THE PEOPLE'S FORUM

Letters to the Editor

Assist Neighbor to Keep Sabbath

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—I would like to answer "X. Y. Z." regarding "Displaying of Sunday Washing." I consider the writer of the above only displays half Christianity by criticising those who are compelled to do a little washing on the Sabbath owing to the present conditions. Many women are compelled to work during the week away from home to support their families, and especially since so many of their husbands are out of employment. I know some men who have been out of work since before Christmas. I consider that "X. Y. Z." is more to be pitied than censured. The people who are compelled to do their washing on the Sabbath are doing their Christian work under very distressing circumstances. As it is one of "X. Y. Z.'s" neighbors, why doesn't "X. Y. Z." turn in and do a Christian, neighborly act by helping, either financially or by labor? Then maybe they might be able to entertain company on the Sabbath, as is undoubtedly the case with "X. Y. Z." FAIR PLAY.

Philadelphia, July 31, 1921.

Soldiers in Fighting Trim

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—I am afraid the buddy signing himself "Seven Years' Service" has lost his nerve. He says that the boys will get their bonus if the powers that be want to give it to them; if not, they won't. What kind of talk is that for a soldier who, it is presumed, has seen seven years' service? Is he willing to lie down now and let the "powers that be" run the country and thwart the will of the people? Where is our boasted rule of the people, independence and the democracy we were going to have after the Kaiser was licked if we should all take the attitude of this poor down-and-outer?

If we are willing to let the "powers that be" run the country, what did we fight for? Supposing that our revolutionary forefathers had said the same thing instead of starting a row against imposition and tyranny. I see that the bonus has been knocked in the head again; this time killed by reason of the opposition of a President-elect on a bonus platform. But should we give up because of that? Are we downhearted? No!

The American people are accustomed to being deceived and double-crossed, but when will we get any relief if we lie down and take it? Never give up the fight, I say. This is the spirit that won the war and it is the spirit that is going to win a people's victory over the political trimmers and deceivers. There is another day.

R. L. O.

Philadelphia, July 28, 1921.

Referred to Readers

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—On Saturday evening, July 16, I noticed a steady breeze was blowing, so I was tempted to raise my kite. In a few minutes I was at Clark's Park (south of Baltimore avenue). Upon reaching the "hollow," I quickly managed to raise my kite, made of tissue paper. The kite string consisted of very thin copper wire, taken from a coil in an old, discarded telegraph set. In a short while the kite was floating high in the air and had used up all the wire I had. Therefore I had to borrow another ball of string from one of my friends who was with me. Attaching the wire to the string, I let the kite out farther, until it was about 400 feet away from me and about 300 feet from the ground.

At 8:30 o'clock I noticed that it was getting dark, so I began to "take in," and at 8:45 I had wrapped up all the string and was only a few feet from the wire. Upon touching the wire a strong electric shock could be felt as strong or stronger than the "house" current (110 volts). When the wire was touched a small spark could be seen. The current was felt at the least touch of the wire. It could be felt from the ground also, provided one hand was on the wire. We broke the wire with a dry piece of wood, and the kite was lowered about twenty-five feet. The wire was then dragging on the ground. I picked it up and the current was felt no more.

Can you explain the reason for this? It is quite puzzling to me, as it was not at all like Franklin's experience, because it was neither raining nor lightning, but there was a damp ground under us. Hoping to see a reply in the paper soon, I remain,

H. W. D. N.

Philadelphia, July 16, 1921.

Favors Shirtwaist Man

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—It was with great interest that I read W. J. Fleming's letter. I fully agree with him that men should dress as comfortably as the women in hot summer weather.

For the last fifteen years I have thought that it should be made possible for men to appear in shirts, without coats, during the hot summer.

I think that a man who has a clean shirt on, with belt, looks very well and good enough to go anywhere, and no woman who stops for a moment to think how awfully uncomfortable it must be for a man to wear a heavy coat in summer would object to the shirtwaist man.

A SYMPATHIZER.

Philadelphia, July 27, 1921.

Be Lenient With Faded Girl

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—A factor which probably has greatly influenced the mind of the modern girl is that she must not in any event lose caste with the members of her set. Not all classes of young women possess the ability to accomplish the task. Others dare not attempt it because "mamma" does not approve. But to the great majority of the immortalized type of shopgirl and office-girl and the aspirant to social prestige the lipstick, powder-puff system is an absolute essential in her social code. And "there is a reason."

Take, for example, the girl who is subjected to long hours of confinement indoors behind a desk or counter. Her complexion in time becomes sallow, her eyes lose their luster, and her spirits become befogged by the monotony of her work. Send this girl out for an evening of fun. She must appear to good advantage. She must cover up the lines of fatigue in her face. She must, for a few hours at least, be a healthy, happy and care-free girl, and perhaps she is not a girl, but has still not quite lost her taste for wholesome fun. What woman of thirty, forty or fifty likes to be shoved aside as old, rusty and undesirable, simply because she has lost her color and her youth, when her heart is hungry for a good time?

Artificial and deceptive? Yes. Injurious and expensive? Yes. But this is not a time to begin a tirade against these girls and women who are trying, in the only way they know, to enjoy life. We need not discuss their shortcomings and their nearsightedness. We need not deplore the lack of proper care which has resulted in premature jadedness. We may disapprove and ridicule and advise, but the fact remains that no girl can enjoy a good time with a faded complexion, hollow and black-ringed eyes, and a last year's frock, and no girl's life is worth the living without an occasional good time. HELEN V. CARY.

Philadelphia, July 15, 1921.

"Speaks With Authority"

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—"Safety First" is frightened before he is hurt. He asks in a wandering way: "I wonder if matrimonial life turns out to be what married men pictured it to be before they took the fatal step?" Why wonder? If a man, why not try? Why fatal? "Faint heart never won fair lady." It was Caesar who jumped into the Rubicon. Who was it said "I came, I saw, I conquered"? Don't stand on the brink and shiver. It will be a picture of everlasting joy if "Safety First" is the right sort of man. He must be a man. What about the wife and her "safety first"? She is the one giving up all—often for a man who is only so by name. "Safety First" again says: "I am keeping company" (horrible) "with a young lady who has a very charming personality" (sorry for her poor judgment). "A young married man, a friend of mine, says I am drunk and deluded and that I'll be sober some day." What a wretched friend, what a miserable husband, what a mistake his wife made! And no doubt she repents in sackcloth and ashes. I certainly give her credit for being "very often caustic in private life." That is in his most wretched company. My heartfelt sympathy goes out to her—my regrets that he is not now and for all time a bachelor, but not a fortunate one, as they are all unfortunate, and he ("Safety First") says: "Further, from his broad experience and investigations, he says nearly all marriages are failures." Do not suppose poor "Safety First" ever investigated higher than the divorce courts. If he had, he would not say "I am getting a trifle scared." I truly hope, so much so that he would never drag lovely womanhood into close companionship with such a "safety first" . . . Excuse me if I speak with authority, as today is the fifty-fifth anniversary of our wedding day.

DAVID L. WITMER.

Philadelphia, July 26, 1921.

Questions Answered

Where Quotation is Found

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—Where is the following quotation to be found: "The laborer is worthy of his hire"?

S. S. Y.

Philadelphia, July 27, 1921.

"The laborer is worthy of his hire" is found in St. Luke x. 7. The verse complete is: "And in the same house remain, eating and drinking such things as they give, for the laborer is worthy of his hire. Go not from house to house."

Concrete Floor for Dancing

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—How should a concrete floor be prepared for dancing? G. G. L.

Philadelphia, July 27, 1921.

The floor may be treated with paraffin wax dissolved in turpentine, followed by a coating of powdered wax worked into the floor in the same way in which a wooden floor is waxed or polished. Or the floor may be coated with a lather of liquid soap scrubbed in with a scrubbing brush. An occasional application of powdered soap will keep the floor in condition.

What Are "Mollies"?

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—What are mollies? I take it that they are some kind of box used on shipboard, but I want to be sure, as it is one of many items on a questionnaire.

CHARLES T. PUGH.

Philadelphia, July 28, 1921.

A molly is a sort of container, and quite well known in England, though hardly known in this country among most people. It is said to be an unruly package to handle, being round and narrow at the bottom and gradually increasing in girth. This makes it topheavy. It generally has a lid. Originally the full molly weighed from thirty to thirty-five pounds, but gradually it has grown smaller and today it weighs scarcely more than a third those weights. Many years ago it was well known in England in the fruit trade. It comes from Belgium.

Protocol and Plebiscite

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—Please explain to me the difference between the two words protocol and plebiscite. D. L. GORMAN.

Philadelphia, July 27, 1921.

A protocol in diplomacy is the document serving as the preliminary to diplomatic negotiations. A diplomatic document signed by the representatives of friendly powers in order to secure certain political ends peacefully. A plebiscite is the vote of a whole nation obtained by universal suffrage.

"J. J. W."—The copy of the newspaper you name has no commercial value. There are no doubt a large number of copies of the issue still extant, and it is also to be found in bound volumes in public and private libraries.

"B."—The Census Bureau is responsible for the statement that there are 53,900,376 men in the United States and 51,810,244 women.

"T. C. C."—Willow Grove Park was established in 1896.

"Minor"—The present Postoffice Building at Ninth and Chestnut streets was opened for use on January 21, 1884.

"C. B. N."—Swarthmore College, in Delaware County, is conducted under the auspices of the Hicksite branch of the Society of Friends.

"H. O. L."—Our population since 1880 has nearly doubled. In that year Philadelphia had 847,170 inhabitants.

Poems and Songs Desired

"O Nature, How Blessed"

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—Will some one give me the author of the following lines. I had thought they were by Thomas Moore, but have been unable to locate them:

"O Nature, how blessed and bright are thy rays,
O'er the brow of creation enchantingly thrown:
Yet faint are they all in the luster that plays
In a smile from the heart that is truly own own."

D. L. V.

Philadelphia, July 27, 1921.

"Davy Jones' Locker"

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—Can any of your readers tell me who wrote the poem for the song of the sea, "Down in the Locker of Davy Jones," and also who is the publisher of same?

As I recall it, the first verse started:

"Shipmates of mine, there's an old sailor bold,
Who roams in the depths of the sea;
Far 'neath the brine, so the old story's told,
He is waiting for you and for me."

JANE T. LORING.

Philadelphia, July 31, 1921.

Wants "Missing Part"

Sir—Can you advise me the missing part of the following:

"Home is civilization's greatest gift.
Men fight for it in peace;
Die for it in war.
It is worthy of all effort."

PHILIP T. PRICE.

Philadelphia, July 31, 1921.

"Uncle Ned"

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—I will appreciate it if you will print for me the words of the old Civil War song "Uncle Ned." JENNY T. REIRICH.

Philadelphia, July 31, 1921.

UNCLE NED

There was an old darky and his name was Uncle Ned,
And he died long ago, long ago.
He had no wool on the top of his head
In the place where the wool ought to grow.

CHORUS

Then lay down the shovel and the hoe;
Hang up the fiddle and the bow.
For there's no more work for poor old Ned;
He's gone where the good darkies go.

His fingers were long as the cane in the brake,
And he had no eyes for to see,
And he had no teeth for to eat a hoe-cake,
So he had to let the hoe-cake be.

One cold, frosty morning old Ned died;
Massa's tears they fell like the rain;
For he knew when Ned was laid in the ground
He'd never see his like again.

—Stephen C. Foster.

"Are All the Children In?"

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—Recently one of your readers asked for a poem, and I am sure I can inclosing you the right one, entitled "Are All the Children In?" HARRIET T. LONG.

Philadelphia, July 31, 1921.

ARE ALL THE CHILDREN IN?

The darkness falls, the wind is high;
Dense black clouds fill the western sky;
The storm will soon begin;
The thunders roar, the lightnings flash;
I hear the great round raindrops dash.
Are all the children in?

They're coming softly to my side;
Their forms within my arms I hide;
No other arms are sure.
The storm may rage with fury wild,
With trusting faith each little child
With mother feels secure.

But future days are drawing near;
They'll go from this warm shelter here
Out in the world's wild din;
The rain will fall, the cold winds blow.
I'll sit alone and long to know
Are all the children in?

"C. L. Y." asks for a poem containing this line: "God is your partner; make your plans large."

"S. L. P." desires a poem entitled "The Whitest Man I Knew." Can any of our readers supply it?

"C. T. G." asks if any one can supply the complete poem which contains only a few verses and which has these lines:

"When the skies are pink and pearly,
Little girlie,"

"T. M. G." asks for a poem entitled "The Bronze Button."

"C. M. R." asks if any one can give her the poem containing the lines:

"Some spend the Sabbath going to church;
I spend it staying at home."

The writer also wishes the name of the author of same.

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EMPRESS OF CHINA . . . Sept. 7 Oct. 1
LIVERPOOL
VASARI . . . . . Aug. 9
CARMANIA . . . Aug. 13 Sept. 10 Oct. 8
ALBANIA (new). . Aug. 20 Sept. 27 Nov. 1
CARONIA . . . Aug. 27 Sept. 24 ——
SCYTHIA (new) . . Sept. 6 Oct. 11 Nov. 15
PLYMOUTH—HAMBURG—DANZIG
SAXONIA . . . Sept. 15 Oct. 20 Dec. 13
LONDONDERRY AND GLASGOW
COLUMBIA . . . . Aug. 13 Sept. 10 Oct. 8
ALGERIA . . . . Aug. 20 Oct. 4 ——
CAMERONIA (new) Aug. 27 Sept. 24 Oct. 22
VIGO, GIBRALTAR, PATRAS, DUBROVNIK, TRIESTE, FIUME
ITALIA . . . . . Aug. 23
HAMBURG AND DANZIG
PANNONIA . . . . . Aug. 18
BOSTON TO LIVERPOOL
ASSYRIA . . . . . Aug. 13
PHILADELPHIA TO LONDON
VIRGILIA . . . . . Aug. 13
VERENTIA . . . . . Aug. 23
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