

WANDERLUST.

By Gerald Gould. Beyond the East, the sunrise, beyond the West the sea, And East and West the wanderlust that will not let me be;

I know not where the white road runs nor what the blue hills are, But a man can have the sun for friend and for his guide a star;

And there's no end of voyaging, when once the voice is heard, For the river calls and the road calls, and oh, the call of a bird!

Yonder the long horizon lies, and there by night and day, The old ships draw to home again, the young ships sail away;

And come I may, but go I must, and if men ask you why, You may put the blame on the stars and the sun and the white road and the sky!

—From the London Spectator.

O-Ume The Story of a Little Japanese Girl and the Cherry-Blossoming.

The sun was warm on the thatched roofs and the groves of trees, and a merry crowd filled the little Japanese village, for it was the festival of the cherry-blossoming.

In Japan the "Sunrise Kingdom," as it is called, the calendar is divided into the time of the blossoming of the flowers. The "Camellia," sometimes shrouded in snow, is the blossom of the New Year; then, after a few weeks of cold rains and dull skies, the branches of the withered old black plum trees are starred with fragrant white flowers, followed soon by the cherry-blossoming, and until November, when the brilliant maple leaves light up the scene, this gentle people count the seasons in flowers.

In this little village most of the cottages had thatched caps on their heads. Some were worn with age and rain, but Dame Nature had patched them with velvet mosses until the whole village looked like a picture. There were only two streets and these ran almost at right angles like a rude cross. The sea, curving far inland, hugged the houses with caps of thatch on two sides, and one could hardly help looking out over the water wherever he stood. Even though they wearied of the sea's rough caresses they could not run away, for great hills guarded them on the rear, and only stepped away a little at one angle, to let the rice fields climb down, terrace by terrace.

teahouse near by. Yet they were not benches, they were tiny low tables, about like a doll table, before which they squatted on their heels. Now my muscles are not limber enough to sit long or comfortably in that position.

Japanese people are very polite and kindly, and as I watched the darling children in scarlet, yellow and lavender, chattering and catching at their toys of paper and feathers, one solemn little girl, looking like a bit of rainbow, came timidly toward me with a cup of tea and some sweets.

I quickly went into the pocket of my memory for some of my best Japanese and came up with enough of it to say, "Thank you; come and sit by me," and she squatted beside me. Everyone is gay and ready for fun when the cherry trees bloom, so I was soon surrounded by a crowd of curious little people, all looking wonderingly at the stark stranger who seemed so unusual there, and yet could talk with them, and who were soon quite well acquainted.

I drank the tea and ate the sweets, which were round balls made of rice, and they showed me their Japanese children, who were in pockets in their quaint, long gowns, but the sleeves, wide and reaching to the knees, made an excellent substitute, and out of them came tops and balls, little toys made of paper and rice straw to imitate figures and boats, and we had plenty to talk about for awhile. Then the gay little butterflies flitted off to chase each other down the long aisles of the tree trunks. All but one, a maid whose name, as she told me, was O-Ume, which means Honorable-Flower-of-the-Plum. In our country they name little girls after flowers and graceful things, the O meaning honorable, a title of respect. As for many such names as Ear-of-Young-Rice, Bamboo, Chrysanthemum, Spring-Time, O-Ume, with her kimono of yellow crepe, enfolded in pale green leaves, and beside me, as eager to hear about American girls as we are to hear about her. So I told her of one and another: of Margaret, who lived in a great city and took long rides on street cars to our own parks; of Elizabeth, who lived on a farm and fed the chickens, cared for the baby turkeys and learned to make butter.

I talked so long that the shadows deepened, and the sunset turned the clouds of cherry blossom golden red, like real clouds, and over the brow of that hill the Japanese Mamma came to take her little daughter home. After a few moments' conversation I found that O-Ume's home was near mine, so I begged her company in my jinkisha, for she was a little mite, and I am not large, so we could easily ride together.

Hand in hand we walked down the avenues of trees to the granite gateway, where the sturdy runner sat with a group of others. Climbing in, we snuggled close together and joined the gay, colored, chattering crowd homeward.

Over the curved bridges and past the lotus lake we rolled, the funny washboard, but of the runner bobbing up and down in front of us. At one side of the road in the distance was a sea of green, and at the other the glow of the sunset flashed the running of the surf. At the other side was a sea of green reaching to the far-off mountains, a vast sea of rice fields, rippling in waves when the breeze blew across it. Beyond the lotus lake, a small pagoda shined in light, and as we came into the village with its houses in their thatched caps lights were twinkling far out on the horizon line from the fishing boats riding at anchor, and near lights gleamed from the open houses.

Then the sun shined in the brown hand into mine, with a soft Sanyona, good-bye, as the runner stopped, and I went in to my supper of rice, fish and tea, served by a quiet maid with hair as black as the night that was about us.

The Sun is Made of Yak-Meat. The Tibetans have numberless strange myths, one, the most curious, pertaining to the sun, moon and stars. The sun is believed to be an immense ball of yak-meat and fat, whereas the spots of departed ancestors are supposed to feast, the light being caused by its heated condition. The stars are portions of this immense feast which, dropping to earth, give birth to animals for the sustenance of suffering humanity.

San Francisco team drivers receive \$3, \$3.50 and \$4 a day for driving one, two and three-horse teams, respectively.

TALKS WITH OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

Blue-eyed grass in the meadow And yellow-blooms on the hill, Cattails that rustle and whisper, And winds that are never still;

Blue-eyed grass in the meadow, A linnets' nest near by, Blackbirds carolling clearly Somewhere between earth and sky;

Blue-eyed grass in the meadow, And the laden bee's low hum, Milkweeds all by the roadside, To tell us summer is come.

THE ROBIN AND THE RAT. A Bodmin correspondent writes: The other day, while a gentleman was strolling in the neighborhood, he was attracted by a robin, which flew about him, flapped its wings in his face some two or three times, and appeared greatly excited and distressed.

TROUBLES OF THE HERMIT CRAB. The most disconsolate fellow that walks the beach is the hermit crab whose shell has become too snug for comfort, says Country Life in America. If it were his own, as the clam's is, it would grow with his growth, and always be a perfect fit, but to the hermit crab it comes often "moving day," when a new house must be sought.

THE WATERING POT. "Yes, run and play if you want to, it will be an hour before I am ready to go to Cousin Lucy's," said Mamma. The twins were all dressed for Cousin Lucy's lawn party. They had on their new white organdie dresses.

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POLITICS OF THE DAY

Chances for a Democratic Congress. The prospect of electing enough Republicans in Congress to control the popular house of that body is attracting a great deal of attention. There is a sort of tradition that in the year of a presidential election the House of Representatives goes with the truth, the Springfield Mass. Republican gives the political complexion of the House in the various Presidential years back to 1872, which was Grant's second election, thus:

Table with 3 columns: Year, Republican, Democrat. Rows include 1872, 1876, 1880, 1884, 1888, 1892, 1896, 1900, 1904, 1908, 1912, 1916, 1920, 1924, 1928, 1932, 1936, 1940, 1944, 1948, 1952, 1956, 1960, 1964, 1968, 1972, 1976, 1980, 1984, 1988, 1992, 1996, 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012, 2016, 2020.

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AGRICULTURAL

to stamp out the trouble is to pull out the tree. It has been thoroughly demonstrated that the disease is contagious and that a single tree effected will soon spread the disease to an entire orchard and to adjacent orchards. The one difficulty in the way of permanently stamping out the disease is the reluctance with which growers pull up the tree.

Fighting Roadside Weeds. In some States there are county laws which make it obligatory for those in charge of the roads to see that roadside weeds are cut twice during the growing season, first before July and the second time before the first of September. It would be well if such a law was in force in all sections, and yet the fighting of obnoxious weeds seems to be one of those things for which no law should be required.

Gray African Geese. Gray African geese are advancing in popularity and are now considered among the most profitable geese to raise. They grow rapidly and attain a weight of over eight pounds in ten weeks. They are good layers, averaging forty eggs in a season. Their flesh is fine and nicely flavored, which makes them a very acceptable table. The standard weight of a pair is twenty pounds and of the goose eighteen pounds.

Artichokes for Hogs. Artichokes are naturally more suited for a larger hog than for the use of any other stock, for the reason that the hog will dig his own digging. The crop is usually ready for the digging about September. The porkers can continue the good work till frost hardens the ground. The freezing does not injure the artichokes, and they have not been well dug out in the fall the hogs may be again turned in the spring. One beauty about the growing of this crop is that it does not have to be planted each spring, but comes up of itself. The exercise the hogs receive when digging the tubers is a benefit to them.

Increasing the Protein. Beyond doubt there can be much more digestible protein saved for the use of the stock during the winter if more care is used in harvesting the various grains and the hay crop as well. If one stops to think it is evident that there is more of the protein saved in the hay if it is cut before it fully ripens. The same exists in oats and other grains fed to stock and also in corn grown for the silo. True, in the case of the hay it is a little more difficult to cure, perhaps, but the added value more than compensates one for the trouble. Try the plan this season, and if carefully done it will work out as indicated.

Dog for the Farm. If a farmer stands in need of a dog he should have a good farm dog, to be a profitable adjunct of the farm, should have duties to perform, and should possess certain valuable qualities that will enable him to do his duties well. He should be a faithful watcher of persons and property, and at the same time of a kind disposition. He should be gentle to live stock of the farm and, above all, obedient to his master. A good farm dog is a very knowing animal.

"Little Peach" Disease. Experienced peach growers who have watched the disease known as "little peach" for a long time agree with the scientists that the only way

to stamp out the trouble is to pull out the tree. It has been thoroughly demonstrated that the disease is contagious and that a single tree effected will soon spread the disease to an entire orchard and to adjacent orchards. The one difficulty in the way of permanently stamping out the disease is the reluctance with which growers pull up the tree.

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