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**THE BIRDLIKE LAUGH**

[Original]  
The sunlight coming down through the leaves danced in spots on the ground. The brook flowed merrily, sending back from below where it tumbled over the rocks a pleasant sound. Occasionally a bird in the top-most branches gave two melodious notes, attuned to the brook, the lowing of cattle, the chopping of the trunks of trees, the humming of insects—indeed, the harmony of country sounds.

But what was that? Like the notes of the bird, yet something human in it. At any rate, it was delicious. I listened. There it is again. This time I recognized a girl's laugh. It was more than a laugh; it was an expression of perfect happiness. As the sounds of the country were attuned to the notes of the bird all were attuned to this laugh.

I heard voices coming, and presently a bevy of young girls emerged from a cove. Among them was one whom I noticed beyond the rest. There were tall girls and short girls, girls with piercing black eyes, girls with thick coils of hair. The one I noticed was like none of these. Her face was simple pink and white innocence; her figure a perfection of the ordinary. A simplicity of attire, together with the harmony of her various physical characteristics, led me to admire without at first realizing what was admired. Perfection rarely strikes us all at once. It must have time to grow on us.

Suddenly she burst into a laugh, the birdlike ebullition I had heard a few minutes before.

Doubtless some one of her companions had said something amusing, but it did not appear that this was the cause of her merriment. It seemed rather to be a spontaneous outburst of a happy soul, an innocent soul, a soul that had never known suffering. It was two notes at the end of the laugh that were almost an exact repetition of the notes of the bird I had heard. To me they seemed to rise to the heavens, then come back as an echo. They floated among the branches of the trees, I drank them in with the air I breathed.

These fair creatures were like a meteor in the sky—an appearance and a disappearance, with nothing between. But now and again at intervals I could hear that melodious laugh mingled with others, each time growing fainter till at last I was left with those country sounds which had been so sweet, but now seemed to have lost their sweetness.

Five years passed when I saw the girl with the birdlike laugh again. I was visiting the Golden Gate of the west. One morning I was awakened before day by a huge mass of plaster falling on my chest. I jumped out of bed and was thrown violently against a chiffonier. The building, a hotel, seemed like a flag in a high wind. I recognized the earthquake. I got down on the floor and crawled to the door; then as the rocking ceased I rose to my feet and went downstairs and into the street. Men and women were there, nearly all in their nightclothes, the women very properly covered in long, flowing nightdresses.

Now, I had gone to bed the night before unable to find two parts of the same suit of pajamas. So I had put on a green shirt and red trousers. Having a cold, I had also worn a yellow skullcap.

A new shock came. It seemed to last minutes, but its duration was only seconds. The face of a building fell into the street. New flames burst out in every direction. A man was carried by with blood streaming over his face. There was a rush of cattle mingled with men, women and children. Was this pandemonium?

Suddenly above the discordant noises I heard a familiar sound. Was it an angel's voice speaking to the stricken people to give them courage? Surely amid this frightful din a voice so heavenly could not come from a human being. I turned and there stood the girl with the birdlike laugh. Beside her holding her hand, was her image, a child of perhaps three years. She was no longer a girl; she was a woman. She was laughing at my red, green and yellow attire.

"Surely," I said, "if this woman can laugh amid such surroundings, she will laugh when the earth is burst asunder and scattered through space."

I was destined to meet her a third time and that in a few days. I was working among the sick of the stricken city when a man approached and asked if I were a doctor. I replied that I was, and he asked me to go with him. I did so and was taken to one of the better class of residences that had not been burned. Mounting a staircase, I was shown into a bedroom. A woman met me at the door. I started. It was she of the birdlike laugh.

She led me into the room, evidently not remembering ever having seen me before. On a bed lay the child I had seen holding her hand when she had laughed at my incongruous costume. The mother looked at the little face then at me wistfully. Had I never heard her happy laugh perhaps that wistful look would not have unnerved me. I saw her child in the grasp of the dreaded pneumonia and knew that I could do very little to check the disease.

One morning I was sent for in great haste. I went and the moment I saw the child I knew that it was dead. It was my duty to tell the mother. She gave one heart-breaking moan.

I have seen her often since, and I know that the merry laugh of one who has experienced a great grief has gone never to return. F. A. MITCHEL.

**Could Tell It Another Way.**  
Many years ago an old and well-to-do farmer in western New York had something of a reputation as a litigant. He had a peculiar twist about his mouth when he talked, due to some muscular affection, which gave a striking effect to his utterances. His old neighbors tell of a trip that he made to see his lawyers on a certain occasion when he had made up his mind to have a lawsuit. He sat down with his lawyer and laid out his case before him at length. The lawyer said, "Well, on that statement you haven't any case." The old man hitched his trousers nervously, twitched his face and hastily replied, "Well, I can tell it another way."—Case and Comment.

**The Dominion of Canada.**  
The Dominion of Canada came into existence on July 1, 1867. The province of Canada was divided into upper and lower Canada, which divisions are known now as Ontario and Quebec respectively. It was subsequently augmented by the province of Manitoba and the Northwest Territories in 1870, by British Columbia in 1871 and Prince Edward Island in 1873 and now includes the whole of British North America.

**Men Are Bigger Now.**  
Until the sixteenth century armor developed in a logical way, its forms were governed by the necessities of war, and changes in it were the result of practical experience and actual experiment on the battlefield. After the sixteenth century it became fantastic and meaningless, a gala costume rather than a harness. The greatest captains opposed its use, but the nobles clung to it as a mark of distinction. After it was made bullet proof it became so enormously heavy that at the end of the sixteenth century it was complained that gentlemen of thirty were even at that age deformed by the weight of their armor. In spite of the huge armors of Henry VIII, or Anthony of Burgundy and of some others, the average size of the modern man is greater than that of the soldier of the middle ages and the renaissance, if we can judge from the armor preserved in the museums of England and the continent, which are with few exceptions, small and narrow, especially the leg and thigh pieces.—London Mail.

**The Ungainly "Mud Devil."**  
A most curious, ugly and ungraceful, semi-aquatic creature is that which is known by the common name of mud devil or hellbender. The mud devil has neither the spiked tail, the horned head nor the cloven hoofs that are supposed to be the distinguishing marks of the evil one, but he is hideous enough to suggest all sorts of horrid dreams and nightmares, and on that account has been made more repulsive by the bestowal of his unphonous common name. He is not poisonous in any way, has no horns or sting, but is simply a mud devil because he is repulsively ugly. In general appearance his distorted and wart covered body is not exactly unlike that of a gigantic tadpole. His average length is about eighteen inches, but occasional well fed individuals may exceed even two feet from tip to tip. He has a broad, flat head and a sharp sawlike fin running from the middle of the back to the tail.

**Bad Error.**  
"That was a rather serious mistake the types made in speaking of young Golithly."  
"In what way?"  
"Changed a 'u' into an 'n' and said he was a ragged specimen of athletic manhood."

**An Exception.**  
"I never heard such a lot of gossip. The walls in that boarding house have ears, haven't they?"  
"Yes, everywhere except about the dumb waiter."—Baltimore American.

**His Size.**  
Cholly Nowitt—D'ye know, Miss Smart, though I've only just met you there seems to be a sort of intellectual sympathy between us. You know just how to appeal to my tastes, you see. Are you a literary woman? Dolly Smart—No; I'm a kindergarten teacher.

**Prosperity Rebekah Lodge No. 104**  
I. O. O. F. meets in the A. O. U. W. hall every first and third Thursdays in the month. Jennie Hurn, S. G.  
Lorinda M. Sauber, secretary.

**K. of P.—Klamath Lodge No. 99**  
meets in the A. O. U. W. hall every Monday evening. Bert Bamber, C. C.  
John Hamilton, K. of R. and S.

**M. W. of A.—Lodge meets in the A. O. U. W. hall every first and third Wednesdays in the month.**  
W. B. McLaughlin, Consul  
W. A. Phelps, Clerk.

**Foresters of America—Ewauna Camp, No. 61,** meets in the A. O. U. W. hall every second and fourth Fridays in the month.  
C. D. Willson, C. R.  
E. E. Jamison, Rec. Sec.

**W. O. W. Ewauna Camp, No. 799,** W. O. W. meets every Tuesday evening at 7:30 o'clock at Sanderson's hall. All neighbors cordially invited.  
C. K. Brandenburg, Clerk.

**A. F. & A. M.—Klamath Lodge No. 77,** meets Saturday evening on or before the full moon of each month in 506 Masonic Hall. Alex Martin Jr, W. M.  
W. E. Bowdoin, Secretary.

**O. E. S.—Aloha Chapter No. 61,** meets in the Masonic hall every second and fourth Tuesday evenings in each month. Laura A. White, W. M.  
Jennie E. Reames, Secretary.

**I. C. O. F.—Klamath Lodge No. 137** meets every Saturday evening in the A. O. U. W. hall. Jasper Bennett, N. G.  
Geo. L. Humphrey, Secretary.

**Ewauna Encampment No. 46, I. O. O. F.** Encampment meets second and fourth Saturdays in the month in the A. O. U. W. hall. Jasper Bennett, C. P.  
Geo. L. Humphrey, scribe.

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15-10-tl. Bird Loosley.

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**SOCIETIES OF KLAMATH FALLS**  
A. O. U. W.—Linkville Lodge No. 110 meets in the A. O. U. W. hall every Tuesday evening. Visiting Brothers always welcome. Roy Hamakar, M. W.  
J. W. Siemens, Recorder.

**Evangeline Lodge No. 88** Degree of Honor Lodge meets in the A. O. U. W. hall every second and fourth Thursdays in the month. Nancy S. White, C. of H.  
Jesse Marple, Recorder.

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