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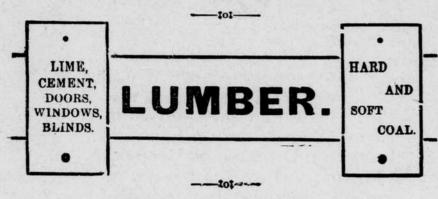
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P. A. WELLS, TREAS, AND MAGE

Ahl who shall lead us thither? Clouds in the evening sky more darkly gather, And shattered wrecks lie thickly on the strand. Who leads us with a gentle hand Thither, oh, thither, Into the Silent Land?

THE SILENT LAND.

Into the Silent Land!

To you, ye boundless regions Of all perfection, tender morning visions Of beauteous souls, the future pledge and band. Who in life's battle firm doth stand, Shall bear hope's tender blossoms Into the Silent Land!

O Land! O Land! The mildest herald by our fate allotted Beckons, and with inverted torch doth stand To lead us with a gentle hand Into the land of the great departed,
Into the Silent Land!
- Every Other Saturday.

THE THREE SONS.

The house was to all appearances untenanted. There was not a sign of life visible from without, but in one of the magnificent rooms overlooking the Rue de Vaennes sat three men anxiously awaiting the result of the consultation which was then taking place to know if there was the slightest hope not for the recovery, but for the prolongation of the sufferings of Gabrielle Anne Sophie, dowager Marquis de Guebrianges, their

The oldest gentleman, the marquis, was tall and thin. He might have been 30 years old, but his age was difficult to guess, his face being so utterly devoid of expression. His few remaining hairs did their best to disguise their scarcity, but in spite of their well meant efforts it was distinctly visible that this "glass of fashion" was bald. The marquis was a cold, heartless man, in whom none could feel the slightest confidence; he was egotistical to the last degree, with no superior intelligence to palliate his overwhelming selfishness.

The second son, Count Rene, was quite different. Full of life, with frank blue eves that looked a man full in the face and a smile as winning and a nature as expansive as the marquis was reserved and repellent, he seemed to be of a different race, and his restless energy and keen intelligence had shocked the old marchioness and driven the late Marquis Hercule de Guerbrianges to the verge of distraction. "Rene is quite unlike the rest of the family." he often said, with a sigh. "I wonder from whom he inherits his disposition. Perhaps from your side of the house, marchioness: certainly not from mine.'

The youngest son, the vicomte, was just 20, but his wrinkled face and bent figure made him look much older. He was one of those old young men who are so frequently met nowadays and so painful to see, who appear to be a growth peculiar to this end of the cen-

At last the door opened, and the men of science stepped softly across the threshold. The famous specialists who had been summoned at the last moment began a long account of the case couched in terms which, though doubtless intel ligible to his colleagues, conveyed no meaning at all to the young men. At last he came to the point, and with trembling voice and tearful eyes told them to prepare for the worst. The old lady was sinking rapidly. Then the physicians withdrow, and the brothers heard the old doctor invite his comrades to the theater in a voice which did not tremble, and, to judge by his cheerful tones, the tears were very far from his eyes in-

deed. "Old hypocrite!" thought Count Rene The others thought nothing at all. The three sons entered the darkened room and stood around the bedside of the

dying woman. The marquis asked her if she was suffering. She shook her head. There she lay, just alive, and nothing more. She seemed to realize what a slender hold she had upon life and to try and economize her little remaining breath, for she did not utter a word, and the blue eyes, so like her second son's, gazed wistfully upon her children, and two tears—the last she would ever shed-rolled slowly

down her withered cheeks.

What a life hers had been! Full of the pomps and vanities of this world, brilliant and enviable without, but in reality one long martyrdom. She thought of all she had endured for her boys'sake, of the insults, of the neglect, even brutality of the husband of her youth, and she wondered as she lay there gasping her life away if half her punishment for her sins had not been meted out to her on earth. Instinctively, in this supreme moment, she turned to Rene, for he was the only one of her sons who had ever shown her any real affection, and now she remembered how she had always curbed his exuberant nature and received his caresses coldly enough and sent him away many a time with something very like tears in those bright blue eyes. She tried to extend her hand to him, but her strength failed her, and the hand fell

wearily to her side. "Do you know us, mother?" asked the

A low hissing sound issued from her catch, if possible, the words she was try-

ing hard to frame. The vicomte stifled a cough with his handkerchief. The marquis listened attentively, but on these two faces there was no sign of emotion. They might have been at the bedside of the merest acquaintance, while Rene, poor fellow, felt a lump rise in his throat and the tears stream down his cheeks. This wom-

an was his mother, and she was dying. "My sons," gasped the woman. "I know that I am dying, and before I go to my last account I have a confession to make. Don't weep, Rene; keep your tears for a better woman. God knows what you will think of me when you know all. I have been an unfaithful wife, and one of you has no right to the name he bears. It is-it is"- Here the voice for doing anything?" died away, and she sank back among her

gone into the presence of its Maker. The other man expected, and I got out." rothers retired softly, and once in the adjoining room looked at each other Press.

spart. "Which could it be!" At last the marquis spoke with more emotion than he had ever shown in the whole

course of his self absorbed life. "Death has cut short the painful revelation which has startled us all so terribly, and I am sure you will both agree with me in what I am about to say. To the dead we will pledge ourselves, and no human being will suspect that in the veins of one of us flows blood perhaps less proud than that of our mother's husband. Before the world we will continue our present relations, and in respect to the dead we will pledge ourselves never to seek to elucidate this mystery. But we must part. Each must go his own way, for with this fearful doubt in our minds we could never live under the same roof in harmony.

"I, Jean, am the marquis; you, Rene, the count, and Francois the vicomte de Guebrianges. Thus the family name will remain intact, and the world will never guess our dishonor. What do you think

of my proposition?" "I think that you are right," said Rene. "You have expressed my own ideas exactly, and I am sure that Francois is of my opinion. But there is something I must say in spite of the pain the very thought gives me, and I hope that you will not be hard upon me. I believe my mother referred to me. Listen to my

His brothers started at his bold words, and like the loved gentleman he was the Count de Guebrianges proceeded to do what he considered to be his daty.

"You, Jean," he continued, "are our mother's firstborn. You came into the world the year after her marriage, so you are out of the question altogether." The marquis smiled. Of course he was out of the question. "You, Francois, were her pet—the one upon whom she lavished all her love. You were born only a few months after the death of our sister Bertha, who was the pride of my mother's life and whom she has mourned literally in sackcloth and ashes for so many weary years. It would be an insult to my sister's memory to cast a slur on you, while I am different. God help I first saw the light in a strange land. The late Marquis de Guebrianges was then embassador to St. Petersburg. read before the congress of anthropolo-My mother was very young, very beautiful, fascinating and sorely neglected. Be lenient if she faltered in her duty.

She was our mother, and she is dead.

She was our mother, and she is dead.

With light brown hair, as well as short, Her expiation has been long, and she smaller bracycephalic race, with dark has carried part of her secret with her to brown hair. The blond type preponderthe world beyond the grave. I am convinced that I am the stranger, and I feel the brunette in the northwestern. Bogdathat I am giving her the supreme proof nov considers the long heads to have been of my love and respect in telling you Slavs, and that the modern Russians of what I think to be the truth. Now, what those parts are an amalgam of the Slavs am I to do?" The count turned from with the broader headed race, which is them and hid his face in his hands, while his whole frame shook with the emotion he could no longer control. It was not for himself but the woman who lay dead in the next room had been the idol of his life, and he wept that she was no more. The marquis' voice, cold and contemptuous, roused him.

'My brother and I thank you for your frankness. To the world you will always remain the Count de Guebrianges. but you must go."

"When will you leave?"

implacable gaze of his eldest brother. reposed. Suddenly they sprang to their feet as she slowly raised herself, and pointing to her eldest son gasped:

"It is—it is Jean." only fainted before, but this time she was dead indeed.

Rene said nothing, but his strong arms encircled his brother's tottering form, and in after years his true heart never wavered in his affection for his brother, nor in his respect and devotion for the dear martyr whose last breath had been his vindication.-From the French of Henri Lavedan in New York Journal.

The Commercial Traveler.

In some respects the American commercial traveler is a potent influence. He carries with him the latest city chitchat, and if he be a young man perhaps the latest slang or the newest funny story. It has been said that a noted American after dinner speaker depends largely on that class for his humorous stories. At all events, the commercial traveler has studied the art of pleasing, and he is a welcome figure at the dreary country hotels where he pauses for a little time in his rapid flight through the sections remote from city influences. In some respects he is an oracle on mooted points, and his dictum on many phases of business or politics carries much weight.-Boston Advertiser.

Climbing a Cathedral Tower.

A most peculiar custom which has been preserved since the middle ages at Friburgen-Brisgau is that of climbing the cathedral tower upon the anniversary of the birth of the reigning Duke of Baden. The tower is 400 feet high, and to scale it from the ground to the apex is a very difficult performance, attended A low hissing sound issued from her hips, and the men leaned over her to ing from one projection to another, these being on the average one foot apart. A single false step means death. To descend is also no easy task. Each person who makes the climb and descent safely receives 5 marks from the state and a

Doing Anything.

A sharp boy struck a Jefferson avenue merchant the other morning for a job. "So you want to be an office boy, eh?" queried the merchant good naturedly. "Yes sir."

"What can you do?" "Anything."

"That's the same old answer," said the

merchant. "Do you expect to get paid "You bet I do," snapped the boy. dllows.

"You don't expect me to do anything without pay, do you? That's what the

A SUN WORSHIPER.

Since no song bird's lyric gush Breaks the gray and icy hush, Since the meadows are in bond, And white fetters chain the pond. Since the barren boughs bewail, And the bright hours swiftly fail, Since the nights are one black blur I have turned sun worshiper.

Though my vision may not rean Precepts Zoroastrain, Yet have I some rapture caught That the ancient Parsees taught Winter prisoned, I am won By the promise of the sun, And I lift my prayer that he Set the weary captive free.

He can shatter frosty bars, Edge hillpaths with bloosom stars; He can heal the bare bough's grief By the boon of bursting leaf, Woo the solitude to song. Right the wasting winter's wrong: He can golden life confer-I have turned sun worshiper!

-Clinton Scollard in Youth's Companion.

A Pneumatic Coal Chute. "The man who goes about with a big shovel and a big basket over his shoulder looking for a job at putting in coal finds less and less to do," said a citizen. "The coal wagons which have bodies that may be elevated and adjusted at almost any angle, and which are provided with extension chutes through which the coal is made to run straight from the wagon into the coal hole, appear to be multiplying. But of course coal wont run up hill, and when it is to be used above the first story it still has to be carried up stairs. But perhaps the next thing will be a telescopic tube with a flaring lower end big enough to fit right over the top of a coal wagon and provided at its upper end with an apparatus to exhaust the air. Then when the tube is in the window and you're all ready, zip! and there you are, 'Coal delivered on the fourteenth floor without extra charge."-New York Sun.

Early Races In Russia.

Russia is so vast and includes so many races that it might seem well nigh hopeless to determine its most ancient inhabitants. Nevertheless this is a problem at which Professor Anatola Bogdanov has been laboring for the past 25 years, and which he attempts to solve in a paper gists at Moscow. The kurgans or tumuli of central Russia contain ' relics probably Mongoloid.—American Regis-

The Use of the Adjective "Old."

Some one has noted that the adjective applied by college graduates and students to their alma mater is always "old." It is "old Harvard," "old Yale," "old Dartmouth," and one enthusiastic admirer and attendant at the University of Chicago has been heard to refer to certain rules of that institution as "a way we have at old Chicago." There is "After the funeral," said Rene in sur- certainly an affection conveyed by the prise, and looking up he met the cold, word "old" that no other adjective carries, and like the terms of address "old By tacit consent they returned to the man" or "old boy" it signifies that lovchamber of death and reverently knelt ing familiarity with which every one rebeside the couch where the marchioness gards his college home. - Boston Journal.

A Suggestion.

Prison Warder-It's just been found out that you didn't commit that crime Then she fell heavily back. She had you've been in for all these years, and so the home secretary has pardoned you. Innocent Man-Um! I'm pardoned,

> Prison Warder-Y-e-s, but don't go yet. I'll have to telegraph for further instruc-

Innocent Man-What about?

Prison Warder-Seems to me that, considerin you hadn't any business here, you ought to pay for your board .- London Tit-Bits.

Misplacement of a Comma.

A popular captain's wife was more than usually anxious over the safety of her husband, and accordingly handed a parish clerk a slip one Sunday morning bearing the words, "Captain Wilson having gone to sea, his wife desires the prayers of this congregation on his behalf." Unfortunately, by the misplacement of the comma after the "sea," the congregation were told that "Captain Wilson having gone to see his wife, desires the prayers of this congregation on his behalf."-Cornhill Magazine.

Of Course Not.

The day was a warm one, and the gentleman from Kentucky was coming up from the spring at the foot of the hill with a bucket in his hand.

"Ah, colonel," inquired an Ohio visitor sitting on the porch, "have you something to drink in that pail?" "Oh, no," responded the colonel, "it's

water."—Detroit Free Press.

An Egyptian scythe dug up on the banks of the Nile in 1890 and said to be as old as Moses is exhibited in a London museum. The shaft of the instrument is of wood, set with a row of fine flint saws, which are securely cemented in a

A New York business man says: "The keystone of the success of the business ticket of admission to the annual dinner man is in making other men work for given in honor of that day.-Chicago him. That is the greatest quality. It is no mean accomplishment to get men who will earn their salary."

> Many animals never take exercise for its own sake. The muscular system of animals is kept in the most perfect condition, however, by the r search for food. With them exercise is atural, and there fore perfect of its kinu.

> When a woman tires of a man she has once truly loved, there is reason to believe he has outraged her affection and wounded her inmost self esteem.

Keep the mouth closed while chewing. Don't masticate food on the principle The boy took the job.-Detroit Free which controls the running of a sewing machine-the faster the better.

Obfuren Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.



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