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TWO MINUTE SKETCHES

James A. Garfield.

By J. A. EDGERTON.



From the tow-path to the presidency is a long ascent.

TO the poor boy looking for an inspiring example the career of James A. Garfield furnishes an ideal and an incentive. From the towpath to the presidency is a long ascent. He had no outward helps in making that climb, but rose only through the strength of his own character. Not only did he rise himself, but he formulated a gospel of success and gave it to the world. He was not without the qualities that appeal to the intellect, but he was supreme in the qualities that appeal to the heart. Generous and warm hearted, yet cool and unimpassioned, strong without harshness, self reliant without boorishness, righteous without phariseism, religious without priggishness, witty without wounding others, possessing good fellowship without letting himself down to things ignoble or unworthy, Garfield was great in his goodness. While possessing much will power, he was not rigid and by some was considered weak. He did not overawe others and force his way by sheer ability, but rather drew men to him and won his points by persuasive arts. His nature, while rugged, was not rough, but was mellowed by a great kindness. In his presence men felt him to be greater than the things he did or said. There was in his very atmosphere that indefinable something which inspires confidence and esteem. Without being dazzling or supereminent in any line he did all things well. An inspiring teacher and minister, a brave and resourceful soldier, a winning and eloquent speaker, a broad minded and efficient legislator, he was far above mediocrity in every field. Had he remained a soldier to the end of the war, he might

have been one of our greatest generals; and his life been spared he might have been one of our most illustrious presidents. Concerning these things we can only speculate. But it was his greatness as a man that was felt by the world rather than his especial accomplishments in any field of endeavor.

Here is one saying of Garfield's that is typical of the man:
"Poverty is uncomfortable, as I can testify, but nine times out of ten the best thing that can happen to a young man is to be tossed overboard and compelled to sink or swim for himself. In all my acquaintance I never knew a man to drown who was worth the saying."

A Risky Subject.

"Do you think, sweetheart," queried the young man with the evenly divided hair, "that your father will consent to our marriage?"

"Well," replied the fair one, "of course papa will be sorry to lose me, but—"

"But," interrupted the rash youth, "I will remind him that instead of losing a daughter he will gain a son."

"Dearest," rejoined the wise maid, "if you really want me you mustn't say anything of the kind. Papa has three such sons boarding with him now, and he's a little touchy on the subject."

Plays and Players.

"Strongheart" is now being used in the stock companies.
John C. Rice and Sally Cohen will star in a new farce called "Just Like a Man."

The revival of "The Pride of Jenico," which James K. Hackett made this season, has been most successful.
Marie Dero has achieved a decided success in London. Both personally and professionally she is exceedingly popular.

Felice Morris, the daughter of the late Felix Morris, will appear in vaudeville in a one act comedy called "The Old, Old Story."

Comprehensive.

"Hubby, is my hat on straight?"
"Well, if your hat is, your hair isn't, and if your hair is, then there's something askew about your hat."—New York Journal.

A ROYAL FUNERAL.

Strange Ceremonies That Mark the Burial of a Spanish King.

Strange and almost weird is the ceremonial which accompanies the burial of Spanish kings. The pantheon, or royal tomb, is at the palace of the Escurial, situated 3,000 feet above the level of the sea and some distance from the capital. Only kings, queens and mothers of kings are buried there, the coffins of the kings lying on one side, those of the queens on the other. After lying in state for several days in the throne room in Madrid an enormous procession is formed, accompanying the body to the Escurial. A halt is made on the way, and the corpse rests there for one night.

In the morning the lord high chamberlain stands at the side of the coffin and says in loud tones, "Is your majesty pleased to proceed on your journey?" After a short silence the procession moves on and winds up to the grand portal of the palace. These doors are never opened except to admit a royal personage, dead or alive. When the casket containing the remains is at last placed in the vault the chamberlain unlocks it and, kneeling down, calls with a loud voice: "Senor! Senor! Senor!"

After a solemn pause he cries again: "His majesty does not reply! Then it is true, the king is dead!"
He then locks the coffin, gives the key to the prior and, taking his staff of office, breaks it in pieces and flings them at the casket. The booming of the guns and the tolling of bells announce to the nation that the king has gone to his final resting place.

QUEER TELEGRAPH POLES.

Made of Adobe in Bolivia—Growing Trees Used in Africa.

The most original telegraph line in the world once extended from the capital of Bolivia, La Paz, to the town of Oruro. In this part of Bolivia there are no growing trees, and wood is so difficult to find that even the ordinary household furniture of the natives is invariably made not of wood, but of dried mud or adobe.

So when the war broke out between Chile and Bolivia and a telegraph line became urgent it was adobe that was chosen for the queerest telegraph poles in existence. These pillars were built on stone foundations and measured about five feet square at the base, with a height of about fifteen feet.

They were placed at intervals of about 361 feet and thus held the wire at a height sufficient to clear the only animals of the country, the llama and the donkey. The total length of the line was 156 miles.

Among other curious telegraph lines is the growing pole line erected in Uganda by an English engineer, who could not find any dead wood which would withstand the white ants and hit upon the idea of transporting growing bark cloth trees to the side of the roads and using them as poles.

In the Dutch East Indies growing trees are turned to account also, but there a wire is stretched across the road between the trees on either side, and the insulator is suspended in its middle, and the line is thus over the road and clear from vegetation.—Chicago Tribune.

Watch Springs.

The watch carried by the average man is composed of ninety-eight pieces, and its manufacture embraces more than 2,000 distinct and separate operations.

Hairspring wire weighs one-twentieth of a grain to the inch. One mile of wire weighs less than half a pound. The balance gives five vibrations every second, 250 every minute, 18,000 every hour, 432,000 every day and 157,080,000 every year.

The value of springs when finished and placed in watches is enormous in proportion to the material from which they are made. A ton of steel made up into hairsprings when in watches is worth more than twelve and one-half times the value of the same weight in pure gold.

Everybody Pleased.

Deacon—Are you willing to go? Unpopular Citizen (sighing)—Oh, yes; I am Deacon—Well, I'm glad you are, for that makes it unanimous.—Judge.

NOT A MILITARY HERO WORSHIPER.

(Original.)

When the Spanish-American war came on Milton Forester was a lieutenant in the national guard. He received a captaincy in the volunteers and marched away with his regiment amid the plaudits of the throngs who lined the streets. There was one face at an upper window which absorbed all the young soldier's attention, the face of his fiancée, Mary Mills. The look of pride in him and love for him that beamed in her eyes might have exhilarated another, but Forester was a peculiarly sensitive man—a man to dread a possible failure. He knew there were certain men whose constitutional makeups unfitted them to be soldiers, and no man can tell whether he is one of these till he comes to face shot and shell. He dreaded lest he might prove unworthy. Should he falter under the terrible strain of battle he would never see Mary again.

Forester thought too much of this. It is well for one to realize obligations he has taken upon himself, but he should not permit himself to brood over the matter. Forester worried all the way to Florida, from Florida to Cuba and during the campaign until the final fighting, which was the first time he was under fire.

It was during this contest about Santiago that his regiment was ordered forward in the face of a terrible fire. One's first fight is the most trying of all. It is then that the soldier for the first time hears the ugly stinging sound of bullets, the rattle of machine guns and the screech of shells, to all of which there is the background of incessant roar of cannon. Forester looked a little pale, but pressed resolutely on.

All of a sudden he became conscious of a dizzy, nauseating sensation, his foot struck something—or he thought it did—and he pitched forward. The regiment pushed on. Another line of battle came up and was pressing forward when Forester was awakened, as it were, by the sound of a voice. Nathan Burge, an old and tried friend, had seen him, recognized him and stopped to succor him.

"Nate," said Forester, "I've fallen out of the ranks. I hadn't the physical ability to go on. Write to Mary Mills and tell her that I'll never see her again. She has loved a coward!"

"Hl, you there! Move on!" cried an officer who was marching in rear to drive on stragglers. Without a word Burge hurried forward, leaving his friend to his own regrets.

When the fight was over Burge sought Forester, but not finding him, supposed that he had hidden his shame by desertion. He waited for a time, thinking that the coward might turn up, but he did not. Burge's regiment was ordered to the coast at the close of the war and was one of the first to embark for home. When he reached Montauk Point the first person he met was Mary Mills. She had come as a nurse. She inquired eagerly for her lover.

Burge prevaricated. He could not bear to deliver the message with which he had been charged. But Mary, with a woman's quick eye where love is concerned, saw that he was concealing something and assumed that her fiancée had been killed. Burge would much rather have broken such news to her than that he had turned out a coward. At last he told her the truth. Mary Mills went home bowed down with grief.

The next morning she heard one of her sisters reading from newspaper dispatches from Santiago. She was about to leave the room, dreading lest she should hear that her lover had been ordered before a court martial to be tried for cowardice, when his name was mentioned, but in a different way from what she had expected:

Milton Forester, wounded in the stomach. Operated upon and expected to recover. Promoted to be captain, vice John Kellogg, killed.

Forester after being left by Burge tried to rise. His object was to push forward with a view to getting himself killed. But he found himself too weak to rise. At that moment a surgeon with an ambulance corps came hurrying on, making hasty examinations of the wounded lying on the field. Coming to Forester, he saw blood on his clothing, tore open his coat and said:

"A bad wound."
"I? Wounded?"
"Yes; in the stomach."
"Thank God!"

The surgeon looked at him with a puzzled expression, but there was no time for words, and after ordering a rescue party to take him to a hospital pushed on.

When the boys of '61 were shot in the stomach there was nothing left for them but to pass the dark portal. Not so in the Cuban war. By that time such progress had been made in surgery that Forester's stomach was laid bare, the wound sewed up, the stomach put back in place, and in time the patient was as well as ever. As soon as it was safe he was put on a transport and sent north. When as a convalescent he walked slowly down the gangway to the dock his friend Burge and his fiancée, Mary Mills, were there to meet him.

"What did you mean," said the former, "by putting up a job on me like that?"

"Well, I'll tell you, Nate. I once asked my father, who commanded a battery in the civil war, how he felt on going into a fight. He said it made him sick at his stomach. I felt sick, and I didn't know I'd been struck."

Mrs. Mary Mills Forester, now a matron of thirty-two, says she believes there is a good deal of humbug about "the fearless heroes of war."

MERRICK AUGER.

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