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Faith is the force of life.—Tolstoi.

The Secret of Model Babies

The three prize-winning babies in New York's baby contest were all children of foreigners. The winner of the first prize was of Russian descent; the winner of the second prize was a Turkish baby, and the winner of the third prize represented sunny Italy.

Each baby came from a home in which honest poverty was the most conspicuous characteristic. That is to say, the parents hadn't become so steeped in the vices and enfeeblments of luxury as to handicap nature in its efforts to perpetuate the race.

Though all were residents of the crowded East-side, in tenements which would shock the sensibilities of most well-to-do Americans, they had retained, from their simple ways of living in the old country, enough sturdiness and vigor to beget offspring in turn well endowed with vitality.

This does not prove that crowded tenements are the best breeding places of a sturdy human stock. It does not negative the arguments of social reformers who object to overcrowding.

But it does make a powerful endorsement of the frugal, out-of-door living to which the parents of these prize winning youngsters were accustomed before they joined in the crush of the new world's biggest city.

The leaders in almost every form of modern city activity are farm-born and farm-bred; they bring to the tense struggle of the human hive bodies hardened by wholesome toil and nerves reinforced by steady habits and plenty of fresh air in their youth.

It remains to be seen how the next generation of tenement babies will bear up under equal strain without the physical advantages which life in the open bestows.

Peasant immigration thus far has kept the vitality of the American people from deteriorating in spite of their tendency to herd in debilitating cities.

But it may not always be available. Moreover, those who are native born ought to be TOO PROUD to let alien parents carry off the prizes for the best products in babies.

The same habits of living which make the Russians, the Turks and the Italians fine breeders of model babies are available for Americans of native stock whenever they shall be willing to forego the frills and furbelows of fashionable existence in order to get down to bedrock health foundations.

Plain food, simple living with plenty of exercise out-of-doors and no fretting to outdo a neighbor in fashionable show will make model American babies as easily as it has given these alien kiddies the present palm.

So it is, after all, only a question of how much we are WILLING TO PAY for good babies.

Salaries of Pierce County Judges

Judge Mitchell says Pierce county judges should get the \$4,000 salaries which the present county commissioners refuse to pay.

Maybe the judge is right about the technical law point in the controversy but no judge on earth can ever justify the methods employed to get this extra slice of \$16,000 of the Pierce county taxpayer's money by the Pierce county bench.

The deal was one of the rawest ever pulled off in the court house and the people should commend the present commissioners for refusing to abide by it.

It is not a question as to whether Pierce county should have \$3,000 or \$4,000 judges. Every man who is now asking \$4,000 was scared to death lest he lose out in the election and fail to get the job at the old figure of \$3,000. They wanted the jobs at that figure and then just before election, too late for any other contestants to enter the race, they had their friends engineer a deal through with the help of conniving county commissioners secretly to boost the salaries to \$4,000 a year.

It was all done behind closed doors and the records of it were kept from the public for days until it was too late to take any action to head it off.

The question of the fitness of the present judges does not enter into the case at all. They may be worth \$4,000. But a \$4,000 man ought to be big enough never to resort to such underhand methods with the people to get a salary boost.

If the salary raise had been made last spring so all might have had notice of it and the field been thrown open to \$4,000 men, there might have been some justification for the action, but this was not done.

Another feature of the case that does not look good is to have the case tried by a fellow jurist on the bench. Such a case should be tried by a jury. Of course the lawyers will say this could not be done, it is not that kind of a case, but that is just the trouble.

The legal trust is one of the most ironclad in this country. It writes the laws, administers them, decides their constitutionality and the result is seen in the fact that the lawyers are the highest salaried public officials as a class in the country.

And yet there are blind leaders of the blind who say the people do not need the recall of judges.

An Appropriate Honor

It means a good deal that President Wilson has asked Louis F. Post to be assistant secretary of labor.

Post is an editor who for many years has preferred freedom to write and speak the truth as he sees it to a big income with somebody else holding a string on him.

He is a single taxer who would rather open the mind of an uninformed skeptic of that doctrine than eat a meal.

He is a "conspirator" who for almost a generation has been "plotting" with other democrats throughout the land how best to try to make life brighter for the poor and humble.

Not half a dozen men now alive have done more to advance sane radicalism than Louis Post through his writings in "The Public," his lectures, his coaching of men in the public eye and the fine influence of his unselfish character.

He helped Altgeld and Henry D. Lloyd and Bryan and Mayor Dunne of Chicago in the trying days of Dunne's battle royal with the Yerkes traction octopus; he was a right bower to Henry George and Tom Johnson, and there hasn't been a struggle toward democracy in the past 30 years in which he wasn't ready and eager to do his utmost on the people's side.

Post has been honest, earnest, studious, pugnacious, resourceful, courageous and persevering. He represents the kind of citizenship this country needs to offset the natural tendency of the average man toward laziness, sluggishness and the easiest way.

In selecting a man like him for notable distinction the president has shown a fine discrimination and has proved that he himself is a free spirit.

The honor is to the clean, the brave and the democratic journalism everywhere.

By the Junior Office Boy

J. O. B.

N. Y., Thursday. A feller walked into a gents furnishin store, up on Broadway, and he says to the clerk say, I want to deck myself out in a line of mourning scenery, put me into the right stuff well, says the clerk it depends on how mournful you are for a very near relative, or for a ritche unkel, you should have a all-black suit of clothes for sumbody not quite so close, a wide band of black around your arms is very oh fay then a narrower band, according to the distastefulness of the deceased and the consequent smaller degree of grief which is suffered I get you steven, says the guy and if I doll up with a sheestrin I gess I'll have it about right, it was one of my wife's relations that rolled his hoop. Johnny

LET'S SMILE AWHILE

AND THEN IT HAPPENED!



A Sad Predicament.

"What's the matter, Flossie?" asked the ingenue. "I'm awfully worried about my husband," replied the soubrette. "What has he been doing?" "Nothing, but I'm beginning to like him so well that I almost dread the idea of getting a divorce."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Path of Least Resistance.

"Do you believe in telepathy?" "Yes." "Have you had any experience in that line?" "No; but I'd rather say I believe it than to invite some enthusiast on the subject to give me an argument about it."—Washington Star.

No Defense.

Lawyer—I think I can get you a divorce, madam, for cruel and inhuman treatment—but do you think your husband will fight the suit? Woman—Fight! Why, the little shrimp darsent even come into a room where I am!—Truth Seeker.

Got Them Right Off the Bat.

"I know all his wife's faults," "Acquainted with her?" "No; just been introduced to his mother."—Detroit Free Press.

Result of Much Practice.

Ether—Percy says that I am the first girl he ever kissed. Geraldine—Yes. And doesn't he do it delightfully?—Stray Stories.

Poor Headway.

He—Will nothing induce you to change your mind and marry? She—Another man might.—Boston Transcript.

Why She Kept Mum.

Bessie—Did you scream when he tried to kiss you? Jessie—No; there is a poor man across the street who is dreadfully sick. — Philadelphia Telegraph.

Described Minutely.

Helen—Weren't you and Hazel talking for about three hours? Marion—Yes; I was telling her how my little hat was trimmed. — Chicago News.

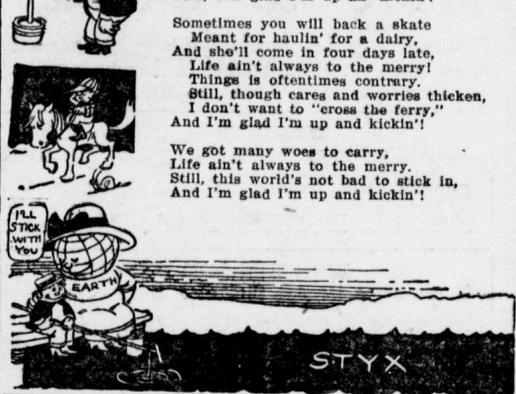
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THANKFULNESS

by BERTON BRALEY.

Kid, I'll slip it to you straight, Here's the answer to your query, Joy don't always keep her date. Life ain't always to the merry; 'Tain't no joke when Tom or Harry Cops your one and only chicken. Still, a feller's luck will vary, And I'm glad I'm up and kickin'!



The TINDER-BOX

AS TOLD BY AUNT GERTIE.

Suited the action to the word, the soldier looped the rope around his waist, climbed into the hole in the tree trunk, gathered the witch's apron under his arm and disappeared! Suddenly he found himself in a wide passage. Hundreds of lights showed the way, and as he walked along he spied the first door. He opened it. Hooray! There sat the dog with the big eyes on the top of the trunk. "Nice dog. Good dog," said the soldier. He felt rather quavery inside, though. But he lifted the animal off and opened the trunk. There was the treasure, all in copper coins! He took all he could carry. Then he put the dog back on the trunk and started for the second door. Oh, what a big-eyed creature sat on that second trunk in that second room! "Don't stare at me so hard, please, Mr. Dog," said the soldier. "I am not going to hurt you." He lifted him off as he had done the first dog; opened the trunk and took all he could carry of the silver.



"This is certainly a wonderful find for me," thought the soldier as he marched on toward room No. 3. "And here is dog No. 3. He is larger and uglier than all the rest. I wonder if I can lift him off without getting hurt." As he had done before, he succeeded again in removing the dog and getting GOLD this time! Just think, children, of being able to go to a trunk in a mysterious underground room and getting all the gold you could carry away. No wonder the soldier laughed in glee. Filling his cap and his boots and his pockets and his handkerchief and the old woman's blue apron, the soldier started back toward the witch. Soon he stuck his head out of the tree. The witch was anxiously waiting for him. "Did you bring my tinder box?" she called. "Oh, no; I forgot all about it," said the soldier. "What are you going to do with that tinder box?" he added. "None of your business," she replied. "You have your money. Now give me my tinder box." "Well, do as you please. Tell me what you want it for or I will cut off your head, Mrs. Witch." Do you think he found out, and what do you suppose happened to the poor witch? (To Be Continued.)

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