AFRO-AMERICAN CULLINGS

E. Julius Williams writes in the Birmingham (Ala.) Age-Herald as follows:

"In the message sent out by the governor of our great state, he said, 'Let us save the white boy and girl by stamping out ignorance.' Did he mean that we infer that he meant, to not overlook the fact that their salvation depended largely upon the extent of consideration given 400,000 Negroes of school age in this state?

"Two races cannot live in the same state, under the same law, enjoying the same pursuits of happiness and life, if one race's interests are advanced at the sacrifice of the other.

"Our state superintendent of education has not as yet found time to say much in behalf of the Negro children.

"Our county superintendents have not spoken out in loud tones; maybe after a while they will be heard from.

"When we think of it, we are not pleasantly reminded; the education of my people started at the head but not at the foot, because it is at the bottom of life's ladder one must begin life's journey. We were first taught to make a living, when our first lesson should have been to make a life."

Here is the remarkably practical and workable suggestion of this man who so feelingly writes of his race.

This matter should come to the attention of every man, woman and child in the state:

"If in every home where my people are employed as servants they are given one-half hour—even a quarter of an hour—each day by the third or fourth grade child in that home teaching these servants to spell, read and write their own names, what a great school we would have through this medium for the Negro, and how much it would mean to your children. Many of the cooks live in the yard and not a few have children. In spite of all you do, your children will learn from them by association.

"What is true of your cook and children is true of your washerwoman and children, nurse and children, your driver and children, and even the men, women and children of my race that pass your home. Your children going on the street to and fro from school in this way form habits through observation.

"Will it pay? Will it be worth while striking out ignorance among the 400,000 in our state?

"We need more laws of human kindness and less laws of civil punishment."

We cannot but realize the justice of this man's plea; we know when the Negro woman has been properly educated, as is being done in a comparatively small way by the institutions of learning for the Negro in this state; the tired mother may not be subjected to the diet of underdone or overdone food, the child will not so often be the victim of disease and careless nursing, through the companionship of an ignorant nurse maid.

Because the South still considers the Negro in the light of a domestic necessity, the occupation of house servant becomes their vocation. If we desire efficiency in our Negro help we must at least grant them education along the lines of work they have been placed in.

Fire losses and the expense of fire prevention cost the United States more each year than the total value of its production of gold, silver, copper and petroleum.

The fact brought out by Dr. William C. Woodward, health officer of Washington, D. C., before a Negro health conference in New Orleans, that the high death rate among Negroes is not wholly due to hygienic conditions, but to racial ones as well, serves only to increase the concern with which the entire subject is being viewed. The Negroes, according to this authority, are, for physical and racial reasons, not so well prepared as the whites for the conditions of climate and mode of life in this country. To add the handicap of the racially unfit to the already heavy burden shouldered by the Negro is to increase the load of responsibility for the waite man.

When Houston, Atlanta, New Orleans and other large southern cities began to investigate the sanitary and living conditions in their Negro quarters recently the communities were shocked at the revelation. In a state of segregation the thing would have been bad enough. But colored nurses, cooks and servants of the white people lived amid these conditions and came daily from them to wash, dress and nurse the children of white people, serve their meals and clean their houses. This fact, needless to say,, struck residents of those cities with considerable force.

Protests had been made to the census bureau for not separating the whites and blacks in the mortality figures for southern cities, the contention being that the high rate was unfair to charge against the white people. But after the first flush of indignation wore away and people gave the subject sober second thought it was realized that perhaps the white people were in part responsible for the high death rate among Negroes, inasmuch as they had done little or nothing to decrease the figure.

The determined effort on the part of the white man to know in broader terms the life of the southern Negro has been remarked by Dr. W. D. Weatherford of the international committee of the Y. M. C. A. "This is no morbid curiosity," he said at Memphis last spring, "nor is it a passing fad. There are fewer magazine articles, perhaps, and less agitation, but a book written by a southern woman passed the 20,000 mark within eighteen months after its publication, which is a marvelous sale for any book dealing with a social problem. I make bold to say that there have been more volumes on the Negro read by southern whites in the last five years than were read in all the 50 years preceding."

This same authority cited also the determination by the best element in the South to share in the religious and social improvement of the Negro race. Farm demonstration agents are helping from one to a dozen Negroes to become better farmers. County superintendents throughout the South are holding institutes for colored people with much thoroughness and enthusiasm and visiting Negro schools as never before.

A wounded soldier who was operated on in Paris was found to have suffered from 68 separate wounds. Most of them were from bullets and pieces of shell. A remarkable fact is that the man will probably recover.

With English engineers doing the work, the Russian city of Baku will obtain a new water supply from mountains 120 miles distant.

The fifteenth anniversary of the founding of the Negro Business league, of which Booker T. Washington is president, will be celebrated in Boston August 18 to 20. The organization was formed for the discussion and solution of business and economic problems peculiar to the Negro race. The coming sessions will be devoted to a consideration of the progress made since 1900 and to practical suggestions for new business methods and for general co-operation.

According to figures compiled by the league, since 1900 the number of Negro business enterprises in the country has increased from 20,000 to 45,000; the number of Negro banks from 2 to 51; the number of drug stores from 250 to 695; Negro-owned undertaking establishments from 450 to 1,000; wholesale businesses from 149 to 240; retail stores from 10,000 to 25,000.

Since the organization of the league, as revealed by the federal census for 1910, farm property owned by Negroes has increased 177 per cent in value—from $177,404,688 to $492,892,218. The value of domestic animals from $85,216,337 to $177,273,785, or 107 per cent; poultry from $3,788,792 to $5,113,756, or 36 per cent; implements and machinery from $18,586,225 to $36,861,418, or 98 per cent; land and buildings from $69,636,420 to $273,501,665, or 293 per cent.

Officers of several affiliated organizations, among which are the National Negro Press association, the National Negro Bankers' association, the National Negro Funeral Directors' association, the National Negro Bar association and the National Association of Negro Insurance Men, will tell the members of the league the results attained in their several lines. Besides the business meetings a social program is being arranged.

A special train will carry the Southern members of the league to Boston, and arrangements are being made for other trains to bring delegates from Chicago and further west. Emmett J. Scott of Tuskegee, Ala., is in charge of these details.

A Paris scientist is trying to collect phonograph records of all forms of speech.

The list of the British and Foreign Bible society at the present time includes versions in 456 tongues—the complete Bible in 112 languages, the New Testament in 111 more, and at least one book of Scripture in 233 other languages.

Many public bequests are contained in the will of William H. Swasey of Newburyport, which was filed at Salem. Among them is one of $10,000 to the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial school.

A woman will labor hard all day shopping for her friends, just for the pleasure of spending the money.

Before going courting, get acquainted with the neighbors and hear their opinion of the girl.

When we don't go at simple things in a complex way, life is less a picture puzzle.

Women who associate with fresh youth longest retain the freshness of youth.

The amount of whisky distilled in Kentucky fell off two-thirds last year, the decrease in Pennsylvania was 33 per cent and that in Maryland more than 40 per cent. Prohibitionists say that since whisky is kept from four to eight years before consumption, a corresponding decrease in usage is expected in that length of time.

Cape Cod, the peninsula of Massachusetts, is no longer a cape. It has been made an island by the completion of the Cape Cod canal.

The joke about finding a long hair on a man's coat is the oldest one in the world, and the poorest.

It is hard for a woman to realize there was a time when there were only two files in the world.

If you can tell whether it is old whisky the probabilities are that you drink too much of it.

The whale's progress through the water is limited to ten or twelve miles an hour.

GERMANS BURN A RUSSIAN TOWN

In the German advance toward Libau, the Teutons retaliated for the incendiarism of the Russians in eastern Prussia by setting fire to many of the towns and villages in their path. The picture shows the Russian town of Szwale going up in flames as the poor inhabitants flee with their scant goods. German officers and soldiers are observing the effects of their work.

NATIONAL WEALTH SHOWS BIG GAIN

Increase of 75 Per Cent Is Record Made in Eight Years.

FEDERAL DEBT ALSO GROWS

Interesting Facts Brought Out in Decennial Report of Wealth, Public Indebtedness and Taxation by the United States Census Bureau.

Washington, D. C.—The decennial report on wealth, debt and taxation, issued by Director Sam L. Rogers of the bureau of census, department of commerce, and compiled under the direction of Mr. Starke M. Grogan, chief statistician in charge of the inquiry, will show an increase in the national wealth of 75 per cent in eight years; in net federal indebtedness, of 6 per cent in 11 years; in net state indebtedness, of 44.5 per cent in 11 years; in net county indebtedness, of 89 per cent in 11 years; in net municipal indebtedness, of 114 per cent in 11 years; and in the general property tax levy, of 86 per cent in 10 years.

In this report are brought together in two bound volumes all the statistics pertaining to the general subject of wealth, debt and taxation which have been issued from time to time during the past year in a series of bulletins.

The National Wealth.

The bureau estimates the total value of all classes of property in the United States, exclusive of Alaska and the insular possessions, in 1912 at $187,739,000,000, or $1,965 per capita. This estimate is presented merely as the best approximation which can be made from the data available and as being fairly comparable with that published eight years ago. The increase between 1904 and 1912 was 75 per cent for the total amount and 49 per cent for the per capita. Real estate and improvements, including public property, alone constituted $110,677,000,000, or 59 per cent of the total, in 1912. The next greatest item, $16,149,000,000, was contributed by the railroads; and the third, $14,694,000,000, represented the value of manufactured products, other than clothing and personal adornment, furniture, vehicles and kindred property.

Public Indebtedness.

The net public indebtedness in 1913 amounted to $4,850,461,000. This amount was made up as follows: National debt, $1,028,564,000, or $10.59 per capita; state debt, $345,942,000, or $3.57 per capita; county debt, $371,528,000, or $4.33 per capita; and municipal debt, $2,884,883,000, or $54.27 per capita. Thus the average urban citizen's share of the net federal, state, county and municipal debt combined was $72.76; and the average rural citizen's share of the net federal, state and county debt combined was $18.49.

The total federal debt in 1910 was $2,916,205,000, of which amount $967,366,000 was represented by bonds, $375,682,000 by noninterest-bearing debt (principally United States notes or "greenbacks"), and $1,573,157,000 by certificates and notes issued on deposits of coin and bullion. Against this indebtedness there was in the treasury $1,887,641,000 in cash available for payment of debt, leaving the net national indebtedness at $1,028,564,000, or $10.59 per capita. The increase in the net indebtedness between 1902 and 1913 amounted to 6 per cent, but for the per capita figure there was a decrease of 13 per cent. The burden due to the national debt is thus very light in comparison with that imposed by the indebtedness of other great nations.

The state debt, however, rests still more easily on the shoulders of the average citizen, being only one-third as great as that of the nation. The total state indebtedness in 1913 was $422,797,000, and the net debt—that is, the total debt less sinking-fund assets—was $345,942,000, or $3.57 per capita. The net debt increased by 44.5 per cent between 1902 and 1913, and the per capital net debt by 18 per cent.

The only two states in which the per capita state debt in 1913 exceeded the per capita national debt were Massachusetts, with a net debt of $79,551,000, or $22.78 per capita, and Arizona, with $3,065,000, or $13.28 per capita. In these states, however, the large per capita debt is due principally not to the state debt proper but to the considerable amount of contingent debt assumed by the state in the name of the metropolitan districts in Massachusetts and the counties and municipalities in Arizona.

The total county debt in 1913 amounted to $393,207,000, of which amount $371,528,000, or $4.33 per capita, was net debt. The net indebtedness increased by 89 per cent between 1902 and 1913, and the per capita net indebtedness by 55 per cent.

By far the greatest item of indebtedness in this country is that of municipalities. This amounted in 1913 to an aggregate of $3,460,000,000, of which $2,884,883,000, of $54.27 per capita, represented net indebtedness. The rate of increase in net indebtedness between 1902 and 1913 was 114 per cent.

The total levies of taxes on real estate, personal property and other property subject to ad valorem taxation, by states, counties, municipalities, school districts, and other civil divisions, increased from $724,737,000, or $9.22 per capita, in 1902 to $1,349,841,000, or $13.91 per capita, in 1912, the percentages of increase being 86 for the total amount and 51 for the per capita.

Levies for state purposes increased from $80,402,000 in 1902 to $155,643,000 in 1912, or by 94 per cent. During the same period the levies by counties, municipalities, school districts, etc., increased from $644,335,000 to $1,184,253,000, or by 84 per cent. The county levies in 1912 were $288,932,000, and those of municipalities, school districts, and other minor civil divisions amounted to $895,321,000.

Thus it appears that an increase of 75 per cent in 8 years—indicating a gain of 115 per cent in 11 years—in national wealth has been accompanied by an increase, during 11 years, of 6 per cent in net federal indebtedness, 44.5 per cent in net state indebtedness, 89 per cent in net county indebtedness, and 114 per cent in net municipal indebtedness. In connection with the growth in municipal indebtedness, however, it should be borne in mind that the proportion which urban population represented of the total was materially greater in 1913 than in 1902. The net indebtedness of national, state, county and municipal governments combined increased by 71 per cent in 11 years.

A more significant comparison, however, can be made between the growth of the national wealth and the increase in tax levies. The national wealth, on the assumption that its average annual rate of growth from 1907 to 1912 was the same as that which prevailed from 1904 to 1912, increased by 101 per cent in 10 years, while the increase in tax levies during the period 1902 to 1912 amounted to 86 per cent.

The total revenue receipts of the national government during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1913, aggregated $953,597,000, and the expenditures for governmental costs were $952,601,000. The corresponding figures for 1903 were $657,232,000 and $616,739,000. The percentage of increase in governmental costs between 1903 and 1913 was 54. The nature and amounts of the leading items which made up the total revenue receipts in 1913 were: "Special property taxes" (principally receipts from customs and from tax on circulation of national banks), $313,953,000; earnings of public-service enterprises (principally postal receipts), $270,704,000; receipts from internal revenue taxes on manufacture and sale of liquor, $230,146,000; "business taxes" (internal revenue receipts from all sources except manufacture and sale of liquor, together with receipts from income tax), $113,385,000.

Of the expenditures for governmental costs, the leading items were: For protection to person and property (expenses of military, naval, lighthouse, steamboat inspection, revenue cutter, life-saving and immigration and naturalization services), $264,671,000; for expenses of postal service, $264,107,000; for pensions, maintenance of national soldiers' homes, etc., $182,313,000; for maintenance of legislative, executive and judicial establishments, and administration of executive departments, $61,784,000; for improvement and maintenance of waterways, $42,652,000; for construction of the Panama canal, $41,741,000; for interest on public indebtedness, $25,256,000; for outlays on public buildings and grounds, including military posts, and for the bureau of construction and repair, navy department, $22,639,000; for education (principally maintenance of military and naval academies, Indian schools, library of congress, agricultural experiment stations, and study of animal and plant industries), $17,243,000.

State revenues in 1913 aggregated $367,585,000; and the expenditures of the states for governmental costs during the same year amounted to $382,551,000, or nearly $15,000,000 more than their revenues. State revenues and governmental cost payments in 1903 were $189,165,000 and $185,764,000, respectively. The percentage of increase in state expenditures for governmental costs between 1903 and 1913 was 105.

The revenue receipts of counties in 1913 were $370,043,000, and their payments for governmental costs aggregated $385,182,000, or about $15,000,000 more than their revenue receipts. The governmental cost payments of the counties increased by 95 per cent between 1902 and 1913.

The aggregate value of state properties (exclusive of those of Pennsylvania, for which no data were obtained) in 1913 was $695,499,000. The largest two items, $175,954,000 and $136,866,000, represented the value of lands, buildings and equipment of educational institutions and of state houses and departmental libraries, respectively.

The value of county properties in 1913 was $576,657,000, of which amount $293,295,000, or more than one-half, represented the value of courthouses.

The value of public properties in 1913 for incorporated places of 2,500 and over was $4,097,806,000. Of this amount, $1,507,133,000, or more than one-third, represented the value of lands, buildings and equipment of public-service enterprises. The remainder covered the value of lands, buildings and equipment of the various municipal departments, of which the leading items were: Property of schools and libraries, $1,018,528,000; parks and other property falling under the general head of "recreation," $967,488,000.

PRETTIEST GIRL IN AMERICA

Hoboken, N. J., has come into its own again, for the prettiest girl in America was once called the "belle of Hoboken." That was before Miss Justine Johnstone won the $5,000 prize for being the most beautiful girl in America. "If I were not a pretty girl," says Miss Johnstone, "I might still be living in Hoboken, instead of New York. If I had my choice between being the prettiest girl in America and the most talented girl, I would unhesitatingly choose the latter."

NEGRO CLAIMS TO BE 124

Patriarchal Colored Man in Georgia Also Says He Has 44 Children.

Rome, Ga.—Jerry Neal, colored, of Cave Spring, celebrated his one hundred and twenty-fourth birthday anniversary a few days ago. He is, so far as is known, the oldest person in Georgia, if not in the United States. He has papers which establish his age beyond question, and the oldest inhabitants of Floyd county remember that Jerry was a grown-up man when they were in their kilties.

Jerry, the father of 44 children, distinctly remembers the war of 1812, and many of the Indian wars. He is now a widower, but has been married three times. He is well and hearty, but uses a cane when walking.

Father of Triplets Sixty-Five.

Cookeville, Tenn.—Triplets were born recently to Mr. and Mrs. Joshua Moore of Rickman, 15 miles north of this city. They are all girl babies and are healthy, normal and vigorous infants. The proud father is sixty-five years old, while the mother is thirty.

Sent Her by Parcel Post.

Savannah, Ga.—Wearing a placard, on which were her name and destination, and 15 cents in parcel post stamps, Edna Neff, six years old, passed through the terminal station here on her way from Pensacola to Christiansburg, Va., where her father awaited her.

ON NEW PRINCIPLE

Windmill That Is Not at the Mercy of the Wind.

Diagram Shows the Working of the Plan—Complete Machine Can Be Placed in Position at Small Cost—High Power Made.

When the wind strikes a surface inclined at an angle to the direction of the wind the latter tends to displace the surface in a direction that depends upon the degree of inclination. Upon this well-known principle sailboats, windmills and aeroplanes are built. When the wind comes in a diametrically opposite direction—that is to say, strikes the surface on the other side—it tends to displace it in the opposite direction. It would seem, then, to be impossible so to place a surface that it shall always move in the same direction, no matter whence the wind that moves it comes.

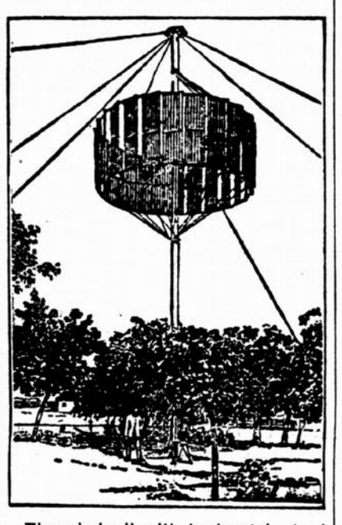
A French windmill maker has, however, succeeded in solving this apparent paradox, and his device is described in detail by R. Villers in La Nature. He makes a horizontal windmill with perpendicular vanes and axis revolved by the vanes without gearing.

The wind is utilized "going and coming." When the vanes are properly inclined the power produced by this strange windmill is quite high, and the wind that reaches nine-tenths of the wheel's diameter is set to work, no matter from what direction it is blowing.

The firm that is making these mills delivers one, complete, in France, with mounting, pipes, pump, etc., for 600 francs, or about $120.

The wheel may be raised or lowered on its axle by pulleys, and the upper socket is self-lubricated from a covered tank of oil at the very top.

The turning wheel operates the pumps through an eccentric at the bottom of the mast. This eccentric is a most ingenious but simple device for regulating the speed of the pump according to the strength of the wind. As the wind increases, the eccentricity increases automatically, so that when the wind is high the pump works at great speed and quickly fills large reservoirs.



The windmill with horizontal wheel on its mast. At the top is the receptacle for oil, protected from the weather by a hood. Below is seen the variable eccentric that transmits the power to the pump.

In a Name.

War which transforms noble cathedrals into shapeless masses of broken stone, which spoils the farmers' innocent fields with trenches full of burrowing human beings bent on blowing each other to pieces, which turns kings' palaces into barracks and gentlemen's country houses into hospitals, makes its own uses also of places dedicated in time of peace to the amusement of the populace. For instance, it was in a certain town in the Auvergne that a number of German prisoners were lodged in the hippodrome or circus. Some care was taken to make things as comfortable as possible for the involuntary inmates, but the persons in charge refused to remove a sign—thoughtfully put up the previous year by a humane society. The sign said: "Be good to the animals."

Kitchen Calisthenics.

"You ought to take a little exercise every morning before breakfast, Jobson."

"Um. What sort?"

"Oh, dumb bells or Indian clubs."

"That's out of the question."

"Nonsense! It's sheer laziness on your part. Get up, go through a few brisk movements and then sit down to your breakfast."

"That's exactly what I do. I cook my own breakfast while Mrs. Jobson sleeps."

Quite Suitable.

"Do you think string instruments make a good accompaniment for the voice?"

"They ought to go all right with vocal cords."

Old Associations.

She—I suppose our quarrel makes you draw comparisons with your own home.

He—Yes, this is just like the rows mother used to make.

His Transit.

Lawyer—Did the defendant go home in the interim?

Witness—Naw, he didn't. He went to the horsepital in a ambulance.

Getting Nowhere.

"What a lot of energy we expend without making any actual progress!"

"Yes! Especially since the dancing craze set in!"

But a Seasoned One.

"Did you see the statement that Spain last year exported 300,000,000 pounds of onions?"

"My, but that's a strong statement!"

HAVE QUEER POWER

Extraordinary Electric Qualities of Many Plants.

One in India Has Movement Very Similar to the Small Hands of a Watch—"Vegetable Octopus" of South America.

All plants are electric batteries. Some are weak, others are strong. According to Royal Dixon, author of "The Human Side of Plants," who has an entertaining article in the Edison Monthly on the extraordinary electric qualities of plants, the strongest is the well-known sensitive plant (Mimosa pudica), but the iris, nicotina, nasturtium and practically all the meat-eating plants produce a current of from .005 to .02 volt, which can be measured with a galvanometer.

"A very peculiar plant," writes Mr. Dixon, "and one which has tremendous electrical powers, is the 'telegraph plant' (Desmodium gyrans). It is a native of India, and each of its leaves is composed of three leaflets; the larger one stands erect during the day, but turns down at night, while each of the smaller leaflets moves day and night without stopping. They describe, by means of jerking motions complete circles, not unlike the smaller hand of a watch."

East Indian Telegraph Plant.

Then there is the Utricularia, or fishing plant, which lures small fish "into its capacious mouth and suddenly, as if an electric button were secretly pressed, closes in upon its helpless prey. In other words, it fishes with a net electrically wired!"

Near Lake Titicaca in South America and in the interior of Nicaragua is found a really terrible plant, a sort of vegetable octopus. This was first discovered by the naturalist Dunstan, who heard his dog cry out as if in agony. Running to his relief, Mr. Dunstan found the animal "enveloped in what seemed to him a perfect network of what seemed to be a fine, ropelike tissue of roots and fibers." He cut the fleshy fibers of the magnetized plant only with great difficulty. The dog was covered with blood. "The twigs curled like living sinuous fingers about his hands and it required terrific force to free himself from the plant's electric grasp, which left his hands red and blistered."

"How's the Wind, Sergeant?"

Every British soldier at the front is said to have become a close observer of the wind since the Germans began the use of gas; if it veers to the north and east it is an almost certain sign of attack. The respirators, or "muzzles," as the soldiers call them, are declared to give little protection from the gas. "Just get some one to throw a handful of chloride of lime in your face," says an officer in describing the gas. "That will give you a fair idea of the preliminary stages of the gas trouble."

Of the Second battalion of Lancashire fusiliers, 403 men are reported to be "suffering from gas poisoning."

Scientists are believed to have discovered a means of combating the gas. It is planned to squirt hyposulphite of sodium in the air as the gas reaches the lines, thus destroying the deadly effects of the fumes.

No Hanoverian Orders.

The duke of Cumberland, struck off the roll of the Garter, cannot retaliate by striking Englishmen off rolls of his own as "rightful" king of Hanover. Hanoverian orders ceased to be conferred half a century ago, when Prussia extinguished the kingdom of Hanover, and the duke of Cambridge was the last surviving British Knight Grand Cross of the Guelphic Order. This order was established in 1815 by our prince regent, afterward George VI. After Hanover and Britain parted, King Ernest Augustus I established the Order of St. George, in 1839. But in 1844 we find Queen Victoria refusing permission to her subjects to accept Hanoverian orders, explaining to Lord Aberdeen that "it would not be expedient to give to the king of Hanover a power which the queen herself does not possess, viz., that of granting orders as favors, or for personal services."—London Chronicle.

Always on the Job.

Dubwaite believes in taking a day off whenever the opportunity presents itself.

"If Dubwaite still believes that, he's one of the most hopeful men I have ever met."

"Why so?"

"To my certain knowledge he's been waiting twenty years for an opportunity to present itself."

A Consoling Thought.

"Dubkins is a great comfort to me."

"I don't see how you can say that. He's the most tiresome chump I have ever met."

"That's just it. Although I don't amount to much, it's true, every time I look at Dubkins I feel that I could amount to less."