

CLERGYMAN CHATTER

By M. Homer Cummings

A few days ago, I received a letter from the editor of "THE MOUNTAINEER" requesting me to ~~write~~ furnish an article each week for his paper. It is, indeed, a pleasure to comply with his request.

However, nothing was said relative to ~~the~~ my subject material. That being the case, I am ~~free~~ at liberty to discuss any topic from ~~the~~ pre-historic times until the present moment. And that is as it should be. The pulpit and the press should always be free to express convictions without fear or favor.

M. HOMER CUMMINGS

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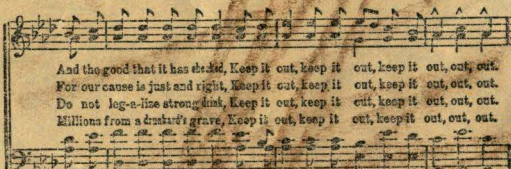
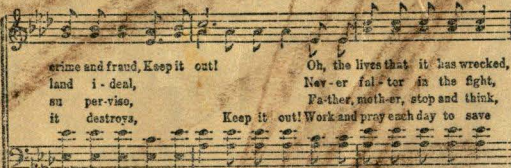
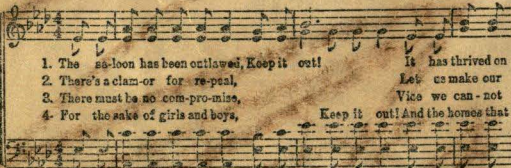
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No. 240. Keep It Out.

The Eighteenth Amendment is a part of our Constitution. It was adopted by the states. The largest majority of the people of the United States are in favor of it. It is a law that should be obeyed. "Woe to him that buildeth a town with blood, and stablisheth a city by violence unto him that giveth his neighbor drink, that putteth thy bottle to him, and his drunken."—Ezek. 16: 19, 20.

M. Homer Cummings. Copyright, 1922, by M. Homer Cummings. Tune: "Help It On."



Warnings Against Drunkenness.

Let us walk honestly, as in the day, not in rioting and drunkenness.—Ro. 13: 13.
It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor anything whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak.—Ro. 14: 21.
And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess.
But be filled with the Spirit.—Eph. 5: 18.

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Clergyman Chatter

(By M. HOMER CUMMINGS)

An Appeal To Voters

Men and women of West Virginia, at the special election on June 27, 1933, we earnestly request you to vote to retain national prohibition. Please do not make it possible to license the manufacture and sale of intoxicants. Never again let us legalize a beverage that dethrones reason, creates crime, incites riots, sponsors prostitution, supports vice, makes murder, ruins homes, breaks the hearts of mothers, destroys character and wrecks immortal souls. For the sakes of the boys and girls of today and the generations to come, do not repeal the Eighteenth Amendment. "Woe to him that buildeth a town with blood, and establisheth a city by iniquity. Woe unto him that giveth his neighbor drink, that putteth thy bottle to him, and maketh him drunken."—Hab. 2:12, 15.

"But," it is argued, "there is drinking today." Yes, but not by the sanction of our government. But should we do away with the Eighteenth Amendment, drinking will not only increase but we place our legal stamp of approval upon this evil traffic and enter into partnership with it through the license system. We would not think of removing from the statute books the law against theft and murder because there are persons who steal and kill, neither should we repeal the Eighteenth Amendment because it is being violated. God has not recalled the Ten Commandments because multitudes constantly disregard them.

Let us keep the liquor traffic where it belongs—outlawed. On June 27, go to the polls and vote against the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment, thereby preventing the legalization of strong drink. Then let everybody obey the prohibition law and the bootlegger will be banished from our land.

Throughout the state the various newspapers are running an advertisement urging us to vote for the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment in order to bring better times, reduce taxes, restore temperance and respect for law. How absurd! For whom will it bring better times? Not for those who handle nourishing food products and harmless drinks. The increase in the consumption of milk since prohibition is 212.5 pounds annually for every man, woman and child in the United States. With the coming of prohibition, the number of employees in the ice cream industry increased 95 per cent and its production 281 per cent. Since prohibition there are 114 per cent more wage earners employed in the making of soft drinks. Will it help the banks and insurance companies? Not by any means. Savings deposits have increased three times since 1918 and life insurance has increased 145 per cent since prohibition. Who then will it benefit?

Nobody but the persons engaged in the liquor traffic and the undertakers.

But what about reducing taxes? This is preposterous. In order to raise the \$150,000,000 revenue promised by the wets from the manufacture and sale of beer, the people of our nation must spend one billion, four hundred and forty million dollars. What an investment! Who really pays the tax? Do the brewers and distillers? Not one cent of it! Finley C. Hendrickson in 1910 said: "A woman bends over the wash tub. Her husband is down in the saloon drinking, helping to pay the tax. A young man is taking his first drink. He is beginning to pay the tax. He may be a drunkard in a few years and then he will pay more tax. An employee has just been discharged for drinking. He was paying the tax. A husband is selling off some of his best furniture and the family is moving into a stuffy flat. He has been paying the tax. A lot of noisy men are in a saloon drinking. They are paying the tax."

It would be a foolish bargain to trade gasoline revenue for booze. According to the World Almanac, 1933, the total gas revenue received by the U.S. in 1931 was \$537,589,717. This was on 25,814,103 cars. There were over 20,000,000 passenger cars

in 1931. These cars afforded pleasure to the whole family, including mother and the kiddies. The total average annual revenue (all liquors) received by the states (1913-1917 inclusive) was \$89,000,000. The liquor that produced this revenue did not contribute one iota to the happiness and comfort of the family. Mother and kiddies paid—it wrecked thousands of families. It is inevitable that the Repeal of Prohibition will greatly decrease the more than a half billion dollars auto gasoline revenue to the states, slow down auto production and sales and auto accessories sales.

The third argument that is advanced in the advertisement against the Eighteenth Amendment is that its repeal will restore temperance. In other words, they maintain that people will drink in moderation and no one to excess. They would try to make you believe that there were no drunkards until the advent of prohibition. But the facts do not substantiate this intimation. Ever since the deluge, men have tarried too long at the flowing bowl. Alcohol is a habit-forming drug and when once the individual is in its clutches, it is almost impossible for him to free himself. Instead of temperance as it pertains to strong drink, there should be total abstinence.

And then the repeal advocates say that it will bring respect for law. When was the liquor traffic ever law-abiding? Did they refuse to sell to young men under age or to habitual drunkards? Were the saloons careful in observing the Sunday closing law? Is it not a fact that the first insurrection in the United States was known as the Whiskey Rebellion?

Go to the polls on June 27th and vote against ratification of the repeal amendment and you will have a conscience void of offense before God and man. The acid test of any liquor control system is the actual amount of alcohol consumed. Despite the highly financed opposition, thirteen years of prohibition (according to U. S. Government figures) has reduced liquor drinking by two-thirds.

Pat Withrow says, "I hate the liquor traffic with all of my heart. God is against it and I am against it." And we might add our government should always be against it. Let us all vote against it.

If you vote for the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment, you sanction the sale of intoxicants to your boy and mine.

Vote against the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment.

Gyman Chatter

(By M. HOMER CUMMINGS)

Last week in the State Sentinel, an article by Mr. John Doe appeared on the right side of this column under the caption of "What Others Say." In it, this pseudopigraphous gentleman took issue with Rev. Clarence Shirley Donnelly, pastor of the Oak Hill Baptist Church, in regard to certain statements that were published in the Fayette Tribune concerning the evils of the legalized liquor traffic and reminded the minister of crimes that had been committed since the days of the open saloon.

Mr. Doe fails to discriminate between the two—in both instances the murders were caused by intoxicants, but under the license system the liquor was sold with the permission of our government and our county and state became an accomplice to the crime, while under prohibition, it was done without our consent and in violation of our constitution.

Mr. Doe is mistaken when he says that boys and girls did not go into the saloon to drink. The writer has witnessed scenes to the contrary. Fathers would often take their sons into these dens of iniquity and order beverages for them and would laugh when the boys became "tight." Many of the homes in those days kept large quantities of whiskey in their possession and the entire family would partake of the liquid fire.

But the most absurd assertion made by the afore-said Mr. Doe to Rev. Donnelly is this ridiculous declaration: "Vote dry if you want to make thousands of bootleggers happy and if you are in politics you are sure to get their vote." Will you please give us the names and addresses of the bootleggers that are helping us in the fight to prevent the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment?

In closing his article, Mr. Doe signs off with "Yours for Real Prohibition." John, may we give you this suggestion in rhyme?

"If you want to stop a man
From drinking rum and brandy,
Don't give license to the shop
That keeps it always handy."

Much is being said and written about the failure of Prohibition. If it is such a joke, why are certain organizations financed by millionaires working night and day to get rid of it? Why this frenzied effort for repeal?

It is true that people have not observed this law as they should have done (they have also violated the statutes against theft, murder, etc.) but prohibition abolished 177,790 open saloons, 1,247 breweries, 507 distilleries and reduced 275 liquor cure establishments to 68. The greatest thing, however, that the Eighteenth Amendment did was to put Uncle Sam out of the whiskey business. He ceased to place his stamp of approval upon this vice.

We deeply deplore the fact that the U. S. Congress and our own state legislature legalized the manufacture and sale of beer and light wine. It is a step in the wrong direction. It is also a source of regret to us that it is being sold in legitimate places of business where total abstainers formerly frequented.

The great Apostle informs us that the "love of money is the root of all evil." How true this is! Diamond-studded brewers care nothing for the misery and woe that they cause the poor man and his family. They are concerned about the profits that they can make off the weakness of humanity.

Former Congressman W. D. Upshaw says that there are 32 million reasons for prohibition—32 million automobile drivers in the United States. Alcohol and gasoline do not mix.

A GEM FROM THE POETS

O SHAME ON WEST VIRGINIA

All eyes are centered now on you,
O West Virginia!
John Davis, honest, fearless, true,
Was born within you;
He sought to bring to you renown,
But at the polls you turned him down.

So often you have been abused
By press dispatches,
The crimes of which you've been
accused,

The public catches;
Ah, Davis would have honored you,
But unto him you were untrue.

O West Virginia, bow in shame
And deep contrition;
Think of the blight upon thy name—
Thy sad condition;

Forever there will be the blot—
He came and you received him not.

John W. Davis is the only person born in West Virginia who was ever nominated for President of the United States and yet our citizens were so devoid of patriotism that they defeated him in this state by an overwhelming majority. Truly, he "came unto his own, and his own received him not."

Clergyman Chatter

(By M. HOMER CUMMINGS)

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, the first lady of the land, is quoted in recent news dispatches as saying that America needs more religion. Her husband, the President, voiced the same sentiment in a radio address that he delivered the other night. With them, we heartily agree.

What is religion? Different persons will give various interpretations. After exhorting the individuals to whom he was writing to be doers of the Word and not hearers only, James emphatically declares, "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." When the lawyer asked Jesus, "Master, which is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus replied, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." These statements by James and Jesus reveal to us that religion is man's proper relation to God and his fellowmen. The Apostle John tells us that we can not love God and hate our brothers. "He that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?"

We do not believe that we have the love that we should possess for this and the coming generations if we legalize gambling, Sabbath desecration, and strong drink with all of its attendant evils. We should not place a rock of offense or an occasion for stumbling in the way of others. The Bible plainly says, "Woe to him that buildeth a town with blood, and establisheth a city by iniquity. Woe unto him that giveth his neighbor drink, that putteth the bottle to him and maketh him drunken."

It will be recalled that more than a year ago, John D. Rockefeller, Jr., asserted that prohibition had increased drunkenness and he urged the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment, thereby implying (we suppose) that if our nation complied with his request that drinking would cease. Now comes the statement from his commission that the booze industry with its enormous revenue should turn into the coffers of Uncle Sam at least \$750,000,000 each year! What about the "true temperance" of which we used to hear? Nothing is said about it. That was simply camouflage. It's revenue, REVENUE off the tears of widows and the sobs of orphan children.

If Rockefeller really thought that there was more drinking under na-

tional prohibition than when we had the open saloon, why didn't he petition congress to pass a law forbidding the manufacture and sale of the Standard Oil products? Why didn't he get the government to close all of his refineries and filling stations and let the "bootleggers" peddle his oil and gas?

How many of our readers heard Billy Sunday over the radio the past week? He conducted a revival in the Lehman Tabernacle in Wheeling. Notwithstanding the fact that he is more than seventy years of age and has recently suffered a paralytic stroke, he is still going strong. He is now in an evangelistic campaign in Washington, D. C. He and "Ma" Sunday are planning to go to Alaska for a series of meetings. Mr. Sunday, before his conversion was a baseball player and as an evangelist, he is in a class to himself. His radio addresses last week were Scriptural, earnest and forceful. He is a wonderful preacher and has led thousands to Christ.

Mr. Sunday lost two of his children in the past two years. Helen, his daughter, died of tuberculosis and his son, George, fell from a building and lived only a few days after the accident. He has always been devoted to his family. Unfortunately, he and his wife were not able to spend as much time as most parents do with their children. His evangelistic work kept him and Mrs. Sunday almost continually away from home.

By a strange co-incidence, while Mr. Sunday was in Wheeling, his former song leader, the genial and magnetic Homer A. Rodeheaver was engaged in a revival in Charleston at the Union Mission Tabernacle. It was the writer's privilege to hear both of them the same day over the radio, one from WWVA and the other from WOBV. Moody and Sankey and Sunday and Rodeheaver are names that will always be linked together like David and Jonathan and Paul and Barnabas.

LETTING OFF STEAM

Editor, The Herald-Advertiser:

As a rule, I find the meditations of George M. Adams very helpful, uplifting and inspiring.

However, I cannot subscribe to his views of "Letting Off Steam." In it he says, "If a woman feels like crying or a man like swearing (refinely!) go ahead and cry — or swear."

Does he mean by this that we are to exercise no self-control but let our emotions run wild and give way to temper tantrums? Are we to remain children all our lives?

It may be all right for women to cry for "if at first they don't succeed, they cry, cry again" but there is certainly no valid reason for anybody breaking the Third Commandment: "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain."

Although profanity is one of the most inexcusable of all sins, it is nevertheless very prevalent. There are those who inhale and exhale it with delight. They swear when they are sad, when they are glad and when they are mad, in summer or winter, in all kinds of weather, at home and abroad. Yet it is of no service to mankind.

Let us obey the admonition of Jesus, "Swear not at all."

M. HOMER CUMMINGS,
130 Cedar Street.

NEW PASTOR TAKING WELL.

Rev. M. Homer Cummings, the new pastor of the M. E. church, is taking quite well with the people of Ceredo. He seems to be quite a mixer and his congregations are increasing numerically. The church was filled with people last Sunday evening, while a large crowd was also present at the morning service. During the evening service Rev. and Mrs. Cummings sang a duet, "I Want My Life to Count for Jesus," one of the pastor's own compositions, and the audience was well pleased with the number. Mr. and Mrs. Cummings are both talented musicians.

Clergyman Chatter

(By M. HOMER CUMMINGS)

Repeal the Twenty-first amendment!

November 7, 1933 was one of the darkest days in the history of our nation. On that date, a sufficient number of states voted to ratify the Twenty-first Amendment, thereby making it possible to legalize the manufacture and sale of intoxicants. Our government has now gone back into the business of producing drunkards, imbeciles, widows, orphans and paupers for the flimsy excuse of revenue. Well did the Apostle Peter say, "It is happened unto them according to the true proverb 'The dog is turned to his vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.'"

Will strong drink be of benefit to our country? Will it bring prosperity? No. It will fill the purse of the diamond-studded brewer and distiller but it will rob the consumer of his money, his home and character. Liquor and poverty go hand in hand. Every cent that is taken in by this nefarious traffic is diverted from the channels of legitimate business; hence business suffers to the extent that booze prospers.

Squire Halstead says that if whiskey will pull America out of the hole, then Europe should be sitting on the top of the world. She has never had prohibition.

Has beer helped our state? Since the frothy foam has been on sale in West Virginia, the arrests for drunkenness in some sections have tripled. What about the revenue? Well, the governor has had to call an extra session of the legislature to devise means of financing the schools. Unless something is done, the institutions of learning will have to close. BEER, Beer, beer, whew! What a panacea! Did beer stop the activities of the bootlegger as some of the legislators argued that it would do? Nay, verily.

Rev. O. M. Pullen, one of the most severely criticised and maliciously maligned men who ever labored in West Virginia, recently went to his eternal reward. There the "wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest."

Hats off to North Carolina! Altho' all of the returns are not in, it seems that South Carolina also has not defiled her garments.

The Parson Writes

Dear Mr. Publisher:

I'm in hot water again and I can't even swim in cold waer. Last Sunday during the sermon I told a joke and the young folks laughed out loud. One ole sister was so shocked that her teeth fell out on the floor. After the service most of the grown people dodged me like I had the leprosy. When I got home the phone was bouncing up down. One of my deacons allowed as how I had done committed the unpardonable sin — telling jokes in church. When I told him I thought a good joke was good most any place you told it he hup up. Anyhow, by the next time you hear from me I may be a has-been preacher. (That is as low as you can go and still be a U. S. citizen.)

Ain't it a puckering shame, Mr. Publisher, how everybody's loosening their sense of humor. Even the funny papers ain't funny no more. Pore ole Dick Tracy spends all his time inventing new gadgets like TV wrist watches. They've got comics like Payten Place, that shows how miserable life can really be. Then theres Ben Casey. He's in the funny sections now, cutting out gall bladders and snapping off peoples' heads.

I'll declare if it ain't getting to the place where the funny page is about as sad as the front page.

Another problem about getting folks to laugh now a days, Mr. Publisher, is that everbodys so thin skinned they won't allow a joke told on them. The colored folks cry "discrimination", the Jews "anti semitism", the Catholics "bigots", the Protestants "blasphemy", and the white folks "communist". Everybody's so dad-burned overwhelmed by his own importance that he can't take a little funny crack about him. Pretty soon, the whole world will be made up with nothing but "bawlers". We'll walk around everywhere we go with a crying towel. We'll be dead serious with emphasis on the dead part.

Mr. Publisher, I always looked upon humor as one of God's best tools. Its a ego buster. I got a feeling that the Almighty would be a little better pleased with a few more laughs in Church and a few less sour looking faces. Its like my ole lady said, "Christianity got started in a maturnity ward—not a funeral home." If I had my way I'd fix it where everybody would get at least one good belly laugh each Sunday. Wouldn't it be funny if we found out you could laugh the Devil out of a fella a hole lot quicker than you can scare the hell out of him.

I gotta close now. By the way, do you know what the chicken said to the rooster as the farmer walked across the yard? "Theres the guy I'm laying for."

So long,

Parson Jones

JOSH HAYSEED

By M. HOMER CUMMINGS



"We hafter git at th' source uv things. No one kin purify th' water by white-washin' th' pump."

JOSH HAYSEED

By M. HOMER CUMMINGS



"My ole mule can't kick an' pull at th' same time. Kin you?"

JOSH HAYSEED

By M. HOMER CUMMINGS



"Ef you're afeared of doin' too much, mor'n likely you'll soon be a-doin' too little."

Clergyman Chatter

(By M. Homer Cummings)

The wet parade moves on with Michigan and Wisconsin leading the procession. Thirty-four more states will be needed to repeal the Eighteenth Amendment. We sincerely trust that this number can not be found. The liquor traffic should be kept where it now is—outlawed. Vice should never be legalized. It is wrong and can not be made right.

As the wave of wet sentiment seems to be sweeping the country, we should heed the words of Jehovah that were delivered to Moses while he was on the mount receiving instructions from God. "Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil." Jesus says, "WIDE is the gate and BROAD is the way that leadeth to DESTRUCTION and MANY there be which go in thereat."

"But," it is objected, "there is too much drining at present." That is true. There is too much stealing and murder. Shall we repeal all of the laws that are being violated? If so, the statute books would be clean. There would be no laws. Has God revoked the Ten Commandments because man has continually disobeyed them? Nay, verily.

Recently a friend handed us the following: "We want bread not beer, jobs not liquor, clothes not booze, schools not saloons, sobriety not drunkenness, friends not enemies, peace not fighting, Heaven not Hell."

This is holy week. Our thoughts are centered upon the Christ, who though "He was rich, yet for our sakes He became poor, that we through His poverty might become rich." He, "being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."—(Phil. 2:6-11.)

Jesus not only gave Himself for us, but, as Paul tells, He "hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel." "As in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.—Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."—(1 Cor. 15:22, 58.)

Clergyman Chatter

(By M. HOMER CUMMINGS)

Well, Texas, the lone star state and the home of United States Senator Morris Sheppard, author of the Eighteenth Amendment, has gone wet by an overwhelming majority. It begins to look like the people of the nation, north and south, east and west, want booze and are determined to get it. The attitude of the women of our land on this subject has been a great surprise. We were persuaded better things of them, but alas! we are doomed to disappointment.

While on his recent trip to Chicago, the writer was amazed at the prevalence of cigarette smoking among the fairer sex. On every hand at the World's Fair, the sisters were puffing and blowing the fumes. Once or twice, we ventured to exhort them to desist from the use of the weed and they gave us such a look that we became oysterized. Since so many of the flappers are imitating the men in dress and habits, it is high time for us men to set a good example before them. It might have a wholesome effect upon them, altho' it is doubtful. They are probably hopeless.

How do you like it? Practically everywhere you go, you see the advertisements of beer and the pictures of women with cups of the frothy foam in their hands. This unworthy scribe is cranky, fanatical, narrow-minded and old-fashioned and of course it does not appeal to him. Neither does he enjoy the bill-boards and other displays of feminine beauties (?) advertising the various brands of cigarettes. Well, society is certainly becoming smoke-cured.

Is our money our own to do with it as we please or does God hold us responsible for the manner in which we use it? Wasn't there a prophet one time who cried, "Wherefore do ye spend your money for that which is not bread and for that which satisfieth not?" Is it right to burn up billions of dollars each year when it could be used for a better purpose?

Arthur Brisbane says that since the manufacture and sale of beer has become legalized, there is a great decrease in the use of milk and that it will be disastrous to the health of children.

We have had but few guests in our home that we enjoyed more than Rev. E. R. Crockett of Roanoke, Virginia. He recently spent two weeks with us. He is an interesting character—unique, entertaining, jovial, unassuming and comical. His sermons are altogether different from those preached by the average minister. Although his educational advantages are very limited—less than two years in school, he is a profound thinker and knows the Scripture. If he has any hobby as a minister, it is prophecy. His hearers may not always agree with his expositions but they nevertheless appreciate his messages.

Rev. Crockett believes that the signs of the times are being fulfilled and that the Second Coming of Jesus is near. There is no doubt about the advent of our Lord being imminent but when, we do not know. "Therefore," Christ exhorts us, "be ye also ready; for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh." "What I say unto you, I say unto all, watch." "The day that shall dawn for my Lord's appearing.

He hath not revealed to me; Yet if He but find me a faithful servant,

A glorious day 'twill be."