

Brudder Gardner on Signs and Dreams

He Invents Something New In That Line and Tells It to Limekiln Club Members.

Copyright, 1906, by McClure, Phillips & Co. "M'fr'na," said Brother Gardner of the Limekiln club at the last regular meeting of that organization, "de cull'd man has been guided by dreams an' signs fur 500 years past, an' I reckon he will be fur 500 years to come. Since de organization ob dis club I has made several efforts to bring about a change, but widout success. De average black man clings to his dreams an' signs like a dawg to a bone, an' all talk in oppostahun goes into one ear an' out at de odder.

"Bel'n' I can't convince you dat dar am nuffin in dreams an' dat signs don't count no mo' dan toots on a tin horn. I ar' gwine to gib you sunthin' new. Fur six months past I has been busy inventin' sunthin' reliable. I has tried 'em all on myself an' de ole woman an' my dawg as fast as turned out, an' I kin recommend an' guarantee 'em to be depended on. When you have used 'em once you will take no odders.

"Brudder Giveadam Jones may light two mo' lamps, an' Brudder Sundown White may crowd anoder soap box into de stove, an' I will read my inventions.

"When You See or Hear a Sign. "When you see a crow flyin' ober a graveyard, look out. It means dat you



"When you see a crow flyin' ober a graveyard, look out. It means dat you am gwine to git in front ob a street kyar de nex' week an' stand in de shadder ob death. You may be killed or you may escape. It all depends on de color ob de motorman's hair.

"If you see a black cat chasin' a white rabbit frew a yaller co'nfield an' a green dawg cuts in an' drives de cat up a purple tree, go home an' take things easy. You am gwine to draw \$200 on your lottery ticket.

"If you am woke up at midnight by de howlin' ob a dawg under your winder, an' just as you git up to frow a boot at him de clock gibs a whir an' stops dead still, an' at de same instant de baby gibs a whoop wid de colic, you might as well prepare fur de worst. Your brudder-in-law am gwine ter git shot in dispinin' ober a game ob craps an' leab you to pay his debts.

"If you am lyin' on your back on de bed in de daytime while your wife am doin' de washin' an' you hear what am called de death tick in de wall, don't jump up an' yell out. It's a sign dat

de coal man am gwine to send you up a ton ob coal free gratis to make life mo' cheerful fur you.

"If you am sittin' on de doahsteps in de sun an' you hear a rooster crow on your right hand, a dawg howl on your left an' a tubgoat whistle in front ob you it am a sign dat your ole woman has got a dollar hidden away in de house an' dat if you take her by de neck you can make her hand ober.

"An' if you am lookin' out ob de winder durin' a thunderstorm an' you think you see red lightning strike a black hoss jest as a white man am lookin' out f'om behind a lavender bush don't collapse an' fall in a faint. Dat was considered a bad sign befo' we voted out de bosses, but now it signifies dat white folks hab grown keenerless about lookin' deir henhouse doahs at night.

"If you am woke up at night by hearin' a soft voice callin' your name outside an' you sit up in bed to find de cat giarin' at you an' a smell ob burnin' feathers in de room don't waste a minit 'tendin' to bizness. When you raise de winder you'll find a cull'd man out dar who wants to borrow a dollar, an' if you don't lend it to him some awful calamity am shore to happen.

"An' if you am standin' in de alley at midnight wid an empty bag on your arm an' de smell ob fat chicken in your nostrils an' you think you hear de footfalls ob an angel turn an' dig right out ob dat as fas' as you kin go. Dem angel footfalls belongs to a policeman, an' if he overhauls you he will make embarrassin' inquiries.

"If you am swingin' in a hammock under an apple tree while your wife am splittin' wood an' you see a bobtailed dawg chasin' a billygoat wid black whiskers it am a sign dat prosperity am comin' an' dat your ole woman'll soon be able to buy you a new Sunday suit.

"If you am gwine out in de kentry to look for work an' you see seven crows flyin' to a west jest as a cross eyed man meets you an' asks de time ob day, turn back at once. Dar am no work fur you. Providence has planned fur de ole woman to take in washin' an' support de family.

"When You Dream a Dream. "If you am lyin' on your back, wid your feet outer bed, an' you dream dat de beef trus' has reduced de price ob pigs' feet one-half in order to gib pore folks a show, you want to wake up an' git a hussle on you as soon as possible. Dat dream means dat de price ob bacon am to go up sky high.

"If you am lyin' on de grass in front ob your cabin on a hot day an' you dream dat a man come along wid a satchel in his hand an' stopped an' counted you out \$100 as a birthday gift, prepare to be disapp'nted. De landlord will be along befo' night an' tell you dat if de back rent hain't paid wid twenty-fo' hours he'll set you on de street.

"To dream dat while you am hidin' away in an old barn you see a farmer murder his hired man fur eatin' so much signifies dat you am gwine to ask some one to lend you a dollar an' fall to git it.

"To dream ob standin' in an open place in de woods an' seein' wood piles all around you an' dat a man wid a benevolent smle comes along an' tells you to take all you want signifies dat de coal combine will hold a meetin' next day an' raise de price ob coal an' odder half dollar.

"To dream dat you got a divorce from your old woman an' married a rich widder an' took her to Nlarry falls on a brittle tower am a pleasant thing to dream about, but don't you go to chucklin' ober it. It signifies dat your ole woman am gwine to stay right by an' make it hot fur you till you go to work.

"To dream dat seven bobtailed cats am sittin' on your chest as you sleep an' glarin' at you wid green eyes an' dat your family tuss been killed in a

wreck an' your house burned to de ground am one ob de nicest things you kin dream. It signifies dat you am gwine to find a ten dollar bill in de road widin two days.

"To dream dat you have been elected to office an' dat white men am tumblin' ober deirselves to take off deir hats to you an' ax fur app'ntments brings a warm glow to your heart as you dream, but you will wake up to find a policeman smookin' around de yard an' lookin' fur heads, feet an' feathers.

"If you sot down ob a winter's evenin' wid your feet in de oven ob de cook stove an' fall asleep an' dream dat you walked down a dark ravine an' saw chunks of gold lyin' all about, dat's a sign dat de butcher hain't gwine to gin you any me' credit until you have squared up de ole account.

"Dreamin' ob angels am nebber a good dream. On de six occashuns I have dreamed ob angels I have had a row wid de ole woman next day, an' on de last occashun she hit me ober de head wid a hoe handle an' left a scar dat will last fur life.

"To dream dat you am dead ob liver complaint an' floatin' about on fleecy clouds while de sun am a red ball ob fire in de west signifies dat de ole woman am gwine through your pockets as you sleep an' dat she will lie out ob it when you miss dat half dollar in de mawlin'.

"To dream dat you took a coffee sack an' set out at night fur a watermill on five a mile away an' dat you got five big ones an' toted 'em home to find a ten dollar gold piece in each one is a dream so real dat you wake up pickin' de seeds outer your mouf. Beware, however. If you go arter dem mollyons you'll bump up agin a white man an' his dawg an' a shotgun, an' you'll not only come home widout any fruit, but it will take a surgeon two days to pick de birdshot outer your legs." M. QUAD.

A Genius. "He is a genius." "What does he do?" "Nothing." "Why do you call him a genius, then?" "Why, that is the sort of genius he has." "What do you mean?" "A genius for doing nothing, you know."—San Francisco Call.

Advice to a Beginner. "How would you advise me to proceed in order to attract public attention to my statesmanly abilities?" "There are two ways," answered Senator Sorghum. "One is to read up all the works on political economy you can find, and the other is to remember all the funny stories you hear."—Washington Star.

CAPTAIN IN THE RANKS

(Continued from page 3)

"On' foot to Wheeling. Then on the towboat."

"What fare did they make you pay?"

"None. I worked my way as a stoker—freeman they call it out here."

"No wages? Just passage and grub?"

"That was all."

"What are your plans?"

"To find work and do it."

"What kind of work?"

"Any kind that's honest."

"You are educated, I suppose?"

"Yes, in a way. I'm an A. M. and a graduate in law."

"Know anything about business?"

"No, but I shall learn."

"If you can, you mean?"

"Oh, I can! A capable man can learn anything if he really wants to."

"I don't know about that. But I'll gamble on the proposition that you can."

"Thank you."

"No thanks are needed. I wasn't complimenting. I was just expressing an opinion."

Scribbling a memorandum on a scrap of paper, Captain Hallam handed it to Duncan, saying:

"Give that to the cashier as you go out and get your wages. Then you'd better get your breakfast. I recommend you while you're poor to eat at the little booths along the levee, where they sell very good sandwiches and coffee cheap. After breakfast if you choose to come back here I'll try to find something for you to do. Oh, I forgot. You were up all night, so you'll want to sleep."

There was an interrogative note in the last sentence, Captain Hallam was "sizing up" his man, and he closely scrutinized Duncan's face as the answer came.

"Oh, I'm used to night duty. I'm ready for a day's work if you can give me one. As for breakfast, I've had it."

"Then you had money?"

"A very little, but I didn't spend any of it. I saved and split a load of wood for the keeper of a booth, and he gave me some bread and ham and coffee for my work."

"Oh, that's the way you managed it. Very well. Come back here in two hours anyhow."

After the young man had passed out Captain Hallam said to one of his partner brothers:

"That fellow is a good sort. He has sand in his gizzard. When he comes back set him at work at something or other—several things in succession, in fact—and find out what he can do."

Such was Gullford Duncan's mustering into the new service of work.

(Continued in our next edition)

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Might call it the Mexican War of



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