

CAPRICES OF FAME.

Writers Who Live by a Single Book or Poem, Some by a Single Line.

It is one of the many old experiences of life that while some men in pursuit of fame write a library of books and die and are forgotten, other men under some happy inspiration write a single line, poem or volume and are forever ranked with the immortals.

In some cases immortality goes begging from the modest shrinking of an author to claim his offspring, as in the case of the oracle who penned the eloquent word "Don't" in answer to Punch's request for advice to those about to marry, but there are many cases in which men are known by the work of a few minutes or hours when all the rest of their life's work would have left in obscurity.

Very few read Congreve nowadays, and fewer still could quote half a dozen lines from any of his poems and dramas, and yet to many who have never even heard his name there are few lines more familiar than the oft quoted and misquoted, "Music hath charms to soothe the savage breast."

Charles Wolfe, the Irish divine and poet, wrote many poems of excellence, but only one redeems him and all his works from obscurity, the poem which Lord Byron himself described as "the most perfect ode in the language," and of this few could get beyond the first line, "We buried him darkly at dead of night."

Thomas Gray, poet and friend of Horace Walpole, has left one legacy only from all his writings, but that is an imperishable one—his "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard," the most widely quoted poem in our language. Yet those who can recite every word of it with the infallibility of a phonograph could probably not even give the name of a single other poem by the same writer.

Lady Anne Barward would have no place at all in the public memory if she had not written that sweet and pathetic ballad, "Auld Robin Gray," which has brought sympathetic tears to the eyes of thousands who have not read another line by the author.

John Pomfret, the Bedfordshire poet, would have been forgotten for nearly two centuries had he not in a happy hour penned his exquisite poem, "The Choice," which is considered by many, including Southey and Johnson, the most perfect and beautiful lyric in our language.

Of the two English poets of the name of Collins one is only known to have attempted a single poem, but that has been sufficient to make him immortal among lovers of beautiful verse. Nothing is known of the life of the author of "Tomorrow," but his poem has given delight to thousands who could not give his Christian name or birthplace "to save their lives."

"Single Speech Hamilton" won oratorical fame by the very simple expedient of never speaking in the British Parliament except on one occasion, although he was a man of political importance, Chancellor of the Exchequer in Ireland for over 20 years and actually author of a volume of speeches. His works and writings are as dead as their author, but the memory of that single impressive speech serves to keep his memory more alive than that of many an orator famous in his lifetime.

There are many men whose memory will be green for centuries as the consequence of having produced one successful book. Cervantes has a popularity almost as widespread as that of Shakespeare, and yet all his plays are lost, and of all his writings practically nothing remains but "Don Quixote," a book which is regarded as a classic in almost every country in Europe.

Boswell will live as long as the memory of Johnson endures, solely through his life of his great friend. In the same way Scott confers immortality on his son-in-law and biographer, Leitch, for, apart from this single valuable contribution to our knowledge of the great magician, Leitch and all his writings would be forgotten by all but the student.

The Umbrella Maker.

Two cyclists set out the other day for a spin. One got a long way ahead of the other, and, turning an ugly corner in the lane, collapsed over a heap of stones, smashing his machine was getting irretrievably mixed up among the spokes.

An old woman, with her egg basket, happening to come down the road just then, was met round the bend by the second cyclist, who asked her:

"My good woman, have you seen a young man on a bicycle go here?"

"No, ma," was the reply. "I've seen no bicycles, but I've seen a man sitting on the floor under an umbrella."

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Suburban Express for Rothesay.....	11.05
Express for Point du Chene, Halifax, and Pictou.....	11.50
Express for Sussex.....	16.30
Suburban Express for Hampton.....	17.45
Express for Quebec, and Montreal.....	19.35
Express for Halifax and Sydney.....	22.45
Accommodation for Moncton and Point du Chene.....	13.00

TRAINS WILL ARRIVE AT ST. JOHN

Express from Halifax and Sydney.....	6.00
Suburban Express from Hampton.....	7.15
Express from Sussex.....	8.35
Express from Montreal and Quebec.....	11.30
Suburban Express from Rothesay.....	12.30
Express from Halifax and Pictou.....	17.00
Express from Hampton.....	18.35
Suburban Express from Hampton.....	21.55
Accommodation from Point du Chene and Moncton.....	14.15

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D. POTTINGER,
General Manager

Moncton, June 6, 1901.

A Word to the Wise
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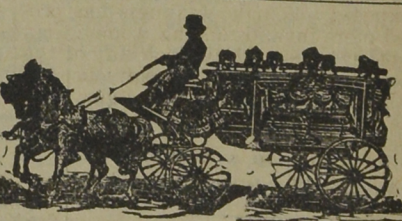
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