The Vision of the Tree

By Wilbur D. Nesbit

The tree was all sewinkle with its candles here and there
And with a merry tinkle swayed the gifts it had to bear,
And all was now completed for the morrow that should be
With joyous welcome greeted by the children round the tree.

Then—I may have dreamed it so,
But the grace of long ago
Came through the hush of midnight and hided there with me.

I sighed, as does a sleeper when dreams hold the heart of him;
The shadows grew the deeper till the tree was blurred and dim—
Then mysteriously glowing as of all the stars and suns
With a beauty past all knowing, with the majesty that stunes,
Stood a cross of jewel-flame
Which from out the shadows came—
And softly came a chanting: "To thee, the little ones!"

Strange glory held the trifles that hung upon the tree;
The marveling that stilles all speech laid hold on me;
I felt the impulse olden that led the starred kings
To come with treasures golden and precious offerings
In that first grey Christmas dawn
Of the centuries agone,
When all earth throbbed with music and beat of angel wings.

I know that I was dreaming—but there came a glorious chime
And the morning stars were gleaming in the Vale of Space and times
Then the heart-enkindling vision slowly vanished quite away,
But upon a night-elysian it had been for me to stray—
And I heard all faintly, far
Music dropping from each star—
The voice of Children singing—and it was Christmas Day!

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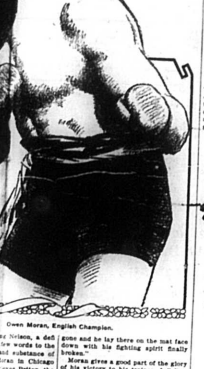
MORAN AFTER LIGHTWEIGHT CROWN



Owen Moran, English Champion.

A tribute to Battling Nelson, a defi to Ad Wolgast and a few words to the wise were the sum and substance of the visit of Owen Moran to Chicago the other day. The ever fiction, the man who scored the first and only real knockout over the onetime durable Dane, tarried he-wen trains en route for New York and fresh fields to conquer in the cause of the coast.

Despite his sudden rise to fame and fortune, Moran holds the supreme confidence which usually follows in the wake of unbroken victories.

Moran had nothing but praise for Nelson and cited a case to show the indomitable courage the veteran lightweight. During a fight, when Nelson began to fade, Moran claims he saw the first downfall of the Butcher, and in the seventh round, when the Dane was on his knees four times from the effects of the Moran blow to quit, but the boomer champion came back for more.

"He would not stay down," said Moran to his own inimitable way, "and just before the count I merely pushed him over. It was not even a weak punch, but his strength was gone and he lay there on the mat face down with his fighting spirit finally broken."

Moran gives a good part of the glory of his victory to his trainer, Jeff Perry, who has with little fanfare for successive victories. Perry's stint more was in Moran's corner during the Nelson engagement, and he claims the little Englishman was twice as good when he is advising the other man. Perry trained Nelson for both fights when he worked Gans and broke the fighting spirit of the black demon of the master. He then went to Wolgast and was in the corner of the Michigan wildcat when Nelson received his defeat at Point Richmond last February.

Moran is now looking longingly toward the lightweight crown, and until the opportunity to grasp it arrives he will stay clear of the fight game. A battle with Wolgast is the only thing that Moran will consider now and he will camp on the trail of the title-holder until his wants are granted. Time can raise no barriers to the ambitious ambitions of the boxer, and if necessary he will wait a year until the champion's arm heals.

RICHIE NOT YET STARTED

One of Hardest Working and Most Deceptive Pitchers in National League Has Hopes.

By LOU RICHIE.

The morning fare was due, Little Leslie had to save the old homestead. He had tried to make an honest living, but at the tender age of fifteen he threw down his trusty hoe, picked up a baseball and determined to become a white slave of the national commission.

Every one refused to take him earnestly, even his parents, but that fact was no chance for him as a baseball magnetic they were so numerous, he be jounced into the comedy line. Every one said: "Hick, good enough for you, if he can't pitch." And every hatter who ever thought he could do 200 (which includes all of them) grabbed into and started to webster Little Lou. He started in eastern Pennsylvania, but after a time the league asked him to quit because the hitters were knocking down the fences.

Finally little Leslie grew desperate. The mortgage had come due and the wolf was starving. He went back and tried the hoe again, but he had lost control. Besides every time the hoe accidentally slipped and spud out of the ground Leslie, practiced throw-a-

Lou Richie.

curves with it. He threw all his employer's crop into a neighbor's yard, and he quit that hoe was fired. The last straw was overdue. One day little Leslie picked up a large round spud at a cat and at the spud flew through the air it curved suddenly and hit the cruel monster who owned the mortgage.

Anxious to perfect this great curve little Leslie kept looking curves potatoes at the cruel financier until he succeeded in a potato pancake. The next day he took his curve to Philadelphia, and was signed to pitch for the Phillies, and cheer my gloomy athletes he will stay clear of the fight game. A battle with Wolgast is the only thing that Moran will consider now and he will camp on the trail of the title-holder until his wants are granted. Time can raise no barriers to the ambitious ambitions of the boxer, and if necessary he will wait a year until the champion's arm heals.

TWO WORLD FAMED GRANNIES

One of These Talented Women is Sarah Bernhardt and the Other Ellen Terry.

Two famous grandmothers are distinguished visitors of this country. Referring to these talented ladies the Delineator Post Express says: "Great the grandmothers is Mme. Sarah Bernhardt, the other is Ellen Terry. Both actresses have reached the age when it is permissible to retire from active life; but the French actress is still as be energetic as a woman half her age, while Ellen Terry is declared to be as young as ever she was in the palmy days when she and Henry Irving ruled the theatrical world of England. Miss Terry has retired from the stage so far as acting is concerned, but she is still busy in bringing on Shakespeare's heroines. And who could be better than she who has played so many of the womanly women of Shakespeare? Readers of her breezy biography know she can think of Portia, Desdemona, Viola, Rosalind and other famous women of the tragedies and comedies, but no price of page could charm so done the wonderfully expressive features and the velvet voice of the greatest living English-speaking actress."

SAVED OLD LADY'S HAIR

"My mother used to have a very bad humor on her head which the doctors called an eczema, and for it I had two different doctors. Her head was very sore and her hair nearly all fell out. In six months time the itching, burning and scalding of her head was over and her hair began growing. To day she feels much in debt to Cuticura Soap and Ointment for the first head of hair she had for an old lady of seventy-four.

"My own case was an eczema in my feet. As soon as the cold weather came my feet would itch and burn and then they would crack open and bleed. Then I thought I would fee to my mother's friends, Cuticura Soap and Cuticura Ointment. I did for four or five winters, and now my feet are as smooth as any one's. Ellsworth Dunlap, Hiram Me., Sept. 26, 1908."

Sense of Taste.

From a series of experiments recently made at the University of Kansas it is evident that the average person can taste one bitter of quinine when one part is dissolved in 12,000 parts of water. Salt was detected in water when one part to 648 of the liquid was used. Sugar could be tasted in 226 parts of water and common soda in 48. In nearly all cases women could detect a smaller quantity than men.

Couldn't Stand the Nuisance.

"He complains that he was unable to get asleep night after night."—"Strange."

"What was the matter? Did they all want to live at his expense?"

"No. His landlady insisted him to earn the salary he was getting from the old gentleman."

Why Kick?

Louis Wiess, the Newark artist, wears a jenny hat in his usually cheerful face.

"It has stuck one," he said to Charles Strauss, "that my shoes don't cost as much as my youngsters'."

"Then what are you complaining about?" asked Strauss.

NOTED ATHLETES AT CHICAGO

Martin Sheridan, Matt McGrath, Melvin Sheppard, Flanagan and Others at Windy City.

Chicagoans will have an opportunity to see Martin Sheridan, Matt McGrath, Melvin Sheppard, Flanagan and other athletes of New York and many

Martin Sheridan.

famous athletes of the country at the big indoor meet of the Chicago Irish-American athletic club on Saturday January 14 at the Seventh regiment armory.

Club officials secured the building the other day and immediately President Sheridan of the C. I.-A. A. C. left for New York where he will make arrangements to have his brother Martin and other point winners of the east enter the first indoor meet to be held by this club in Chicago.

Among the entrants also are the best athletics of the east and the south. It has been the object of the I.-A. A. C. to build up athletic team that can successfully compete with the men of Manhattan.

Many good men from the south and west have entered. St. Louis and New Orleans are expected to send their best athletes for the competition. In New Orleans the cause of athletics was given a big boost by the appointment of Leo A. C. recently held there. The committee expects several of these southern athletics to appear as the southern team representing the Chicago athletics that competed in the practically "major" meet.

The manner in which the Irish-Americans among the leaders being A. J. Sheridan, John T. Cahill and J. J. Mahoney, have assumed control of athletics the last several years has a great deal to boom the cause in the middle west.

LAWN TENNIS RANKING LIST

Committee Issues Blanks to Players With Intent to Systematize Sport in All Its Branches.

Seeking to obtain the fullest lawn tennis information possible upon which to establish the national ranking list for the season of 1910, the committee recently issued blanks to the players. As one of the officials stated: "The sport is now to be systematized in all its branches." In its comprehensive scope, the document issued to the work of the committee, Edwin Fischer, jr., chairman, of Clinton, N. Y.; Miles S. Charlock, secretary, of the Crescent Athletic club, and Henry Torrence, jr., of the Englewood Field club. There is much more important and far-reaching action contained in the obvious request for the player's record in tournament and championship than the minimum form reveals. The half-colored sheet of paper is much short of the herald of the new era in Palmerian lawn tennis, of which the first signs were discernible during the playing of the national championship tournament on the courts of the Newport Casino last August.

Bubbling Water Sets New Mark.

Bubbling Water, by winning the Sombrero handicap at Oakland, Cal., January 14 at the track, covered five a mile and seventy yards, running the distance in 1:42:4-5. The previous mark of 1:42:3-5 was held by Ringo Daughter, Gaula, Ma May and Tony Boy, Bubbling Water carried 121 pounds and after suffering interference beat Chester Krum a head.

Highlanders at Richmond.

The New York Highlanders will do their training in Richmond, Va., next spring, it is said. The Highlanders will play three games early in April in Charlottesville and then go south for a watchful eye of the chairman of the supreme court of baseball.

SUPERIOR PEKIN DUCK FOR PRACTICAL PURPOSES

Valuable for Raising on Large Scale, But Is Very Timid and Must Be Handled Carefully—Among Best of Table Fowls.

(By RUDOLPH S. SCALION.)

Of all ducks for farm and practical purposes none stands higher in popular esteem than the White Pekin. It imported into this country in a large scale and is the most easily raised of all. It is a very timid bird and must be handled quite carefully. It was imported from China in the early seventies, and has steadily grown in popularity since its introduction into this country.

The Pekin duck has a distinct type of its own and differs from all others in the shape and carriage of the body. Its size these ducks are very large, some reaching as high as 15 pounds in the pair. The fresh fowls are very tender and free from coarseness, and they are considered among the best of table fowls.

The standardbred Pekin has a long, finely formed head, a bill of medium

Group of White Pekin Ducks.

one, of an orange color, that is perfectly free from any mark or color other than yellow. The color of the bill is very important for exhibition birds and not infrequently one of the best drakes is disqualified for having a faint trace of black in the bill. The eyes are of a deep leaden-blue color. The neck of a Pekin should be nearly curved, the old drake it should be almost a perfect circle, while that of the duck is of medium length. The back is long and broad, broad in the bound, full, and very prominent. The body is long and heavy, and the standard describes the carriage of the body as almost horizontal, sloping downward toward the rear. The wings are short, set closely and smoothly against the body. The legs are set almost right, a trifle forcing being quite a certain fault in an exhibition. The tail is erect, now so than in any other drake are hard and stiff. The thighs are short and large; shanks short and powerful, and in color are a reddish orange; toes straight, connected by a web and reddish orange in color. The plumage is downy, and of a fluffy cream white though out. Recently it has been noticed that preference is the fine room is being given to birds of white plumage. The breeders are selecting as their show birds those that have the snow-white plumage instead of the creamy white.

The standard weight of the adult drake is eight pounds; adult duck seven pounds; young drake, seven pounds, and young duck, six pounds.

New Peppermint Industry.

Peppermint growing is a new industry on the reclaimed lands of Louisiana. A distillation plant is also in

Aimed a Kick at a Mongrelly Look-ing Duck.

operation, a party of expert agriculturists recently inspecting the region were convinced that this crop can be grown in limited quantities for profit. Peppermint oil was imported into the United States during the fiscal year to the extent of 1,235 pounds, worth $6,416, while the exports of American peppermint oil amounted to 181,311 pounds, worth $288,816.

Feeding Fowls.

Feed your fowls in such a way that they will get exercise in obtaining it. The good you feed will increase their appetite, aide digestion and promotes a healthy condition generally.

Bits of meat carried out with bone from the barrel and left on the ground will give fowls serious bowel trouble. Don't risk it.

HAVANA AND HALLADAY LEAF

The above illustration shows two fine specimens of tobacco in the Connecticut river valley, says the Orange Judd Farmer. On the right is the Halladay leaf, which is a cross between Havana and Sumatra, a leaf growing from a tobacco plant in the Cuban Havana, with which most growers of cigar leaf are more or less familiar. It is not as broad or has not as rounded a tip as Halladay.

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