A COUNTRY IDYL

"Oh, let me love the city's heat,
Its frippery and formalities,
And place on more my tired feet
On nature's activities:
I'll turn from fashion's mimic train,
Its aping airs, its high disdain,
And battle my tired heart and brain
In primitive realities."

He turned from "fashion's mimic train,"
And sought the calm rusticity
Of field and forest, lake and plain,
Deep-bosomed of publicity.
But he selfless marked him for their prey,
And cowhide his backbone day by day
The cultured one wound his way
In sunny eccentricity.

And when beneath some arbor saug
He'd lie in thoughtful revery,
The bumble-bee and humble-bug
Would come with fiendish devilry;
With daddy-long-legs run a race,
And march in military pace
Across his bearded and blistered face
In wild, tumultuous revelry.

And while the still breeze from the south,
Lapped him in dreams elysian,
The gay green frog leaped in his mouth
With acrobat precision;
The woodchuck nibbled at his nose,
The weasel chewed up both his hose,
The snake crawled thro' his underclo'es
In wandering indecision.

He lay there in the valley green,
The city's strain to calm off,
And the farmer with his mowing machine
Then mowed his outstretched arm off.
And then he rose with murderous will,
And roamed the earth and vowed to kill
All poets who with fiendish skill
Such pastoral lies could palm off.

—*S. W. Foss, in Time.*

IS DEATH PAINLESS?

Dr. Hammond Answers the Question in the Affirmative.

It is only necessary to see a person die to be convinced that so far from being a painful process the act of death is rather pleasant than otherwise, writes Dr. William W. Hammond in the St. Louis *Post-Dispatch*. The physical phenomena that leads up to the departure of vitality from the body are often characterized by great suffering. There may be pain suffocation due to the irregularity in the action of the heart and lungs, and above all intense mental anguish. But when death begins all feeling of discomfort in mind or body disappears; pain in whatever part it may be situated ceases to be perceived; the heart may beat with still greater irregularity, the lungs fail still more notably to perform their functions: nothing has happened to dissipate the fear or remorse or sorrow that have harrassed the dying person, but the perceptions, the intellect, the emotions, the will are blunted and no longer respond to excitations that formerly moved them.

Death as we see it in persons who have suffered from a more or less protracted illness is not generally an act that is accomplished in a few moments of time. It may even last for several hours, during which period the vital forces are extinguished little by little, so gradually in fact that we are not able to determine the exact instant at which life becomes extinct.

Physiologists speak of death as occurring through the cessation of the action of either the brain or the heart or the lungs. But the brain can not be regarded as an organ absolutely essential to life, however necessary it may be to its regular and systematic course. The entire organ may be removed from certain kinds of animals and yet life goes almost as perfectly for a time as though it were still there to dominate the rest of the body. The heart beats, the lungs respire, the stomach digests, and the several glands continue to elaborate the secretions proper to them, and not only all this, but actions are performed which are well calculated to excite astonishment in those who see them for the first time and who have embraced the idea that all intelligence resides in the brain. Thus, for instance, if the brain be entirely removed from the head of a frog and the web between the toes be pinched the limb is immediately withdrawn; if the shoulder be scratched with a needle the hind foot of the same side is raised to remove the instrument; if the animal is held up by one leg it struggles; if placed on its back—a position to which frogs have a great antipathy—it immediately turns over on its belly; if one foot be held firmly with a pair of forceps the frog endeavors to draw it away; if unsuccessful it places the other foot against the instrument and pushes firmly in the effort to remove it; still not succeeding it writhes the body from side to side and makes a movement forward. I have seen a rattlesnake strike after its head was cut off, and a viper has been known to crawl straight for its hole in the wall after suffering like mutilation.

Nor are such experiments the only evidence we have that life may persist though the brain be absent. It sometimes happens that individuals of the human species are born without brains. In one instance of the kind life was present for six months. Though very feeble this being had the faculty of sucking and the several functions of the body seemed to be well performed. Its eyes clearly perceived the light and during the night it cried if the candle was allowed to go out. After death the cranium was opened and there was found to be an entire absence of the cerebrum. In another case, that of a male infant which lived eighteen hours, there was found after death no vestige of a brain, nevertheless respiration was established; the pupils contracted the light; bitter juice put into the mouth was immediately rejected and loud noises caused movements of the body. In another case in which the cranium was entirely empty life continued for four days, yet this being opened and shut its eyes, cried, sucked and even ate broth.

The brain, therefore, is essential to life only so far as it is essential to the continued action of the heart and lungs. When it is the seat of disease in certain of its parts the action of all the organs of the body is more or less impaired although they may continue their functions in such a manner as not to be immediately destructive to life. It is only when brain disease leads to the arrest of the action of the heart or lungs that death becomes inevitable.

Death beginning at the heart occurring either as the result of brain injury or disease, or like factors affecting the organ itself, may take place suddenly or after a very considerable period of time has elapsed. In neither case is the act of death painful. Should the heart stop suddenly the brain is at once deprived of its due supply of blood; all sensibility is immediately abolished. There are a few imperfect respirations and life has vanished, probably without the stricken person having the slightest consciousness from the moment that the current of blood failed to reach his brain. Such cases are comparatively infrequent, but they are common enough for us to have become acquainted with the phenomena by which they are characterized. The aspect of a person dying in the manner described shows that there has been no suffering, mental or physical; the countenance is placid and the position of the body that of entire repose.

In other instances the state of the patient for a considerable period before death is marked by great suffering. The respiration is difficult, the lungs are congested, there are [illegible] characterized by faintness and loss of consciousness, the limbs and the face become dropsical, the recumbent position is attended with an increase in the feeling of suffocation due to the interference with the respiration, and hence the patient is obliged to pass the greater part of the day and night in a sitting posture. The countenance of a person thus afflicted is indicative of the distress which is constantly experienced. But when the physical forces become so far reduced that the act of dying supervenes, pain or discomfort is no longer felt and death ensues without there being any sensations but those of ease and comfort both as regards mind and body.

Death beginning by the lungs is the result of the more or less sudden stoppage of the act of respiration. Such as is produced in drowning or strangulation, in which cases it takes place rapidly, or in congestion or pneumonia, when it is a more gradual process. In neither instance is there much, if any, physical suffering after the first few moments. Unconsciousness takes place with more or less rapidity when all sensation is abolished. While this condition is being reached the speech and countenance of the patient, so far from indicating suffering, often show that the thoughts that are passing through the minds are of the most happy character. Persons whose lives have been saved from drowning or other forms of suffocation have stated that they seemed up to the last moment of consciousness to be living a life of supreme bliss. Opium poisoning, and the condition produced by the inhalation of carbonic oxide gas resulting from the combustion of charcoal are examples of death beginning at the lungs. There are many cases on record of persons who have been recovered when thus poisoned, when the very extremity of life had been reached, and their evidence is uniformly to the effect that not only was there no pain but that the act of dying, so far as they had experienced it, was a most delightful process.

I have seen a great many people die, some of them great sinners, even ruffians of the most degraded type, and I have never yet witnessed in any case the slightest fear of death or of a hereafter. I have also been present at the death-beds of many pious and worthy persons, and I have never known an instance among this class of the least abhorrence of death or apprehension in regard to the future. A person in sound health, receiving intelligence that his death is to take place in a few moments would, undoubtedly, at first be greatly disturbed, and if religiously brought up, would probably wish to make preparations for departing this life. But the case is very different with those who have suffered from a long illness, and whose perceptions, therefore, have lost their sharpness. I have often told such persons that they had but a few minutes to live, but the intelligence has never been received in any other than the most composed and resigned manner. Certainly this is a wise provision of nature. For if, as with his present knowledge, it is impossible for man to escape death, it is well that he is constituted as to be able to accept the inevitable with dignity and composure.

PLUCKY JUDGE DRUM.

How He Entertained an Ugly Visitor at the Point of a Gun.

Hon. Thomas J. Drum, of Butte, M. T., is one of the best known lawyers in the West, says the St. Louis *Republic*. He is a lawyer of distinguished ability, and has followed mining excitements in the West for the last twenty years or more. Judge Drum has lived in California, Arizona, Nevada and Montana, and has been a conspicuous figure at the bar in each place. During the days of Tombstone's prosperity he was a United States Commisioner in Arizona, residing in Tombstone, and when President Arthur issued his famous proclamation ordering the outlaw cowboys to disband Judge Drum took an active part in its enforcement.

A brace of cowboys were at one time arraigned before him for holding up a United States mail coach between Benson and Tombstone. The judge held them both for trial without bail, and sent them to the Tucson jail for safe-keeping. This made the cowboys very indignant, and threats were made that Judge Drum's earthly career would be wound up. A few days after he ordered the prisoners taken to Tucson, Red Thornton, a notorious desperado, quietly entered Judge Drum's office. He recognized Thornton as he entered, but pretended to keep on writing without taking any notice of him. In the meantime, however, he managed to get his hand on a double-barreled shotgun, with the barrels abbreviated to about fourteen inches in length, that rested on his desk within easy reach. He lifted it up, and concealing it behind a pile of books, with his hand still grasping it, asked Thornton what he wanted, as that gentleman appeared in front of the desk.

"Be you Jedge Drum?" asked the desperado.

"I be," responded the judge.

"Well, I kem to settle wid you about sendin' the b'yes to jail," remarked the desperado.

"How are you going to do it?"

"Jedge, you're a party good-lookin' duck an' I hate ter do it, but I've got ter blow the top of your durned head off," remarked the gentleman with the red hair.

"That wouldn't be much fun for me, especially as they struck a big ore body in the Cromwell this morning," said the judge.

"Jedge, you're too durned funny," said the desperado, and he made a motion for his gun.

As he did so the judge presented his shotgun, stood up and held the muzzle within two feet of the desperado. This was something that had not been calculated on, and the intruder's disappointment was apparent.

"Throw up your hands!" called out the judge. Thornton obeyed promptly. "Now remain in that position until somebody comes along to take off your pistols," said the judge. Thornton did as he was told. In a few minutes footsteps were heard in the hall and the judge called the passer-by to enter. It happened to be a lawyer who had an office in the same building. Judge Drum told the lawyer to relieve the desperado of his pistols, warning the latter that if he made a move he would get a double charge of buckshot. The desperado's pistols were taken from him, and, in front of Judge Drum's gun, he was marched to the sheriff's office and turned over to the custody of that officer. It happened that the sheriff had a warrant for Thornton's arrest for stage-robbing, and he was sent to the Tucson jail to keep his friends company. Judge Drum had several exciting experiences in Arizona. His duty as United States Commissioner in a mail-robbing country gave him plenty of employment and brought him into official intercourse with some of the toughest men in the region. In 1885, when the "bottom fell out of Tombstone," Judge Drum moved to Butte, M. T., and is now one of the leading lawyers of that Territory.

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A MAN

UNACQUAINTED WITH THE GEOGRAPHY OF THE COUNTRY WILL OBTAIN MUCH USEFUL INFORMATION FROM A STUDY OF THIS MAP OF THE

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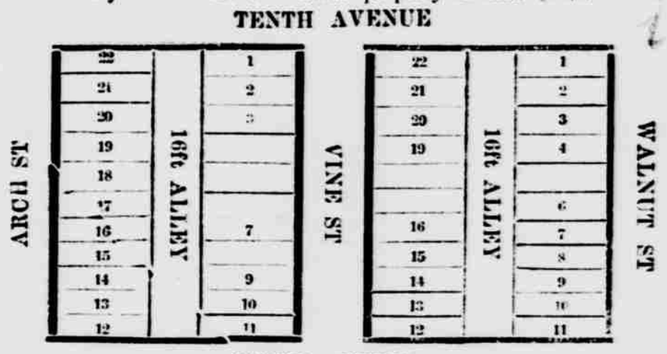

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