FALSE IDEAS OF MATERNITY

Elia Wheeler Wilcox's Keen Analysis of Woman's Alleged Sinfulness.

STERN TRUTHS THAT MUST BE FACED

Wrenching the Germ of an Immortal Life from Its Setting-Private Interview with a Beautiful, But Unhappy, Girl.

[Copyrighted, 1893.]

In all our church pews throughout the civilized world there sit devout professors of religion whose souls are stained with crime -women, whose bowed heads, bended knees and earnest responses through divine service indicate a fervor of faith, yet whose private deeds have shocked high heaven and broken one of God's most sacred laws.

Should these women be assembled together, arraigned for their crimes, I doubt if there is a court of justice in the land large enough to admit them. I refer to the ever increasing number of women, who, for various reasons, object to becoming mothers, and who, facing the probability of such an event, take the matter of life and death into their own hands.

For many of these women my heart aches with pity and sympathy. It is easy to understand their situation and to cast the mantle of charity over their crimes. When public disgrace stares a weak woman in the face as the result of an indiscreet act, or when poverty and hunger and disease seem the inevitable portion that life will bequeath to an undesired child, the temptation must be overwhelming to a sorrowful and burdened woman to prevent the catastrophe of

Only those who have passed through the experience of motherhood can understand what it means to contemplate even under its brightest and best auspices. With health, its brightest and best auspices. With health, love, enough of this world's goods to avert financial worry, and with stong maternal desires, yet it needs a brave heart, a steady courage, a spirit of self-sacrifice and infinite patience to pass through the months of ordeal which it involves. What then, must it mean to the unhappy wife, unloved and neglected, and already so ourdened with unsuppose the self-sacrification of the self-sacrification. neglected, and already so ourdened with un-welcome children that she cannot free her-self from her gailing chains, or to one who is obliged to toll early and late to keep starvation from the door, or to one who feels herself the victim of a hopeless malady, which a helpless child will inherit, and yet the woman who prevents the life of that germ from maturing to birth commits the

crime of murder.

I believe the false idea of many so-called Christian women in regard to this matter is due largely to their literal translation of one of the many figurative scriptural phrases.
It seems to be the impression of such women that a child has no life until it has

drawn breath. The science of modern times, however, proves such an idea ridiculous. A devoted churchwoman of my acquaintance made an unfortunate marriage. She was obliged to return to her parents before six months had elapsed. A dangerous illness which followed her return was not wholly due to mental agitation, nor was her escape

from maternity accidental.

She had purchased surgical skill to aid her in counteracting nature slaws and to free her from the responsibility of a fatherless child. It was not difficult to understand her temptation, but with her religious views it was difficult for me to see how she had dared commit the act.

"Oh, but a child has no real being until it has breathed," she said. "It would have been the loss of a soul had the breath of life entered the child; as it is, why, it is merely a misfortune, resulting in pain and misery to

Alas for the narrowness and unholiness of a creed that can be content with such an ar-

gument!
The moment a woman knows that mother-hood is a probable event for her, that moment she has the soul of her child in her keeping. No matter how soon she escapes from this menacing maternity, no matter how immature the germ of life she prevents from culminating, yet an immortal soul goes into the spirit life which she must sometime

From every pulpit in the land ought this truth to be thundered forth. It ought to form a part of the moral training in every

young ladies seminary.

The sinful, poor, burdened or diseased women who commit this crime are few in numbers compared with the vast army of selfish, fashionable wives who do not want to be troubled with children. This army is growing rapidly, as medical assistance be-comes more plentiful and skillful in this

comes more pleating and sainting in this capecial line.

Of course, it is not the business of any reformer to criticise the woman who chooses to remain childless, so long as no crime is committed. All clear seeing minds realize that there are too many babies in the world. It is a misfortune to the public that more women do not remain childless, as good mothers are rare. The breeding of the species is not the only respectable vocation for woman. There are, in the vegetable kingdom, many useful and beautiful plants and trees which bear no fruit. There are many women who remain childless from choice, who are an ornament and benefit to the world. Unwelcome children are almost always a misfortune to the world and to themselves. The desired child, generated in love, is really the only legitimate child, and the only one that should be born. But when, in order to prevent birth, the germ of an immortal life must be wrenched from its setting by human force. I say then the crime of murder has been committed and must be answered for at the bar of eternal justice, both by mother and physician. For those who do not believe in a future life, there are certain physical results of this practice which ought to be a warning to all who are observing.

I have known women who committed this crime over and over again; and I never yet met such an one who was not hardened in heart and face. There is something about it which destroys the moral fiber of the mind. even when the woman does not believe her embryo child possessed a soul. A famous physician once said to me: "In

the beginning of my practice I used to help women who came to me for such purposes; I used to think that an unhappy wife or a very poor woman was better off and left the world better off by avoiding maternity in this way if she could not in any other, but my experience proved to me that I was committing a double sin; I not only destroyed a life, but I ruined the moral nature of the mother. I have occur shocked at the degendration of mother and the mother of the mother of the mother of mother and mother of the mother of mother eration of good women who escaped bearing offspring in this manner. I believe the repetition of the act several times slays the oul, and fits the woman for almost any de-

It is a pity we have not more physicians of this kind. They would be of vast aid to humanity in its growth toward a higher

spiritual plane. I have personally observed many women whom I knew to have perpetrated this crime, and I have remarked that the one of fine instincts and sensitive feelings is madea physical wreck for years by one experience. even though she may believe herself justified in what she does; but there is an instinctive shock to her higher self which not infre-quently unsettles her reason. The lower order of woman, with dulled moral perceptions and coarse-fibered-feelings, may pass through it again and again without serious physical results. Only the expression of her face grows harder and ner whole ap-pearance is brutalized.

Thave long believed that the souls of these

Thave long believed that the souls of these children which were not allowed to come to earth matured in the spirit world; and quite recently I read a most remarkable book by Florence Marryat, the well known author and daughter of an author, which confirmed this belief. This lady inherrited from her father a clairvoyant or a mediumistic gift, which enables her at times to see and sweek with enables her at times to see and speak with forms invisible to all eyes, but which many of the most intelligent minds of this age be

of the most intelligent minds of this age be-lieve exist in space.

During one of these times this lady states that she beheld and conversed with a child will proclaimed herself to be premature infant (lost through an accident) and of whom the mother had never thought as maturing in spirit life.

While I am aware that many phases of so-called spiritualism are believed in and sought after by worthless and immoral people and are productive of much evil, I am also aware that our churches teem with individuals who possess some

degree of clairvoyant power, and who secretly investigate the occuit. The Society of Psychical Research, composed of many of our most brilliant men and thinkers, has proven beyond a doubt that, despite the fraud existing in these matters, well authenticated cases of spiritual manifestation exist. I have many dear friends, of noble life and spoticas worth, who tell me they have seen the faces of those who have passed into spirit-life. No such experience ever came to me, but I cannot be so ignorant or narrow as me, but I cannot be so ignorant or narrow as to declare my friends liars or the victims of a delusion. When I hear a chord of music it is to me simply a sound, stirring and beauti-ful, but I have friends who hear harmonies

and charts within chords, which I know nothing about, in that same sound.

In this same manner I believe Florence Marryat may have seen and spoken with the child invisible to others; and what a tremendously moral inducance such a universal belief world by belief would have upon the world today!
What woman (unless one whom shame and
disgrace stared in the face) believing this
would dare force her unborn child back into
the spirit world, including she must one day

let it in another subere! If this experience of Florence Marryat be true, what surprises await many a religious woman who has avoided the cares of maternity in this life, only to find herself face to face with the matured souls of her murdered charles in spirit and when she masses on!

A vast amount of good might be accom-plished would our chergymen stop quarrelling over dogmas, musty technicalities and use-less isms, and devote their cloquence to this subject for a while.

It was only a short time ago that a tearful and sad young woman came to me and asked for a private interview. I had known her as a beautiful, ambitious girl, and as a happy bride, and as a disappeinted wife. When we were alone together she said to me, between sobs. 'I am very wretched, as you know; my marriage, has been a disappeinted wife.' were alone together she sant to me, between sobs. "I am very wretched, as you know; my marriage has been a disappointment, my husband does not seem to care for me and complains of his added expense since his marriage. Now that I am convinced a child is coming to us he is furious with rage and desivair. He says he cannot support a child, that it will drag him down and hinder him from any hope of independence. I am so unhappy, I have come to you to ask you how I shall prevent this burden from falling upon me. I would not mind it only for his sa'se, but he says other women extricate themselves from such troubles, and that I can."
"If you were burdened by a helpless old father," I replied, would you come to me and ask me to aid you in mardering him? This is just as great a crime. Go and tell your husband I said so."

She left me only to find the assistance she

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She left me only to find the assistance she sought elsewhere and rose from the brink of the grave shortly afterwards a wreck of her

She escaped the cure and expense of bring-ing a child into this world, but can she es-cape meeting that child sometime, some-Ask yourself this question, on tried and tortured woman, who contemplates this deed today.

Fig. Wheelen Wilcox.

former self.

WORLD'S FAIR NOTES.

According to the closest possible estimates, 15,000 men are at work in Jackson park, an increase of more than 1,100 over the strongest force that has been inside the gates since dedication.

The last of the Columbian half dollars has been coined at the mint. Sales at \$1 each have been rather slow, but it is probable that during the exhibition all can be disposed of to people who want some such relic of the great fair.

The Johns Hopkins university will make a fine solution in the world's fair. The collection of scientific maps and instruments and geological specimens was exhibited to the students in Levering hall last week and is now on the way to Chicago. President Gilman is very proud of the showing that will be made by the university in scientific results. results.

Italy's queen is generally credited with Italy's queen is generally credited with having the finest collection of rare old liness in the world. She has consented to send them to the fair for display in the women's building. The collection came on the steamer Kaiser Wilhelm II from Genoa. They were invoiced at 366,000 francs. The queen's laces have never before been permitted to leave the royal household. She guards them with jealous care, and it was only after repeated solicitations that she consented to send them to Chicago. The laces, protected by a strong guard, will be laces, protected by a strong goard, will be arranged in cases in the women's building.

The Pennsylvania university exhibit at the World's fair is being out in place. It has been found that it is possible to make an ex-hibit fairly representative of the strength of the university, but in some particulars it is necessarily a little unsatisfactory. Of the twelve departments of the university nearly all will be represented in the exhibit. About one-third of the space assigned will be de-voted to the collections from the museums of the university, of which the Babylonian and Assyrian are the most important. The col-lection which represents the university's exedition to Babylonia in 1888-9 will be unique n this country.

The great organ for Festival hall at the World's fair, which is almost completed, will be a wonderful piece of workmanship. It will have 4,014 pipes and sixty-three speaking stops, not so many as there are in the organ of the Chicago Auditorium, but in respect to power the World's fair organ will be su-perior, being "voiced and put on as high a wind pressure as the pipes will permit." In the matter of room the builders have not been stinted, which was the case when they constructed the Auditorium organ.. Sight seers will have access to all parts of the Fes-tival hall instrument. The echo organ will be placed at the extreme end of the hall and will be operated by 300 feet of electric cable. Marvelous effects will be possible between the main and the echo organs.

Among the more than 100 different congresses to be held during the World's fair, under the auspices of the World's Congress auxiliary, the one that stands out unique and alone, having no precedent in the history of such gatherings, will be the World's Youth's congress, which will convene on July 17 and hold three half-day sessions. Delegates to this congress are either boys or girls and are drawn from the grammar and High school grades of the public schools in every county in the United States. every county in the United States, though confined to ages between 13 and 21 years. In Chicago the work was taken up with great enthusiasm in the schools under the recommendation of the Board of Education and nearly every school already has its delegate enrolled. Most of these delegates are chosen by an essay contest in the several schools, and it was hoped by the committee having this congress in charge that the delegates everywhere could be chosen in this way, but it is now so important that the names of these representatives of their several schools should be in the hands of the committee at the earliest possible time that this committee urges teachers every where to at once appoint in their schools a delegate and an alternate and forward their names, with age, county, name of school find postellice address to the secretary of the committee, F. Frederick Bilss, 713 Royal Insurance building, Chicago.

Mud Miners.

"Mud miners" is a term used to decribe a class of workmen employed to labor in a tunnel which is being built as a conduit for gas under the East river from New York to Brooklyn. The pressure of condensed air is so great in the tunnel that even strong men labor only two hours and are then taken to the surface to recuperate. Recently there have been several deaths in the So frequently have the ambulances been summoned to the entrance that the police authorities are making an investigation, with a view to lessening the danger to the workmen, who are in future to be examined by a physician before descending into the shaft.

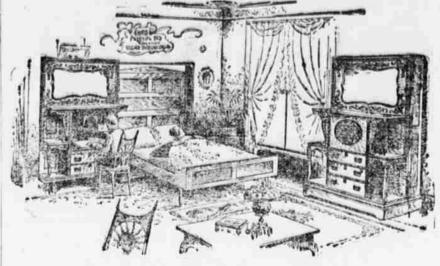
Surprised the Judge. James Payn, the English novelist, gives an odd instance of mispronuncia-tion. During an action of nuisance and trespass brought by one neighbor against another a witness was put into the box who made a great sensation. "Miss Iles," he said, "was thrown over the wall not once, but half a dozen

"Stop, stop," said the judge; "why, we know nothing of this. Who was Miss Hes, and why did they throw her over the wall so repeatedly?"

And after all, it was only the witness

peculiar method of pronouncing "mis-

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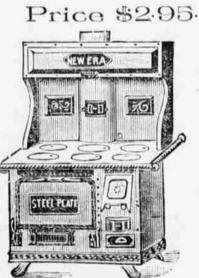




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GRANDEUR OF DESOLATION

Recent Exploration of Mojave Desert and Death Valley.

A REGION WHERE DEATH STALKS ABROAD

Nameless Graves and Bleached Bones of Man and Beast Mark the Path of Victims Lured to Destruction-Fury of the Sand Storm.

Frederick L Monsen, a popular local artist and well known bohemian, recently returned from a journey through the Mojave desert and Death valley and in an interview in the San Francisco Chronicle gives an interesting account of his trip.

With the intention of publishing a small volume, profuse with illustrations, Mr. Monsen determined to make this trip and started for this barren spot alone. He spent nearly three months on the Mojave desert and took over 200 photographs, besides innumerable sketches. He opened his story by giving the following descriptive account of

the country: "Death valley is known as the region of lowest depression in the world, besides claiming the flattering appellation of being the hottest place on earth. It is 430 feet below the level of the sea. The valley is seventy-five miles long and from eight to fifteen miles wide. On the east the valley is bounded by the Juneral mountains, which attain an elevation of from 6,000 to 8,000 feet, and on the west it is inclosed by the Panamint range, which reaches a height of from 000 to 10,000 feet.

"The valley is an independent drainage basin, and the castern part is filled with a wash of rock and gravel, the result of cloudbursts. Immense fields of borax and soda cover a large section of country in the eastern part of the valley, and salt marshes of the almost pure | have been a very serious proposition as

chloride extend over a vast area of land. From a spring in Furnace creek wash, entrance to this arid country, the Pacific Coast Borax company cultivates about thirty acres of land in alfalfa, the only evidence of civilization in the entire district. Were it not for this ranch it would be well-nigh impossible to make the trip across the valley, as by no other means could feed for the horses be ob-

The nearest accessible point to Death valley is Daggett, a small station on the Atlantic and Pacific railway. It is 105 miles distant from this point to the valley, and requires a journey of seven days to cover the ground. On the road there are but three springs, two of which are sixty miles apart. Travelers are, therefore, compelled to carry water for themselves and beasts, and when it is added that one has an inordinate thirst on the desert the burden can be considered no

light one. "A man will drink three gallons of water a day and the animals twice as much as customary. But little good water is found, as most of the water holes or springs are charged with alum, arsenic or borax.

"On the following day after my arrival at Daggett," said Mr. Monsen, "I left, equipped with an outfit consisting of buckboards, males and a guide. We crossed what is known as the link of the Mojave river and journeyed for five days over a region destitute of vegetation or animal life, with the exception of a growth here and there of dwarfed cacti. The oppressiveness of this desolation

and extreme solitude must be experienced to be understood, Nameless graves of poor unfortunates who attempted to cross the desert during its heated term are the only break in this dreary monotony, and every year new mounds of earth, marked only with a stick or a stone, show the spot where some adventurous prospector perished from thirst and the excessive heat and was buried by strangers.

"Desert travel during the summer months is attended with extreme dan-ger, and can only be accomplished by traveling at night and camping during the heat of the day at some water hole or small oasis.

"If an accident had occurred to our

we were miles from any human habitation and it would have been impossible to have secured other animals or repair "On the fifth day out we reached Ar-

margosa, the abandoned borax works of the Pacific Coast Borax company, and here rested for a few days. It is sixtytwo miles from this place to Death valley and we had to carry water for this entire distance. We occupied two days in this last stretch and we traveled the entire route over a bed of rock and gravel, accumulated by the action of loudbursts.

The entrance to the valley is through a canon called Furnace creek wash. We arrived here just before dusk and at an elevation of 5,000 feet we obtained the first view of this historical vailey. Fac toward the west the Paniment mountains stood, forming the wall of that side of the valley. Just behind these western ridges was sinking the ruddy sun, bathing this desolate production of God's hand in a purple-tinted light. Moment by moment the shadows crept over this scene of desolation. No sound from the twitter-tering lark or the wild canary forewarned us of the approaching night. All was as still as the midnight hour.

"We prepared our camp, exchanging hardly a word and glad for the moment when we would become oblivious to these ghostly surroundings.

"The next morning we arrived at the entrance or level of Death valley and from this point saw for the first time a sand storm. Incidentally I may remark that these storms during the summer months are very frequent. we saw it the northern part of the valley was obscured in a brownish colored cloud, which gradually thinned out until it crossed the entire val-ley. Never at any moment did it en ley. Never at any moment did it en-entirely obscure the sun, which looked like a mere ghost of itself. The cloud moved with great velocity in our direction and soon advance runners or hot puffs of wind reached us. On arriving at the end of Furnace creek wash, we saw the sand storm in the northern part of the valley. This was shortly after sunrise. The entire horizon and sky was obscured by the sand and gravel, which were buoyed by an atmosphere wagon or mules on the desert it would oppressively hot and stifling Soon we were enveloped by a dense

cloud of sand, and occasionally as a stronger puff of wind came, gravel and even small rocks were hurled in our faces. We covered our heads with blankets, and the mules instinctively turned their tails to the wind. With all these precautions we did not escape, for my guide's face and my own became badly bruised and lacerated. In our exposition we experienced all the fury of this desert simoon, and as the winds traveled across this alkali sand they increased in heat to such an extent

that breathing became a matter of diffi-This storm lasted two days, and in all this time it was impossible to move from our position. We had to camp here for that period, being unable to light any three or prepare meals. Most of this time we were covered with blankets and literally starved. I never

want to undergo that ordeal again.
"This was in the fall. The pulls of wind were so intensely hot and suffocating that they can be likened to blasts from a furnace, and seemed to draw the very breath from our bodies. The storm oiled the sand around our wagon and

covered everything.
"Occasionally, looking down into the valley, we could see a large sand anger or spout waltzing hither and thither over the country, carrying the sand and alkali dust high into the air. Though this storm was exceedingly severe to a novice like myself, it is incomparable to the ones that sweep over this country in middle summer. In July or August, with the thermometer registering from 130 to 137 degrees in the shade, it would be impossible for any living creature to

exist in it even for an hour. "After having passed safely through this sand storm we continued our journey and I made a thorough inspection of the valley. There is much of interest to be told, but owing to the absence of much of my data and statistics, I would venture to give you a description of our observations, as many of them are based on scientific examinations and tests.

"At one point, however, I may remark that my guide pointed out to me seven nameless graves on the trail, which could be seen from where we were stand-How the poor unfortunates had wandered away from the trail and lost

their lives no one can ever tell. "On our return journey between existence.

Death valley and Daggett, on the Mojave desert, we experienced a cloudburst which nearly pa an end to the whole trip. It was so severe that after the water had partly drained away we could notice many alterations in the topography of the country. We were on the edge of the cloud and sheltered, and thus escaped the full force of the downpour, But nevertheless I lost a great many plates and other acticles.

A Chinaman's Fortune.

The will of the Chinese physician, Li Po Tai, has been filed in San Francisco. He was 74 years old. The value of the estate is estimated at about \$50,-000, and consists of real estate, the store and stock of medicines kept by the doctor in his lifetime, and other personal property, including \$10,000 in eash. his sons Li Cue and Li Tai Cune is be queathed \$50 each, and to his widow, Lee See, and his son, Li Tai Wing, all the remainder of his property, both real and personal, share and share alike. His widow and the last-named son are apsinted executrix and executor, respec tively. He also adds that he desires his sisters. Ow Lee and Leong Lee, and his sons Li Tai Cune and Li Cue maintained and cared for as members of the family during their natural lives.

A New York genius has invented a ma-chine for the self-propulsion of ships. It consists of long strong platforms, rigged out on either side of a vessel, that rise and fall on either side of a vessel, that rise and fall f with the roll of the waves and operate a presopeler. The motion of these platforms in a promp sea would be similar to that of the pump nandles of the old fashioned fire engines when the "boys" were "shaking her up hvery." The inventor thinks that the tendency of these outriggers would be to steady the vessel as well as to force it forward. They would operate in a "dead" calm mearly as well as in a storm, for the ocean is never at rest. never at rest.

Some of the most capable men who spend spring and summer on the Alaskan islands looking after various commercial interests earn very large salaries and live what some folk might call double lives. They are able dury ing the winter to live in San Francisco, News-York or Europe, to be lavish in expenditure and enjoy all the privileges of life, and the fact that there is little tilbe done on the lands but attend strictly to business enables. ands but attend strictly to business enable a man to recuperate from the weary joys of civilization, and thus to prolong their duals