THE NEW POSTMAN

By EDITH W. GOODWIN.

"Sister's crosser'n a bear; mamma has a headache and I can't make any noise! all the other boys have gone sliding, and I can't go!"

David Burbank roamed listlessly about the house in search of something to pass away time. A slight cold was the reason he wasn't allowed to go sliding with his chums.

He failed to find anything among his playthings that appealed to him, so he struck a few notes on the piano, but was promptly told by sister Adele "to stop that noise!"

The little fellow wondered what made Adele so cross. She was usually a good pal with her young brother, but today she had only cross words for him.

"What's this?" he queried aloud. "Sister must have forgot to mail her letters: I'll go mail 'em, then maybe she won't be so cross at me."

He had caught sight of a pile of letters, but failed to notice that each one had been opened, and that they were all but one addressed to his sister. He counted them; there were twenty-four in all.

He quickly put on his coat, cap, rubbers and mittens and, taking the letters under his arm, proceeded down the street.

Davie walked on a little further, then quite suddenly he retraced his steps. He had an idea. Why not play he was the postman, and leave the letters at different houses?

With him, to think was to act, so he didn't stop to consider the fact that he might not leave them at their intended designations, but quickly ascended the steps of the nearest house and dropped the letter at the top of the pile into the mail box. Then he rang the bell and hurried on.

He repeated this at four or five houses, then decided to try different streets. Ere long he came to the home of Wilbur Downes. Wilbur was a particular friend of Adele's. In fact, although the little brother didn't quite understand the situation, he had been Adele's promised husband, but only a few days previous they had parted with bitter words.

"Guess I'll leave two letters for Wilbur," was the lad's next inspiration. He carefully selected two fat letters from the bunch and dropped them in the box one at a time.

At last he had finished his self-imposed task and turned his steps homeward. The family were at supper. Mother's headache was better; Adele looked pale and was very quiet.

When questioned as to where he had been Davie replied that he had gone to walk, as he couldn't think of anything else to do. His mother feared he could have taken more cold and put him to bed soon after the meal was over.

He suddenly awoke after what seemed to him hours and hours. The comfort was pealing loudly. Presently soon he heard Adele exclaim rather curtly:

"Wilbur Downes! I thought you were done coming to see me!"

"I thought so, too, Adele; but I must ask you to explain something; then I'll know just what course to take."

"You'd better come in, then; it's too cold to stand here."

Davie was very anxious to hear the remainder of the conversation, so he hastily got out of bed and went into the spare chamber on tiptoe. There was a register in the floor right over the parlor stove, and he had on several occasions listened here when Wilbur was calling on Adele. He heard the following:

"I found these two letters in the mail box at home, and I can't imagine how they got there. Perhaps you can tell me."

"Let me see them!" and Adele snatched them away from him. One was addressed to her in Wilbur's handwriting; the other was addressed to him in her own penmanship.

Her cheeks flamed and she got up and walked the floor. After a few moments she faced Wilbur and asked peremptorily:

"Did you read the one addressed to you?"

"Of course I did, Adele! what else could I do?"

"Well, I guess Davie's used you to suit his red rag, anyway. Davie must have put them there. I'm sorry I'm the cause of your being troubled."

"Then Adele, if you really mean what you say, I will have been repaid for the trouble I took to read that."

The reader ignores what follows. Suffice it to say that Adele was soon in Wilbur's arms. Davie had put them there, he said, for the sake of his sister, who was so lonesome.

All was quiet for a moment or two then Davie was sure he heard the sofa creaking. Wilbur was spending in very low tones and the lad couldn't hear what he said.

When singing came Davie could hardly speak aloud, and he either kept him in bed all day. He rather dreaded to have Adele come in, but when she did, instead of the scolding he expected she smiled like "dear little brother," and even kissed him, and didn't seem a bit cross, either.

The first time he saw Wilbur he was broad in his shoulder and told that he was the best person in the world, and that he was proud to think that some day he was to be his own little brother, for many Adele had promised to marry him.

(THE END.)

Home Town Helps

HOMES MAKE GOOD CITIZENS

To Own One's Own Home Means Acquirement of a Certain Standing in the Community.

"He's a home owner and a taxpayer," is the best recommendation any man can have in his own community. It gives him a standing forthwith, not so much as a person of some financial importance, but as a dependable, substantial and self-respecting citizen, wisely regardful of his own and his family's happiness and best interests, and at the same time an asset to the neighborhood in which he lives. So universal is the home-loving instinct that it might almost be said there is something wrong morally with the man or woman who does not care to own a home; and that is why the malcontents, the habitual industrial disturbers and the socially restive that inflict themselves on all countries are of the element that is very largely without home ties.

Unless all signs fail, this is to be the great American home-building year. Stimulated by the government's urgent advice to "own a home for your children's sake," and by the injunction that during the war it was patriotic not to build, now we can best show our patriotism by building, there has been a tremendous revival in the sentiment for home ownership. The indications are that the unhappy classes of renters and boarders will be greatly depleted before the end of 1919, and that there will be many thousands of additional families entered upon the life of happiness and contentment to be found only in the home.

The price of building materials today is not high, as compared with prices of other commodities, and the community that does not add materially to its total of homes this year is likely to be rated as lacking in patriotism as well as good business judgment.

GOOD USE FOR OLD WELL

Water in It Employed to Cool That in Use in the Public Drinking Fountain.

In many cities which have acquired water systems, there are old wells which have been abandoned and closed. The illustration shows how one of these was used in a Western city to cool the water used in a public drinking fountain. The supply pipe for the fountain, instead of running directly from the water main to the base of the fountain, led first to the coil pipe which was placed below the water line in the old well. As the drinking water flowed through the

The Cold Water in the Old Well, No Longer Considered Fit for Drinking, Was Used to Cool the Water Piped to the Drinking Fountain.

coils of this coil, some of its heat was radiated to the cold water in the well, and, on emerging at the upper end of the coil into the pipe leading to the fountain, it was several degrees cooler than when leaving the water main. The device is especially effective on fountains of the type which are not running continuously, but are turned on by pressing a lever.—Popular Mechanics Magazine.

Unique Horticultural Club.

Takoma Park, D. C., has a horticultural club of 130 members, half of them are specialists and scientists of the United States department of agriculture. This club was dedicated to promote practical culture of flowers and gardening of home grounds, also to aid in civic improvements, as well as in the beautifying and cleanliness of flowers and vegetables. The club has classes under trained plant specialists, and offers instructive competition for its members. Flowers and garden tools are sold at reduced prices to members. This year the office, including the care and choice seed and plants, as well as a working fund for annual, will be awarded to the best flower for the best vegetable garden.

Town Plants 850 Trees.

New Bedford, Mass., is planting 850 trees this spring and it is claimed that it almost holds the record for the number of trees it is planting in proportion to street miles, according to a report to the American Forestry association of Western states campaign for memorial trees for soldiers and sailors in parks and which is replacing all old trees.

"Flower in Every Home."

Now, let's celebrate the return of peace by "cleaning up," "painting up" and put it into national observance to stay. The motto is "A Flower in Every Home."

BOLSHEVIKI LEFT DEATH IN WAKE

Murdered Civic Leaders and Sacked Homes Before Quitting Riga.

15,000 ILL FROM STARVATION

Captain Forman Makes an Official Report on Conditions to the American Relief Administration—No Bread for Weeks.

New York.—Before the bolshevists abandoned Riga they murdered most of the civic leaders, played machine guns on the persons in one prison and sacked the homes of the wealthy, according to an official report received here by the American relief administration.

This report, made by Capt. Howell Forman, head of the administration's Baltic mission, and forwarded by Herbert Hoover, director general of the organization, asserted that inhabitants of Riga, heartened by the arrival of American supplies, had turned on their oppressors and now were hunting down bolshevists and executing many daily.

The report warned that "a large radical element is left in the population, and failure of the authorities to provide food until the city can get on its feet again might lead them, with the assistance of the bolshevists still in hiding, to attempt another uprising."

Even with the arrival of American supplies food conditions were pictured as distressing. "Roof rabbits"—bolshevik for house cats—are bringing almost prohibitive prices, as they are virtually the only form of meat available.

15,000 Persons Ill.

Captain Forman reported that 187,000 persons—nearly 15,000 of whom are seriously ill from typhus, effects of starvation and other causes—are receiving a meal a day from 50 American kitchens, while American bread is being distributed from 90 depots. With an epidemic of dysentery feared in the approaching warm season, American medical experts are studying the situation to decide what foods are most urgently needed.

"Before the bolshevists abandoned the city they opened the doors of one prison and drove the prisoners into the yard, where machine guns played upon them," said Captain Forman's report. "The bodies of seven clergymen and a number of women were found when troops entered the city.

"Under the bolshevik reign occupants of hand-some residences were moved into slums and hordes of ragamuffins invaded richly furnished apartments. Houses of the wealthy were ransacked and furniture, clothing and jewelry shipped into the interior.

"To be well dressed in Riga today is dangerous." A grim local jest says if a man is well dressed he is a bolshevik; if in rags he is harmless.

"The bolsheviks divided the population into three classes for distribution of food. To receive this daily ration applications had to be made for cards, but as applicants were often thrown into prison instead of receiving cards, many were frightened into staying away and starving.

No Bread for Weeks.

"Feeble men and women stood in line for hours to receive their rations, and often there was no bread for weeks. When there was any extra food, such as meat, fats or vegetables, bolshevik commissaries were the only ones to benefit. No food was to be had in open markets.

"The bolshevik ration being insufficient the inhabitants either starved, or if they had property exchanged jewelry or clothing for bits of food smuggled into the city by peasants from the country. Exorbitant prices were demanded. Bright-hued bolshevik currency, printed in vast quantities, was thrown about in the streets, being practically valueless.

"Curious crowds still gather on the water front at Libau watching white flour unloaded from American ships of the American relief administration. Women and children in wretchedness pick flour from the floor and sift it into their dirty rags. Hundreds of people are now in the city who have lost everything, the population is reduced from 1,000,000 to one-third."

THIS IS WHY YOU THIRST

Relative Drying of Mucosa of Mouth and Pharynx Is Pre-Eminent Factor.

Cambridge, Mass. — "Thirst is a "purely local phenomenon," according to Dr. W. B. Cannon of Harvard.

And that's not all. Listen:

"The pre-eminent factor is the relative drying of the mucosa of the mouth and pharynx. This may result from excessive use of the passage for breathing, as in prolonged speaking or singing, or may be caused by deficient salivary secretion."

Doctor Cannon says the latter condition represents true thirst, dependent on the fact that the salivary glands which keep the buccal and pharyngeal mucosa moist require water for their proper functioning.

MARKED DOWN.

"$2 silks $1.99—" It is a most alluring sign, We didn't want 'em yesterday; But now they are attractive, hey?"

AMPLIFIED PERSONALITY.

What's the idea of using the pronoun "we" so often in your articles?

Well, it's a matter of self-protection. In case anybody takes offense I want to sound as much as possible like a crowd.

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