Bowser Strikes Chords

But He Does Not Make a Success at It

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By M. QUAD.

A year or so ago Mr. Bowser read in a magazine what many of thousands of others read. It was an article by a celebrated musical composer, who stated as a fact that there was a chord in music which would appeal to every living thing, from an elephant to a flea, and from a vulture to a canary

He Sat Down and Cried Like a Child.

bird. That chord might appeal to their sympathies, their aggressiveness, their loneliness, their joy, their calmness, and so on through the schedule.

The writer cited one case where an elephant had his sympathies wrought upon so that he sat down and cried like a child. There was also one where a man took a harp to a zoological garden and played on it in front of a tiger's cage. He hit the tiger's aggressive chord, and the animal got out of his cage and terribly bit and clawed two or three patients. Again, when he struck a lively chord of the hippopotamus, the old fellow went waltzing around and his eyes sparkled with joy.

"Egad!" Bowser said to himself. "I am going to prove the truth or falsity of that fellow's story about musical chords. Here, you infernal old cat, come down from there and take a seat in a chair while I practice on you a little."

He wanted to touch the cat's sympathy chord, and he persisted for five minutes and made a failure. Then, by chance almost, he touched the right chord. It was a chord in the air "The Sweet By and By." The cat responded to it instantly. Her heart was touched. She gave a yowl and went out of the open window into the back yard and licked seven cats one after the other.

Mr. Bowser didn't know whether to be satisfied or not. He was pondering it over in his mind when he heard the cook fussing around in the dining room. She was making too much noise and he could hear her talking to herself and complaining of her hard life. He would find a chord to calm and quiet her, and if she wanted a raise in wages to make her forget it. He struck a chord that he thought would do the business. It did. He heard her broom drop and she came clattering upstairs and looked into the sitting room and exclaimed:

"Why, Mr. Bowser, what was that? I thought a bad boy had thrown a stone through the window and you had tumbled out of your chair dead."

"It was only me playing, Sarah," calmly replied Mr. Bowser.

"Then, if you don't mind it, please don't play any more, for I certainly will have to have my wages raised if I stay here where such things are going on."

Mr. Bowser hadn't hit it yet. The people across the alley, with the front of the houses facing on another street, had their back windows open, and his eye caught a human form seated at one of the windows.

"There's my chance," he whispered as his eyes came back to the keys. "It is a girl or woman who is in sorrow, and thinks there is no more joy or pleasure for her in this life. I will try and find the joy chord and give her a new emotion."

Mr. Bowser began with great deliberation to strike every key on the board from left to right, and he kept his eye on the figure in the window as he did so. He had almost reached the end, when he struck a chord that seemed to float out and quiver around with a sort of Fourth of July chorus. The figure instantly changed position, and the woman leaned out of the window and shook her fist and shouted:

"Ye old divil ye! Has a poor woman, who has been over the wash tub all day, got to submit to such an infernal racket as this, when she could catch a nap by this cool window. Stop that clatter or I will blow the whistle for a policeman, and he will soon yank you out of there!"

Mr. Bowser had failed again. Perhaps he should have played on a harp instead of a piano. He pulled on the curtain of the window, and was about to abandon his experiments, when the doorbell rang. He went to the door, and there stood a man with a bulldog, and the man said:

"This is Mr. Bowser, I believe."

"It is."

"Well, Mr. Bowser, the butcher was telling me that you wanted to buy a bulldog, and so I brought mine over. He is worth every cent of fifty dollars, but, as I am hard up just now, I will take half of that."

"I do not wish to buy a dog, of any kind," replied Mr. Bowser, "but if wish you would bring your dog in here a minute, and let me try an experiment on him."

"Is there another dog or cat in the experiment?" cautiously asked the man.

"Oh, no. I am going to play the piano a little, and see how he likes it."

"That won't do no harm, I think, but you must take the risk of it. A bull dog, Mr. Bowser, is an animal that you can't fool with. Sometimes he will lick your hide and sometimes he will try to get at your throat. I will watch him closely, however, and I guess he will be all right."

The man took a seat, and the dog sat up and looked around him. If he had any idea at all, it was that his owner was going to sell him, and he had objections to that, for everything looked nice and comfortable. Mr.

The Feathers Flying All Over the Room.

Bowser took a seat at the piano and began to strike chords. He let the bass keys alone and used only the treble. If he used any of the bass keys they might sound like a brickbat falling close to the dog's heels and thus arouse his ire.

Slowly, very slowly, the tender keys were pressed down and held for two or three seconds, and then the right chord came. The bulldog cocked his ears, gave a growl which sounded like distant thunder, and with a sudden lunge he broke from his master and ran across to the divan. Here he seized a sofa pillow in his mouth and had it in threads in a moment and feathers flying all over the room. He had served a second pillow in the same way when the two men interfered. In the melee which ensued both were bitten, two or three chairs knocked over and the easel on which stood Mrs. Bowser's portrait was knocked over and the portrait was trodden under foot. Just at this moment the original of the portrait opened the front door and the dog ran out, pursued by his owner. Mr. Bowser sat down to rub his bitten leg and face the music, but there was no music to face. Mrs. Bower came in and looked around, and then as she began to remove her hat, she said:

"Oh, yes. I read that same article, and I was going to suggest that you try it some time. I see you have been trying it, and I hope you found it a success!"

Our Part in Feeding the Nation

(Special Information Service, United States Department of Agriculture.)

HOW WOMEN CAN HELP ON THE FARMS.

In the Lighter Farm Work Such as Picking, Sorting and Packing Fruits Women Can Replace and Release Man Power.

TOWN WOMEN MAY AID FARM WIVES

May Also Release Men Employed in Lighter Industries for Agricultural Work.

ALSO AID IN TRUCK FARMING

Not the Policy of Agricultural Department to Call Upon Gentler Sex Until Nation's Food Production is Threatened.

Only when the man and boy supply is exhausted and the failure of the nation's food production campaigns are threatened, should the United States call upon women to do men's work on the farm.

That, briefly, may be said to be the policy of the United States department of agriculture in the matter of women as farm laborers. Badly as labor will be needed to carry through programs of food production this year, the department does not believe the situation yet demands the employment of women for the heavier farming operations. Rather, it believes that efforts now should be directed toward persuading able-bodied men in the cities to do farm work and that community action should be directed to this end.

Work for Women.

But there will be work to do for the thousands of women who are offering to help the farmers with their big task. Helping farm women with their added duties and taking the place of men in the lighter industries, thus releasing male labor for the farms, are important ways in which women may aid agriculture's program, department officials point out. Furthermore, women can be expected to help, as they have in the past, with the lighter work of truck farming, in picking and packing berries and fruit and with much other light labor of food production.

But if a serious labor shortage threatens the harvest of the country's food crops the department of agriculture, in co-operation with the department of labor and other federal and state agencies, will request women to help meet the situation. It has instructed its field agents to aid farmers in obtaining women workers when such conditions arise.

Among the sources from which additional labor may be obtained on the farms are: (1) from among the women already on farms; (2) from relatives of farmers who are living in cities and who are willing to work on farms during slack business or industrial periods; (3) from the foreign women who are accustomed to work in the fields under a system of intensive agriculture before migrating to this country; and (4) from women in near-by villages and towns who might be employed on farms and still live at home.

If in any community it becomes necessary to employ women, the principle problems to be met are to stimulate women to take up farm work and to make farmers realize the necessity of using woman labor in order to maintain production.

Wages for Women.

The farmer desiring woman laborers should indicate the kind of work which he wants done, the amount, and the probable dates and wages offered, and the woman offering herself should indicate the kinds of work she is willing to do, and whether she is willing to work all day and every day in the week. It should be thoroughly understood by all parties concerned that the women are to receive a wage equal to that given men for performing the same amount of work. Wherever possible, this can be brought about by putting the work on the piece basis.

The function of the home demonstration agent and the county agent is to see that the county exchange lists all women desiring work, as well as the farmers desiring women farm workers. If there were a sufficient demand in certain communities for women, one of the local woman committeemen might act as the medium of local exchange. The home demonstration and county agents will also keep in touch with the farm help specialist, employed by the office of farm management of the department. She will be ready to advise the various committees as to whether the conditions under which women work on farms are satisfactory, and not detrimental to their health and morals.

Use Rag Doll Tester.

The "rag doll" seed tester, a simple and reliable method of determining germination, will tell you whether your seed corn is fit to plant. This method of testing corn is described in detail in Farmers' Bulletin 948 of the department of agriculture. Briefly it consists of a strip of cloth, preferably bleached muslin, 36 inches wide and from 3 to 5 feet long. The cloth should be marked off into squared sections and the squares all numbered. The ears to be tested should also be given corresponding numbers. Six or more kernels should be selected from different parts of each ear, and placed in the proper section. When the tester is filled, fold over each side so that the edges meet in the center, roll up and soak the tester for a few hours in lukewarm water. Drain the excess water off, and place the dolls in a warm place to germinate. They should be covered with a wet cloth to keep them moist, and in about five days should be sufficiently well germinated to show their fitness for seed.

Ready for Spring Drive?

Have you ordered the necessary farm implements and machinery, lime, fertilizers, and the like? If not, do so at once. Don't wait until the spring rush is upon you. It may be too late then to get what you need. The United States Department of Agriculture has been urging farmers to make arrangements early for these materials this year because of transportation problems. It will soon be too late to be early.

EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN

As a rule the employment of women in farming operations should not be considered if the agricultural production can be maintained by the employment of men and boys. The department of agriculture does not wish to urge the use of women laborers on the farms unless the man supply becomes exhausted. The lively interest now being shown by women in all parts of the country who are eager to volunteer their services to help the men and boys carry out the nation's food production program this year has forced the attention of federal officials to the fact that needed work can be done by these willing hands. Women who can help farm women with their work and who can release men in the lighter industries to do the heavier work on the farms can give valuable aid in the present labor emergency.

Shed for Implements.

Unless you have one already, now is a good time to build an inexpensive implement shed. Machinery costs too much to be allowed to rust and ro-

Mean Better Yields.

Good seed means better yields and quality grain. Why plant scrub corn?

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By E. O. SELLERS, Acting Director of the Sunday School Course of the Moody Bible Institute, Chicago.)

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LESSON FOR MARCH 24

JESUS MINISTERING TO THE MULTITUDES.

LESSON TEXT—Mark 6:32-56.

GOLDEN TEXT—The son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.—Matt. 20:28.

DEVOTIONAL READING—John 6:35-40.

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL FOR TEACHERS—Exodus 16:14-18; Matt. 22:34-46; Luke 4:16-21; James 1:27; Rev. 17.

PRIMARY TOPIC—Jesus a helper at all times.

MEMORY VERSE—Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid.—Mark 6:50

INTERMEDIATE TOPIC—Helping the needy.

SENIOR AND ADULT TOPIC—(?)

This parable marks the high level of the year of popularity in the life of our Lord. It is such an important miracle as to be the only one recorded by all four gospel writers. The returning disciples (v. 31) are urged by the Master to come with him into a desert place and rest and also that he might comfort their hearts over the death of John the Baptist. "They had no leisure." Jesus knew the need and also the proper use of leisure, but the multitude would not grant him this but flocked to his retreat in the desert. They followed that they might listen to his gracious words, or behold some new wonder, but Jesus also saw and ministered. (v. 24). Carlyle said he saw in England "forty million people mostly fools." Not so with Jesus; he saw and was moved, not with sarcasm, but with a compassion that took the form of teaching (v. 34). It is better to teach a man how to help himself than to help the man without the teaching. We also infer that the soul of a man is of more value than his body. It is not enough, however, to say "God bless you; be warmed and fed," when a man is hungry. Sympathy must issue in action.

A Great Task.

John tells us of the conversation with Philip. Philip lived in Bethsaida nearby, but to feed this multitude was too great a task, even with his knowledge and resources (John 6:5, 7). Yet we need not be surprised at Philip's slowness of faith. Moses in a similar case was once nonplussed as to how to feed the thousands in the wilderness (see Numbers 11:21-33). The central fact concerns neither the need nor our poverty, but the absolute surrender of our all—however little—to God.

Another disciple, Andrew, who had brought his brother, Simon Peter, to the Savior, in his desperation found a boy whose mother had thoughtfully provided him with a lunch consisting of five barley biscuits and two small dried herrings (John 6:9). This is a great commentary on the tide of interest at this time—that even this hungry boy should have forgotten his lunch; the circumstances emphasized the helplessness of the disciples in order that Jesus might show his power. His command "Give ye them." (v. 37) teaches us that we are to give what we have, not to look to others, nor to do our charity by proxy (Pro. 11:24, 25). Again the Savior asks his disciples to seek (v. 38) as though he would teach them the boundless resources of his kingdom. Give what you have and he will bless and increase it to meet the needs of the multitude. The secret of success points to the moment when he took the loaves and looking up (to God who also saw their needs), he blessed it.

Living Bread.

This conservation process was a stinging rebuke to the orientals, and is being emphasized in these days of food conservation in connection with war needs. Too long we have been prodigal of God's marvelous bounties. God gives us that we may use; and we lose it unless it is shared. Jesus, the living bread, (John 6:48) will satisfy hunger and give life. As bread generates in the human body heat, energy, vitality and power, so he will feed the hungry souls of men. We have at hand the Word. It is for lack of it that men die in the deepest and truest sense of that Word. The poverty and perplexity of the disciples in the presence of similar great need, is being repeated over and over again, and yet how faithless it is. We have not enough to feed the multitude. Our few loaves of comfort, amusement, counsel, etc., will not sustain them in the present world's crisis; but when we break unto them the living bread, it meets the deep hunger of the human heart; and they will have enough and to spare if they will only eat it. In these days when the emphasis is being laid on material bread for the sustenance of the nation, there is great danger lest we forget the necessity of breaking the living bread to the starving multitudes of the world. We must maintain the supremacy of the spiritual, or lack the dynamic to provide the material.

How true the words of the late Dr. Maltbie Davenport Babcock:

Back of the loaf is the snowy flour;
Back of the flour the mill:
And back of the mill is the wheat,
And the showers, and the sun,
And the Father's will.

The problem which the disciples could not meet, Jesus discerned and solved. As they co-operated with him and gave of that which he had first blessed, each had a basketfull to take away and thus was well repaid for sharing with the multitude.

THE BIG WORK IN THE WAR

The War Lord Salutes the Field Marshall.

Such is the striking title to a well-timed cartoon in an agricultural paper, showing the War Lord in salute to the farmer. The meaning of it is that without the assistance that the farmer renders in the matter of providing food for the army the fighting ability of that body would be proportionally decreased. While the army is fighting, the farmer is busy. The promptness with which he sprang into the breach was a patriotism equal to that of the man who enlisted and the farmer's record in this particular was worthy of the high record that has become his. All over the United States the appeal is being met by more production. Fields are enlarged, intensive agriculture has taken the place of slipshod methods, more cattle are being fattened, more hogs grown, veal and lamb have become scarce commodities. This is all in keeping with the food-controller's demands, and with the heartiness that is now prevalent, it would seem as if the requirements of the boys at the front and the allies in Europe would be fully met.

Not only are the tilled acres of the United States being brought into requisition, but the wild pasture lands are doing tribute with their cattle and sheep. Working in conjunction with the United States, Western Canada is also doing its share and a pretty large share it is, too. By an arrangement with the United States Government it will now be possible through its employment bureau to secure for the Western Canada fields such help as can be spared. It is thought in this way Canada will have its help to seed its millions of acres of wheat land fairly well met. The large number of young men on the farms who have enlisted and gone to the front has left many of the Western Canada farms weak in the matter of man power. This means that Canada can take all that the United States can spare. The wages will be good and the hours comfortable.

In addition to this the free homestead lands of Western Canada offer the greatest inducement to the man with limited means who is willing to undergo some of the hardships naturally accompanying this enterprise. There is also the large area of uncultivated lands that are waiting the man with sufficient means to purchase and equip. And this is not expensive. The cheap lands are cheap and the terms very reasonable. Equipped with tractor or horse power the cultivation cost is slight when the return is considered. Yields of wheat varying from 20 to 40 bushels per acre may be relied upon, and with a set price of over $2.00 per bushel, it is an easy matter to arrive at the cost. Production, including interest on land, has been estimated at figures not exceeding ten dollars an acre. With a twenty bushel yield, at a two dollar price—forty dollars. Ten from forty and you have the profits many farmers made in Western Canada the past year.

The Dominion and Provincial Governments are working conjointly in an increased production propaganda. Among the important steps that have been taken to bring this about, is the recent order by which it is made possible to take into Canada tractors that cost fourteen hundred dollars and less in the country of production. This will give those residing in the United States, owning lands in Canada, the opportunity to place them under cultivation at much less cost than in the past. Another inducement is the privilege of taking sheep and cattle in free of duty. Automobiles form a necessary part of the outfit of a good many farmers that would like to move to Canada. These are now accorded free duty. Provision is also made that those requiring seed and unable to obtain it in any other way, may get it from the Government. So from this it will be seen that it is not only the fertile lands of Western Canada that invite the settler, but the ease and cheapness with which a farmer may establish himself.—Advertisement.

OLD MAN FORGETS CHIVALRY

Good Old Brother Wack Most Ungallantly Puts Women in the Same Class as the Mule.

"No, sah!" replied Brother Wack to the expostulation of good old Parson Bagster. "It's plumb onpossible to modulate a mule widout cussin' him. It kain't be did. Long's I cusses dis varmint reg'lar and saturates him wid a club 'casionally he dess lops his ears fo'ards and trudges right along wid de plow. But de minute I drops de club and 'dresses him in confectionery language he turns his head and sneers at me. Dar ain't no gratitude in him. He thinks he's got me bluffed.

"A mule, sah, am right smahthy like a 'ooman. Honey round her and buy her fine clothes and a mouffle o' gold teef, and sh'll walk all over yo', uh, hollerin' for mo'. But slap her flat when she needs it and talk to her loud and co'se, and she's as soople as an angel. Keep a mule and a 'ooman thankful for what yo' don't do to 'em, and yo' got 'em gwine, every time."—Kansas City Star.

Slim Encouragement.

He—"I've a notion to propose to you."

She—"Please do. I'm trying for a record."—Buffalo News.