

The Hidden Treasure

By PHYLLIS M. ABBOTT (Age Fifteen Years)

Once upon a time, many, many years ago, there lived in the palace of Jupiter a beautiful goddess whose name was Mercé. Every evening as the sun went down, Mercé would go to the walls of the sky city to look down to the world below. She loved the earth people and watched over them.

One day, as Mercé watched over the wall, she saw great excitement in one city; men were polishing long bright pieces of metal that shone in the sun. In a neighboring city men were marching out of the gates with a great banner at their head. Mercé was puzzled. She had never seen anything like this before, and because she was immortal and knew nothing of the passions of men, she did not understand. Intently she watched as on the plain below two great bodies of men came together with a clash and smote each other with those shining things they carried. Above, Mercé watched in amazement and sorrow. Oh! she must help those men who were suffering so.



Vivian A. Brown, Age Five Years.

What could she do? What was it they needed? She must find it! So she went to Jupiter and told him what was happening to the earth people, and asked him where she could find the thing that would help them. Wise old Jupiter only shook his head sagely and replied:

"Mercé, I cannot tell you where the treasure is that will help your earth children. Only you can find it."

Then Mercé wandered about the sky palace, asking everyone she met if they knew where the treasure was, but no one knew. She searched the treasure houses in vain, but the wise men could not tell her where it could be found.

At last she went back to the walls of the city, and as she stood looking down on her suffering earth people she exclaimed:

"Oh! where is the hidden treasure? What can I do for the earth people?"

Suddenly, forgetting her helplessness, forgetting the treasure she sought, forgetting herself, she flew down into the planet below. She gave the dying water and bound up the wounds of the injured, giving help and bringing back happiness to the hearts of the men she loved. Then, just at the end of the day, as the men watched her standing on the blood-red battlefield, she vanished and among the glorious colors of the sunset a tiny scarlet cross appeared; Mercé had found the hidden treasure in her own heart. And all those who wear that scarlet cross and carry it in their hearts have found a precious treasure, the Spirit of Mercy.

Find Markets for Canned Goods

By the U. S. Department of Agriculture

Housewives and members of canning clubs are urged to study their market at the beginning of the season and pack according to the local demands for different products. They are advised by the bureau of markets of the department to secure orders for canned goods before putting them up.

Small lots of nonstandardized products are difficult to sell except among local buyers and are not purchased by the army, navy, commercial dealers or any department of the government. Many appeals to the department of agriculture to find a market for home-canned goods have been made during the past year and often the canners believed that the government was in the market for such goods. Subject to whatever regulations may be made by the federal government, the marketing of food products will proceed in the usual manner and the bureau of markets points out that proper grading, standardizing and careful preparation for market are especially necessary in handling canned goods, jams, jellies and preserves.

Home-canned products can be kept over from one season to the next and those who have not sold their goods have reserves to draw from for their home table. It is good policy, say the specialists, for the housewife to provide a reasonable surplus beyond the probable home consumption for the next crop year.

While the bureau of markets is giving aid to producers on marketing problems it says that it is difficult to place producers of small quantities of different kinds of products in touch with buyers and urges home and club canners to learn the marketing end of their business just the same as producers in other lines of industry.

More than 190 canal boats are regularly navigating the creeks and tributaries of the Thames. Among them 56 carry families which aggregate 256 children.

Magazine Writer's Close-Up of Our General Pershing, as a Man and American Soldier.

What of General Pershing, who may one day have as great an army as any? The question is asked as often in Europe as in America. It is not, I think, known in America how deep a first impression his character as man and soldier have made on the British and, indeed, the French, writes W. Beach Thomas in Harper's Magazine.

When he landed in England in June, 1916, one of the British newspapers, whose correspondent had been for a long while in his presence, compared him with Moltke, who was "silent in seventeen languages." What General Pershing, the master of several Philippine dialects, said was little and good. When General Joffre shook his hand in Paris a few weeks later—a scene worthy of a great historical memorial—he said to one of his staff, "General Pershing will think first and act afterwards." At all junctures the general has been cool and prompt and determined. His colonel in Cuba wrote of him, "He is the bravest and coolest man under fire I ever saw in my life." His own recorded maxims are few; but at the most worrying crisis in France—when news of the arrival of American troops was published while some of those troops were still in the danger zone at sea—he said, "I do not worry, and when the day's work is over I go to sleep."

Notes of Interest.

In the schools of the Philippine Islands there are 11,000 native teachers and 500 American instructors.

Within the foreign concessions of Hankow there are 2,357 licensed jinrikshas, 67 public carriages, and 83 private motorcars.

The reason why opals are often lost from their settings is that they expand with heat more than any other precious stones, and consequently force open the gold which holds them in place, with the result that they ultimately fall out.

Underground Railroad and Useless Caucus Room, Two Extravagances at Capitol.

One of the curiosities of the capitol is the miniature railroad that connects the senate, via underground passage, with the senate office building, relates a Washington correspondent. The cars of this railroad operate on a monorail by electricity.

The road is about 150 yards in length and has a double track. When one car is at one end of the track the other car is at the other end, and vice versa. The railroad was intended originally to aid senators in making speed from their offices to the senate chamber. Roll calls do not require much time in the senate and there is danger that if a roll call is asked when a senator is in his office he will miss the roll call unless he uses the electric car. That saves him about ten or fifteen seconds' time.

The road is open to the public and it costs nothing to ride. As a consequence messenger boys, clerks and janitors use the railroad freely, while senators, except on days when the weather is inclement, prefer to walk in the open air between their offices and the senate chamber.

Besides the initial equipment, the road entails an expense of about \$50 weekly for the employ of two operators and probably half that amount for electricity. This would make a yearly expense of \$3,900 as a very conservative estimate. As a matter of fact the railroad probably costs more like \$6,000 or \$7,000 a year.

The senate has another extravagance that is almost an eyesore. This is the palatial caucus room that cost no one knows how many thousands of dollars when the senate office building was constructed. The room is finished throughout in marble and has immense crystal chandeliers. It has the largest seating capacity of any room in the capitol except the hall of the house and the senate chamber.

Yet the acoustic properties of the room are so bad that it is never used, and it stands there as an expensive monument to some one's mistake in planning the senate office building. Of course a person would ordinarily pay no attention to such a thing as bad acoustic properties, but in this room it cannot help but be noticed.

HUMOROUS

Those Amateur Musicians.
"Professor, how is my little daughter?"
"Fine, Mr. Sprechelnitz; she can play the scale without sticking out her tongue."

Different.
Mah — I hear that you are going to marry Jack Swift. Congratulations.
Ethel — But I'm not going to marry him.
Mah — Oh, then, my sincere congratulations.

Its Class.
"That rare feat you mention is a paradoxical one."
"In what way?"
"It is also well done."

Murphy's Odd Idea.
An officer on board a warship was drilling his men.
"I want every man to lie on his back, put his legs in the air, and move them as if he were riding a bicycle," he explained. "Now commence."
After a short effort one of the men stopped.
"Why have you stopped, Murphy?" asked the officer.
"If ye please, sir," was the answer, "O'm coasting."

A Successful Student.
"Will you give me a crust of bread an' a cup of water, mum?"
"Certainly, I'll fix you up a nice lunch. But why didn't you ask for something substantial?"
"I'm a student of human nature. It's mighty seldom I strikes anybody what's mean enough to give me just a crust an' a cup of water."

No Self-Healer.
"What has become of that hypnotist?"
"Had to quit hypnotizing. Putting people to sleep wore down his nerves and gave him insomnia."



Law Forbids Hoarding.

Persons who have sought to excuse their violations of rules and regulations of the United States food administration on the assertion that "there is no law requiring it," are warned that there is a law governing such cases. According to the law, persons who willfully hoard any necessities shall, upon conviction, be fined not exceeding \$5,000 or be imprisoned for not more than two years, or both. The statute sets out just what "hoarding" is and includes, not only the act of hoarding, but the withholding of necessities to gain a higher price for them. Hoarders will be prosecuted in the federal courts.

A Song For Marching Men.

O who will give us a song for them—
The silent marching men?
A martial song with a swing in it,
With measured rhythm and ring in it,
The breath of a deathless thing in it,
A song for marching men.

O who will give us a song for them—
The silent marching men?
With a sacred serenity in it,
With a clinging last embrace in it,
A song with a woman's face in it,
A song for marching men.

O who will give us a song for them—
The silent marching men?
A scorn for the tyrant's rod in it,
A thought of the criminal's sod in it,
A faith in the Living God in it,
A song for marching men.

O who will give us a song for them—
The silent marching men?
With iron and blood and ruth in it,
With a clinging last embrace in it,
A song for marching men.

O who will give us a song for them—
The silent marching men?
A scorn for the tyrant's rod in it,
A thought of the criminal's sod in it,
A faith in the Living God in it,
A song for marching men.

—Theresa Virginia Beard, in the Bellman

Immigration Promises to Set New Record—Smallest Since the Colonial Days

When the present fiscal year ends, June 30, it is highly probable that a new immigration record will be set—the smallest since colonial days, says the Washington Herald.

Immigration statistics of the first six months indicate that the year's total may be less than 100,000 persons. For the half-year ending January 1, 1918, only 57,715 came to America, and since then the monthly totals have dwindled to a few thousands.

The war, of course, is responsible. The real dwindling began when the United States entered the war. Since that day only one country has sent anything like the normal number of immigrants. That is Japan, which country now leads all nations in sending immigrants to America. Japanese immigration this year will reach 12,000 as against 8,925 in 1917, 8,711 in 1916 and 8,609 in 1915. During the first half of this fiscal year 4,008 Japanese arrived and they've been coming over at the rate of more than a thousand a month.

Italy, which before the war sent over seven times as many immigrants as Japan then did, this year will send less than a third as many.

Mexico, which sent 16,438 immigrants in 1917, will send less than three thousand this year.

Mother's Cook Book

Those who live on the mountain have a longer day than those who live in the valley. Sometimes all we need to do to brighten our day is to rise a little.

A Few Cooling Drinks.
Drinks that are cooling always find a place any time of day and the housewife who keeps a well-stocked ice chest will always be popular with her friends.

Ever-Ready Lemonade.
Boil together a cupful of sugar, a cupful of water and a half cupful of lemon juice; multiply this any number of times and keep in a cold place, adding iced water and using a tablespoonful of the sirup to a glass of water. Boil the mixture for five minutes before bottling.

Almond Drink.
Blanch three dozen sweet almonds and pound to a pulp; boil them in two quarts of milk, adding a vanilla bean, which may be removed in a short time; sweeten with half a pound of sugar or a cupful of honey, cool and strain. Serve in lemonade glasses.

Barley Water.
Wash two ounces of pearl barley and add to two quarts of water; heat slowly and boil until reduced to a quart. Add two ounces of sugar and the juice of a lemon; strain and set aside to get cold.

Fruit Sirup.
Boil together a pint of juicy fruit and a pint of water, stirring from time to time, then strain and add honey to sweeten; boil for ten minutes and then bottle. When serving allow a tablespoonful of the sirup to a glass of water.

Tea Punch.
Make a strong infusion of English breakfast tea, using a teaspoonful to a cupful of boiling water. For a quart of tea add honey to sweeten, and the juice of two lemons and an orange. A few slices of the fruit may be served with the punch.

Mint Julup.
Boil a cupful of sugar with a pint of water 20 minutes. Crush six sprigs of mint and pour a cupful of boiling water over it. Allow it to stand ten minutes, strain and pour into the sirup. To this add strawberry, raspberry and lemon juice; serve very cold.

Save the whey from cottage cheese, chill it and serve with any desired fruit juice flavor. A lemon with a slice of pineapple and a few cherries will serve two or three thirsty throats.

Swallows Fight for Farmers

They Are the Light Cavalry of the Bird Army

"The army of the birds" is a familiar phrase, yet the picture it paints in most minds is, perhaps, an army on the march rather than an army in combat; the birds in annual migration from zone to zone rather than the birds on daily duty from field to field. The latter and more accurate idea comes only when special branches of the service are pointed out—when, for instance, a bird expert says, "The swallows are the light cavalry of the army of birds, ever on the move, always on the skirmish line, foraging the fields of air, constantly on the alert to cut off stragglers from insect camps and missing no opportunity to destroy these enemies of the farmer."

The phrases quoted are used in the opening paragraph of a bulletin issued by the United States department of agriculture. It is entitled, "Food Habits of the Swallows, a Family of Valuable Native Birds." It is the last work done by one of the greatest economic ornithologists the world has produced, Prof. F. E. L. Beal, for 25 years an assistant in the bureau of biological survey, and whose death occurred October 1, 1916.

The bulletin deals with the seven species of swallow that are of wide distribution in the United States, the Purple Martin, the Cliff swallow, the Barn swallow, the Tree swallow, the Violet-Green swallow, the Bank swallow and the Rough-Winged swallow. The food habits of all the species are, of course, similar, but they vary in certain more or less important details. It is shown, for instance, that while the other six species eat practically no vegetable food except such as is incidentally taken with insect food, the Tree swallow occasionally makes a full meal of berries or seeds. It is definitely shown, however, that no swallow consumes any vegetable food that is of use to man, only worthless forms of wild berries and seeds being taken. And even this forms such a small part of the total diet as to be negligible. Except for the Tree swallow, the vegetable element will not average one-half of 1 per cent of the total diet.

With few exceptions, the insects eaten by swallows are injurious. Since swallows take their food on the wing, it follows that they must feed upon flying insects, and, for the most part, predaceous beetles and other beneficial ground-frequenting forms escape. The biggest single item in the swallow diet is Diptera, the order of insects to which belong flies, gnats and mosquitoes. This item constitutes nearly 27 per cent of the total when averaged for the seven species. The next largest item is Hemiptera, the order of insects including the chinch bug, plant lice and the like. It is shown that, of the beetles eaten, a large part is made up of weevils, including the cotton boll weevil, the clover weevil, the strawberry weevil, the alfalfa weevil, which is a recently imported pest, and other highly destructive weevils.

On the whole, the swallows are shown to be a highly beneficial bird family and deserving of all the encouragement and protection that can be given.

Pitcher Jack Coombs Is to Retire This Year—To Look After Business Interests.

Jack Coombs announces that this will be his last year in baseball. At least he declares it to be his last year as an active player and perhaps nothing short of a managerial job will tempt him to remain.

Coby Jack's contract with the Brooklyn club expires this year, which is the reason he is making the announcement. He feels that he has



Jack Coombs.

served his time as a pitcher, but he has also built up a number of business interests which are paying him good dividends, and this is probably the real reason why he intends to retire from the game.

Coombs makes his home at Palestine, Texas, where he has a general merchandise store in addition to being interested in two banks. His business has been growing with the boom times and he feels that there will no longer be any necessity of playing baseball for a living.

Importance of a Tan Coat Depends on How Acquired.
Tan is the result of the action of chemical rays or of the ultra-violet rays of the solar light on the pigment of the skin. It proves nothing, says an authority, but that the skin has been exposed to photographic rays of one kind or another. The skin is also tanned by exposure to the rays of a mercury lamp, but such tan has nothing to do with health.

Tan is important and of meaning according to the circumstances under which it is acquired. Acquired at sea or by the sea as a result of life and exercise in the open air, it is a sign of health, because it accompanies general effects which are lacking in the conditions of electric tan.

Electric tan is accompanied by no multiplication of red corpuscles in the blood, such as exercise produces, insuring a renewal of physical strength.

Eggless Breakfast Soon.
Pennsylvania, which has been taking a census of its fowl population, finds that it has 4,000,000 less chickens than a year ago. Three-fourths of the decrease is in laying hens.

About 90 per cent of Norway's dentists are graduates of American dental colleges or have taken post-graduate courses in the United States.

POULTRY DON'TS

Don't allow your hens to eat decayed flesh of any kind unless you want them to get down with limberneck and have many of them die from the effect of it.

Don't allow filth and dampness to abound in and around your poultry roosting house; it will cause roup and its various attending ills.

Don't let the mites and lice get the upper hand about your place and cause you untold trouble and loss of both old and young stock.

Don't be afraid to give your fowls an abundance of green stuff at all seasons and all times; it is their salvation, whether they are old or young.

Don't be afraid to invest a few dollars in good stock any more than you would in improved seeds and grain to insure success.

Don't keep any males with the females unless you intend hatching the eggs. Eggs for market will keep much longer if they are not fertile.

Don't put all sizes, shapes and colors of eggs in one lot for market; learn to grade them so they will look as much like one hen laid them all as possible.

Don't allow a dirty, stale egg to go into your market basket, no matter how high they are or how badly you need the money.

Don't be afraid to work with your poultry the year round, as it is the only road to success, and one must stick to the right track. Keep up interest in your poultry both winter and summer. No matter what other duties you have, they should not be neglected.

Don't expect every egg to hatch when you buy eggs for that purpose from some good breeder. Your own eggs as a rule will not do that well.

Scientific Facts.

The Siamese government has consolidated a civil service college and a medical school into a university to provide instruction in all the higher branches of education.

A method for rebuilding worn-out automobile tires and making them puncture proof with fabric woven from thread and a vegetable fiber has been invented by a Californian.

Oils obtained from Antarctic sea leopards, seals and penguins have been tested by scientists in London and found useful for soap and leather making and for heating purposes.

Ants in the Kitchen.

In regard to the question as to how to get rid of small ants in a kitchen, the Indiana state entomologist says: "One of the best remedies is to make a sirup of four ounces of sugar to one-half pint of water, and after this sirup has boiled add one ounce of sodium fluoride. Moisten a sponge with this and put it in a can that has some holes punched in it; then place this where the ants are most numerous. The idea is to get the ants feeding on this and in that way carry some back to their nest. If they stop feeding, move the can back a short distance and they will again start eating. The can should be kept moist with this sirup and the ants will soon disappear."

Japan has superseded China as the chief source of supply for tea used in the United States.