

Prize Poem Competition

Each week a prize of half a guinea is offered for the best original poem. Space rates are paid for others published. All work must be original and hitherto unpublished. Responsibility for unreturned MSS. cannot be taken, but where a stamped envelope is enclosed it will be returned if unused. Address: "The Editor."

THE prize of half a guinea this week is awarded to a new contributor, "Dulce Carman," whose brief, sweet verses, we feel sure, will be admired by many readers. Of "Eldon's" several poems we select for commendation the tribute "To a Friend," and admire that belief in the ultimate good which is expressed in "Destiny," for which it is hoped room may be found for publication.

"Miree": We are glad you find this page interesting. We liked your small poem, which shows undoubted faculty for verse form, though it is not just up to standard.

"Armored": Too long, too descriptive. Your account of a country walk reads like a horticultural catalogue!

L.M.'s demure colleen is too good to be true. Remote as the morning star, she proves inspiration of graceful lines. We hope to hear from you again.

J.R.: "Winter" is sound work, though somewhat lengthy. J.R. has an adequate sense of form and an excellent vocabulary.

"Nada" sends lines that are a kind of poetic ring-a-rosy, in which flowerets, apparently infected with "joy germs," begin each small verse with rapturous good morning to the wide world. All very well, but not quite poetry.

"M. Lynn" sends a lovely fragment that ripples along as musically as the river it defies. We hope to use the lines.

"O'Flynn": Too rough and ready, altogether.

One Summer Dawn

Thousands of stars from a sunset sky,
Bits of a rainbow gay—
Cut into charming, fantastic shapes
By an Elf and a naughty Fay—
Tumbling down through the soft spring dusk,
They came to the earth one day.

The old earth gathered them close—so close—
To the warmth of her bare brown breast,
The golden sun shone on the stranger stars,
And the soft breeze gently pressed
Kisses upon each wondrous form,
And crooned of the distant West.

So the earth and the stars slept on in peace,
Through the hush of the midnight hours,
And the soft rain fell on the rainbow guests
With all its magic powers—
Until—with the flush of a summer dawn—
We found that the earth had flowers.

—Dulce Carman.

Confession or Silence?

Our "Trials in Tact" Competition

PROBLEM No. 10, published last week, was the last of the second series. As soon as the time for solutions to be received has expired, results will be published, and the prize-winners announced. All the indications are that the finish will be even more exciting than last time. Quite a number of competitors are running "neck-and-neck."

Note.—The following names were inadvertently omitted from last week's list of marks awarded:—Lambton, 4; Michael, 3; Mrs. Mason, 5; Myra, 0; Mavis, 5; Maggie, 3.

PROBLEM NO. 9.

"A, B, and C. have a motor accident, as a result of which A. dies of injuries, B suffers loss of memory, and C. minor injuries. The accident is unwitnessed, and due entirely to carelessness on the part of B who was driving.

"As A owned the car, it is generally believed that he was the driver, and B remembers nothing at all. Should C make public the fact that A was not the driver, thus incriminating B; or should he remain silent?"

This problem has caused the hearts of many competitors to "run away" with their heads. One cannot but admire the kindly feelings of those who argue that A. is himself past being hurt, C. should endeavour to save B. by remaining silent.

They overlook, however, the fact that as A. lost his life an inquest or inquiry will be held necessarily, at which C. will be the principal, if not the only, witness. He will, therefore, be called upon to give evidence on oath, to speak "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth." If he remains silent, he becomes guilty of perjury. B. may at any time recover his memory, and divulge the actual happenings at the time of the accident; possibly, indeed probably, without C.'s cognisance. Surely then C. would find that his Don Quixotism had placed him in a very unenviable position.

Then, again, actions for damages may possibly lie. C. himself is entitled to claim, although as his injuries were only minor ones he probably will not wish to do so. But if A. left dependants they are in different case, and certainly entitled to do so. They may otherwise suffer great hardship. The position might even be reversed. B.'s friends might be advised to seek damages against A.'s estate, in which event the hardship would be greater still on A.'s heirs. C., too, would find it hard to stand aside silently and see such injustice done.

Further, apart from any question of finance or self-interest on C.'s part, recriminations might be indulged in between the families of A. and B. Altogether, painful as the circumstances are, I think it is a case of "fair play is bonny play."

C., then, I think, should speak the plain truth. As many competitors suggest, he need not enlarge upon B.'s carelessness, but should give plain, truthful, straightforward evidence.

Nemo's answer is the best received. Those from Ivy-Sen, Fanny, and Viator were also very good.—Savior-Faire.

"As B. can remember nothing of the happening, it would be kinder of C. to keep the secret of the accident to himself."—"Apple-Pie Mary."

"If the accident was due to the carelessness of B., I can't see any reason why C. should remain silent. As things are, I don't think it would make much difference to B. and it might make things a little easier for A.'s relatives."—"Unomi."

"If the accident had been witnessed there would have been no hesitation in stating that B. was the driver, and the fact that it was not does not mean that C. (however sympathetic toward B.) can help B. to evade his responsibilities, either moral or financial."—"Nemo."

"Seeing that no one but C. knows that it was due to carelessness, no dishonour would attach to A.'s name if people continued to think he was the driver, and no good purpose could be served by making it known that the accident was due to B.'s carelessness, it would be better for C. not to make public the fact that A. was not the driver. Should B. regain his memory he would probably ask for C.'s confirmation, and C. could then explain his reasons for silence."—"Sardonyx."

"C.'s duty is to the dead as well as to the living, and when asked (probably at the inquest) he must surely say that B. was the driver."—"Ivy-Sen."

"If it was known that B. was the driver, A.'s people would naturally feel antagonistic, when really they should pity him. No good could really be done through C. speaking."—"Michael."

"B.'s memory is almost certain to return, and it will by no means be easy for him to right matters then. It is most unlikely that he would wish his dead friend to bear the slur of his own (B.'s) conduct."—"Natural."

Marks Awarded.

Anon, 3; Amaryliss, 4; Anice, 0; Artful, 3; Apple-pie-Mary, 0; Ben, 5; Bonza, 5; Clericus, 4; Camp-5; Deerfoot, 0; Dimplex, 5; Diabol, 4; Devon, 5; Ecnan, 0; Effie, 5; Equity, 4; Fanny, 5; Frances, 4; Flirt, 3; Flora, 0; Grace, 4; Gunga-din, 5; Haven, 4; Heather, 3; Hopscotch, 5; Ivy-Sen, 5; Irene, 3; Iambic, 4; Jonquil, 0; Jimmy, 4; Mrs. Jones, 0; Kummel, 3; Kate, 5; Kia-Ora, 4; Lucid, 0; Lambton, 3; Michael, 0; Mrs. Mason, 5; Myra, 4; Mavis, 3; Maggie, 0; Nemo, 5; Nintz, 5; Natural, 5; Nomen, 4; Norah, 3; Never-never, 0; Nippy, 0; Mrs. Oldman, 0; Olivia, 4; Octopus, 3; Open-door, 4; Ouncery, 0; Pat, 5; Pumpkin, 5; Pansy, 5; Query, 0; Quince, 5; Radio, 4; Rosa, 0; Richmond, 0; Sardonyx, 0; Scylla, 4; Summit, 5; Thames, 0; Tuner, 3; Topaz, 3; Tommy, 3; Undine, 0; Unomi, 5; Vivat, 0; Viator, 5; Viola, 5; Verity, 0; Wynward, 4; Weaver, 5; Waterway, 0; Watchful, 3; Xerxes, 0; Xylonite, 5; Zenobia, 0.

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