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Cottonwood

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COTTONWOOD

Cloud-soft, a bit of cotton drifts across my floor—
 Common enough,—a frail, silken wisp,
 Yet somehow strangely lovely.
 But in this town, where cottonwoods are pests,
 When lawns are clouded, and the air is full
 Of clinging, cob-web fluffs of silk,
 Practical folk are like to shrug and say,
 “Too bad the government can’t find a use for that;
 There’s plenty of it—used for National Defense.”

And there are wisps of talk around these days—
 Soft talk, and this “good-neighbor,” silly stuff;
 “The Bible says the greatest good is love”;
 And, “After this is over, what about it then?
 We still will have to find some way to live with them.”—
 When everybody knows it’s only common sense
 To do our best to kill the most of them,
 And do it first, before they get to us.

Who knows, though, but that some day some wise man
 May figure out a way to use the cotton fluff?

VIRGINIA C. FULGHUM

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