

the Phoenix Nest

TO ANDREW MARVELL
FROM HIS COY MISTRESS

(Hypothetical Reply)

THIS coyness, love, is but a shield,
A last defense before I yield.
I, too, hear the relentless beat
Of the Pursuer's sandaled feet;
Have sensed the certain brevity
Of love's dear opportunity,
Despite intent to disavow
Restrictions of the here and now.
Accept these words, withheld before,
From one deemed coy, now coy no more:

To gather rubies by the shore
Remote from thee would be a bore;
But shells and pebbles by the Humber
With thee, were jewels without number.

My love for thee was in the spark
Of first light when the world was dark;
When time and space moved with the slow

First rhythm of life's dawning glow.
It grew to vast immensities
Circling the clustered Pleiades,
Then found the star flame in thy heart
Was but its radiant counterpart.

Yet, Andrew, as we make decision
Reflect: what of thine own profession:
Can'st love me and constituents too
Today when men of state are few?
What of Lord Carlisle's trips to
Russia,

Or Sweden, Italy, Denmark, Prussia?
What of Milton, thy heart's blind brother,

Think, could he share thee with another?

With virtue, honor thou art endowed,
Yet walkest humbly with the crowd—
A British Aristides grown
Andrew the Just, of dear renown.

Ah, Andrew, with prophetic gaze
I search the future's baffling maze:
Here in my marble vault I lie
Wrapped in my chill virginity;

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BESS FURMAN:
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For exercise, both on schedule,
as calisthenics in the early morning,
and also round the clock, no
President could ever compete
with Mrs. Roosevelt. This I had
impressed on me beyond any
reasonable shadow of a doubt
many times over.

Whilst thou, that death at last mad'st yield,

Long liest in St. Giles his Field . . .
Yet still the sun wheels down his way,
Still other lovers have their day.
O chose we well or ill, my love?—
Who then shall say? Who now may prove?

—ETHEL LAMPREY JORDAN.

* * *

From away back in February I now belatedly print the following from Laurence P. Dodge, of Newburyport, Mass.:

I was surprised to read in *THE PHOENIX NEST* a few weeks ago a reference to Gilbert Gaul, the artist, which led me to realize that you didn't know who he was. I spoke of this to Earle Walbridge, whom I met at the annual dinner of the Baker Street Irregulars early last month, and he promised to speak to you about him. Lest he has forgotten to do so, I want to give you the following information.

William Gilbert Gaul, 1855-1919, was a famous military artist; in fact, in the words of the *Dictionary of American Biography*, our most capable one. Many of his best drawings appeared in "Battles and Leaders of the Civil War" published, as a matter of fact, by the Century Company. This four-volume work was in my father's library and I well remember from my boyhood Gaul's splendid work.

* * *

TYGER WRITES ONE TOO

EPITAPH FOR AN EXPLORER

Tiger! Tiger! my mistake;
I thought that you were William Blake.
—OGDEN NASH,
The New Yorker.

William Blake? Don't be so rash;
I knew that you were Ogden Nash.

—I. L. SALOMON.

* * *

I was a pretty small individual when once, in Washington, D. C., my much admired grandfather, who was a general and had a beautiful white beard, took me into a book store. He took my sister too. I don't remember what my sister liked in that store but my gaze became riveted upon a book which was entitled "The Bunny Book," or something of that kind. I must plead my extreme youth when I acknowledge that I liked that book because the people in it were built just like ordinary boys and girls and grownups, except that they had on rabbit heads, and that some of their

names were Deacon Bunny, Cousin Jack, Gaffer, and even Bunnyboy and Cuddledown. The cover of the book was blue, I think, with red lettering, and when my grandfather stooped and asked me if there was anything I liked, I hardly dared breathe that I was looking upon the most wonderful book in the world. For the bunnies in it also had a baseball team, and Deacon Bunny in it had bought a most attractive looking little donkey! "You want that?" said my grandfather, with unbelievable briskness, and he bought it, just like that, and handed it to me. I don't suppose he thought it was an even passable book, but he had brought us into the book store to buy us what we wanted. I gulped, but I hope I stammered out somewhat appropriate thanks.

I have been hunting for that book in my mind for many years, because it has irked me again and again that I could not remember the person who wrote it, the publisher, or the illustrator. Then, just the other day, in my second-hand researches, I chanced upon a bound volume of *St. Nicholas* for 1889 (Part Two), the real, old, red and gold McCoy. And there—my heart gave a great leap—were certain of "The Bunny Stories" and the author was John H. Jewett (any relation to Sarah Orne?) and the illustrator was Culmer Barnes. The names mean nothing now to me. But the stories begin, as I think the book did, with *The Bunnies' Picnic*, and *Runwild Terrace* and *Bunnyboy* and *Cousin Jack* and the *Deacon*, and how *Miss Fox*, the matron for the pick-nicking home of little orphan Bears, Coons, Woodchucks, 'Possums, Squirrels, and Rabbits, gets caught in the quagmire, and how crippled and be-crutched *Cousin Jack* effects her rescue. And later installments describe the Bunnies' garden and Gaffer's watch-dog toads, and the goats; and later still comes "Deacon Bunny Buys a Mule," and finally, best of all, *Cousin Jack's* own story and the part about poor Rab stealing the egg, and the beautiful *Hazel Fawn* finding him crying. Mightily infantile all of this, I dare say,—and the baseball and other things are not there—but at least I have located the original serial printing of a book that was for some queer reason a particular treasure to a very small boy! So, in so far as I can, I wish to immortalize the author and illustrator in print. Mary Mapes Dodge, editor of *St. Nicholas*, knew her young people. I was three when the stories were appearing serially. I was probably about five when the book was published. I had to have the book read to me, I guess; but I could understand a lot from the pictures!

—WILLIAM ROSE BENÉT.

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(Continued on page 42)

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(Continued from page 41)

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EXPLORE EXOTIC TEA FLAVORS in the special Caravel "Taste Test" Assortment. 16 choice varieties—Blacks, Greens, Oolongs; from India, Ceylon, China, Japan. Attractive package with unique gift appeal. \$2.50, postpaid. Caravel, 126 Maiden Lane, N.Y.C.

VACATIONS

TREAT YOURSELF to July 4 week-end at HIGH POINT, New Marlboro, Mass.

FOR NATURE LOVERS ONLY! Rent amidst towering pines and unbelievable scenery 1,700 feet up in mountains, a romantic, cedar-paneled cottage, fireplace, ultra-modern furniture, new conveniences, \$500 long season or \$35 a week. Others, \$250. Brook swimming. Lake nearby. Food delivered. 80 miles N.Y.C. Write for directions, etc. Box 746-H.

DELIGHTFUL SUMMER HOME, near Lake Sunapee, N.H. 5 bedrooms, all conveniences, bathhouse. Reasonable. Box 728-H.

BAY COTTAGE—in Virginia's Tidewater. Swimming and fishing. Quiet and remote. Near Williamsburg. Moderate rates. Naxera, Va. Box 750-H.

ACCOMMODATIONS in old seafaring town. Ideal for creative work. Good New England cooking. Newburyport, Mass. Box 751-H.

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SUN VALLEY RANCH, Tabernash, Colorado—high in Rockies; small, informal, secluded, riding, fishing.

MERRIEBROOK, Poughquag, New York. Delightful peaceful homestead. Adults only. Tempting meals. Inexpensive. North Clove 2421.

GREEN SHADOWS, Lyme, Conn., quiet, informal country life; good food, comfortable beds.

COUNTRY VACATION! SUDBURY INN on Lake Horatia, Sudbury, Vt. Superlative food, Crow-bar.

WEED FARM, EAST MONTPELIER, Vermont. Comfort, delicious food, swimming, beautiful landscape.

LIKE THE COUNTRY? Come to Graymont, a Colonial farmhouse. Good food. R. D. 2, Middlebury, Vt.

SMOKESHIRE WAY: High in Vermont's Green Mountains. Inspiring to poets, painters, lovers of beautiful country. Swimming, folk dancing, records, library; our own vegetables. Reasonable. Folder. R.F.D. 1, Chester Depot, Vt.

DIFFERENT FROM THE REST, come see for yourself. Accommodates 55. 30th season. Rates \$12 a day, \$70 a week. TED OHMER'S WESTERN VIEW FARM, New Milford, Conn. Tel.: New Milford 440.

ADULT RESORT in scenic Berkshires. Swimming, tennis, music, dancing, superlative food and accommodations. PINECREST, West Cornwall, Conn.

The Saturday Review

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