

When "Dad" Flynn Talked at Pastor Abel's Church

By NORA COLE SKINNER.

I went to ridicule and I stayed to praise. People were streaming up the steps of the First Methodist church Sunday night, and I drifted in with the crowd.

"Will you sit in the choir?"—the wails were full, the usher said, and he was being brought and he found me a place in the aisle.

The congregation was singing the old, old story of Jesus and the love. My whole mood changed. Where was I? What long ago when I was a boy, I had thousands at the San Antonio old Boren and Stuart warehouses in Dallas. I had but to shut my eyes and I was there. I had seen the fresh pine of the new perfume, see the throngs pouring down the sawdust aisles; watch the "personal workers" place their hands on the heads of the men, women and children singing the old-time religion, with wide-open mouths and heads thrown back. I had the same keyed-up emotion as I had then, and the people about me believed in the picture.

It was a Sam Jones crowd. It was the same crowd that Sam Jones drew—not a motley throng, but a general assemblage. The man who couldn't be made to go through a sermon on Sunday—heard this man told funny stories and cut monkey-shines. There was the young man who had been told he had a streak who was being talked of about town. There was the fellow who came for a laugh, the business man who came out of curiosity, and the church man who came out of habit. There was the woman in furs and the poor one who had not yet bought her next after next season's hat. The old man and the old woman were there, and the crying baby, too. I said to myself as I looked at them, "Daddy Flynn, by what right do you bring these people out here? You have no great message such as Sam Jones had to justify your name and your extraordinary statements. You are a fraud; you are an agitator."

I watched the feeble old man at the end of the bench near me. No, not each but the tender place in my heart that an old man has, the gentle and sweet and childlike; he wants attention and loving caresses just as much as any dear old baby, but he doesn't get it. He has beautiful gray hair and a pathetic, trembling lower jaw. His long bony fingers were behind his ear and he leaned forward earnestly, trying to get a word. Why was he here? Had he heard that big man, that we could all live to be a hundred—and had he come for the prescription? Oserian was no more absurd.

Then "Daddy" Mines Out. "Daddy" Flynn minced out on the program with the same lithesome can that Ruth St. Denis or Pavlova might have employed. And I've heard his every age from 45 to 75. We want a minister to live his religion; "Daddy" seemed to stand this test.

He hadn't talked five minutes until I believed that "Daddy" Flynn was sincere and honest and had a message to give. And I believed that I knew that the way for him to reach the thousands was by the Sam Jones route. To make the most of his own personality—get the people out by his acting, his funny stories, his dynamic remarks, his gift of mimicry—and after he got them out, he shoes the truth to them.

"This is not a funeral, friends," he began, and the faces in front of him began to crinkle. "We're going to give the doctors and the under-liers a rest in Tulsa."

"You are on your way to hell if you drink coffee. It requires 24 hours to work off the impurities of a cup of coffee; it takes seven for a glass of beer."

A bald-headed man will get to harken sooner than one with a bushy mane—he didn't say why, but every man there will be present at his lectures at the high school on the care and preservation of the hair.

"Some men, if they get to heaven, will take up half the room with their bay-windows. I can tell you how to live and lose a yard of that balloon. The cure to your life is within yourself, not with your doctor. He can only start you on the right road."

He calls the liver "Maud."

"Maud" calls the liver "Maud" because it's the hardest organ to handle. "Maud" is a friend on the liver. He claims that half of us sit on the part of the anatomy. It would make a dyspeptic laugh to hear him cry out in all earnestness, "The man who sits with his legs crossed is an idiot; when everybody could see that Dr. W. Abel, pastor of the church, sat there with his long legs not only crossed but tied in a knot. The house moved at his efforts to unravel them."

"Daddy" Flynn knows medicine. He knows the human body. He studies you with some of the serious statements that he sandwiches in between the laughs. When we are normal the corpuscles in our blood are round, when angry a drop of that blood shows that the corpuscles are oblong. "Does that not show that anger has a definite effect?" He says that in our schools we are taught a little mathematics, a little astronomy, a little geology and engineering, but not now to run our own machine.

"How much do you know about your own body?" he asks. "One meal requires four hours sleep, two meals require seven or eight, and three meals require 12. An angel ate one meal a man two and a beast three—now classify yourself. When you eat more than you need it is as if you were throwing food in a furnace that is shining against the poor, against your own body and against God."

In his sermon this week "Daddy" promises to give the neck of Tulsa how to keep young, how to keep supple, how to keep out of the divorce courts, and how to be successful. He plans to "take his own boat" and sail on a vacation—when he is 150, and he has a day's vacation back to Tulsa for a pilgrimage when still in his prime at a 100.

Go to "Organ Recitals."

"Daddy" gets a lot of invitations to go to dinner. He calls them "organ recitals" but he didn't explain where it was because of the soup made up of the reciting of all the things that the family while there. "Don't one's look and says he's got to go to the women of this town don't think of going themselves up with marriage licenses before they're 100. "Daddy" is an actor, and a lot, and, between ourselves, he'd

make a crackleback mock steinman, but with it all, when he looks at you fair and square and tells you to "act as you ought to feel, not as you feel," and talks about "high tide and low tide" of blood, you know that there is depth to him for all that.

"Daddy," when you see his Bible with your finger on the altar with resounding cracks, the old man near me missed the very word that was the key to the whole thought, and he missed a laugh when the rest of us were convulsed.

"The mind can create the 1,300 diseases man is heir to," "Dad" said when he was talking "serious like," "but don't get nutty on it. If you touch your finger, don't say it's in the mind and use the finger, and let gangrene set in and lose your arm. Don't get nutty on 'food diet' or exercise—all are good but don't be extreme."

"Tep up! Get some ginger. If you can't touch the floor without bending your knees, or can't make your knees touch your nose, when you go home tonight—call a preacher and say 'pray for me. I expect to be dead by morning.'"

All of which makes a fellow willing to give two-bits if he could be omnipresent long enough to follow home every person who attended that meeting and get a square at the organized convulsions that went on behind closed doors.

E. F. KEARNEY, PRESIDENT OF WABASH ROAD, IS DEAD

ST. LOUIS, March 11.—E. F. Kearney, president of the Wabash railroad, died here yesterday of pneumonia.

Mr. Kearney became ill at noon last Friday. He was 54 years old and leaves a wife and daughter, who are on their way here from New Orleans, and a son.

Kearney's rise from telegraph apprentice to railroad president came within 34 years. He started as a student operator in Loganport, Ind., on the Pennsylvania. Later he became a train dispatcher, a chief clerk, and trainmaster at various places in Indiana for Pennsylvania lines.

He came to St. Louis in 1903 as superintendent of the Terminal Railroad association. He was later general superintendent of transportation for the Frisco system and was also connected with the Missouri Pacific as superintendent of terminals. In 1913 he became first vice president of the Texas & Pacific. When the Wabash railroad was reorganized after going into receivership in 1915, Kearney was selected president of the road for which he had served as co-receiver. His work of rehabilitating the company's finances received wide attention.

MAY RESTORE RAIL HEADS TO MANAGEMENT OF LINES

ST. PAUL, March 11.—Prominent railroad men in St. Paul today were discussing a report that a radical move to readjust the railroad situation throughout the United States is to be made soon, and that railroad corporation presidents will be restored to their offices and resume active management of their lines.

The report, which is said to come

PREFERS A LITTLE DIRT TO FIGHTING NEW WAR

ANSELL PREPARES REPLY TO REFUTE GEN. CROWDER

WASHINGTON, March 11.—Lieutenant Colonel Samuel T. Ansell, former acting judge advocate general, announced today that he was preparing a statement "in reply to and refutation of the letter of Major Gen. Knott H. Crowder on the administration of military justice which was made public yesterday by the war department. Colonel Ansell said the statement would be completed tomorrow and that the secretary of war would be asked to give it the same publicity that was given to the statement of the judge advocate general."

Wireless at Bogota.

WASHINGTON, March 11.—Press reports forwarded to the state department today from Bogota, Colombia, announce a contract between the Marconi Wireless Telegraph company and the Colombian government for the erection of a powerful wireless station at Bogota.

PREFERS A LITTLE DIRT TO FIGHTING NEW WAR

PHOENIX, Ariz., March 11—

Voicing his personal preference to "eat a little dirt rather than to have another war," and declaring, with regard to the league of nations, that since the day of Washington's stand against entangling alliances, "times have changed," Thomas H. Marshall, vice president of the United States, yesterday gave his views to a joint session of the Arizona legislature.

Vice President Marshall disclaimed any intention to campaign for the league, but asserted that America was faced with the choice of either joining in some place to prevent future wars, or of preparing immediately for the next outbreak.

"I believe with Washington," said the vice president, "that we should have no entangling foreign alliance. If we can get out of it, but times have changed and, whether you wish it or not, today you are hooked up with the world, and whatever touches any portion of the civilized world, for weal or woe, touches you. Do you think 100,000,000 men suffered and died on the field of Flanders and France in order that things might be as they were before? If you do, I do not."

"While I would be forever against anything which would besmirch the honor of our flag or lessen the grandeur and glory of the American people, yet I am convinced that we are facing a new era and that things must be different in the future."

"We have piled up an enormous debt; spent billions on useless engines of war to kill our fellow men, and, for myself, I have seen so many of our boys come back shattered and know of so many others who will not come back, that I would rather eat a little dirt than have another war."

"There are certain great questions for which it would be better to fight, and if I thought there was anything in this league of nations to lower the self-respect of the United States, then I would rather fight."

STEAMER OHIOAN ARRIVES WITH SOUTHERN TROOPS

NEW YORK, March 11—

The steamship Ohioan arrived today from Bordeaux with 1,627 troops, a majority of them of the 415th infantry of the 87th division (national army) from Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, machine gun company, companies C, G, H, K, L and M, and a sanitary detachment and the headquarters of the 87th division. These to be distributed among Camp Dix, Sherman and Lodge one officer and five men of the 87th division's 312th sanitary train on board will go to Camp Dix, others on the Ohioan were casual company No. 26, of Iowa with 85 officers and 2,674 troops of the 27th division former New York state national guardsmen, the steamer Mount Vernon arrived from Brazil. The vessel brought altogether 3,747 troops, including a large number of casuals and 36 nurses, together with seven officers and 813 men sick or wounded.

Casual companies aboard included the following: New 1,909, of Illinois 1,494, of Arkansas 1,495, of Missouri 1,414, of Tennessee 1,416, of Illinois and 294, of Colorado.

Traveling as a casual on the Mount Vernon was Brig. Gen. James D. Ginnion.

May Cancel Agreement.

NEW YORK, March 11.—With 26,000 longshoremen idle and 7,000 marine workers still on strike here today, cancellation of the agreement between the railroad administration and several thousand strikers who returned to work was hinted at by Thomas L. Delehanty, president of the wine workers' affiliation. Reports have been received, Delehanty asserted, that the railroad administration is assisting the boat owners, against whom the strike is still in effect.

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Women's Eiffel Silk Hose \$2.00
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