

IN THE DARK.

O, in the depths of midnight,
What fancies haunt the brain,
When even the sight of the sleeper
Sounds like a sob of pain.

A sense of awe and of wonder
I may never well define,
For the thoughts that come in the shadows
Never come in the sunshine.

The clock ticked down in the parlor
Like a sleepless mourner groaning,
And the seconds drip in the silence
As the rain drips from the eaves.

And I think of the hands that signal
The hours there in the gloom,
And I wonder what angel watchers
Wait in the darkened room.

And I think of the smiling faces
That used to watch and wait
Till the click of the clock was answered
By the click of the opening gate.

They are not there now in the evening—
Morning or noon or not there;
Yet I know that they keep their vigil
And wait for me somewhere.

Why Oil Still the Waves
The pouring of oil upon rough water to secure the safe passage of vessels was practiced by the ancients, as Plutarch and Piny refer to it, but it is only within the last six years that our seagoing people have given it much serious attention.

Now, the oil changes the storm wave into the heavy swell. It floats on the surface, spreads rapidly, and forms a film like an extremely thin rubber blanket over the water.

So it is seen that the effect is purely a mechanical change in the form of the wave; there is no apparent chemical change.

Don't Gilt the Calves.
A calf is worth nearly as much as a cow. Not that it will bring as much money, but at a very small outlay it will be brought to a cow, and if well fed and cared for it will make a good cow.

Males, Not Men.
If you desire to be real swell in polite circles you must never speak of the sterner sex as men or gentlemen.

Antiquity of Beads.
The use of beads is of great antiquity, for they are found in the most ancient of Egyptian tombs as decorations of the dead, and beads supposed to have been used as harter by the Phoenicians in trading with various nations in Africa.

An Interruption.
George (fixing parlor stove)—Why the dam?
"George," exclaimed his mother, reproverly.
"George—Pshaw, the dam—

Unsuccessful Experiment.
What a world of mistakes would be avoided if the same word always meant the same thing!

Like Superior is said to be the most ancient of the great lakes, dating back to Cambrian, and it may be earlier times, and that it formed, in other ages, one of the sources of a great river system terminating on the Atlantic seaboard.

ALL ABOUT HAY FEVER.

FACTS CONCERNING THIS SINGULAR ILLNESS AND ITS CAUSE.

Flowers and Grasses Bring on Fits of Sneezing in Some Persons—The Cat Asthma and the Troubles Caused by Other Animals.

The popular term hay fever gives but an inadequate idea of a curious complaint, the very existence of which was not fully recognized till the beginning of the present century.

It is called in Germany fruhsummer Katarrh, or early summer catarrh; and among ourselves, hay fever or hay asthma, since the more usual kind begins and ends with the hay season, varying in the time of year during which it appears according as the hay season is early or late.

The complaint is, however, by no means limited to the flowers of the field. The same symptoms may be produced by very different causes; by sunlight, by violent exercise, by the dust of rooms, and so capricious are its ways that it is sometimes difficult to assign sufficient cause for its appearance.

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Cullen speaks of the case of a man who was seized with fits of sneezing whenever rice was thrashed in the neighborhood of his house, and the effect of ipecacuanha dust is well known to hospital servants.

Similar sufferings are those induced by vegetable effluvia occur from contact with many animals. Dr. Hyde Salter, in his valuable work on asthma, relates that he has met with many cases in which the effluvia from horses, wild beasts, guinea pigs, cattle, dogs, rabbits and hares would immediately give rise to a paroxysm.

Cat asthma, from nursing a cat, or kitten, closely resembles hay fever, and the paroxysms are even more violent. The influence seems to be stronger in kittens from two months old and upwards than in full grown cats; but after the removal of the cause the symptoms very quickly subside.

There is no invention or imagination or exaggeration in these things, and what may be an irritant to one class of asthmatics may not be in the least so to another. One person is obliged to expatriate himself in the hay season; another cannot endure the scent of flowers; another cannot sleep on a down pillow, or use mustard in any shape, or pass a putrefier's shop.

A sudden fright may induce a fit of asthma, or, on the contrary, cure it. Indeed, a cure by violent emotion is more sudden and complete than by any other remedy. A confirmed asthmatic states that once when he was suffering from an unusually severe attack, so bad that he had been unable to speak or move all day, he was suddenly alarmed by the illness of a relative.

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George (continuing desperately)—That the damper is turned off and there is no draught. What is the matter with you all!—The Epoch.

She Lives in a Box.
The attention of every one about the two railroad stations was attracted by an "ossified" woman who arrived on the afternoon train from Fort Edward.

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THREE DAYS IN A TOMB.

TWO MEN LOST IN AN AFRICAN UNDERGROUND LABYRINTH.

Left in Total Darkness in a Counterpart of the Residence of Haggard's "She"—The Mysterious Black River—Saved by a Faithful Newfoundland Dog.

The city of Pretoria, capital of the Transvaal, South Africa, is located in a most beautiful spot. It stands in a valley between two ranges of mountains clothed with rich, dark verdure all the year round.

The source of this river, which furnishes the water supply for this city, has never been discovered. A curious fact is that its waters are highest during the dry season. This points to the theory that it is fed by rain, and that these rains do not reach the river till about four to five months after they fall.

These caves are the original Haggard's caves of the Amhazga, in which the wonderful "She" dwelt and ruled. Right under this mountain and through these dark caverns runs a clear, sparkling river of water.

Some friends of mine, two ladies and three gentlemen, went on an exploring expedition through this cavern, got lost in its maze and were three days before they found their way back to the outer world.

Mr. J. H. Leroy, of the Northern Pacific railway of the United States of America; Mr. John Sidley and two ladies, Miss Webster and Miss Gooch and myself, started to explore the Fountain cave. Armed with two lamps and provisions enough for two meals, we started.

Proceeding we found on each side of the main passage numerous side-ways and alleys apparently hewn out of the solid rock.

All around there were evidences of the caves being inhabited by swarms of bats which constantly kept flying in our faces. Pursuing our way for a considerable time, we came to a spot where the roof of the cavern, hitherto lofty, slanted down, gradually becoming lower and lower until we were unable to walk erect.

Finally we came to where the floor was on an inclined plane and got more head room. We then descended a steep hill, at the foot of which was a dead wall which completely barred further progress in that direction.

On the right hand a narrow passage presented itself just wide enough to permit of our walking Indian file. The air, hitherto cool and bracing, became damp and a cold clammy dew settled on our faces.

To the sides of the passage clung a pale, slimy, snake-like substance which to the touch produced a shivery sense of abhorrence. We began to wish ourselves well out of the undertaking. However, being in, there was nothing for it but to go on.

We walked up a passage a distance, I should judge, of three hundred yards, when we arrived at an octagonal court, from which ran eight different passages, the four main ones being about a width of fifty feet, and the four narrow ones about four feet each.

Under our feet could be heard a sound as if the running of a river and the violent breaking of water upon rocks. We could perceive no mode of descent, and the ground under our feet seemed solid.

Being weary, and the ladies somewhat faint, we resolved to go back, although disappointed with the result of our exploration. However, before starting again we refreshed ourselves with the victuals we had brought and, fortified by a few draughts of Cape sherry, felt our spirits rise, and curiosity as to the cause of the sound under our feet getting the better of our judgment we began searching for a way to descend, and finally found a place where there were stone steps at irregular intervals.

Sidney and I descended, leaving Leroy and the ladies above. We followed these steps for about fifty feet. The descent was very difficult. The light of the lantern grew faint. However, we arrived on a broad platform of level ground.

The sound of the water had by this time increased to that of a roaring torrent, and on our left we saw the black, inky stream rushing past. We sounded and found the river very deep and cold.

Passing along the banks the air became heavier still, and the lamp, which had been burning more feebly, went out altogether. Breathing became very difficult, owing to the absence of oxygen.

In this dreadful place and in total darkness we were stumbling about trying to find the steps, by which to return, for hours, until becoming quite weary we sat down and fell into a torpid, heavy sleep. How long we remained in this state I do not know.

D. R. P. JANSSEN



Will Be at the Riddle House Thursday, May 16, 1889.

GOLD WATCHES.

The Reason Why They Can Be Bought for So Much Less Than Formerly.

"Gold watches are so common nowadays that men don't take as much pride in wearing them as they did a few years ago," said a Fulton street jeweler the other day.

The individual who could sport a gold watch and chain a dozen years ago was considered a person of wealth and property. But he isn't now. Why, you will find gold watches in the pockets of our street car conductors, and I have even known them to wear handsome diamond rings.

Usually he carries it in a chamois leather pouch, and is very careful not to breathe on it or touch the case with his fingers. He consults it every fifteen minutes for the first month, but he soon tires of it, and then considers it a horrible bore to be asked for the time.

"Well, for one thing, the watch movements are a great deal cheaper. Gold is just exactly the same price per pennyweight. The reduction in price is confined to the movements. The watch movements of the standard American make are very cheap.

"How can dealers offer the public solid gold watches for \$30 and \$35?" "They are not solid by any means. There are some unprincipled makers who will mark a case of 10 carat outside and 8 carat inside 14 carat, and a 19 and 14 carat will be marked 18 carat.

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A Good Word for Tobacco.

The effect of the habitual use of tobacco on the health is the subject of an interesting and significant paper by Dr. F. H. Bosmith, published in The Medical Record of this city.

The writer calls attention to the fact that the Anglo-Saxon races have been using tobacco for smoking and chewing purposes during the past four centuries. They contracted the habit from a race which, as far as history and tradition teach us, were remarkable for their vigor of body and mind as well, and as far as we know, were an unusually long lived people.

There is no evidence to show that in this time the race has been more subject to disease, but rather that they are less so. There is no evidence to show that the race has lost anything in its intellectual activity; but, on the contrary, it has been a time of most marvelous fecundity in all that is great in literature. Dr. Bosmith, while not advocating the use of tobacco, is opposed to the wholesale denunciation of "the weed" maintained by some extremists, his experience showing that as a general thing it is innocuous, and in cases where its use is at all baneful the sufferer is himself conscious of the fact, and controls the remedy. Briefly, the object of the essay is not a plea for the use of tobacco, but simply to suggest whether we had not best abandon the idea that it is a drug whose use is pernicious in every way to body, mind and morals, and rather to take the view that it is one of God's good gifts to man.—American Analyst.

Loss of Life of Negro Slaves.

It was my lot once to be with Dr. Livingston in the vicinity of Lake Nyassa, and at a time when for the slave it was an exceedingly happy hunting ground. As a consequence of what we saw Livingston reckoned that for every slave that got to his or her destination ten lives were lost. Inasmuch as the ground is now so cleared of slaves near the coast (that is to say, for the normal mode of collecting that the Zanzibar Arabs have to procure them more than half way across Africa, as shown recently by Mr. Arnot, the calculation of ten lives per slave may probably now be under the mark. The Arab slave dealer's appearance on the scene means raids; quarrels fomented between strong and weak chiefs; a neglected sowing season in the prevailing disturbance, famine, and then the pestilence which follows on starvation.

A vast proportion of the slaves perish on their journey to the coast, and finally the mortality is great at sea in overcrowded and unseaworthy dhows; for, with the possibility of capture before his eyes, the slave shipper—particularly if he is bound for Pemba—charter an old cranky craft which will hold together for the trip. Mr. Philip J. Stopford, midshipman of the Gravel, (who seems to be, by the admiralty accounts, a very competent for snapping up slaves), chased a dhow off Pemba. The man at the helm lost his head, the dhow was captured, and 92 out of 112 slaves and slaves were drowned.—The Rev. Horace Wallers in The Contemporary Review.

Training Boys for Contortion.

What, then, is a contortionist? In the first place it appears that a contortionist is a person who has preserved in his spine, and in some cases in his joints, the infantile condition which in most persons is merely transient. This implies a great flexibility of the spine in all directions, great powers of twisting it. It is also very likely that there are many small individual peculiarities all favoring uncommon freedom of motion. If a young boy without any of this special fitness should be trained for contortion, I think he would probably meet with some success, but never achieve distinction. So far as I am aware, children are not educated for this profession from their tenderest years, as they are for several kinds of acrobatic performances. Their capacity makes itself known by accident, from which it is fair to infer that it rests on an anatomical basis.—Scribner's.

Made Him Feel Comfortable.

"Do you know what is the difference between you and myself?" This compound was hurled at a Pittsburg broker by his better half, who had been sitting up for him, when he arrived at home about 1 o'clock in the morning.

"Can't say, my dear," he replied. "What is it?" "You speculate all day, and I 'spec' you late at night."—Pittsburg Chronicle.

That'll Fetch It.

"What's the trouble with you?" asked the doctor. "Insomnia," replied the patient. "Can't sleep, eh?" "Not four hours a night." "Ever tried anything?" "Tried everything; all no good." "Ever try trying to keep awake?" Patient sees hope for himself in an experiment that never was known to fail.—Bob Bardetta.

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