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### PARADISE FOR THE POETS

World Surely Would Be Pleasant  
Dwelling Place If All Great Sing-  
ers Were Endowed.

A contemporary suggests that poets and poets—be endowed.  
Should such a great and holy reform be established the stream of poetry will at last be undammed. The finger will break its chains. The world may finally make its burning throat its limpid pool of truth. The lyre will be heard in every town and hamlet. Men will read poetry at meals, then improvise it in their sleep. Newspapers and magazines will team with it. There will be swarms of poets, like mosquitoes, catching inspiration from every eye and leaf and fat government subsidy.

For is this all. The poet will become a sort of public utility, like the fire department. His job will be to kindle fire, not extinguish it. He will be required to lead some of action in a municipal audit, there fittingly to commendate great deeds. A poet will be available by night or day for all occasions—public as well as private.

But how shall a poet qualify? How should he be endowed? By length of servitude or quantity and quality of product? What the remuneration? Shall we form a poet's soc, each with his own cage and a yard and trough? Ah, here we become lost in a maze of difficulties. Who will administer the fund? Think how Parnassus might be corrupted!

Yet 'tis worth the experiment. Gayety will be all the world's portion when the poet, jealous of his monetary grant, is found training his muse to jump and bark at pleasure of politics.—*Teledo Blade.*

### NEW ENGLAND PLAGUE SPOT

"Merry Mount" a Resort for the World's Riffraff, Until Wiped Out by Captain Standish.

An interesting chapter on "The Pilgrims in the New England Ocean" by Roland G. Usher's book, "The Pilgrims and Their History," pays special attention to Merry Mount, which other writers on New England have always noticed at length, and which gave Hawthorne material for a story. Morton, who founded it, arrived in Massachusetts only five years after the Pilgrims had landed, and being a gentleman of choleric cultivated vices, disliked the atmosphere of the place. He was a sort of junior partner or helper to one Captain Wollaston, who had a number of indentured servants with him; Wollaston went to Virginia and wrote Morton to bring on these servants to the same place, where they could be sold at an advantageous figure. But with an eye to the main chance, Morton proposed that instead the servants go with him into the wilderness, and found a settlement where they could be (under his loose authority) their own masters. They did so, and this settlement of Merry Mount became a sort of gambling-hell and drunkard's resort for all the riffraff of the region. Morton, captain of a crew of desperate white sailors and settlers, rogues, runaway servants, and even dissolute Indian women, held high sway for a time—till Captain Standish appeared on the scene.

#### Curious.

You would perhaps not notice this cowlike face and fur collar unless you should use a pocket lens, which every scout should have. Then you will find the Mohammas, or sawyer beetle, extremely interesting, says Edward F. Bigelow, scout naturalist, discussing this curious insect in "Boys' Life." These beautiful brown and gray beetles are, including the antennae, about an inch and a quarter long. The antennae or feelers are as long as the body in the case of the female, and twice as long in the male.

Where shall you look for these curious beetles? Search among the needle-like leaves of the pine and fir. The larvae are found in the sound wood of these trees. Sometimes the mature beetles occur in such numbers as to do real injury to the trees, but ordinarily they are not very plentiful, and most scouts are not familiar with them, even where they are fairly abundant.

#### Great Poet's Pretty Ideas.

Among other delightful little glimpses of Longfellow, Mrs. James T. Fields in her book, "Authors and Friends," gives this bit from a letter of his:

"I have been kept home this evening by a little dancing party. I write this arrayed in my dress coat with a rose in my buttonhole, a circumstance I think worth mentioning. It reminds me of Buffon, who used to array himself in his full dress for writing 'Natural History.' Why should we not always do it when we write letters? We should, no doubt, be more courteous and polite, and perhaps say handsome things to each other. It was said of Villain that when he spoke to a lady he seemed to be presenting her a bouquet. Allow me to present you this postscript in the same polite manner, to make good my theory of the rose in the buttonhole."

#### Pa's Subterfuge.

"Say, pa," called the well-known and oft-heard voice.  
"What can I do for you, my son?" asked pa.  
"Is the chairman of a standing committee a sitting position, er—er?"  
"Here is a quarter," interrupted pa.  
"Go out and buy yourself a stick of candy."

### SURELY POSSESSED OF NERVE

How Apparently Embarrassed Man  
Thanked Kind-Hearted Girl Who  
Paid His Fare.

Miss Doris Faithful is a front-row girl and the other day she lived right up to her name. She boarded a pleasure street car en route to her home, writes the New York Times correspondent of the Pittsburgh Dispatch. As she entered the car she became one of the platform suffrages to an altercation in progress between the conductor and a well-dressed, middle-aged man, who gave every evidence of wealth. The middle-aged one had teased the conductor a \$10 bill for his fare, and the latter declared that he could not make change. Also the conductor, after some debate, asserted that unless the man could produce a nickel he would be forced to leave the car. This is where Miss Faithful came in. She stepped forward, offering him the loan of his fare. He accepted with protestations of gratitude, and insisted upon having her name and address. When she related her story to her sisters in art they all agreed she had made a financial coup, and that she would surely be rewarded by a handsome gift, and perhaps also be mentioned in the middle-aged one's will. Expectation ran high, therefore, when at the theater in the evening she opened an envelope which had been left for her at the stage door by one whose description corresponded with that of the man she had befriended on the street car. "Some check," she muttered, as with trembling fingers she tore open the envelope. Inside she found a lengthy letter expressing appreciation of "one who had the time and willingness to be courteous to a stranger," and postage stamps to the extent of five cents, in payment of the financial obligation incurred. That was all disappointing enough, but the real blow came in a postscript which read: "I should like to see you as you appear professionally and would appreciate a pass for two any night."

### WHERE RAIN SELDOM FALLS

Chilean Provinces a Desert Region,  
Though the Climate Is Healthy Be-  
cause Free From Germs.

The Chilean provinces of Atacama, Tarapaca and Tacna are in the rainless region, or desert country west of the Andes, and are entirely devoid of vegetation. The winds in all of this region are from the east, and in passing over the elevated perpetual snows of the Andes are stripped of their moisture and arrive on the coast perfectly dry.

The last rain, a slight shower which fell in Antofagasta, in Atacama province, was the first rain which had fallen in 16 years. The last rain which fell in Iquique, in Tarapaca province, was the first in 24 years. With both of these showers a notable phenomenon occurred. The bare hills back of these cities assumed a green tint from a little plant which sprang up almost in a night. The query is: "From where did this plant come?"

The whole of the coast presents a most dismal and discouraging appearance from the sea, but the climate is healthful, being especially adapted to pulmonary and throat troubles from its extreme dryness and freedom from germs. The heat is modified by a local sea breeze, and the sea bathing is most invigorating, as the water is cold.

#### Welcome Gift.

A learned professor often became so interested in his lecture that when the noon bell rang he kept the class five or ten minutes over the hour. Some of the students decided to give him a gentle hint, and accordingly bought an alarm clock, which they set to go off precisely at noon, and the next time they came in to one of his lectures placed it on the desk, trusting that as he was somewhat absent-minded he would not notice it. When the noon hour struck the alarm clock went off with a crash. Very quietly the professor waited until the alarm was over; then, turning to the class, he said: "Gentlemen, I thank you for this little gift. I had quite forgotten it was my birthday. An alarm clock is something my wife has been wanting for some time. It is a very kindly remembrance on your part!" He then calmly proceeded to finish the demonstration.

#### The Largest Tree.

The most remarkable tree in the world, perhaps, is the banyan, of India. A tree of this species, on an island in the Nerbudda river, is believed to be the same one that is mentioned by Alexander the Great. The branches send down numerous "aerial" roots that grow down to the soil and form props or additional trunks, until a single tree often covers so large an area that it will shelter thousands of men. At the time of Alexander the Great's visit, one tree covered so extensive an area that it sheltered ten thousand men. Under the protecting shade of these trees the Indian merchants still conduct their markets. The merchants are known as "banians," because they abstained from meat for many centuries, but modern customs have driven out many of the Hindu's traditions.—*People's Home Journal.*

#### Unpleasant Subject.

Newrich—Young man, I had to work hard for my money.  
Son—Well, dad, enough people in our set are throwing that up to me without your talking about it.—*Boston Transcript.*

### LAND INNOCENT OF BATHTUBS

In Turkey the Stationary Tub, So Familiar in Western Lands, Is Absolutely Unknown.

The Turk in spite of his constant bathing (bathing being enjoined by the Mohammedan religion) has no stationary tubs nor wash bowls—instead, Turkish houses are quite innocent of plumbing, says Edith Gilfillan, in an article on the colorful ancient capital of the Ottoman empire. But as the Turk never bathes save in running water the brick floors contain drains that carry the water to the garden outside. Always before eating, a servant pours, from a pitcher, water over an orient's hands; which seems a wise provision, for they do not use knives nor forks; spoons only are used to eat soup or sherbet.

They do not sit around a table as we do, but sit on cushions round foot-high table trays. All over the year east they have but two meals. Breakfast is a sort of movable feast up to eleven o'clock. It consists of coffee, fruit and various hot breads. The Turk is enabled to sustain life until his dinner at sunset by drinking innumerable cups of thick, hot, heavily-sweetened coffee.

Dinner, which is consumed in the evening, is the only meal the Turk takes in the bosom of his family. It often is an elaborate affair of twelve courses: Tomatoes and squash and eggplant and other vegetables stuffed with rice or minced meat or cheese, fish swimming in oil, mutton stew, goat fricassee, roasted chickens, rich pastries and candies, preserves of plum and quince and fig and peach, and always coffee and the harmless waterpipe.

At some of these dinners they drink a sort of brandy called raki; but alcoholic drinks are anathema to the orthodox Turk.

### SOLDIER OF FORTUNE PASSES

World Seen to Have Little Use for Picturesque Character Whose Fortune Was His Sword.

If it shall now come to pass, as it well may, that there shall be an end put to wars, the old-time soldier of fortune will become an extinct species.

The world, of course, can get along very well without him, and yet he will be missed. For he is a very ancient institution, indeed. He was with Alexander and Caesar, Napoleon, the captains and the kings of every nation under the sun wherever there was a knife to stick or a bullet to shoot.

Slowly but surely, however, the ground has been cut from under the feet of the soldier of fortune, and now it seems that, at last, he is to disappear completely.

He had a good time, though, while it lasted, and it did last a long time, at that. For there was always, somewhere, a job waiting for him. If things went stale on the Spanish Main, he could cross over to the other side of the world and find another banner under which to fight.

It was all the same to him, which side he fought with or against. He had no enemies, no hatreds; he had no grudge to satisfy. His business was fighting. The double-bro of Spain looked just as good to him as the sovereign of England or the yen of Japan.

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