

UNCLE ABSALOM'S WATCH MEETING

By Riley M. Fletcher Perry

Lived Longer in Bible Days

In scientific or quasi-scientific interpretations of the Old Testament attempts have been made to explain away the repeated and definite statements as to the longevity of the first generations of men...

early mankind and consequently also with all its evils was absent. Marital life was the natural condition, and apparently offspring was equally divided between males and females...

of each brick into contact with a straight edge resting upon its neighbors. "On these tracks nearly as great a load can be hauled as on a steel rail—in fact, they present nearly every advantage of the steel rail, without its liability to rust."

Brick Track Roads

Mr. Martin Dodge, of the United States Agricultural Department, describes in the New York Herald a novel, economical and serviceable roadway. The importance of the road problem is first plainly shown by the statement that we are "continually paying an avoidable road tax of more than \$650,000,000 annually for the privilege of driving over muddy or dusty roads..."

If long term convicts are employed in making the bricks and other road material and short term convicts to build the roads, the cost of constructing brick trackways for county roads should not exceed \$300 to \$1,000 a mile, and in many cases should "average less than \$600 a mile, exclusive of any necessary grading and hauling of material."

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UNCLE ABSALOM FELT THE INSPIRATION OF A PARTNER

little sweet potato patch. Aunt Hillary Eucalyptus, his wife, washing dishes just inside the open doorway of the shanty, cast an eye in his direction occasionally to make sure that he was keeping the chickens out of the potato vines.

"Lawd—a wshbt—t—I could pray like Dan-yul prayed," sang Uncle Absalom through the whole verse, adding: "I would pray so loud tell de debil rick a compellment tuh run tuh de crik's ob de yuth. O Lawd, kenne de chelquich tuh show dey wickedness tuh de ch'ch'!"

Uncle Absalom hobbled to church that night on his two heavy, gnarled orange sticks. The evening announcement of the watch meeting for the older ones and the cake walk for the younger members of the church to be held simultaneously, the first at the church and the second at Masonic hall, on New Year's eve, was identical with that which had so distressed Uncle Absalom's mind at the morning service.

"Tek de ole possum en coon ketch in yo' foot, Hilbry," whispered Absalom. "Dey ain' none ob 'em knows dat step h'ub." There was no reumatism in Uncle Absalom's gut now, and he did not know that the orchestra, with extra rest, was playing at greater speed than that the hall was filled with giggling young folk.

"There is no reason for doubting the literal accuracy of the Bible's reckoning. The conditions of antediluvian humanity were such as to permit the length of individual life alleged in the Bible. There were, we know, giants in those days. The animals, too, were of stupendous and colossal proportions, as the bones discovered in the earth's strata fully attest. We must apply different measures and different criteria to the beings of that era."



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ob Gawk's. "Watch en pray, but Enoch walk wid Gawk, en he wuz not? Why? Fua Gawk tuck 'im. Ob co'nt' he did. Tu yo' all gwine de same way." "He jes' like Enoch when he got up de walkin'." "De Lawd come 'long, en he say, 'Enoch, what yo' gwine do?' 'I gwine git up a cake walk, Lawd.' De Lawd ab' say nothin' no' tell w'en de him' strike up he say, 'H'rah, Enoch; I gwine walk wid yo'.' De angels wuz playin' dey golden harps, Gay-brel wuz soundin' his hawn, en Enoch wuz 'njoyin' hit splendifer in thinkin' de professional gwine blong tuh 'im sho. Dey wuz walk down eah way en sashy back, en dey had done stahd down ag'in w'en dey wuz de bigges' kin' ob thundah en lightnin'." "De sulphur begin rizin' en chokin' de angels, de halps en de lawns wuz all conjungle together, en Enoch—'he wuz not, fuh Gawk tuck 'im.' Do dat look like he 'proob ob de walkin'?" "Gawk tuck 'im, en yo' all gwine de same way. Anybody sich a fool ez tuh walk ag'in de Lawd, de hour' tuh be tuck."

"It Stopped the Gambling. A good story is told of a certain English colonel in connection with an inspection of a crack rifle corps which he commanded. The inspection passed off satisfactorily. There were no complaints, and the regiment was evidently in good order. "But," said the inspecting general, "I am bound to tell you, colonel, that rumors have reached me of gambling being carried on extensively among your officers."

Uncommon Colds. "It is just a common cold," people say, "there's no danger in that." Admitting their statement, then there are uncommon colds, colds which are dangerous; for many a fatal sickness begins with a cold. If we could tell the common cold from the uncommon we could feel quite safe. But we can't. The uncommon variety is rarely recognized until it has fastened its hold on the lungs, and there are symptoms of consumption.

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