

THE MESSAGE

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"LISTEN TO THE Mocking Bird"—How It Happened to be Written.

Septimus Winner, the author of "Listen to the Mocking Bird," who died the other day in Philadelphia, passed out of the world well-nigh penniless.

And yet, during his lifetime, his songs—the one named and others, earned nearly \$3,000,000.

Of this sum he received less than one-tenth of 1 percent. Of "Listen to the Mocking Bird" 20,000,000 copies were sold. Winner was paid \$5 for the manuscript.

Like Nicholas Crouch, the Baltimorean who wrote "Kathleen Mavourneen," he won fame without profit.

The composer was 70 years old when he died.

When he wrote the song that made him famous he was 26. How he came to write it was told a day or two after his death by his wife.

"In 1852," said Mrs. Winner, "we had a music store in Philadelphia near the Delaware River. A young negro named Dick Milburn used to clean up for us occasionally, and this young man was called Whistling Dick on account of his powerful and sweet whistle.

"Mr. Winner liked Dick, liked to hear him whistle, and liked to hear him sing. 'If you only had a song that you could sing and whistle both' he would say, 'that would be a fine combination.'

"And Dick would ask Mr. Winner why he did not fix up such a song for him.

"Well, Dick, I will" my husband said one afternoon, and he wrote the words and music of "Listen to the Mocking Bird" that evening—wrote them in about three hours, and showed them to me before we went to bed."

These are the words as Winner wrote them:

I'm dreaming now of Hally,
Sweet Hally, sweet Hally;
I'm dreaming now of Hally.

For the thought of her is one that never dies.

She's sleeping in the valley,
The valley, the valley;
She's sleeping in the valley.

And the mocking bird is singing where she lies.

Listen to the mocking bird,
Listen to the mocking bird,
The mocking bird is singing o'er her grave.

Listen to the mocking bird,
Listen to the mocking bird,
Still singing where the weeping willow wave.

Ah, well, I yet remember,
Remember, remember;
Ah, well, I yet remember.

When we gathered in the cotton side by side.

'Twas in the mild September,
September, September,
'Twas in the mild September.

And the mocking bird is singing far and wide.

Listen to the mocking bird, etc.

The next morning Winner ran over "Listen to the Mocking Bird" with Whistling Dick, and the latter soon learned both the melody and the words.

And thereafter Dick was always singing his new piece, and before a week had gone by it seemed that all Philadelphia had learned the song from him, for, wherever one turned the strains of "Listen to the Mocking Bird" fell on the ear.

Nevertheless, Winner sold his song to a Boston firm for \$5, believing, that because he had written it with so little labor, that it was worth little.

And the firm that profited by this modesty so largely never gave him any extra recompense outside of the original \$5—never shared with him a penny out of the thousands that the song earned.

In its day the song surpassed all others in popularity.

It was whistled and sung at museum—on the street, at the theater, in the home.

There is talk of a new Catholic church building at Centralia.

Mrs. J. R. Cropp of Glasgow, Mo., sold a "crop" of chickens, butter and eggs during 1902 amounting to \$158.22.

Miss Elizabeth Dickinson, a witness in the Hooper Young murder in New York, received threatening anonymous letters, supposedly from Mormons.

Wm. Cullen, a brother of attorney P. H. Cullen of this city, who formerly resided at Vandalia, is now foreman of the cement plant at Hannibal.

Bishop Spaulding says, "We abound in corrupt politicians, and until we can master this evil we can lay no claim to either civilization or Christianity."

Reuben Landrum, lately stationed at Armstrong, Mo., is the new night operator for the C. & A. at Vandalia. Reube, your many friends are glad to have you come back to Audrain.

J. R. Moore of this city, a book-keeper at Pollock Milling Co., went up to Gilliam last week and stepped out of single blessedness. The fortunate young lady was Miss Birdie Daniel, the daughter of a prominent farmer and stockman of that locality.

A New York paper which publishes daily a list of vessels entering New York harbor from Long Island Sound, runs the list under the stereotyped head, "Passed thru Hell Gate." Recently an error occurred and the head was inserted over the death notices.

Coal oil costs us 6 cents a gallon more than it did twelve months ago, yet the foreigner pays only one cent more per gallon. So when Mr. Rockefeller wants to be good to us he gives us free libraries and the foreigner cheap oil.

According to the report of the state superintendent of public schools only ten trees were planted in Audrain county on arbor day last year. Audrain should do better than that, but in some districts she is doing well to take care of the trees already planted.

An observation by the Centralia Courier: Probate Judge Botts of Audrain is a single man. That's the reason when he marries a couple he makes the bride promise to "love, cherish and sustain" the groom, instead of "love, cherish and obey." We see where the Judge is right. "Sustain" beats "obey" about ten these days when wood is six dollars a cord and every thing else pro rata.

Frances Rebeccah lodge I. O. O. F. of Vandalia has installed the following officers: Miss Ada Long, N. G.; Miss Emma Sutton, N. G.; Mrs. George Kaylor, secretary; Mrs. William Hitch, treasurer; Mrs. M. E. Daniel, R. S. N. G.; Miss Lizzie Rees, L. S. N. G.; Miss Annie Morris, warden; Mrs. L. E. Pigg, conductor; Mrs. Chas. Butts, R. S. V. G.; Miss Maggie Morgau, L. S. V. G.; J. M. Geller, O. G.; Chas. Leist, I. G.; Mrs. M. C. Martin, chaplain.

A comment by the State Leader: An elderly man was run over and killed by a Chicago & Alton train near Rush Hill, this county, one day last week. A whisky bottle was found in his pocket nearly empty. A man from Roodhouse, Ill., identified the body as his father, and stated that he believed the old gentleman had been killed during a quarrel as he was very quarrelsome when drinking, and had been thrown from the train or killed and placed on the track.

For Sale. A good stock of general merchandise, will invoice about \$3,000; in a railroad town. Best of reasons for selling. Address this office.

The Bible as Literature.

From the New York Commercial Advertiser:

Judge Hazen of Kansas has ruled that the Bible is literature which may be read in public schools. In Topeka the teachers of the public schools read from the Bible as well as from the poets or story writers in the morning exercises. This custom was assailed in the courts by an infidel of the town who declared that he wanted no religious instruction for his children. The decision of Judge Hazen was to the effect that reading from the Bible as a literary or oratorical exercise could not be considered as in violation of the prohibition in the constitution against religious dogmas or creeds. The mere fact that the Bible was a basis of a religious system did not taboo it as a religious adjunct to a liberal education.

The narrow view taken by the prosecution would bar from our schools and colleges much of the best that has ever been known in literature. Homer, for instance, who taught polytheism; or the Latin authors who ranged from this to atheism; or the works of Buddha, Confucius, Mohammed and the next to endless chain of doctrinaires whose literary product must be studied by every eager scholar. The constitution never avoided religion along educational lines. It pledged the American people, simply, that no religion would ever be forced upon them by the powers of the government, and that belief in dogma or creed would never be made a requisite to any of the rights of citizenship.

As to Tax Dodging. The following comes from Jefferson City; it might be well if the bill mentioned should become a law:

The bill introduced by Representative Colden, of Nodaway county, relative to the publication by townships of the personal assessment lists, exclusive of the cities of St. Louis, St. Joseph and Kansas City, and for counties which have less than 100,000 population, which would probably exclude Greene and Jasper counties, is attracting renewed attention. The plan for publishing the lists, taking only persons whose personal property is assessed at a valuation of \$50 or more has been in vogue in Jasper county for several years. The county court there of its volition ordered such a publication, at a cost to the county of \$300 per annum and here is the way the list showed up for the years for which such publication was made: In 1900 the personal property returned to the assessor for taxation was 2,367,928. In 1901 it was \$2,599,035, and in 1902 it was \$2,723,190. The Johnson county man who produced these figures to-day had them fresh from the records, and declares the increase is largely, if not wholly due to the publication of the lists. He declares it has practically made tax-dodging in that county a lost art.

A bill has been introduced in the Missouri Senate providing that jurymen who serve during the months of April, May and June shall be paid \$3.50 a day; for other months the pay is to be \$2. At the present rate of two dollars a day after a jurymen has paid his board and lodging bill and set aside something to pay some one for doing the chores at home he has either to walk home or have a conveyance sent for him. He has nothing for car fare. The passage of the bill will increase the amount of costs in the civil cases, but it may be thought hardly fair for jurymen to not only give their time but money out of pocket that people may enjoy the luxury of a law suit.

Two churches in Neosho, Mo., have offered their bells for sale. The rest of the churches have none. The church and the pastors agree that the bells are an unnecessary annoyance.

J. W. HOWELL, Notary Public.

J. T. WILLIAMS.

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Will be held at St. Louis in 1904, and THE GREATEST ST. LOUIS NEWSPAPER will be indispensable during the coming year.

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Circuit Court—3rd Monday in January, 1st Monday in June, 3d Monday in September.
County Court—1st Monday in February, 1st Monday in May, 1st Monday in August, 1st Monday in November.
Probate Court—2d Monday in February, 2d Monday in May, 2d Monday in August, 2d Monday in November.

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CHICAGO & ALTON RY. TIME TABLE

Standard Time.
WEST-Bound Trains Leave—
No. 7 Colo. & Cal. Limited... 9:35 a.m.
No. 11 Kansas City Express... 9:25 a.m.
No. 15 Missouri State Express... 1:48 p.m.
*No. 115 Way Freight... 10:40 a.m.
EAST-Bound Trains Leave—
No. 12 St. Louis Limited Express... 1:58 a.m.
No. 14 Missouri State Express... 1:10 p.m.
No. 10 Cal. & Colo. Limited... 11:15 p.m.
*No. 114 Way Freight... 12:01 a.m.

JEFFERSON CITY BRANCH.
SOUTH Bound Trains Leave—
*No. 211 Fulton Accommodation... 9:35 a.m.
*No. 213 Jefferson City Mail... 3:10 p.m.
*No. 213 Way Freight... 7:30 a.m.
NORTH Bound Trains Arrive—
*No. 210 Jefferson City Mail... 9:10 a.m.
*No. 214 Fulton Accommodation... 12:35 p.m.
*No. 212 Way Freight... 5:40 p.m.
*Daily Except Sunday.

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GEO. J. CHARLTON, Gen. Passenger Agt., C. & A. R.R., Chicago.

WABASH RAIL ROAD. MEXICO. Going East.

No. 4 Atlantic Expr's... 3 05 a.m.
No. 14 St. Louis... 3 52 a.m.
No. 10 " Accom... 7 05 a.m.
No. 20 St. L. & St. Paul Lim... 7 07 a.m.
No. 12 Mail... 2 58 p.m.
No. 2 N. Y. Limited... 3 03 p.m.
No. 6 Fast Mail... 10 45 p.m.
No. 70 W'y. Fr't. (ex Su)... 8 50 a.m.
No. 64 Through Fr't... 8 10 p.m.

Going West.
No. 13 Mail... 11 30 a.m.
No. 3 Limited... 11 59 a.m.
No. 9 Kansas City Mail... 5 18 p.m.
No. 5 Moberly Accom... 9 02 p.m.
No. 1 Pacific Express... 10 25 p.m.
No. 7 Denver Lim... 1 30 a.m.
No. 71 W'y. Fr't. (ex Sun)... 2 05 p.m.
No. 19 St. Paul Lim... 5 05 p.m.

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