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VOLUME 7;
JANUARY, 1914; NUMBER
1**

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GEORGE WHARTON JAMES

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The Death of Grant

By Ambrose Bierce

FATHER! WHOSE HARD AND CRUEL LAW
IS PART OF THY COMPASSION'S PLAN,
THY WORKS PRESUMPTUOUSLY WE SCAN
FOR WHAT THE PROPHETS SAY THEY SAW.

UNBIDDEN STILL, THE AWFUL SLOPE
WALLING US IN, WE CLIMB TO GAIN
ASSURANCE OF THE SHINING PLAIN
THAT FAITH HAS CERTIFIED TO HOPE.

IN VAIN: BEYOND THE CIRCLING HILL
THE SHADOW AND THE CLOUD ABIDE;
SUBDUCE THE DOUBT, OUR SPIRITS GUIDE
TO TRUST THE RECORD AND BE STILL;

TO TRUST IT LOYALLY AS HE
WHO, HEEDFUL OF HIS HIGH DESIGN,
NE'ER RAISED A SEEKING EYE TO THINE,
BUT WROUGHT THY WILL UNCONSCIOUSLY,

DISPUTING NOT OF CHANCE OR FATE,
NOR QUESTIONING OF CAUSE OR CREED:
FOR ANYTHING BUT DUTY'S DEED
TOO SIMPLY WISE, TOO HUMBLY GREAT.

THE CANNON SYLLABLED HIS NAME;
HIS SHADOW SHIFTED O'ER THE LAND,
PORTENTOUS, AS AT HIS COMMAND
SUCCESSIVE CITIES SPRANG TO FLAME!

HE FRINGED THE CONTINENT WITH FIRE,
THE RIVERS RAN IN LINES OF LIGHT!
THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH—IF RIGHT
OR WRONG HE CARED NOT TO INQUIRE.

HIS WAS THE HEAVY HAND, AND HIS
THE SERVICE OF THE DESPOT BLADE;
HIS THE SOFT ANSWER THAT ALLAYED
WAR'S GIANT ANIMOSITIES.

LET US HAVE PEACE: OUR CLOUDED EYES
FILL, FATHER, WITH ANOTHER LIGHT,
THAT WE MAY SEE WITH CLEARER SIGHT
THY SERVANT'S SOUL IN PARADISE.

—From *Stedman's Anthology*, published by
Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston, Mass



Fig. 1. Ramona going through the Wild Mustard to meet Father Salviaderra. From a painting by H. C. Best.

OUT WEST

January

1914

HARRY CASSIE BEST



PAINTER of the YOSEMITE VALLEY
and The California Mountains

By the Editor



Fig. 3. The California Fuji-San—Mt. Shasta. Purchased for the White House by President Roosevelt. From a painting by H. C. Best.

UPWARDS of three-quarters of a century ago a girl of sixteen years of age discovered in herself a wonderful delight in the combination of colors. She began to draw pictures and then to color them, as children will, totally unconscious that in thus following a natural bent she would be doing that to which anyone would object. But in those days, parents and grand-

parents, alas!—too many of them—seemed to feel it to be their "religious duty" to the growing childhood of the race to thwart and stifle all those reachings-out of the soul for the beautiful, and that the children committed to their care must shape their God-given impulses for outward expression of their native tastes and talents in conformity to the will, the tastes, or the whims of



Fig. 2. Harry Cassie Best, Artist of the Yosemite Valley and California Mountains.

themselves happened to possess. Accordingly, this sixteen-year-old girl was solemnly forbidden to engage in so wasteful and godless a pursuit as the placing of colors on paper, and for nearly sixty years thereafter she remained in bondage to this "whim of her elders." Then, in the art studio of her son, for five brief years, she reveled in this gift.

She never learned to know the names of colors, but had an instinctive genius in massing them. She studied the colors on the mountains, the glowing sunrises and sunsets, the high-lights and purple shadows, and then, with unerring instinct, transferred them to paper or canvas. And how she delighted in the long-deferred and cruelly thwarted ex-



Fig. 5. Cartoon made during the Boer War by H. C. Best for the San Francisco "Post."

pression. It was the daily delight of the even-song of her life.

It is not strange, therefore, that two sons of such a mother should have developed into colorists of no mean order. They were born in the little settlement of Mt. Pleasant, near Peterboro, Ontario, Canada, in the sixties. Both were musical, one playing the violin, the other the clarinet. About twenty-five years ago they organized an orchestra of six pieces, and determined to travel west to Winnipeg and finally to Portland, Oregon. For a while the six stuck together, then, one by one, three fell out of the party, so that there were only three when, in 1887, Portland was reached. Of these three two were Harry Cassie Best, the subject of this sketch, and his brother Arthur.

For a year or two Harry had been allured by the rich coloring of the flowers to attempt to paint them, but now he was to find in the mountains around Portland—those sublime and majestic peaks that lift their snow-crowned summits to companion with the immortal stars of heaven—the objects that were to awaken in him the fierce longings possessed by his mother. Their sunset and sunrise glows entranced and enthralled him. Here was something to call upon the powers of a master. Did he possess the ability to reproduce them? He was determined at least to try to the uttermost.

As is well known, these glowing colors are transient, evanescent, fleeting—here for a few moments, then gone. Mr. Best soon saw this and found it was im-