GOD'S ACRE.

I like that encient Saxon phrase which calls The burial ground tood's Acre! It is just, Ot consecrates each grave within its walls And breathes a benison o'er the sleeping dust.

God's Acre! Yes, that blessed name imparts Condort to those who in the grave have sown The seed that they had garnered in their hearts, Their bread of life, alas, no more their own!

duto its furrow shall we all be cast, In the sure faith that we shall rise again At the great harvest when the archangel's blast Shall winnew, like a fan, the chaff and grain.

Then shall the good stand in immortal bloom In the fair gardens of that second birth And each bright blossom mingle its perfume With that of flowers which never bloomed

With thy rude plowshare, death, turn up the sod And spread the furrow for the seed we sow; This is the field and acre of our God. This is the place where human harvests grow!

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A Story of the Indian Plaque.

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Mr. and Mrs. Walter P. Lawson had come up to the Peak hotel for a month mt least. They had a delightful white square villa with a deep veranda and a garden full of tropical shrubs and wavy bamboos down in Hongkong at the foot of the hill, much nicer in every way than the bare rooms at the Peak

Mrs. Lawson shuddered as she contrasted the ugly wall paper and regulation clock with a stiff image on each side that adorned her sitting room at the hotel with her own pretty drawing room, and she shivered in the long matted corridors, so straight and guiltless of anything like comfort. Her husband was a partner in a firm of American solicitors in Hongkong and getting on very well. It was not yet hot enough gether it looked very cheerful and to migrate to the Peak, only the begin- bright. Mr. Lawson recovered his temning of April, and the morning mists per, aided thereto by some excellent any thick and heavy on the towering prawn curry. cliffs till late in the day. It was very cold there too. Still, they had all bustled up-Mr. and Mrs., the boy of 10 and the baby of 18 months.

The plague was again claiming its weekly victims in steady numbers. The year before had been a very bad sone for it. Then during the winter it siled out, only to recommence in March. Mrs. Lawson had been getting very nervous. Every day a kind friend told ther of new cases in the bazaar, in the fish market, in all quarters of the city, but the climax had been reached the day before, when the bank manager's cook had died of it in his kitchen. The so late!" Many other men hurrled off bank manager's garden joined the at the same time to their work in the Lawsons' bamboos.

"Let us go to the Peak directly, Waltter." said Mrs. Lawson excitedly ditrectly her husband came in from the

dear," said her husband crossly, "but it's no earthly good flying away from luck?" he said laughingly. "Seriously, from some of his own relatives no doubt or down by the harbor. He is not likely to have contracted it here in Jeffersons house."

"How do you know that?" said Mrs. Lawson, nearly crying from fright. "You people here in Hongkong don't seem to care how near the plague is to you, and yet think what a fuss they make about it if it even comes to the mext country in Europe."

"And much good their fright does them," said Mr. Lawson contemptuously. "Fright won't keep it off." His real reason for objecting to the Peak thotel lay in leaving his cook, a Chimese artist in stews and soups. The cooking at the Peak was very doubtful. However, he concluded he must put up with it and resignedly packed this portmanteau.

Last summer he had been out in Hongkong alone and for many years true or not, I am afraid the naval aubefore that had managed a branch of the firm at San Francisco. Mrs. Lawson thought Hongkong a poor exchange for the Golden Gate. Still, up to now it had been healthy, and the crisp, cold weather was even colder than she was accustomed to. Every day during the winter they had had a huge coal fire lighted at 4 o'clock in Captain Lowry carelessly. "How long the drawing room and dining room, then again in the early morning. She thad her own tidy arrangements about ly to come up?" milk and butter and fresh rolls. What a pity to upset all this and go away to Mrs. Lawson, coloring rather guiltily. a hotel!

Still, it could not be helped. She must get away from this dreadful plague that was creeping about all around her. So, having wrung a very reluctant consent from her husband. the very next morning saw all their household goods packed up, the servants dismissed with the exception of the ayah and Mr. Lawson's "boy" and he doesn't like leaving his comfortable the whole family setting forth to the house. I'm sure I shouldn't in his Peak. People in the streets looked must be off too." calm and unconcerned as ever.

"How can they look so interested in all about them," said Mrs. Lawson impatiently, "when, so far as they know, they may be dead of the plague by tomorrow, or, if not they themselves, their nearest relatives may?"

"In some cases, my dear," said Mr. Lawsen philosophically, "a Chinaman would not count that a loss, especially If he got some money by the departure of his relatives. One go, another come on-he thinks the survival is to the fittest should the survivor be himself."

Mr. Lawson really felt deeply injured as he got himself and his family out of the train at the top of the hill at the slanting station. The heavy mist was wet and penetrating, and there was not

a gleam of sun to be seen at 9 o'clock. 'Let's go into the hotel at least," he said grumpily and stalked on in ad- brown face. wance of his family up the stairs cut in

niums shivered in ornamental pots along the side of the passage and in the lass covered veranda outside the ball door. He had wired up for rooms the night before, so they went up to them at once a stiff sitting room on the first floor with cane furniture and a big bedroom down stairs, one side of it close to the rock; in fact, one of the windows was entirely blocked up by rock not a foot off. But it was well furnished and even had electric light, which their sitting room had not.

The children's rooms were far off down a long corridor on the first floor and fronting the sea toward Kowloon, with a wretched bathroom; cold, cracked, whitewashed walls that looked as if a very small carthquake would bring them down instantly. The ayah was sulky and made the worst of everything. Not till Mr. and Mrs. Lawson and Pat were seated at a little round table in the dining room and having breakfast did the family's spirits begin to revive. Pat thought it very good fun to come to a hotel and attacked the many dishes on the menu steadily one by one, ending up with oranges and ba-

The head waiter was a Chinaman, of course. All the waiters were Chinamen, but the head man was a very dignified person, with an India rubber kind of face and a peculiar way of taking stock of each guest as he entered.

Only to a favored few did he attend himself. The captain of an English ship in harbor and a judge of the high court were among the recipients of his attentions. Ordinary casual customers hotel and the bare rocks surrounding he relegated to his satellites, who slipped about actively in black shoes and very white socks, short blue trousers, tight fitting round the ankle, and loose blue collar. A little round black cap surmounting their pigtails completed this costume, the usual one for house servants in China. For late dinner they all changed to spotless white.

The large dining room was crowded with little round and square tables; the sun came out from the fog-alto-

"Perhaps, after all, my dear, you were right to come up here," he said. You see more of your fellow creatures at any rate and can't sit moping by yourself all day long and imagining you have every disease under the sun."

"I do nothing of the sort, Walter!" cried his wife indignantly. "If it were only a question of myself, I would stay down below."

Mr. Lawson grinned unbelievingly, but said no more about it.

"I must hurry up to eatch the 10 o'clock train," he said, looking at his watch. "By Jove, I had no idea it was town, and the dining room was left principally to women and some few globe trotters who had no fear of an office below to hurry them over breakfast. Captain Lowry of H. M. S. Dis-"If you really wish it, of course, my patch came up and sat at Mrs. Lawson's table to have a little conversation.

"Have you heard of my wretched though, it is no laughing matter for

"No. What is it?" said Mrs. Lawson. "Well, when I was dining on shore last Friday," said Captain Lowry, "my ship somehow cut a junk in half just outside the harbor, and the Chinese authorities are making no end of a roy about it. The owner of the junk says his favorite wife was on board and was drowned, and he values her at \$5,000."

"Dear me," said Mrs. Lawson, "what a bore for you! Was she really drowned, do you think?"

"I don't believe she was on board at all," said Captain Lowry contemptuously; "these men are such liars. My sailors saw no signs of a woman when the junk was run down. Still, it was getting dark, and the truth of what he states is just possible. In any case, thorities will make me pay up.'

"But you were not on board," cried Mrs. Lawson. "What a shame! I dare say the Chinaman wanted to get rid of his wife, too, or he would not have sent her out in a junk so late."

"Oh, she was going over to some rel atives at Kowloon, he says," replied are you going to stay up here, by the way, Mrs. Lawson? Isn't it rather ear

"It is because of the plague," said "There seems so much of it about, and I am so afraid of it."

"I believe there is a good deal in the town," said Captain Lowry, "but Europeans do not as a rule take any notice of it."

"No: I know," said Mrs. Lawson. "So my husband says."

Captain Lowry laughed. "I expect station of the electric railway up the place. Well, goodby, Mrs. Lawson. I

> Mrs. Lawson felt on the whole relieved at her fears being laughed at. "There can't really be so much danger," she said to herself, "or they would think more of it." So she went up to the public drawing room on the floor above, which was just then tenanted only by a lady in a red blouse, She and Mrs. Lawton spent quite two hours in animated conversation, though they lind never seen each other before. About 1 o'clock Pat came in and

went up to see his mother. "I've been tooking for you everywhere," he said. "I want you to come and see the ayah. She looks awfully hot and odd."

Mrs. Lawson hurried off with him at once. The baby was comfortably asleep, but the ayah looked half mal and had a duli crimson flush on her

"Me velly ill," she said wildly as the rocks and under the glass awning soon as she saw her mistress; "got to the hotel. A few wretched gera- drefful pains."

"What's the matter with her, mother?" said Pat. "Do you know?"

"Only just an ordinary attack of fever, I expect," said Mrs. Lawson nervously, "but we will have a doctor at

"No, no," cried the ayah still more wildly; "doctor put me in plague hospital! I die directly, quick!"

"Nonsense!" sald Mrs. Lawson. "Why should they put you there? You

have not got the plague." The ayah returned no answer, but only sank groaning on the floor. Mrs. Lawson was more than miserable. If she told the manager the ayah was ill, he would probably insist on the whole family leaving at once on the chance of their having brought infection to the hotel. Yet how was she baby and telling Pat to follow her she hurried away to her own room down

"Do you think she really has the plague, mother?" said Pat. "If she has, baby's pretty certain to get it."

"Oh, Pat, how can you say such can't be the plague."

"She looks very odd, and I know it begins with fever. She said she had pains too."

"Oh, do be quiet," cried his mother, "unless you want to drive me out of my mind. I must send a note to your father at once, telling him to come up!" peaceful as ever, without a shadow of though, as Pat informed his mother, he had been with him and the ayah all the morning.

"Run, quick, John," said his mistress, "and bring an answer back." John bowed.

"And now, what next, mother?" said Pat, with gusto. "We ought to go and

attend to the ayah now." "Good heavens, no!" said Mrs. Lawson. "Pat, you must not go near her

on any account. Do you hear?"

"Well, the poor thing wants looking after, mother," sald Pat disappointedly, "especially if she has got the plague. I want to see what happens

However, he consented to wait in the sitting room till his father came. Mr. Lawson arrived in about half an hour very hot and cross and burst into the

"What rot is this, Alicia?" he said angrily. "How am I to get through my work if I am to be continually intergot the plague indeed! Much more likely overeaten herself." "Come and see her yourself, Wal-

not say she has the plague, but she evidently fancies she has it herself. I think she should see a doctor." "Come along, then," said her husband. Then, as I'at prepared to follow, he pushed him back. "No, no,

young man," he said kindly: "we don't want any more complications." They went down the passage in silence and waited a minute outside the door of the room in which the syah

had been left. A faint moaning could be heard. Mr. Lawrence opened the door and walked in. The ayah was crouched on the floor in nearly the same attitude as when

his wife had left her, only she seemed more stupefied or insensible. She did not seem to understand the questions Mr. Lawson asked her, but staggered up when he attempted to lift her and remained leaning against the wall. Then they could see an immense bluish swelling below her arm. Mr. Lawson spoke to her kindly and, putting a pillow for her on the floor, made signs to her to lie down; then he left the room with his wife.

"It's the plague, no doubt," he said in a low tone as he closed and locked the door. "The question now is, What

are we to do with her?" "Oh, Walter, the children!" gasped

his wife. "We must hope for the best," said her husband kindly. "You must remember Europeans very rarely get it.' "But they have been close to her all day," said Mrs. Lawson miserably, remembering her long conversation with her friend in the drawing room. "I disagreeable I thought it better to leave

her alone." "What has already happened cannot be helped," said her husband. "You must keep both children with you now of course. Luckily your other rooms are a long way off this one, and I must go to Dr. Brown at once and report the

case. "What will be done with the poor thing?" asked Mrs. Lawson. "She has drug store. such a horror of going to a hospital."

"It is the only place she can possibly go to," said Mr. Lawson. "We shall be lucky if we have not all to get out of here as well. However, I will try and arrange things with the manager."

Mrs. Lawson and the children remained in their room and heard nothing of the doctor's visit or other arrangements. Pat was only told that the ayah had fever and had gone to her own home, and Mrs. Lawson had a hospital nurse in to assist her with the baby and also in case of further illness. The poor ayah went down to the plague hospital and died the next

Strange to say, none of the Lawsons had the plague. For days they watched nervously for every dangerous symptom, but time passed on and nothing happened. So it is with the eurious disease; you may be close to it and have every possible chance of taking it, yet you do not, and, agair you may not have been near it to your knowledge and yet it descends on youfrom the air, in the bites of insects in infected food, how or from where no one can tell.-Boston Traveler.

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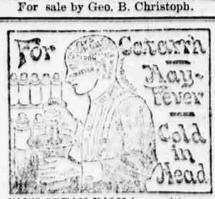
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