

CAT · GOSSIP

VOL. 4

First Edited by H. C. BROOKE

Edited by E. K. WAKEFORD

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LONG-HAIR LORE.

By Mrs. M. ESTELLE OGLETHORPE (Tel.: Wimbledon 2889).

In Hans' old mill his three black cats
Watch the bins for the thieving rats,
Whisker and claw, they crouch in the night,
Their five eyes smouldering green and bright;
Squeaks from the flour sacks, squeaks from where
The cold wind stirs on the empty stair,
Squeaking and scampering everywhere;
Then down they pounce, now in, now out,
At whisking tail and snuffing snout;
While old lean Hans he snores away
Till peep of light at break of day;
Then up he climbs to his creaking mill,
Out come the cats all grey with meal—
Jekkel and Jessup and one-eyed Jill.

Walter de la Mare.

Like Jekkel and Jessup and one-eyed Jill the cat earns her living by her activities in many spheres of life. We know how useful she is in cold storage warehouses, where she keeps at bay the hordes of rats that once threatened to cause devastation in these important departments of civilisation. She is also employed by the National Printing Offices of France, who keep a large staff of cats to guard the paper from destruction by rats and mice, and in some French military magazines, where an official allowance is made by the Government for her maintenance. At one time the Midland Railway employed eight cats at their Trent headquarters, who had under their care the corn sacks—some 400,000 in number—which held the grain on its way to distribution in various markets. Other railways do likewise, and in printing firms regiments of cats are usually established, whilst in London dockyards they are monarchs of all they survey. In the United States an army of cats is employed to guard the mail bags, whilst in big foundries all over the world where the sand used for casts is mixed with flour, thus attracting rats and mice, trained cats are employed, who, besides killing the vermin, must also be taught not to touch or injure the moulds in any way.

One hot morning a little while ago I was awakened very early by Dainty Ladye, who jumped suddenly and unexpectedly on to my bed. It took me a few moments to collect my thoughts, when I discovered it was but three by the clock, and I couldn't imagine how she had managed to come to me; there was no one astir, and she had been put to bed with her babies as usual the night before. I carried her down to her nursery, and found all the kittens fast asleep.

The top of the window was open as usual, and she had seen fit to make her exit through this and to run through the garden and climb the balcony to my room. When asked for an explanation of her conduct, she told me in her pussy language that her babies were all sound asleep and did not need her on such a hot night, and that she had yielded to an overwhelming desire for sympathy and companionship, and had yielded to it. She was, of course, forgiven, and quite happy to be restored once more to the bosom of her family!

At the Speedwell Cattery two little Aristocrats have made their appearance, a boy and a girl, by name Speedwell Admiral and Speedwell Amethyst. The charming little mother is Speedwell Alayne (by Barry Prince Blue ex Christine), and she is very proud of her son and daughter. I hear that both kittens are very pale, and have lovely heads, but that The Admiral is the palest kitten that has ever emanated from the famous Speedwell Cattery. It is interesting to note that in this case the kittens have both as maternal and paternal great-grand-sire the late Barry Blue Prince, for The Aristocrat's maternal grandsire and Alayne's paternal grandsire are one and the same person.

Powder Puff's little Aristocrats are also doing well, and are very big strong kittens, all have fine heads, and one is exceptionally pale.

Mrs. Joan Thompson has arrived home from a holiday at Torquay to find all her pets in the pink of condition. Juno is in kitten to Ch. Dion of Allington, whilst Pandora's twins at three weeks old are perfectly charming.

The recent hot weather has been most trying for all animals. We are rather conveniently situated as regards shade, and can always put our pets in a cool place, but in many places it is most difficult. I have just had a run constructed on a shady side of the house under the trees, the length of which is 22 feet and the width 4 feet. It has been beautifully concreted, and is only waiting to have a gate installed. We also have a nursery in the house, which gets all the early morning sun, but is quite quiet and cool during the rest of the day, and a kennel in a cool greenhouse at the bottom of the garden, whilst The Aristocrat's house and run are in the shade in the morning, and the kennel and run, the other side of the garden, is cool in the afternoon, but gets all the morning sun. In the nursery we have also a

three-tier house with sliding floors, which can be used for three cats or made into a large house at a moment's notice. This is very useful when one has a large family of kittens, or if one has two or three. It is half the battle to have good accommodation for one's pets, and also for visiting queens, who are entitled to every comfort and consideration when away from home.

GOSSIP OF THE WEEK.

THE event of the week has been, of course, the Kensington Kitten Club Show, held on July 25th at the Philbeach Hall. In spite of the fact that many breeders were unable to show, owing to the lateness of the season, there was quite a good entry, especially of Chinchillas, Blues, and Siamese, the female classes being much larger than the male in each case. Mrs. Newton's really beautiful Chinchilla, Cinderella of Correnden, was best in show, and was very much admired, both by experts and by visitors who came to look at the kittens during the afternoon. We noticed that a good many of these visitors were inquiring about kittens for sale, though we do not know whether their intentions were serious—exhibitors are often tantalised by people who seem to be on the point of purchasing, but change their minds at the last moment. Mrs. Bailey's lovely silver tabby, Metus of Invergloy, was another kitten who attracted a great deal of attention, and so did Mrs. Oglethorpe's blues, Pierrot and Una's Fairy of the Court, both 1st prize winners.

ALL readers of "Cat Gossip" take a personal interest in Mrs. Oglethorpe's kittens, and will, therefore, be delighted to know that they acquired no less than twenty prizes between them.

WE were rather disappointed in the exhibits on the whole, except for the Chinchillas. There were a few really outstanding kittens, who should make their mark at the winter shows, but there were also a great many of no particular merit, even amongst the winners, and these will probably be beaten later in the year by kittens who are now in their infancy. WHEN we visited the Show, early in the afternoon, the Hall was not very crowded, and it was easy to see everything, but a good many people came in later on, including a number of children, who were fascinated by the litter classes. Many of the kittens "played to the gallery" most effectively, and responded to friendly advances, but some passed the whole of the weary afternoon in sleep, and refused to be roused, which was very sensible of them.

Mrs. Ballingall has sent us a most delightful portrait of her beloved Valentine for our picture gallery, which is gradually increasing. When we have accumulated a few more photographs we shall begin the serious business of arranging them as a dado round our office, and think that they will be a most striking form of decoration. We should be very grateful for snaps of this year's kittens, especially

those whom we already know by reputation, though we may not have met them personally.

THE rescue of a cat in distress caused great excitement the other day in an A.B.C. teashop in Hatton Garden, which is frequented by budding diamond merchants—full blown diamond merchants don't patronise the A.B.C. A large black cat had somehow contrived to climb on to the glass roof at the back of the shop, and was telling the world in no uncertain tones that he could not get down again. The waitresses took no notice at first, but some of the customers, when they had located the noise, tried to reach the cat by climbing on the tables, and persuading him to jump down to them, which he refused to do. While one contingent was fetching a ladder from a neighbouring shop, another invaded the offices above, and managed to rescue the cat through a window, and to bring him down in triumph. In the meantime most of the remaining customers had ordered saucers of milk, but the cat was so disconcerted by being met by a mixed chorus of diamond merchants and waitresses, all bearing saucers of milk, that he fled from the shop, presumably to his own home a few doors away, for there was no sign of him when his sympathisers rushed out into Hatton Garden after him. We do not know whether all these people were real cat lovers, or whether they were merely welcoming a Heaven-sent excuse for wasting half-an-hour on a hot morning.

WE copy the following interesting news from the "Dogs' Bulletin" for June—July; it refers to the work done for cats in one of the Clinics attached to the Dogs' Shelters owned by the National Canine Defence League:—"Our efforts on behalf of cats were equally successful, for, during the same period (18 months) 55 feline in-patients were also admitted. Two of these cases had a fatal termination from natural causes; 4 incurables were given a painless passing; and one died from influenza during an outbreak in which nine of our in-patients were down with the disease. The remainder, 48 in number, were cured." Since only serious cases are taken as in-patients, the League may well feel proud of this testimony to its skilful medical and nursing care of its sick.

KENSINGTON KITTEN CLUB SHOW AWARDS.

Best Kitten in Show, Mrs. Newton's Cinderella of Correnden, by Ch. Langherne Felix, ex Tinker Belle.

LONGHAIRS.—BLUE, M. or F., over 4 and under 9 months—1, Captain Guy St. Barbe, Alick of Culloden; 2, Captain Guy St. Barbe, Avis of Culloden; 3, Miss Welti, Pollux. BLUE, M., over 2 and under 4 months—1, Mrs. Oglethorpe, Pierrot of The Court; 2, Mrs. Tom Wood, Bonheur Pom-Pom; 3, Mrs. Le Sueur, Prospero of Ladder Lane; r, Miss Langton, Wood. BLUE, F., over 2 and under 4 months—1, Mrs. Oglethorpe, Una's Fairy of The Court; 2, Mrs. Le Sueur, Lovey of Ladder Lane; 3, Miss Langton, Wandrena; r, Miss Barker, Kopi of Ashford. BLUE PAIRS—1, Mrs. Oglethorpe; 2, Captain Guy St. Barbe; r, Mrs. Le Sueur; r, Miss Langton. BLUE BREEDERS—1, Miss Langton, Wandrena; 2, Miss Langton, Whisk; 3, Mrs. Smith, Dulciss.



BLUE LITTERS—1, Mrs. McLeod and Miss Tunks; 2, Miss Reynolds. BLACK—1, Miss F. H. Scamon, Yamah; 2, Mrs. C. Gilbert, Bunchy's Bairn; 3, Miss M. D. Alexander, Damaris; r, Miss M. D. Alexander, Daimon; v h c, Mrs. Campbell Fraser, Hendon Gipsy Queen. WHITE—1, Mrs. Spencer Smith, White Hero; 2, Mrs. Spencer Smith, White Venus; 3, Miss E. V. Nichols, Jazzit; r, Miss E. V. Nichols, Fairy King's Son. CREAM—1, Miss Bignold, Rombolen; 2, Mrs. Quarry and Miss Fisk, Alpha of Winchfield; 3, Mrs. Quarry and Miss Fisk, Beta of Winchfield; r, Mrs. Kennaway, Garb. Clout; v h c, Mrs. Foss, Vesuvius. CHINCHILLA, over 4 months—1, Mrs. Reynolds Sams, Moonlight of Runnymede. CHINCHILLA, M., under 4 months—1, Miss Langston, Tristan of Allington; 2, Mrs. Sharman, Pukkalad of Coryton; 3, Mrs. Sharman, Jesmond of Coryton; r, Mrs. Jepson, Tabsfield Billy Boy. CHINCHILLA, F., under 4 months—1, Mrs. Newton, Cinderella of Correnden; 2, Miss Langston, Silva of Allington; 3, Misses Cotterell, Grant, and Trefusis, Sauce Piquante; extra 3, Mrs. Aubrey, Langherne Jewel; r, Mrs. Jepson, Tabsfield Bessie; v h c, Miss Langston, Isolda of Allington; and Mrs. Jepson, Tabsfield Belinda; h c, Mrs. Sharman, Spindrift of Coryton. CHINCHILLA, SILVER TABBY, and SMOKE BREEDERS—1, Mrs. Newton, Cinderella of Correnden; 2, Mrs. R. Bailey, Metu of Invergloy; 3, Miss Langston, Silva of Allington; r, Mrs. Reynolds Sams, Moonlight of Runnymede; v h c, Miss Langston, Tristan of Allington; h c, Mrs. Aubrey, Langherne Jewel. SILVER TABBY and SMOKE—1, Mrs. Bailey, Metu of Invergloy; 2, Miss L. Stubbs, Morson; 3, Mrs. Reynolds Sams, Dream of Runnymede; r, Miss L. Stubbs, Maquita; v h c, Miss L. Stubbs, Mowlem; h c, Miss L. Stubbs, Grey Paw. A.O.C.—1, Mrs. Lewis Foss, Spanish Glory; 2, Mrs. Kennaway, Garb. Billy Boy; 3, Mrs. Woodhouse, Tofts Pansy. PAIRS, any colour except blue—1, Miss Langston; 2, Miss Bignold; 3, Misses Cotterell, Grant, and Trefusis; r, Mrs. Jepson; v h c, Miss Alexander; and Mrs. Quarry and Miss Fisk. TEAM, any colour—1, Miss Langston; 2, Miss J. B. Langton; 3, Misses Cotterell, Grant, and Trefusis; r, Mrs. Sharman; v h c, Mrs. Jepson. BREEDERS, any colour except blue, Chinchilla, silver tabby, and smoke—1, Mrs. Quarry and Miss Fisk, Alpha of Winchfield; 2, Mrs. Spencer Smith, White Hero; 3, Mrs. Lewis Foss, Spanish Glory; r, Mrs. Quarry and Miss Fisk, Beta of Winchfield; v h c, Mrs. Spencer Smith, White Venus; h c, Miss E. V. Nichols, Jazzit and Fairy King's Son; Miss F. H. Scamon, Jamah; c, Mrs. Foss, Vesuvius. LITTERS, any colour except blue—1, Miss Langston; 2, Miss Bignold; 3, Mrs. Kennaway; r, Mrs. Aubrey; v h c, Miss W. French; h c, Miss French; Miss Alexander; and Miss Carey; c, Mrs. Sharman. BROOD QUEEN—1, Miss Langston, Nadine of Allington; 2, Mrs. Aubrey, Ch. Langherne Sunshine; 3, Mrs. Sharman, Jessamy of Coryton; r, Mrs. Kennaway, Garb. Jess. NEUTERS—1, Mrs. Jepson, Julius; 2, Miss E. V. Nichols, The Imp.

SHORTHAIRS.—A.V. KITTEN—1, Mrs. Sharman, Tatters of Coryton; 2, Mrs. Sharman, Miss Moppet of Coryton; 3, Mrs. Gilbert, Betty Prim; r, Mrs. Croucher, Campermudge; v h c, Mrs. Oglethorpe, Pennycomequick of The Court. SIAMESE, M—1, Captain Coles, Soniboi; 2, Miss Wentworth-Fitzwilliam, My Jim; 3, Mrs. Ellaby, Lactol Beau; r, Miss Busted, Trigo; v h c, Mrs. Paish, Siminka; h c, Mrs. Beavis, Purachatra. SIAMESE, F.—1, Miss Noble, Ione; 2, Miss Bateman, Jimsyee; 3, Mrs. Coleridge, Gilian; r, Mrs. French, Tala; v h c, Mrs. Ellaby, Vilo; and Miss Wentworth-Fitzwilliam, Morgan le Fay; h c, Mrs. Paish, Katarth; and Mrs. Sharman, Tsu-Zhi of Coryton. SIAMESE BREEDERS 1, Captain Coles, Soniboi; 2, Miss Wentworth-Fitzwilliam, My Jim; 3, Mrs. Coleridge, Gilian; r, Mrs. Ellaby, Lactol Beau; v h c, Mrs. French, Tala; and Mrs. Paish, Siminka; h c, Mrs. Ellaby, Vilo. LITTERS—1, Mrs. Coles; 2, Miss Noble; 3, Miss Bretherton. NEUTER—1, Mrs. French, Mikorian; 2, Mrs. Newton, Roy; 3, Mrs. Weaver Woodbury, Woodbury Red Rival. SELLING CLASS—1, Mrs. Jepson, Tabsfield Bessie; 2, Mrs. Jepson, Tabsfield Belinda; 3, Mrs.

Reynolds Sams, Dream of Runnymede; r, Miss Gabb, Little Jim; v h c, Mrs. Croucher, Campermudge; h c, Miss Gabb, Doreen and Pomona.

KENSINGTON KITTEN CLUB.—A.V. LONGHAIR—1, Mrs. Newton, Cinderella of Correnden; 2, Mrs. Oglethorpe, Una's Fairy of The Court; 3, Mrs. Foss, Spanish Glory; 4, Mrs. Oglethorpe, Pierrot of The Court; r, Mrs. Reynolds Sams, Moonlight of Runnymede; v h c, Captain Guy St. Barbe, Alric of Culloden; Mrs. Aubrey, Langherne Jewel; and Mrs. Campbell Fraser, Hendon Gipsy Queen; h c, Mrs. Jepson, Tabsfield Bessie. A.V. SHORTHAIR—1, Mrs. French, Tala; 2, Captain Coles, Soniboi; 3, Mrs. Beavis, Pert Polly; r, Mrs. Sharman, Tsu-Zhi of Coryton; v h c, Captain Coles, Lit'lann; h c, Miss Busted, Trigo; c, Miss Busted, Carley.

NATIONAL CAT CLUB.—A.V. LONGHAIR—1, Mrs. Bailey, Metu of Invergloy; 2, Mrs. Oglethorpe, Pierrot of The Court; and Mrs. Newton, Cinderella of Correnden; 3, Captain St. Barbe, Alric of Culloden; r, Mrs. Oglethorpe, Una's Fairy of the Court; v h c, Miss Langston, Isolda of Allington; h c, Mrs. Campbell Fraser, Hendon Gipsy Queen; c, Mrs. Reynolds Sams, Moonlight of Runnymede. A.V. SHORTHAIR—1, Mrs. Ellaby, Vilo; 2, Mrs. Ellaby, Lactol Beau; 3, Mrs. Sharman, Tsu-Zhi of Coryton; r, Mrs. Oglethorpe, Pennycomequick; v h c, Miss Busted, Carley.

S.C.C.—A.V. LONGHAIR—1, Miss Langston, Isolda of Allington; 2, Mrs. Oglethorpe, Pierrot of The Court; 3, Mrs. Oglethorpe, Una's Fairy of The Court; r, Miss Langston, Tristan of Allington; v h c, Mrs. Campbell Fraser, Hendon Gipsy Queen; h c, Miss J. B. Langton, Wandrena. A.V. SHORTHAIR—1, Mrs. French, Tala; 2, Mrs. Ellaby, Vilo; 3, Mrs. Ellaby, Lactol Beau; r, Mrs. Sharman, Miss Moppet of Coryton; v h c, Mrs. Sharman, Tsu-Zhi of Coryton; h c, Mrs. Oglethorpe, Pennycomequick of The Court.

MIDLAND COUNTIES.—A.V.—1, Mrs. Newton, Cinderella of Correnden; 2, Miss Bateman, Jimsyee; 3, Miss Langston, Isolda of Allington; r, Mrs. Aubrey, Langherne Jewel; v h c, Mrs. Aubrey, Langherne Mara; h c, Miss Busted, Trigo; c, Miss Busted, Carley.

NORTHERN CAT CLUB.—A.V. LONGHAIR—1, Captain St. Barbe, Avis of Culloden; 2, Miss Langston, Isolda of Allington; 3, Mrs. Jepson, Tabsfield Bessie; r, Mrs. Sharman, Spindrift of Coryton; v h c, Mrs. Reynolds Sams, Moonlight of Runnymede; h c, Mrs. Aubrey, Langherne Mara. A.V. SHORTHAIR—1, Mrs. Sharman, Tsu-Zhi of Coryton; 3, Miss Busted, Trigo. S.C.S.O.T.B.E.—1, Captain Coles, Soniboi; 2, Miss Bateman, Jimsyee; 3, Mrs. Coleridge, Gilian; r, Miss Busted, Trigo; v h c, Mrs. Paish, Siminka; h c, Mrs. Paish, Katarth.

WITH OUR CATS.

BY F. M. BALLINGALL.

(Continued from Page 178.)

DAVID AND JONATHAN.

Corry walked beside me into the garden. It was a lovely day in early Spring, when the first daffodils nod a welcome to the fresh breeze, and raise their fair faces to the sun. We looked anxiously for a crop of new buds, we noted the brightening tints of the trees' foliage, and saw that all was very good. Then I went back into the house. As a rule Corry entered before me, for he never lingered a moment out of doors without my presence. Often had I tried to persuade him to spend more time there than I could spare, but in vain. So used was I to this that quite mechanically I left the door open for him, since he chanced, it would seem, to be behind for once.

A little later I closed it, and returned to my room,

where usually I read the paper while Corry played with his ball. The unwonted silence drew my attention before long. Why—where was Corry? The call that should bring him bounding to me went unnoticed. Quite startled, I suddenly recalled that I had not seen him enter the house, and I hurried to the back door, and stepped into the garden, for he was not even waiting at the doorstep. But my fears were quickly allayed. A glance up the garden revealed the truant sitting under a great pear tree, whose branches spread out over the high garden wall. "Corry!" I called, as he looked at me; but instead of running at the word, he sat still. The next moment he amazed me, for, raising one hand, he began to move it up and down in a most peculiar way, and seemed intently to watch something. "There must be a butterfly!" I thought absurdly, and, curious, I walked up the garden path, and crossed the grass to where Corry still sat, absorbed. He raised his large, serious eyes to mine. There was wonder in his eyes, and interest. Again he looked down, and again he moved his hand up and down.

The grass was quite long under the tree, so I stooped low to see what he was doing. To my astonishment, curled round in the grass was a tiny red tabby kitten! As I bent my head, the little creature put up his hands and tried to catch Corry's. That was what Corry was doing!—poking the infant gently while the infant tried to hold him. I was surprised. Since we lost Hilary—the story of Hilary is not yet—when Corry was four months old, he had not known kitten or cat, but only me. I had been his sole companion for about five months, and he had never shown the slightest desire for any other. But he looked from the red kitten to me. His eyes were eloquent. "What is this?" they said; "I like to play with it."

I picked the morsel up—easily I held him on one open hand. He might be five or six weeks old. Gravely he regarded me. He was clean, and his fur was soft.

"Yes, Corry," I replied: "he is a nice kitten. You may play with him." I set him down, and, marvelling, retired to the house. Looking back, I saw Corry was playing as before. Nor did he leave the kitten, until I, growing anxious about his owner's possible fears, sought the garden once more, and, greatly to Corry's dismay, retrieved the kitten.

It was difficult to tell whence he had come, as the garden wall was very high, and the kitten too young to have scaled it. A private lane ran down there, and beyond lay the gardens of some neighbours. Hearing a child's voice, I mounted a block of wood, and looked over the top of the wall. "Is this your kitten?" I asked. He was. I gently handed the mite down. "Take him to his mother," I admonished the boy; "he is not old enough to be out by himself."

Corry went several times to the door, actually ask-

ing to be let out! I was not altogether pleased with him! I kept him in, and he seemed to forget, presently renewing his customary wild games with his ball. But next morning he rushed out in front of me, and refused to come in! So I left him. Actually, when I went to call him in later on, there he was playing with the kitten!

I determined to find out how the mite got into our garden—if he should come again after I had once more returned him to a perfectly cool and callous child. I stood by the door on the following morning, and watched patiently. Corry ran at once to the pear tree. There he sat quite still, his eyes raised to the top of the wall. I had not to wait very long. But for the turn of Corry's head, I might have missed him, but, so guided, I perceived something tiny moving along the top, creeping under the boughs. With the sunshine flickering through the leaves on to his bright red coat, the kitten came to meet Corry. Eagerly Corry watched that slow progress. As the baby reached the trunk of the tree, which was close to the wall, Corry moved forward, and stood still. I had come quite near, and saw the anxiety in his beautiful eyes—so might a mother watch her child's first step alone. He glanced at me—and again rivetted his attention on the coming guest.

With difficulty, but evident determination, the little thing left the wall, and began to descend the thick trunk, clinging marvellously, hanging perilously. Just as I was about to run up and rescue him, he dropped—and was completely lost under Corry's protecting body. I heard him talking in the gentlest, sweetest tones, and occasionally a small murmur came in reply. Then the kitten drew himself free, and began to run about, and, as he ran, Corry ran close beside him, as if guarding every step.

Often I watched them. There was something pathetic in Corry's love for the little brother he had found. It was so absorbing, so utterly self-forgetting. He was father and mother and brother—elder brother—all in one, and the little one accepted the love as a matter of course. All he had to do was to take what it was Corry's delight to give. Corry withheld nothing. He brought the kitten to the back door one afternoon, when I was near, and bade him enter. They played in the kitchen for hours. Always when I thought it time, I carried the kitten out, and put him on the wall, watching him as he crossed the lane and ran down a garden to his house.

One day Corry brought him to my room door. He ran in, and Corry after him. I hesitated for a moment. Really, he was not my kitten. I hesitated, and, happily, was lost! The little one had jumped upon the armchair, and was evidently preparing for a siesta. So I accepted him, and sat down on my sofa to read. Corry, to my surprise and pleasure, came, as he had been used to do, and sat in the crook of my arm. I think most, perhaps all,

cats of whom one makes special friends, discover some habit or trait peculiar to themselves. From the time that Corry was a kitten of eight weeks, he had come always to sleep so. With a heap of cushions at my back, and my feet on the seat, I sat to read or write, and Corry sat in the crook of my left arm and slept. When so tiny this made little difference to my occupation; when he grew bigger I often had to read instead of write, so that he might sleep.

(To be continued.)

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G. E. TAYLOR, Editor-Publisher,

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