

THE JARVIS RECORD

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The Lives of Men

The things that come up in the lives of men that make them think are the things that develop in men the things in life worth while.

Until you have been at sea and a storm hovers over the bosom of the waters, you will never know how to appreciate your own helplessness and the insignificant part you play in the scheme of Eternal things.

Until you have been lost in the fastness of the jungles of a foreign land, will you fully appreciate how little, after all, you amount to in the whirlpool of life on this universe.

And, not until you have gone down the 3rd time in water over your head, and realized that a watery grave was claiming you, will you realize what a wonderful power the brain possesses. Drowning is not nearly so bad as one might imagine, but it is a sensation, perhaps, never felt by mortals in any other way. Going down the first time is simply a matter of mistake, so far as one feels. Going down the second time brings one sharply to realize that an accident has occurred. It is only when one realises the utter helplessness of his position, when coming beneath the water the third time, does the panorama of the past, the present and the future pass before you. In the short seconds of the third and last descent, recollection flash before the mind's eye at a rate measured by a lifetime, in an instant.

Vivid and appalling as is this sensation, it presents no particular fear, so it is from these varied experiences that I have learned that death, even so near, has no horrid aspect to fear.

Lost in the forest, unable to determine direction, haunted by death from thirst, starvation or wild animals, brings a violently different feeling. This experience brought to me, instinctively, the fear which gives man the power of combat. Hunger and thirst only drives one on with the ex-

citement its torture brings. The thoughts of mangled form and death and by torture from giant animals of the woods has an entirely different action on the nerves of man. We forget hunger and thirst; we forget everything except our past and the horror of death and torture in an uneven fight.

Three days in the grip of a storm at sea brings to one the varying emotions from fear and uncertainty to utter despair. As the hurricane tosses the ship about as if it were only a chip, the giant waves swoop down like mountain peaks falling upon the tiny craft. The howling winds and

slashing waves crash against the boat, which reeks and cries from the strain of the angry storm. It is here that one loses all sense of danger, all feeling of fear. It is here we first feel afraid to die. It is here we soon pray to die and fear we will not. But, it is in these trying ordeals that there is mixed the varying emotions of fear, torture, fight and resignation to fate.

But, in the calm waters that gently surge around and take one beneath the depths, there seems to be a difference in the action upon the mind. Although realizing that death is fast sweeping us into eternity; and, with

this, we have flashed upon our conscience, with lightning-like rapidity, the whole story of life. The brain is able, in those fleeting seconds, to see and differentiate, with clear vision, between the good and the bad, the life record now being reviewed. Yet, there is none of the fight, none of the dread that registers, when we face death by the more exciting; or violent means.

The power of thought, the wonderful projective power of the brain is always at our disposal, but we often seem to be indifferent about using it. The offer, we have to be prodded, coaxed, and driven to do things. This is because we refuse to think, to think aloud or upon paper, or with words and action, so we ramble along and accomplish nothing.

If we would only throw our mind-power and capacity to think into high gear, as we do when we sink beneath the water the third time, just as life begins to fade and death grips our soul, then we would accomplish, each year of our lives results far greater than usually come in the entire span to which is allotted the average man. There comes to one physical strength of a super-man when faced by danger in combat with an uneven foe; and this should teach us that we lose the greater value in us when we creep along in low gear instead of speeding

in high. The difference is between the man who thinks and makes of thinking a force for good, as against the man who battles along without thought action of his own.

And, the chances are, when at last we pass beneath the spreading leaves of the sheltering palm, beyond the gates of pearl, we will find the difference then between the things we did on earth—the difference between development and thoughts, right and wrong.—Abner Davis.

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International Dog-Sled Derby For February



In and around Quebec. Top left—Trotting on Exhibition Grounds. Right—Earl Brydges huskies, winners of last year's derby, meeting the post. Left—A fair sailing enthusiast. Below—The Chateau Frontenac dog team with "Mounie," famous north-west husky leader in fact.

In a guide to "The City of Quebec" one reads that among other things Quebec is celebrated for its horse races, which for more than a century were organized and kept going by the wealthy officers of the British crack regiments stationed there on garrison duty, and that the organization of the Quebec Turf Club dates back to 1789. Horse racing is still a seasonal attraction to the Ancient City. The Fall meet brings horses and racing enthusiasts from practically all over the continent, and has done for years, but the native Quebecer is inclined to enthuse more over the trotting races that take place when the snow is packed hard on the course. Then there are horses he knows and really belongs to him. Horses from "way back", perhaps.

One has only to attend a trotting meet in Quebec to know just how much of the true sporting spirit is inherent in the French-Canadian. It is not always the one who has placed most money that is the most vociferous as the trotting nags near the post. Rating is in their blood. They excitedly shout their favourites name, and wave their arms for its encouragement, and if it wins, all right. If not,—all right, it's a darn good horse anyway.

It is perhaps the enthusiasm for the race shown by the people of Quebec that is responsible for the continuance of the Eastern International Dog-Sled Derby, held annually in that city. The Derby is supported by winter sportsmen from all over the continent, and entries are made from all parts of the continent upon which snow falls to stay for the season; but without the support of the people of Quebec the event could not be the great success it is. On the three days for which the Derby is scheduled, everyone who can declare a holiday and gets as close to the stables' stand as is possible for the crowd, and when the dogs come panting home, it is not so much the visitor at the Chateau as it is Jean Baptiste of Quebec who cheers them in.

This season's Eastern International Dog-Sled Derby has been definitely scheduled to take place February 19, 20 and 21st. As in former years the distance to be covered will be 120 miles, at the rate of 40 miles more or less each day. Earl Brydges, winner of last year's Derby with the Ontario Paper Company's team, will defend his honors in the face of much competition. An American team won the gold trophy in 1923, and it is expected that several teams will try to regain it for the United States. Possibly fifteen or more teams will try to keep it from going across the border, including one of five Alaskan huskies which is being entered by two McGill students. This is headed by "Dan Jo" which led three teams to victory in three sweepstakes in the Yukon district last year.

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