

**THE JARVIS RECORD**

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**On Being a Grandfather**

On first becoming a grandfather a man has a distinct feeling of shock, with symptoms of collapse. A grandmother in the first flush of her joyful pride pays no heed to the mournful implications of her new dignity, but a man, transformed in a twinkling into a grandfather, thinks of little else.

You have hitherto gone your way, blithely humming to yourself in paraphrase of Holmes, "I'm forty, I'm forty; who says I am more?" perhaps exulting yourself into thinking that you may even yet make a fortune or write a "best seller" or run successfully for Parliament. But now a small, wavering, pink finger points at you from the nurse's arms, and all your dreams dissolve into a gray mist. You are a convicted grandfather, and no grandfather ever yet set the world on fire. You may thank your stars if you can go on doing middling well the tasks that you did quite well ten years ago. You have become an old man over night.

But it is just in that realization that the germ lies of a hitherto un-guessed happiness—a happiness beyond the experience of adventurous youth. The halcyon days do not come, however, with the birth of the grandchild. Only when after nearly a year the small morsel of humanity begins to distinguish the different members of the family and to exhibit endearing signs of dawning intelligence does the grandfather discover that he still has a place in the sun. Your own sons and daughters have long since come to take you as a matter of course. They are freer with criticisms than with blandishments. You suspect that they often enjoy themselves most when you are not with them. You are necessary to no one. That some morning you awake to find that you are altogether indispensable to the most important, the most adorable member of the household. Every look and gesture of affection on your part is met with outstretched arms and a smile of rapture. You may be shabby, wrinkled, possessing mere vestiges of the teeth and hair with which nature fitted you out long ago, but the child is as blind to those defects in you as Titania was to the assinine features of the bewitched Bottom. When you attempt to sing, your own children may scurry from the room, but your grandchild will listen to you by the half hour and beg for more—something that even your best-loved never did in the most indulgent hours of courtship. And you have found at last an unwearied listener to your twenty-times-told tales. Is it any wonder, then, that grandfathers are the most doting of relatives, that they find an ineffable charm in the companionship of those little ones who know nothing of politics or literature or sport, yet have such a lively common interest with you in the wonders of the natural world?

Experience may warn you that as the years go by these grandchildren too, like their parents before them, will become sophisticated, that they will find your songs and stories dull, that they will prefer companions of their own age—the hulking heroes of the football field, the light and airy champions of the tennis court. Nevertheless, for a little while yet they reveal to you a new and kindlier world, with heaven a little closer to it than you had ever dreamed. You may know in your heart that the winter of your discontent is approaching, but for the present you bask in a veritable Indian summer of old age.

**Discontent, Divine and Otherwise**

In a despatch from Chicago there is given an account of the methods of training executives that were used by a man who was well and honorably known in the world of business. These methods appear to have

been to "make men discontented with remaining in the rut and compel them to put forth all their energies to rise in the world."

One can have no quarrel with this, if it meant that it was intended to prevent men from somnolence and easy satisfaction with an achievement that should have been greater. Anything that will save from the mesmerism of repetition and meekness must do good, must build character and with it the country. By all means urge men to betterment. But when we had read the words we have quoted, we continued and read what followed, to wit: "He deliberately planned to have all his executives tempted by luxury. He wanted them to have nice clothes and live well, so they could realize the advantages of using their energies to supply them." And these are not so genial as one might think at the first reading, and rather grow less so as one contemplates them. It may be that our analysis is imperfect and our point of view narrow. It certainly must be admitted that the high-brow at times grows a trifle unctuous about "Service" and it is an awkward fact that most of us work because we must and like to be well paid for it. We can admit all this and do so most cheerfully, yet it is hard to feel quite comfortable in reading about such a system.

It is easy enough to say that a man ought to be discontented with being and staying in a rut, but that is quite a different thing to being discontented because he has not a limousine and cannot gorge himself in gilded hostilities. It imports into business life and domestic at one and the same time a false and more or less corrupting standard. If readers believe us wrong in so thinking, we ask them to look about and not to take our word for the matter but that of their own observation and good sense. Let them tell us what they behold and what, to their thinking, it may signify. "You ought to be doing better," may mean several things and not all of them wholesome to the province, and it reaches the danger point when it becomes "You ought to be getting more," for it has been used by those who were not engaged in what the world usually recognizes as commercial business. Hogarth, the humorist, treated the subject in paint, and many a drab romance in French and English has been written about it. In the case of this trainer of executives the system doubtless worked well according to his views, but as a practical and very able man of affairs he must have known that the standards which he forced on others were those of a feverish materialism, in the coils of which we find ourselves today.

As a matter of psychology, we might be appalled at a scheme which must not only have bred the desired discontent in the beneficiaries, but an equal discontent in those who missed its luscious rewards. We think that one of the most cynical opinions we have ever heard was credited to this business man of whom, in another part of the despatch, it is said, "He planned to make them want something, and he also planned to use the wives to spur the men on." If some mere literary man had put this in a novel he would have been regarded as having very loose ideas, but business is a wonderful agent of justice.

At any rate we now perceive that some of Charles Kingsley's "divine discontents" and "noble shames" would find themselves in surprising company nowadays.

**Facts and Fancies**

**Scarcity Accounted for**  
 One never loses anything by politeness, but a lot of people seem afraid to risk it.

**So Simple**  
 "Pa, it says here in the paper that a man did something willy nilly. What's that mean?"  
 "It means that it was a case of no-lens volens, my son."

**Her Short-Range Experience**  
 From a story—"Trix was but a frail child and this life of sin and infamy was all she had ever known."

**An Effective Combination**  
 We all need love in our lives, and praise when deserved; yes, and discipline, too. "How is it that you are so well brought up?" we asked a little girl the other day—the only child of doting parents. Her eyes snapped and with a demure smile she answered: "Love and spans."

**Financially Educated**  
 "What did your son learn at college?"  
 "Well, sir, he can ask for money in such a way that it seems like an honor to give it to him."

**A Slam at the Girls**  
 The difference between faces and nails is that it is considered vulgar to do your nails in public. (Baltimore Sun).

**Saving Trouble**  
 Motorist (after hitting pedestrian)—You were trying to cross in the middle of the block.  
 Pedestrian—What difference does it make? If I cross at the corner you will knock me into the middle of the block, so we might as well begin there.

**Imported Humor**  
 Reported conversation between two Englishmen:  
 "I put some turnip seed in the ground," said one, "and up came some cabbages."  
 "That's nothing," replied his companion. "I buried a cat and up came a sanitary inspector."  
 The Original "Gimme Girls"  
 "The horseleach hath two daughters, crying give, give!" (Solomon).

**As Etiquette Demanded**  
 An Irish fireman, rescuing a woman at a blaze, lost his hold near the bottom of the ladder and landed heavily with the woman on top of him. A doctor hastily summoned pronounced Pat sound, though badly bruised.  
 "You are a brave gentleman," said the doctor.  
 "Brave, maybe, but no gentleman," returned Pat, rubbing his injuries, "or I'd a-let the lady go first."

**His Incentive**  
 "What made you a multimillionaire?"  
 "My wife."  
 "Ah, her tactful help—"  
 "Nothing like that. I was simply curious to know if there was any income she couldn't live beyond."

**STRAIGHTEST SURVEYED LINE**  
 The Alaska boundary line is said to be the longest and straightest surveyed line in the world. The line consists of a vista 20 feet wide cut through all timber, of monuments set at intervals of points not more than four miles apart, and of a detailed map of the strip of country two miles each side of the boundary. At prominent river crossings, and at main points of travel, the monuments are sectional shafts five feet high, of aluminum-bronze, weighing 300 lbs., set in a ton of concrete. At less important points the monuments are three feet high, and set in 1,500 pounds of concrete. The commission was five years finishing its task. The boundary runs for 600 miles over great mountain ranges, glaciers, swift rivers, quicksands, bottomless morasses. High summits were crossed, raging torrents forded, camp made on glaciers. Every obstacle of the wilderness was fought and conquered.

If we had no faults we should not take so much pleasure in noting the faults of others.

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**What She Thought of First**  
 The teacher was trying to make Elsie understand subtraction and she said: "You have ten fingers, now supposing there were three missing what would you have then?"  
 "No music lessons," said Elsie promptly.

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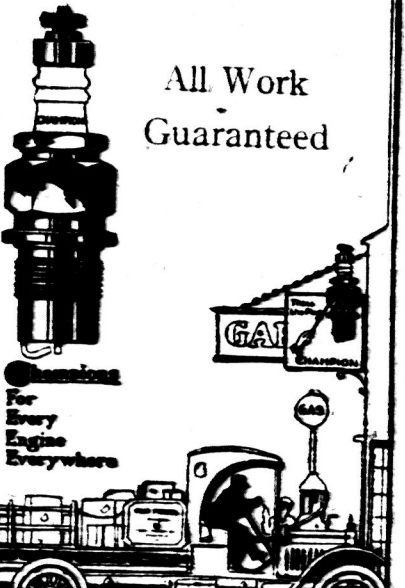
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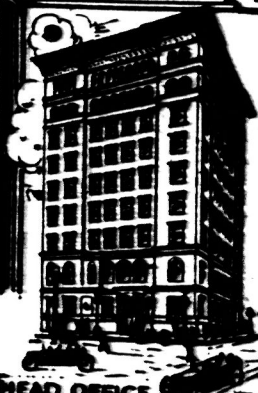


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