



UNCLE JIMMIE TOLD ME NOTHING

They had six children, four of whom are dead. They are unusually silent about these deaths. Once, while riding by beautiful St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery with a young mother, Aunt Mary remarked, "Up there, side by side, lays four *of* my darlings... But I would not wish them back---no, I would not wish them back."

Only once during an acquaintanceship of six years have I heard Uncle Jimmie mention what to him was equally tragic. That too was in the presence of a child. He reached down in his trouser pocket to extract a dime.

"This is for ice cream," he said, "two ice creams." He patted the youngster's curly head. "We had one like this once an' she left us when she wuz jest about this age. There wuz a baby that went too and then two older ones right in their best years."

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He ended the conversation exactly as Aunt Mary had ended it, "But I wun't wish them back." The two grown children who had died and one son who is still living, had been afflicted with tuberculosis. The son who recovered from the disease was brought to a realization of the real nature of his "cold" by a mouthful of blood one day. He went to a doctor and was told that a sanitorium was his only hope.

"I din't tell Mother 'till the night before I wuz goin' ta leave. No use to worry her." He went to a hospital about 100 miles away and stayed in bed for six months. He said,

"I could not stand any more of it and so I said to myself, 'die or not die,' I am goin home. I mapped out my own cure. I figured that 'stead of goin' to bed with chickens like they did at the san, that I would go ta bed at midnight, and stay right under them blankets 'till the next noon. At noon I got up, ate breakfast, and then went down town fur a walk.

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At supper time, I et my dinner, and round 11 or 11:30 at night I'd eat my supper. Then I'd climb up ta the attic where nobody slept but me. It did the trick all right but it took about four years. I'm O.K. today. Do I look sick?"

[It is true that this man who now nears fifty is an arrested case. *Interviewer*]