



#### FAIRYLAND.

Under the branches they went together.  
The blossoming branches that break the sky.  
All in the morn of the young, sweet weather.  
When softly the green on the hills doth lie:  
And Dorothy thought it was over the meadow.  
And Dorothy thought it was over the meadow.  
But Dorothy thought it was over the meadow.  
Sheltered that magical fairy ring.

So over the meadow they swiftly led them—  
Oh, but the bird in the blue sang sweet!  
They saw not the blush of the brier beside  
them.  
The violets smiling beneath their feet.  
Long by the spring they lingered and listened.  
Twas a maiden set in a mossy rim,  
And oh, the beauty that clustered and glistened  
in frail tresses falling about its brim!

They sought in the wood for a wonder revealing—  
And saw not the leaves in a net overhead.  
Oh, but the song through the pinetops stealing  
—but—  
And oh, that hush down the dim ways shed!  
Then, when the sun leaned lower to find them,  
Homeward they wandered a sorrowful way.  
And knew not the land they were leaving behind them.

The rare new land of a young June day!  
But Dorothy thinks it is over the meadow.  
And Dorothy thinks it is over the meadow.  
While Dorothy is sure that the woodland's  
shadow  
Shelters the magical fairy ring!  
—Virginia Woodward Cloud in St. Nicholas.

#### Theatrical Superstition.

Among country companies superstitions are more varied and extended than among metropolitan ones, and are of course more blindly and religiously adhered to. If, on entering a town where the next "stand" is to be made, a graveyard is visible on the right side of the railway track, the country manager's heart swells with bright anticipations. But if, on the contrary, the tombstones loom up on the left of the road, he becomes depressed, as he takes the fact as a warning that his "business" will be small during his engagement in that place. Such a manager will be apt to give some man or boy a free pass to the theater on a first night, as he would fear a run of ill luck in case a woman should chance to enter the house before a member of the opposite sex had found his way within.—Chicago Post.

#### How Mines Are Salted.

The gullibility of persons who buy mines has passed into a proverb. It is said that such properties have actually been salted with half-melted silver dollars and sold to investors, who did not realize that the precious metal was not found in nature with the stamp of the mint upon it. Undoubtedly the most scientific method of accomplishing this sort of swindle is to apply the silver in the shape of a nitrate solution. When it is ready for use some salt is put into it and it is squirted over the rock, the salt causing an immediate precipitation of the metal in a manner that is equally conspicuous and deceptive to the eye.—Kansas City Times.

#### The Indian Hunter's Stone.

The Indian hunter will cut the shape of an animal out of stone, have it "blessed" by the medicine man and believe it gives him good fortune in the chase of the beast represented. When he kills one he dips the fetic in the blood. Perhaps he wraps about it beads, signifying money, and attaches to it little arrowheads, which represent the executive function of slaughter. So as to secure as much help from the unknown as possible, he hangs charms all over his person.—Washington Star.

#### Meerschmum Artists.

The artist who carves meerschmum is required to pass through as severe a school of apprenticeship lasting from three to ten years as though his work were in marble. Meerschmum carved and in the rough resembles the ordinary plaster cast. The outlines being complete, it is scraped with a knife, filed, soaked in a preparation, and then polished with a linen cloth.—New York Times.

#### Cannot Be Both.

A good body is necessary to a satisfactory expression of the mentality. But no man can be a Daniel Webster mentally and a John L. Sullivan physically. The possibilities of either the mind or body can be fully developed only at the expense of the other. The college boy who becomes a great athlete will not be a great scholar. Genius is almost always associated with soft spots.—Troy Press.

#### A Paying Business.

Money Lender—You want to borrow a hundred pounds? Well, here's the money. I charge 5 per cent. a month, and as you want it for a year, that leaves just forty pounds coming to you.  
Innocent Borrower—Then if I wanted it for two years, there'd be something coming to you, I suppose, eh?—London Tit-Bits.

#### At Both Ends.

"By Jove," said the youngster, "I'd like to have \$100,000 to go into business with in the proper shape."  
"Ugh," growled the veteran, "I'd like to have \$100,000 to go out of business with in the proper shape."—Detroit Free Press.

The oldest pensioners on the rolls of the New York pension office and two of the oldest in the United States, although pensioners are proverbially long lived, are General Tupper and General Dalley. They are veterans of 1812.

The city of Paris has 87,655 trees in its streets, and each tree represents a cost to the city of 175 francs. This makes in round numbers \$3,000,000 worth of trees in the streets.

An investigator has discovered that the greater number of congressmen are undersized, and a traveler in the west reports that St. Louis people are shorter of stature than easterners.

No part of the body should be clothed so warmly that perspiration is easily induced, since a rapid loss of heat is caused by its evaporation.

Among the Egyptians the bed often was made in the form of an elongated animal, with coverings of fine linen and tapestry of silk or wool.

#### Soudanese Troops in Battle.

I was told a delightful story of one recent action in which the Soudanese troops took a prominent part. The enemy was under cover not far off, but the firing line of blacks were blazing away at him as fast as they could open and close their rifles. In vain their officers tried to stop them. The waste of ammunition threatened to become extremely serious, and their commanding officer, a Scotchman, who had seen many fights with them, losing his temper, rode up and down behind the line cursing them with every abusive epithet in a fairly adequate vocabulary of Arabic invective, but entirely without effect. At last one of them happened to turn and discovered the beloved bey in evidently a very excited state of mind. He at once rose, ran back to him, and patting him reassuringly on the boot he said: "Don't be frightened, bey. It's all right. We're here. We'll take care of you!"

The Scotch bey, however, was equal to the occasion. He rode out through the line, and walked his horse up and down in front of the rifles. "Now," he said, "if you must fire, fire at me!" After this it is not surprising to read in dispatches that this officer has twice recently had his horse shot under him.—Contemporary Review.

#### Jay Gould's Book.

Occasionally some person knocks at the door of Jay Gould's office in the Western Union building with a copy of "The History of Delaware County, New York," by Jay Gould, to sell. An impression exists in the minds of many people that Mr. Gould is desirous of suppressing this publication as completely as possible, and that he will pay almost any price to get possession of the few stray copies that are left. Residents of Delaware county are authority for the statement that several years ago an agent of Mr. Gould's scoured that county for these books and bought nearly all of them at fancy prices. Whenever a copy of this particular history of Delaware county is displayed in that county at the present day the older residents will advise the owner, "Just you take that down ter New York, an Jay Gould'll give yer thirty or forty dollars fer it." It is certain that nobody in Mr. Gould's office ever heard of his paying any such price for one of those books. And nobody is able to explain why Mr. Gould should want to suppress the publication, unless it is that he thinks there is too much sentiment in it for a man of his present reputation.—New York Times.

#### The Unreasoning Crowd.

Speaking of the queer things to be seen on the streets, it is really astonishing how instinctively one person imitates another. A man with a passion for psychological research has been proving this by some experiments which are, to say the least of it, original. Going along about dusk the other night in advance of a small party of folk, he suddenly turned out into the muddy street, as if avoiding something in front. Unquestionably every person behind did the same thing in spite of the mire.

It isn't likely that they felt the full humorous force of the incident in quite the way he did, however, when they saw him face about and walk calmly back in the beaten path. The sheep went to all the trouble of jumping over a bar of dust, to be sure, but it would really seem worth while if human beings could think a little more independently and for themselves. The truth of it is, it is just this blind unreasoning herding together that leads to half the accidents and panics which are cropping up on all sides.—Boston Transcript.

#### Antidotes for Snake Poison.

The effect of snake bite depends partly on the condition of the snake and partly on that of the person bitten and the part attacked. No effectual antidote has yet been discovered. Ammonia and permanganate of potassium will not suffice, although a solution of the latter will take away the poisonous property of the snake's venom if it be mixed therewith. Immediate amputation of a bitten toe or finger is the best course, as the delay of a few seconds may suffice to convey the poison into the patient's circulation. If from the nature of the part bitten amputation cannot be performed, a very tight ligature applied after cauterization and sucking the part is the best course, and the administration of stimulants is generally recommended.—Quarterly Review.

#### Rice and Wheat at Weddings.

Throwing rice and wheat at a wedding is a relic of an old Roman custom, and has probably been common in England since Roman times. Brand gives several authorities for it. Friend refers to the case of the bride of Henry VII at Bristol in 1486, when wheat was thrown upon her with the greeting, "Welcome and good luck!"

Rice is used similarly at weddings in India, and the substitution of this grain for wheat in our own country of late years may be partly due to that fact; but where wheat cannot readily be come at rice would naturally suggest itself as a substitute.—Notes and Queries.

#### A Physician's Fees.

South Africa responds to modern innovations. A recent traveler in Kaffirland tells this incident:  
As we were upsaddling, there passed us a man driving a small flock of goats and several head of cattle. This was the husband of a lady physician who is ruining the practice of the local witch doctors, and he was taking home his wife's fee for attending a patient.—Youth's Companion.

#### Not the Man in Question.

A laborer in a rough felt hat and long smock walked the other day into the Shakespeare library, and after looking attentively for some time at one of the custodians, went up to him and said, "I say, zur, be you Mr. Shakespeare as I've heer'n speak ov?" The custodian explained to Hodge that he was not the gentleman referred to.—London Telegraph.

#### Danger in Crowding the Toes.

It is well known that the connection between the nerves in the feet, and especially those in the great toe, and the brain and general nervous organization is strong. Dr. Brown-Sequard mentions a patient who, whenever he bore the weight of his body on the toes of his right foot, became violently insane. He also speaks of another case where pressure on the toe caused severe nervous paroxysms.

These cases simply show the importance of a proper care of the feet, a portion of the body that many people neglect. They think that they can crowd their feet into tight shoes and abuse them without serious results. They can't do it, however. This crowding of five toes into a space not large enough for three, results in pressing the joints out of shape and sometimes making them inactive and powerless. No man with his toes half paralyzed can walk properly. The control of the toes is necessary for a springy step. Broad soles and low heels give room for all the toes and allow perfect freedom of action to every muscle. People who have false standards of beauty for the feet, however, insist on wearing a shoe that is not natural in shape, and the result is great discomfort, and in some cases death.

As a consequence of these abuses we are forgetting how to walk properly. Perhaps you don't believe it, but just watch the parade on Broadway some fine afternoon and see how few men and women walk on the street as if they were not conscious of tight shoes and deformed feet.—Interview in New York Sun.

#### The Age of Coal Burning.

I have heard that when King Hudson, in the zenith of his fame, was asked as to what his railways were to do when all the coal was burned out, he replied, that by that time we should have learned how to burn water. Those who are asked the same question now will often reply that they will use electricity, and doubtless think that they have thus disposed of the question. The fallacy of such answers is obvious.

A so-called "water gas" may no doubt be used for developing heat, but it is not the water which supplies the energy. Trains may be run by electricity, but all that the electricity does is to convey the energy from the point where it is generated to the train which is in motion. Electricity is itself no more a source of power than is the rope with which a horse drags a boat along the canal.

The fact is that a very large part of the boasted advance of civilization is merely the acquisition of an increased capability of squandering. For what are we doing every day but devising fresh appliances to exhaust with ever greater rapidity the hoard of coal.—Robert Ball in Fortnightly Review.

#### When Finished.

Busy persons, forced to defend themselves from interminable talkers, who have little to say, can appreciate a hint to which Henry IV of France once resorted. A parliamentary deputy called upon him and made a long speech.

The king listened patiently for a time, then he decided that his visitor would do well to condense his remarks. He took him by the hand and led him to where they could see the gallery of the Louvre.

"What do you think of that building? When it is finished it will be a good thing, will it not?"

"Yes," replied the man of many words, not guessing what was coming next.

"Well, monsieur, that is just the way with your discourse," was the king's mild observation.—Youth's Companion.

#### "The Begats."

The late Mr. Conington, professor of Latin in the University of Oxford, was noted for his prodigious memory. At a very early age it began to show itself. When he was a child of four or thereabouts he was sleeping one night in the same room with a relative, when, at the dead of night, his voice was to be heard crying out in the darkness from his little cot in the corner:

"Uncle! Uncle! I know the Begats. Uncle—The what? Go to sleep, my boy, you are dreaming."

Child—I know the Begats. Listen! And he began: "Abraham begat Isaac and Isaac begat Jacob and Jacob begat Judah," and so on to the end, some forty-two generations, without a mistake.—London Tit-Bits.

#### Too Previous.

"And you won't marry me, Kit?"  
"I won't."  
"No use talking about it any more?"  
"Not a bit. It won't do any good, Hank."

The Oklahoma youth, hurt and angry, reached under his chair for his hat.

"It's my own fault, I s'pose," he grumbled. "I ort to have waited till we'd got a little better acquainted."  
"Yes, that's about the size of it, Hank," assented the young woman coldly. "When it comes to courtin' you're too much of a sooner to suit me. Good evenin'."—Chicago Tribune.

#### Accurate.

In a breach of promise case, the other day, the lady on the stand said that when a friend suggested that she would make him a good wife, he answered: "Hem!" "Did he really say 'Hem'?" inquires the counsel for the defense. "He did," she averred, "or something of that kind." This reminds one of the accurate witness who swore that some one had called over the banisters, "Tom, Tom," or words to that effect.—San Francisco Argonaut.

#### The Thumb an Index to Character.

The way in which the thumb is held is a true sign of character. The man who turns it in under his fingers is always weak. That is the position in which it is always held by a child. The thumbs of great men are large and point out conspicuously from their fellow members.—Interview in St. Louis Globe-Democrat.



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