

HERON TREE

Found in the Public Domain

abyss bones confinement door
family forager grace handwork
 head herbs hollow indigo
instructions jaws lid mosses
 practice road shape shiver
 shoes storms thought
towns twins vowel voyager
 war well yew



HERON TREE

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HERON TREE

FOUND IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

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HERON TREE : FOUND IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

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DEBORAH PURDY

Where It May Be

I come from out the morning;
The wind is slow, and the bent willows send

A courteous, yet harrowing grace.
I come from temples where her altars are—

The world is mine: blue hill still silver lake—
I open every door.

SARAH ANN WINN

Nature, Chrome Painted

drowned in haze, the surface
 unweathered flows,
 water hollows valleys, and leaves
 dry lakes, steep
 dark and bitter, with thin lies
 over-vegetating. Saline traces.
 Sculpture of storms scar past,
 essays in miniature the terrible canyon
 which will last. This is a country
 for maddening, a soil rolling
 frost calms
 the dust whirling. No rain or violence.
 A land of rivers love once
 visited.
 Come back, little told.

HOWIE GOOD

How to Create an Unreliable Narrator

Hold your breath,
dance slowly

to riffs on real time,
voyeur voyager forager forester,

a small sound
in your head.

MELISSA FREDERICK

[32]

I'm content when my bones
withstand time and thought.

You strip them for love,
for their rhyme.

MELISSA FREDERICK

[43]

I see the day,
but when I sleep,
dreams look right:

indigo (o happy show),
seeing (yes) the shine on a yew,
dead you, gone (yes)

all days. A song, a sign.
Show me.

CAREY VOSS

Henry Banner

I was sold
the third year of the war
for fifteen years old.
That would be
in 1864.

I must have been
twelve year old
when the war started
and sixteen when
Lee surrendered.

I was born and raised
in Ol' Virginny.
Sold out of Russell County
during the war.

Ol' Man Menefee refugeed me
into Tennessee near Knox-
ville.

They sold me down there
to a man named Jim Maddison.
He carried me down in Virginny
near Lynchburg

sold me to Jim Alec Wright.
He was the man I was with
in the time of the surrender.
Then I was in a town
called Liberty.

The last time
I sold for
two thousand
three hundred dollars.

More than I'm worth now.

CAREY VOSS

Emma Barr

Mama was grown
when she sold.
She was mother
of twenty-seven children.
She had twins three times.

During the Civil War
she was run from the Yankees
and had twins on the road.

They died
or was born dead
and she nearly died.
They was buried
between twin trees
close to Hernando, Mississippi.

Dr. Ware had a fine man
he bred his colored house women to.
He was a hostler,
looked after the stock
and got in wood.

The women hated him,
and the men done as well.

MARGO TAFT STEVER

Plank Walk

Cincinnati Sanitarium
Private Hospital for the Insane
April 7, 1878

Dear Father,

Sunday has come again and gone. The doctor allowed me to move into the cottage. It is retired and quiet, has none of the unpleasant associations connected with the upper story.

At our table are Mr. Sheets, the steward, and his wife; Dr. Savage, the assistant physician; a Judge Johnson, who is staying here, hailing from the South; and your son. No one knows why Judge Johnson is staying here. I have tried to find out in what particular part of his mental or physical structure the deficit exists which requires his confinement in this solitude, but the only item of intelligence elicited is that he has been cross at home, that he is staying here because his family wants to keep him here.

The plank walk which you and I would answer for the purpose of exercise does not seem to meet the case. I never tried walking on a plank walk before. But it is the hardest thing to walk on that I ever got hold of. It is not possible for the foot of mortal man to stand walking on it for any considerable length of time. I have been on it for half a day, and my feet are so sore and bruised that I had to come in long before I wanted to, because my feet would not stand further service in that way. It is a perfect means of torture to move for any length of time upon that walk.

Love to you all,
Your loving and obedient son,
Peter

P.S. Will you please tell Tillie that I want a pair of thin soled gaiters? I think there is a pair at No. 592 Freeman Street. If not, A. Hirsch on Walnut Street under the Gibson House has my measurements and can make a pair to suit. The shoes that I am wearing hurt my feet.

WINSTON PLOWES

Man Shaving

pale strong,
and
The
was warty-handed,
shape;
he lift he boy

beard
standing
a darker
square

smooth,
at
made shaving.
like that his name,

blue
his
big
runny-nosed

strong,
were,
of eyes
was not
His
standing
perfect and square

head,
red so
his
colour—
weakness.

WENDY DEGROAT

The Training of the Hand

1. Preparation

See that the hands are perfectly clean.

Let the light come from behind
and over the left shoulder if possible.

2. Purpose

Outside the practical advantage,
mental training through hand and eye
develops the inventive faculty
and has a permanent effect on the character.
Using hand, will, and mind together
inculcates moral and mental strength,
patience, thrift, and accuracy,
love for the true and the beautiful,
appreciation for the army of those who work,
a love of doing, and a desire to do for others.

3. Practice

Children must not be sacrificed to perfection,
to a model, to a stitch as an end in itself.
Accuracy of thought and action
is not gained by vain repetition.
The stitch should be taught as a means
to a definite article of interest to them.
The spontaneous handwork natural to a child
then abides as a powerful ally.
It is well for the teacher to remember
that good workers enjoy difficult tasks.

4. Postscript

The training of the hand makes it dexterous
in other employments.

The enthusiastic and progressive teacher can
make freer beings of her pupils.

TAMIKO NIMURA

Instructions to All Persons of Japanese Ancestry
for my Yonsei daughters

Uniting members of a family
to assist, give,
provide respect to all,

the following instructions must be observed:
(A responsible name is held,
living,
to receive further instructions.)

Evacuees carry with them the following:
Family, extra family,
sufficient family,
essential personal family.

All will be securely tied, plainly marked.
That which can be carried by the individual or family group will be permitted.
The substantial will be accepted.

All instructions pertaining to the movement will be obtained.
Go to 1942 to receive further instructions.

SIMON COCKLE

Memory Cento

An elderly man fell off his horse
 in crossing a ford on a winter's night;
 open the head, taking the brains,
 wash, pick and cleanse.

When it is injured, remembrance
 is impaired; salt, pepper and parsley
 the seat of memory, chop the brains fine
 put bye in a cloth.

Ever afterward he could not bring
 to his recollection the names of
 his wife and children: one was called Facey,
 the other Diamond,

and the third, Oblivion, the Child of Cold.
 Facey so thin, the wind would have blown
 her away; sever out the bones,
 cut the skin

(all her flesh was gone). She stared out of her
 great eyes as though she'd seen a ghost—
 at other times, words beginning with a vowel
 cannot be found.

What was more, the fireplace in the kitchen
 was one great pile of wood-ash; clean
 the pot very clean or it will burn too.
 His bad memory

fell from a considerable height
 upon his head. He was bothered with it;
 he could not see how all this had come about.
 One morning he went

into his cowshed, and there he found his sweet herbs pulverized, although he did not cease to recognize and love them as fondly as before.

M. A. SCOTT

3 Secrets

I taste her ink
 watching her movements

repeat
 as if she were adorned

jaws shut to draw
 a shiver—

.....

us

harmless wild saints:

I believe,

A little

.....

lost

But

ladylike

her cuffs
 her liberties
 her lips

tied up

and

ladylike.

KAREN L. GEORGE

Lip of the Well

Where water—inlaid with diamonds—
Knows stones, and emerald mosses grow,
Shall you and I read the summer away,
Fathom the Book of Thirst?

KAREN L. GEORGE

In the Well

Like Water—You pervade.

Awe floorless

And no lid.

I house the Abyss—

A ghost of glass.

CONTRIBUTORS

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