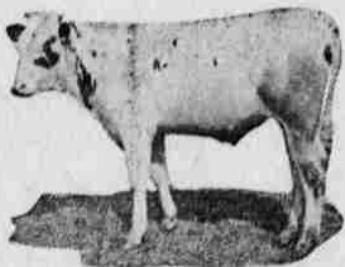
wrote to me on one of his birthdays. 'A man's years are his retainers, and the more birthdays he has the stronger and greater is his following.' That's about the way it feels to be sixty."

DAIRY and CREAMERY

BREEDS AND BUTTER.

Comparison of Dairy Cattle and Their Production of Fat.

There is no question of greater interest in dairying than that as to which breed is the greatest producer of butter. On this one factor the comparative merits of the different dairy breeds are more largely judged by the breeder than on all other factors combined, as it has now been proved by numerous experiments and tests that a cow is profitable in direct accordance with the amount of butter she produces in a year, writes Harold McAllister of California in a series of articles making comparisons of the production of the several dairy breeds. The importance attached to large producing cows and as evidenced by breeders as well as by farm dairymen



At a recent sale of grade Holstein cows in Kansas seventy-eight animals brought a total of \$5,700. While this price is lower than the cows would bring if they were pure breeds, it is much higher than would have been received for scrub cattle. The moral then is that dairy blood pays. Next to pure breeds the grades are best. A pure bred dairy sire may in a few years work wonders in a herd of scrubs. The illustration shows a young Holstein bull.

is shown by the tremendous growth of cow testing associations and the great emphasis each dairy breed association places upon its official records, says the Kansas Farmer. McAllister has gone into all the available records of the various breed associations, and the results of the figures compiled by him indicate that the officially tested Ho-

steins are producing 16 per cent more butter than the Guernseys, 21 per cent more butter than the Jerseys and 38 per cent more butter than the Ayrshires. It must be remembered in connection with these figures that many more Holsteins have been officially tested than of other breeds, and the figures reported should be considered as a comparison of the officially tested animals of the breeds and not as representing the performance of each breed as a breed. It must be remembered, too, in the selection of a dairy breed that there are conditions of climate, feed and also of environment which must be considered—that is to say, that a cow or breed which might produce the most butter might not be so profitable as a breed or cow producing somewhat less butter.

Weed Out Boarder Cows.

The unprofitableness of cows is due to inferior cows, to improper care, feed and management. Either one or all of these factors may play an important part in reducing cow profit. Thousands of cows fail to return a profit because they are not fed as they should be for milk production. Thousands of others are well fed and cared for, but are incapable of producing milk in profitable quantities. Whether or not a cow be profitable cannot be determined until she has been so fed and given such care as is necessary to enable her to produce at her maximum. The first essential therefore in determining cow merit is to know first whether the cow is doing as well as she should do. The Babcock test tells the story.

Persistent Milker Valuable.

The persistent milking tendency should be developed in every farm dairy herd. It is the lack of this tendency which among common cows results in low yields. The existence of this tendency in cows of dairy breeding is that which probably has the greatest influence on high yields. May Rilma produced more butter fat in the thirteenth month of her lactation period than in the first month. Johanna Chene produced 190 pounds of fat in the first three months of her test and 224 pounds during the last three months. She did not reach her maximum of milk until seven months after freshening.—Kansas Farmer.

Care Pays With Dairy Cows.

It has been found by actual experiment that cows transferred from poor, insanitary, poorly lighted and ventilated quarters to a comfortable, sanitary building, well ventilated and equipped throughout with modern fixtures gain 15 to 30 per cent in quantity of milk production alone, to say nothing of quality. This is not a theory, but a fact proved by many tests.

Tennis is a sure revealer of character. Three sets with a man suffice to give one a working knowledge of his moral equipment; six, of his chief mental traits, and a dozen, of that most important and usually veiled part of him, his subconscious personality. Young people of opposite sexes are sometimes counseled to take a long railway journey together before deciding on a matrimonial merger. But I would respectfully advise them rather to play "singles" with each other before venturing upon a continuous game of doubles.—Robert H. Schaeffer in Atlantic.

Gooseberries as a Tonic.

A supposed authority strongly recommends gooseberries, cooked, of course, as a tonic better than the finer berries generally in the market. The gooseberry has an acid not to be found in other small berries, or perhaps it is a salt. Anyhow, they are good and health giving. There we go following a custom of England, where the gooseberry has been the main feature of tarts, famed in song and story.—Cincinnati Commercial-Tribune.

Eels as Food.

The eel's food value is great and in some countries it is staple. The English consume millions, but the Scotch would quite as soon eat snakes. So in the ancient times, while the Romans consumed large quantities, the Egyptians would not touch them. A great many of our people have this same aversion to the eel, though a great many others are fond of it.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

One Way.

"Mr. Interlocutor, can you tell me how one may make ice water without ice?"

"No, Mr. Bones, I cannot. Will you tell us how?"

"Peel an onion, and that will make your eyes water."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Brazil's Coffee.

A Portuguese, Joao Alberto Castello Branco, is said to have planted the first coffee tree in Rio de Janeiro in 1700, and from this small beginning has developed the industry which has made Brazil the greatest coffee producer of the world.

What Did He Mean?

Gibbs—So you send your wife abroad for three months every year. Its great to have money. Dilbs—Yes, money is certainly a great blessing.—Stanford Chaparral.

Safety First.

The reason we wouldn't hire a man who never makes mistakes is because he would soon have our job.—Galveston News.

Here are two privileges the average man insists on: First, the right to do as he pleases, and, second, the right to abuse a neighbor who doesn't do as he wants him to.

Some one has invented another new dance, but as it is said to be hogless the chance that it is going to crowd any of the tangos off the stage is probably pretty slim.

An indignant creditor in New York killed the man who owed him \$200 and could not pay. Did he think that a dead man would be more likely to settle than a living man?

Dr. Anna Shaw, speaking before the international council at Rome, declares that women are the best news features for the daily papers. Depending, speaking in a half tone, upon the features.

Statistics showing the enormous popularity of moving picture theaters in Paris seem to disprove the supposition that the Parisian gets all his recreation studying the works of the old masters in the Louvre.

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