

The Gate Keeper

"In Faith, In Hope, In Charity, and with Fidelity."

Conducted by E. L. Thorpe.

Selling the Farm—An Allegory in Simple Ballad of Leaving the Old Homestead.

I.
We are growing old together, wife, we're getting old and gray
A-walking down the aisle of life where love has led the way;
We've earned a rest from all our work and we'll take it now, at last,
For I've sold the old farm out, wife, our work and toil are past—
I've sold it to those men from town, and what can be the harm?
They've paid me many a dollar, wife, and now they own the farm.

II.
They'll lay off as "addition," wife, they'll sell the old farm out,
And I'll sell the cows and horses and we'll see the world about.
We've lived here fifty years now, wife, since we came across the plains—
I've sold it to the moneyed men and we'll live what life remains
'Mid the commerce of the city, where Sal can go to school,
And John grow up a useful man, and not a country fool.

III.
I've thought the thing all over, wife, for many and many a day;
I've thought it in the meadows there, among the flowers and hay,
Till I've thought the matter over and I've settled in my mind
That we can live an easier life than we ever hoped to find;
For the speculation fever has caught the people, all,
And I've sold the dear old farm, mother,—What makes these tear-drops fall?

IV.
They say that land is rising, and that what was give' away
To you and me when we came here's worth thousands now, to-day.
And the homestead we "donated" from Uncle Sam's domain
Has brought us now a hundred fold on all we hoped to gain.
For the railroads that are running like belts across the land
I'll bring ten thousand to every one that came in our small band.

V.
So I've sold the homestead, mother, to the man with notes and gold
And the Shepherd that has watched us, ere He draws us to the fold,
Will let us live awhile at rest, for our work of life's been hard,
And after all our toil and care, He'll give us our reward;
Give us the years that, yet on earth, belong to us and Him
And spare His chastening hand and fill our joy's cup to the rim.

VI.
But ere we leave the old farm, wife, let's go it o'er once more
And visit all the scenes we love, the orchard, field—the door
Of yonder hotel where the wife of a nation's martyr lives,
Whom closing years are free from want on what the nation gives.
She oft has cheered us in our grief and spoke a kindly word;
She prayed beside our dying child—a prayer the Father heard.

VII.
We'll walk down the meadows, too, and by the babbling rill
Where the mossy bank and rocky bed are held in memory still.
And by the barnyard with its gate, and, where, just o'er the rail
Our neighbor's son saw Mary Jane and watched her fill the pail—
And took her from us to his home—we gave the cow, too, then,
A wedding present from us both—we'll dream it o'er again.

VIII.
And ere we leave the old farm, wife, we'll go a little way
To yonder maple as it stands—its leaves are red and gray
As the autumn frosts have tinged them, have changed them from their green,
And scattered them upon the mound where the shadows love to lean—
The mound we built for little Joe, when he left for the angels' care—
I've half forgotten how the years have passed him sleeping there.

IX.
And by the brook we'll wander, wife—the one that turns the wheel
And churns the cream to golden lumps, and grinds the flour and meal.
We watched it turn its lazy lumps, and we've waited many years
To part with it forever, wife; and now our parting tears
Shall help to swell the running stream that turns it with its flood.
Our tears will make another drop to course the earth's pale blood.

X.
By its bank we watched the heron as he stalked amid the reeds
And plucked the tallest of them all to dine upon its seeds;
And when the night-shades, falling, wife, had warned him to his rest,
We saw him seek a safe retreat and lay upon his breast
His long, flat bill, and close his eyes, his wings about him spread
As he seemed to shiver in the wind that breathed from overhead.

XI.
And the old trail o'er the mountain, there, that led up to the place
Where the red man camped in years ago, and warned the pale-skin race;
Whence the chieftain's daughter came to us with an olive branch in hand,
And warned us of our danger—the midnight whoop and brand.
Its upward slope still echoes there the chieftain's dismal tread,
Though he's gone beyond the portals where his guilty spirit fled.

XII.
'Twas cruel, yet it saved us, the shot that did it part—
I aimed it for the right then, wife, the ball that pierced his heart,
It saved me and my darlings, and it saved the settlers, all,
But the red man's home was darkened when I sent that fatal ball.
I've prayed God to forgive me, since, the treacherous part I played,
For memory haunts me still—the look—the grief of that dark maid.

XIII.
But a trace to sad reflections, now, for we leave the farm today;
We're going 'mid the din of life where sad thoughts fly away,
We'll bid farewell to every scene, we'll turn upon them now,
And reach beyond for lighter toil—less sweat upon our brow.
We'll say good bye—a backward glance—a sigh—a tear-drop here,
And gladly welcome to our lives the day of brighter cheer.

XIV.
So a long farewell to this dear spot; we'll come again some day,
And drop a tear of fond regret, for the scenes will fade away
That we have loved to linger near, have tarried with so long,
But the hum of life will soothe us, in the city, with its song.
God help us to remember, there, the wealth His aid has won,
And by His tender love and strength, we'll pray, "Thy will be done,"
EUGENE L. THORPE.

FAIRVIEW

Work on the Mt. Hood spur, which connects with the O. R. & N. at this point, has begun in earnest, and a large force of men and teams are at work grading. The large warehouse being built by the Mt. Hood company is nearly completed. The building measures 60x150 feet.

W. Ellison is now shipping from 200 to 500 cases of Italian prunes daily to Kansas and Nebraska.

R. H. Scott left on Tuesday for Los Angeles, Cal., where he will spend the winter in college.

Miss Calla Heslin will go on Thursday to Baker City to resume her school work.

Jack Luscher and wife returned on Sunday from a three months' trip to Switzerland, where they visited their old home. They also visited relatives in the eastern cities. Their children, who have been spending the summer with their grandfather at Fulton, also returned with their parents.

Mrs. Archie Mason and daughter were in Fairview Monday. The Masons may locate in Fairview.

Frank Ellison and daughter of Hood River visited his brother, W. Ellison, and wife on Sunday.

Born to Willard Cook and wife on Aug. 30th, a son.

Misses Lena and Lillian Ginder of Lents visited friends here the first of the week.

C. Balmer, who has had charge of the Lusher farm during their absence, returned with his family to Fulton the first of the week.

O. H. Jenkins and family, Mrs. C. E. Cree and children and Miss Ethel Heslin have gone to Independence to pick hops.

Miss Altha Cooper has returned to Hood River after a two weeks' visit at the home of Rev. C. E. Crandall.

A. Kronenberg and wife entertained Mr. Kronenberg's brother and wife of Jenne on Sunday.

A. W. Zimmermann of the Dalles visited his family here over Sunday.

J. B. Fletcher and wife of St. Johns visited at the home of J. P. Heslin and family the first of the week.

Lee Shaw has moved his family to Rowena, where they will reside in the future.

Miss Ruth Jackson has returned from eastern Oregon, where she spent the summer.

Miss Marjory Dustin of Arleta has been visiting friends here.

James Anderson spent Sunday at his home here. He has a position as motor-man on one of the Portland Railway, Light & Power Co's cars.

Mrs. E. J. Snow has been spending a few days with friends here.

Mrs. W. T. Scott entertained the Ladies society of the Smith Memorial church on Thursday afternoon.

Miss Susie Hall is able to be out again after a severe illness.

Lot Moore and wife will move into the H. S. Stone cottage on the Shepard road.

T. R. Howitt will occupy the home vacated by Mr. and Mrs. Moore.

Mrs. A. R. Crump and children have returned to their home in Hood River, after several days' visit with Mrs. E. A. Whitney.

A. M. Anderson is having his barn on his place in the west part of town painted.

Mrs. A. T. Axtell and granddaughter, Edith McKillip, are expected home from Seaside soon.

Miss Grace Wilcox will move here this week, preparatory to opening school here next Monday, Sept. 9. Miss Laura Luce of Forest Grove will again have charge of the primary department.

Correspondence

COTTRELL

Mrs. Fred Radford and family, Mrs. E. J. Swank and daughters, Mr. and Mrs. Inlow, Mary Bowen and Mrs. Cline started for the hop fields Saturday.

Mrs. Mathews and Miss Newton will open school Sept. 16.

E. E. Beers' sister and family of Portland spent Sunday with him.

Miss May Bowen is ill at her home with rheumatism.

Homer Williams, who is employed at the Robb lumber camp, cut his foot Tuesday, while at work.

Bertie Cline is ill with the mumps.

Miss Dorcas Heslin will open school at Kelson, Sept. 9.

Miss Alma Bowman of Hillsboro, Mrs.

W. H. Godfrey and Miss Winifred Roake of Oregon City have been spending the week with their friends, Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Edwards. During this time they took several delightful drives in this vicinity, visiting friends at Kelso, Powell Valley and Gresham. Miss Bowman and Miss Roake were teachers in the Cottrell school last year. Mrs. Godfrey, principal of the Barclay High school of Oregon City, is much pleased with this, her first visit to this part of the country.

We have two preaching services each Sunday at the Cottrell Baptist church, also Sunday school at 10 a. m., and Christian Endeavor at 7 p. m.

Mr. Sherrill, our new minister, has decided to hold cottage prayer meeting each week, which are very interesting and well attended.

E. J. Williams, who has been spending his vacation at Mt. Hood hunting and fishing, returned last Thursday with a venison, which was enjoyed by his friends.

The new addition to Frank Beers' new house is almost completed, which is a big improvement to our town.

Lee and Jess Radford, John Dickson and Wallace Ball, who have been employed by the Mt. Hood & Eastern Railway Co., have severed their connection with that company.

Jim Jones has purchased the Hyde property and expects to move in soon.

LUSIFEDS

Miss Olive Lusted made a flying trip to Anderson Monday.

Something new and interesting in the way of a party was given by Mrs. Arnold Kuegg at her home on Thursday last week. It was called a "thimble party" and each guest was requested to bring her thimble and some kind of sewing. The day was spent in sewing and refreshments were served at ten cents a plate, the proceeds of which were given to the Cottrell Baptist church. About forty ladies were present and all expressed themselves as having spent a very pleasant day.

The following were guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Lusted Sunday: Miss Inez Lusted, Miss Jessie Francis, B. J. Goff, M. Long, W. H. Woodard and Mr. and Mrs. Borden.

Miss Elva Andre has been visiting her friend, Miss Agnes Jackson of Portland.

Miss Margaret Thorst of Tacoma, who has been visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Hans Cook for some time, was given a party last week. Quite a number of the young folks from Cottrell and Pleasant Home were present and all spent a very enjoyable time.

Mr. and Mrs. Waldemar Fredrickson of Portland were recent callers at the home of Geo. Lusted and wife. Mrs. Fredrickson was Miss Olive Lusted's former music teacher.

Mr. Keller of Gresham has put in a telephone for the Mason Construction company, which is located at Sandy bridge.

The Lusted grade having been badly cut up by the heavy wagons of the Mt. Hood railway company passing over it, a crew of men is at work grading the road, and it will be better than ever.

Mrs. E. F. Andre and children have all been sick with the mumps. Mrs. Andre and daughter Elva have fully recovered, but the two boys, Glenn and Earl, are still unable to be out.

POWELL VALLEY

A host of friends gave Mrs. Bottleson a surprise on Saturday, her birthday. Delicious refreshments were served and a fine time was reported.

Mrs. Fred Wool and children arrived home last Sunday from a visit with relatives at Newberg.

Mr. and Mrs. Emanuel Anderson entertained Mr. and Mrs. Gust Larson and Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Lindgren at dinner last Sunday.

Only a few around here left for the hopfields at Aurora this year.

The Powell school will open Monday, Sept. 16.

SECTION LINE

B. Holman on the Taylorville avenue road is putting up a cozy bungalow.

Roy Buckley returned from eastern Oregon Friday. The alkali water of that region left him wiser and thinner.

W. Jelleway and wife of The Dalles were guests of the Carpenters Tuesday, where they raised wheat in large quantities for the Portland markets.

Mr. Ausspiger and Mr. Buckley were guests at an "at home" at the residence of O. Raber of Portland last Friday.

James Dixon lost a fine driving horse lately. It fell dead from fright at an automobile.

Little Catherine Carpenter was attacked by bees in a terrible manner one day last week. While out in the fields with her father the child stepped into a nest of these pests. In a second's time

the insects had settled all over her head and neck. Her screams of pain and fright could be heard for a long distance. Her father's efforts in trying to get his daughter away from the place resulted in having the insects turn on him, stinging his arms and neck terribly. The baby's grandmother also had her left arm stung. The child's head and neck were a mass of lumps and crimson patches, and long stingers were taken from the injured parts of her body.

MELROSE

Fred Hamilton sold his potato crop to parties in Portland for \$1.00 per hundred and sacks furnished.

Joe Ankers, who has been working for B. P. Reynolds for the past year, has left for England to visit his parents.

Joe Mendall was a visitor at the Reynolds ranch Sunday.

Dave Fisher shot 15 ducks Sunday. He has Mr. Hamilton's place rented again this year.

Mrs. S. Woods is recovering from a severe illness and is now able to around a little. Her daughter-in-law, Mrs. O. Woods, is staying with her a few days.

Mrs. B. P. Reynolds and Mrs. Edwards are spending a few days at Seaside. They are expected home Sunday.

Mr. Henderson sold 15 tons of cats to Mr. Swank of Portland for shipment direct to San Francisco.

(Too late for last week.)

Rev. J. H. Wood and wife are visiting their son at Astoria.

The social given by the Christian Endeavor society Saturday night was a decided success. The talented Snow family was present and afforded an excellent feature in the program.

Mrs. Sam Strebin is on the sick list.

EGYPT

(Too late for last week.)

Burkholder & Gebhart have enough of their machinery in to run now. The cook, Mrs. Yail, was quite sick for several weeks and went to Portland, but is back and improving.

Frank Knieriem and Butler are putting in the mill for Burkholder & Gebhart.

Mrs. Bulay has been in Portland for a visit to her sister.

Mrs. V. Gebhardt has been quite ill, but is now improving.

F. Eding, our popular postman, is having a vacation and Wm. Metzger is driving the mail wagon.

G. Burkholder is home and working at the mill.

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DR. H. H. OTT,
DENTIST
Gresham, Oregon