

Life's Journey

As we speed out of youth's sunny station
The track seems to shine in the light,
But it suddenly shoots over chasms
Or sinks into tunnels of night,
And the hearts that were brave in the morning
Are filled with repining and fears,
As they pause at the City of Sorrow
Or pass through the Valley of Tears.

But the road of this perilous journey,
The hand of the Master has made,
With all its discomforts and dangers,
We need not be sad or afraid,
Paths leading from light into darkness,
Ways plunging from gloom to despair,
Wind out through the tunnels of mid-night
To fields that are blooming and fair.

Though the rocks and the shadows surround us,
Though we catch not one gleam of the day,
Above us fair cities are laughing
And dipping white feet in some bay,
And always, eternal, forever,
Down over the hills in the west,
The last final end of our journey,
There lies the Great Station of Rest.

'Tis the Grand Central point of all rail-ways,
All roads unite here when they end;
'Tis the final resort of all tourists,
All rival lines meet here and blend,
All tickets, all miles-backs, all passers,
If stolen or begged for or bought,
On whatever road or division,
Will bring you at last to the spot.

If you pause at the City of Trouble,
Or wait in the Valley of Tears,
Be patient, the train will move onward,
And rush down the track of the years,
Whatever the place is you seek for,
Whatever your game or your quest,
You shall come at the last with rejoicing
To the beautiful City of Rest.

You shall store all your baggage of worries,
You shall feel perfect peace in this realm,
You shall sail with old friends on fair waters,
With joy and delight at the helm,
You shall wander in cool, fragrant gardens
With those who have loved you the best,
And the hopes that were lost in life's journey
You shall find in the City of Rest.

—Elta Wheeler Wilcox.

The Nun's Kiss.

BY ROBERT BRACO

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Sister Filomena entered the confessional. She began to open her soul in humble, almost whispering tones.

"Father," she said, "I am not certain whether I have sinned or not. At times my conscience tells me that I have trespassed and then again I feel that I have done no wrong. What is strangest of all is when my conscience absolves me I suffer more than when it accuses me."

The father confessor seemed non-plussed. "Be more explicit, my daughter," he admonished, "and try to recall to memory all the details of what has tended to harass your soul. Thou art so very young. At the age of eighteen the conscience is not yet fully aroused. You may trust in me to pass sound judgment. The Lord will enlighten me. Confide in me."

"I will confess all, dear father. To—and you—and you?" asked the confessor.

"Father, my soul was filled with fear at his words. I thought he might be doomed forever if he were permitted to die without a token of unselfish affection. I dreaded the remorse that might come to my soul. I looked around me dreading to cause offense, then I bent over him and kissed him."

"Where did you kiss him?" asked the father confessor in anxious excitement.

"It was quite dark, father, but I believe it was on the mouth."

"This was very imprudent, very imprudent. I understand it was done with holy intent. On the forehead, instead of on the mouth, would have been better. It would have sufficed to

not have you by my side I might have been fated to die alone as in a desert. Tears were in his eyes. He asked me, 'Will you do me one great favor, Sister Filomena?' I replied 'All that is in my power will I do for you, my brother.' He asked: 'Do you earnestly desire that I shall die in peace, that He who created me shall bless me.' I answered: 'Thus every Christian should die.'

"Very well said," interrupted the father confessor.

"The dying man whispered softly: 'Help me to die in peace. Let me leave this life with malice toward none. Let me enter into the next world with the remembrance of one act of unselfish love, Sister Filomena, have pity for a dying wretch. Give me—a kiss!'"

"A kiss!" exclaimed the venerable priest in astonishment.

"I repeated my words of comfort to the dying and added: 'Have courage, my brother, prepare to receive the kiss of God the Savior.'"

"Again well spoken," remarked the servant of the church.

"But the patient collected all his remaining strength and lifting himself from the pillow by a mighty effort beseeched me to grant him this favor. 'Can you not see, Sister Filomena,' he said, 'that my salvation depends on this? Will you suffer the pangs of remorse for refusing such a small service? I must not leave this world without one token of love from humanity. Will you have me perish?'"

"He is alive?"

"Yes, the poor fellow hovered between life and death until morning. The first rays of sunshine seemed to revive him."

"But this is a great misfortune!" cried the confessor.

"What do you mean, father?"

"If you have kissed a living man on his mouth, who continues to live, I am at my wits' end to know how to

propitiate the deed. With death a certainty it would have been otherwise. Is he positively assured that the patient will live? How is the patient today?"

"He is getting better every hour."

"Then you are doomed!"

"My God, father, is there no hope for me?"

"Dare not use the name of God in vain!"

"Am I such a great sinner, father?"

"Unworthy to wear the nun's garments."

As Sister Filomena burst out in an uncontrollable fit of weeping, the father confessor resolved not to speak so harshly. "Let me see; when you entered the confessional you said that when the conscience absolved you you suffered more than when it accused you. I cannot fathom this combination."

"That is all I can say. I feel what I feel, and I tell you just how I feel."

"And you are sorry for what you have done?"

"If it is such a great sin, I must feel sorry."

"I cannot grant absolution today. Let us wait. Who knows but the sickness of the young man may take a turn for the worse. We will be guided by his condition. I will not hear you further today."

A few days later Sister Filomena again entered the confessional.

"Well, how is No. 7?" asked the priest.

"He is convalescent."

"What say the physicians?"

"They say he will be healthier than ever."

"You see, now, there is no hope for you, daughter."

"I told him so."

"Told whom so?"

"I told the patient that I am doomed on his account, and that if I had known that he would live I would never have kissed him."

"And what did this man with his invincible health answer to that?"

"He said that he did not desire my pardon; to the contrary he would now save my soul."

"He would have saved your soul if he had died."

"And for this reason, father: he has sworn to me that on the day the physicians would pronounce him fully cured he would kill himself for my sake. But, father, in that case I would be guilty of his suicide, and bad would be made worse. I must not let him kill himself. On the other hand, if he does, I am also doomed, as you assure me."

The new complications worried the father for a long time. Finally he looked with deep scrutiny into the face of his fair charge. "Sister Filomena, I absolve you, but further than that I will obtain a special dispensation to release you of your vow. You love the young man?"

"I do, father."

"Tell him to come and see me here as soon as he can walk. He needs absolution more than you. Both absolved, there is hope for you."

In all the cities of Arabia, even at the present day, dried locusts, strung on threads, as dried apples used formerly to be treated in this country, are exposed for sale as an article of food.

CHINA WAR NEWS.

The situation in Pekin is again becoming complicated, and the prospects of a settlement are more remote than ever. It is reported that the signatures of the Chinese plenipotentiaries to the peace conditions are not in correct form. It is believed that Sir Ernest Mason Satow will take decisive early action. Count von Walderssee is reported to have sent an ultimatum to the imperial court. All appearances indicate that China's immovable obstinacy is merely intended to facilitate the active preparations she is making for a renewal of hostilities in the spring.

Field Marshal Count von Walderssee, telegraphing from Peking, under date of the 11th, says that from Pao-Ting Fu onward, five of the chief places in the district, lying within the German sphere, have been occupied permanently by one company each, to protect the inhabitants from robbery and oppression.

A dispatch from Field Marshal Count von Walderssee, dated Peking, Feb. 8, says: A Jagar company, detachments of cavalry, mounted infantry and artillery have gone via Nankow to Yon Kiang, 72 kilometers northwest of Pekin, to investigate fresh murders of Christians, recently reported.

It is now apparent to the officers of the administration at Washington that it will scarcely be possible for the U. S. to withdraw entirely from the government of Cuba under the most favorable circumstances before next fall at the earliest.

A special from Shan Hai Kuah, dated the 11th, says the Russians lost 40 men killed in an engagement at Kao-Chiao, and that they refused the assistance of the allies.

The opinion is expressed in high circles, and even in a section of the semi-official press that Count von Walderssee's usefulness in China is about ended.

TRANSVAAL WAR ITEMS.

The government has decided to give notice to foreign nations of the fact that Cape Town is infected with the bubonic plague. There is no longer any doubt as to the nature of the disease. Another native has died of the disorder, three additional cases are announced and 50 persons who have been in contact with plague victims have been isolated. A temporary hospital is being erected.

The remains of Canadian soldiers, who were killed in South Africa, will not be removed to Canada. The fact that the late queen left her grandson's remains there and Lord Roberts also left the body of his only son where he had fallen, has prompted other relatives of departed loved ones to do likewise.

Two hundred Boers recently raided the Prince Albert district, looting stores and destroying orchards and gardens. Several were killed and wounded. Seven British yeomanry, while skirmishing, were captured by a commando near Vryburg, which was forced to retire.

Twenty-seven Australians, Cape police and dragoons were captured by Kruitzinger's commando, eight miles from Ballaspruit, Feb. 6, after a fight in which three British and five Boers were killed. The British were afterward released.

Sir Alfred Milner having notified the government of New South Wales of his intention to send an officer to recruit in Australia for the South African constabulary, the government replied that the colony objects to such a proceeding.

A special dispatch from Pretoria, dated the 12th, says Gen. De Wet crossed the Orange river north of Norval's Point, on the 10th, going in the direction of Philippstown. The British are following.

Gen. Kitchener, in a dispatch from Pretoria, dated the 12th, says French has captured a convoy of 50 wagons and 15 carts, and has made 43 prisoners. We had one man wounded.

The Boers violently attacked Smith-Dorrien's outpost at Bothwell, Feb. 6, but were driven back with heavy loss. Piet De Wet is at Cape Town to engage the Afrikaners in the peace movement.

Gen. French has occupied Ermelo, in the Transvaal. Six thousand Boers retired.

PHILIPPINE NEWS.

The large island of Panay, of which Iloilo is the chief port, has been one of the most vexatious hotbeds of insurrection and resistance to the American regime in the whole Philippine archipelago, and the announcement that its pacification has now been practically accomplished was one of the most gratifying messages received by the war department in the past week.

According to the present plans of the war department the army is to be recruited to its full authorized strength of 100,000 men. The regular army now consists of about 67,000 men, including the troops in the Philippines, so that the new enlistments are limited to about 33,000 men.

At Bacolor on the 13th a bill applying the provincial government act to the province of Pampanga was passed in the presence of a crowd, which included representatives of all the 20 towns in the province.

A peace league composed of 50 American and 260 Filipino women has been organized at Manila.

Appropriate services in memory of Abraham Lincoln were held in many places throughout the U. S. on the 12th.

Mexico experienced her first snow storm in about 50 years on the 17th. In the high suburbs of Mexico City the ground was white, but in the city it melted as fast as it fell.

Rochester, Pa., was visited by the most disastrous fire in the history of that town on the 12th. Fully \$1,500,000 worth of property was destroyed.

CONGRESSIONAL NOTES.

For the first time this session, Congressman Gardner got into a debate on the 12th, and to his credit it must be said that he turned the tables on his opponent, and made him look as cheap as popcorn. The ex-minister of the gospel from the 3d Michigan district is usually of the mildest disposition, and even in this hot debate he did not lose his politeness, but the Texan, with whom he argued was glad to get out of the chamber. Gardner wears a G. A. R. button, and the row began over a discussion of the rights of ex-soldiers to have the stain of desertion removed from their records. The bill under discussion was the army appropriation bill, and Slayden, of Texas, took occasion to get in a hot speech against the system of clearing the records of old soldiers.

Owners of naphtha and electric launches will not have to come under the government restrictions during the coming season. They can continue until 1902, at least, taking chances, through their ignorance of naphtha engines and electric batteries, of blowing themselves and their launches into the coroner's custody. Gen. Grosvenor, who has had charge of the bill to require pilots and engineers of such launches to submit to examination by federal officers as to their qualifications to navigate launches, says there will be no time to have the bill passed this session.

When the postal bill passed the house, Rep. Loud assured the members that no important amendment had been discovered, but there is a provision that will give the country editor an awful jar. It provides that in cities where there is free delivery, the weekly newspaper publishers cannot have their paper distributed at pound rates, must pay one cent a copy, or 52 cents a year for a dollar subscription, or else employ carriers. Editorial associations over the country are making vigorous complaints, and ask the senate to kill the amendment.

The one serious task to be accomplished by this congress before it adjourns is the passage of a resolution declaring that it is the sense of the U. S. that the military occupation of Cuba should not cease until the Cuban people, in convention assembled, shall have framed a constitution and organized the foundations of a government which shall recognize the claims of the U. S. to certain political and commercial concessions more favorable than granted to other nations of the world.

President McKinley has declined to appoint Benton Hanchett, of Michigan, attorney-general of the U. S. during the second term of his administration. John W. Griggs, of New Jersey, the present attorney-general, declines a re-appointment. Mr. Hanchett is about 60 years old and that is the reason he will not be appointed. The President wants an attorney-general not over 50 years of age. Atty.-Gen. Griggs was 48 when appointed.

The ship subsidy bill is getting to be a target for jokes. Claims that it will pass are still made by the promoters of it, but they are very mild. Senator Spooner, of Wisconsin, who was relied upon by the promoters to support it, stated on the 13th that not only did he not want to advocate the measure, but he was against it.

The ceremony of counting the electoral vote for president and vice-president, cast in the election last fall, took place in the hall of the house of representatives at 1 o'clock on the afternoon of the 13th at a joint session of the senate and house. Crowds thronged the galleries and many distinguished personages were present.

Shortly after the senate convened on the 11th the naval appropriation bill was passed. The shipping bill was then taken up and kept before the senate during the remainder of the legislative day. Mr. Caffery (Dem., La.) occupied the floor throughout the session.

On the 9th Rep. Deming, of Minnesota, introduced a bill in the house to provide for paroling life convicts who have served 35 years, less good behavior time, or 23½ years.

THE MARKETS.

LIVE STOCK.
New York—Cattle Sheep Lams Hogs.
Best grades... 61 55 55 81 50 46 10 55 73
Lower grades... 3 61 54 20 3 53 5 30 5 43

Chicago—
Best grades... 4 93 25 01 4 53 5 20 5 53
Lower grades... 3 40 24 80 3 75 4 50 5 23

Detroit—
Best grades... 4 01 24 75 3 53 5 10 5 43
Lower grades... 2 75 24 75 3 01 4 75 4 73

Buffalo—
Best grades... 1 25 24 51 4 75 5 65 5 73
Lower grades... 2 50 24 50 4 50 5 00 5 63

Cincinnati—
Best grades... 4 75 25 15 4 25 5 65 5 23
Lower grades... 3 75 24 25 3 90 5 00 5 33

Pittsburg—
Best grades... 5 05 25 71 4 75 5 80 5 60
Lower grades... 4 25 24 71 4 25 5 65 5 43

GRAIN, ETC.

Wheat, Corn, Oats.
No. 2 red. No. 2 mix. No. 2 white.

New York 70 27 14 48 24 84 33 23 14

Chicago 75 27 74 42 40 44 35 25 14

Detroit 70 27 74 40 40 40 30 20

Toledo 70 27 74 40 40 40 27 27

Cincinnati 70 27 74 40 41 41 27 27 14

Pittsburg 81 281 42 12 32 21

Buffalo 80 283 41 11 31 21

Detroit—Hay, No. 1 Timothy, \$12 50 per ton.

Potatoes, 45¢ per bu. Live Poultry, spring chickens, 85¢ per lb; fowls, 82¢; turkeys, 92¢; ducks, 102¢. Eggs, strictly fresh, 20¢ per dozen. Butter, best dairy, 16¢ per lb; creamery, 19¢.

Electric 'Buses for Chicago.

Incorporation papers for the Chicago Automobile Transportation company, with a projected capital of \$15,000,000 to install transportation lines throughout the city, employing 348 electric 'buses and 180 electric cars, are in course of preparation. The capital has been largely subscribed by owners of Chicago office buildings and department stores.

Ex-King Milan, of Serbia, is dead, as the result of an attack of pneumonia from which he had been suffering several days.

WOMEN OF THE UNITED STATES

REGARD PERUNA AS THEIR SHIELD AGAINST CATARRH, COUGHS, COLDS, GRIP AND CATARRHAL DISEASES.



MRS. BELVA A. LOCKWOOD, LATE CANDIDATE FOR THE PRESIDENCY

Mrs. Belva Lockwood, the eminent barrister, of Washington, D. C., is the only woman who has ever been a candidate for the Presidency of the United States. She is the best known woman in America. As the pioneer of her sex in the legal profession, she has gathered fame and fortune. In a letter to The Peruna Medicine Company, she says:

"I have used Peruna both for myself and my mother, Mrs. Hannah J. Bennett, now in her 88th year, and I find it an invaluable remedy for cold, catarrh, hay fever and kindred diseases; also a good tonic for feeble and old people, or those run down, and with nerves unstrung."—Belva A. Lockwood.



Mrs. T. Pelton.

Mrs. T. Pelton, 562 St. Anthony avenue, St. Paul, Minn., writes:

"Peruna has done wonders for me. It has cured my headache and palpitation of the heart; has built up my whole system. I cheerfully recommend Peruna to all sufferers afflicted with catarrh. My mother is never without Peruna. When one is tired and generally out of sorts, if Peruna is taken it immediately removes that tired feeling."

Peruna cures catarrh by removing the cause, inflamed mucous membranes.

Dr. Hartman, the compounder of Peruna, once said, in a lecture to women: "A great number of women consult me every year. I often have occasion to say to these patients, 'I fear you have catarrh, madam.' They will generally reply, 'Oh, no, I never had catarrh. My nose is perfectly clear, and

my breath is not bad, I am not troubled with coughing or spitting, or any other disagreeable symptoms of catarrh.' But, my dear madam, you may have catarrh all the same. Catarrh is not always located in the head. You may have catarrh of the lungs, or stomach, or liver, or kidneys, and especially you may have catarrh of the pelvic organs."

The doctor went on to say: "I have been preaching this doctrine for the last forty years, but there are a vast multitude of women who have never heard it yet. Catarrh may attack any organ of the body. Women are especially liable to catarrh of the pelvic organs. There are one hundred cases of catarrh of the head. Most people think, because they have not catarrh of the head, they have not catarrh at all. This is a great mistake, and is the cause of many cases of sickness and death."

If you do not derive prompt and satisfactory results from the use of Peruna, write at once to Dr. Hartman, giving a full statement of your case, and he will be pleased to give you his valuable advice gratis.

Address Dr. Hartman, President of The Hartman Sanitarium, Columbus, Ohio.

A man is not superstitious because he believes in the supernatural.

123,000

people are killed every year in this country by CONSUMPTION. The fault is theirs. No one need have consumption. It is not hereditary. It is brought on by neglect. You have a slight cold and cough. You do nothing to get rid of it.

Shiloh's Consumption Cure

will cure a cough or cold in one night.

"Shiloh's is an unfailing cure for coughs, throat and lung troubles. It will cure consumption. It is a remarkable remedy."

A. E. SALTER, M. D., Buffalo, N. Y.

Shiloh's Consumption Cure is sold by all druggists at 25¢, 50¢, \$1.00 a bottle. A printed guarantee goes with every bottle. If you are not satisfied go to your druggist and get your money back.

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Lame back makes a young man feel old. Wizard Oil makes an old man feel young. See your druggist.

No one bothers to prune pumpkin vines.

God's soldiers are all volunteers.

PUTNAM FADELESS DYES are fast to sunlight, washing and rubbing.

When a man's hair disappears from his head, it usually appears in his ears.

FITS Permanently Cured. No fits or nervousness after first day's use of Dr. Kline's Great Nerve Restorer. Send for FREE \$2.00 trial bottle and treatise. DR. R. H. KLINE, 1531 Arch St., Philadelphia, Pa.

A thing isn't necessarily done right because it is done properly.

When a fellow refers to a girl as a peach, the marrying clergyman be justified in looking for a party.

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Best Cough Syrup. Tastes Good. Use It Often. Sold by Druggists.