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THE MAGIC MIRROR.

Dim clouds across the field there float, And shadows slowly form, combined and gather shape. A tiny boat I see, tossed in the foaming brine. O rower, wait! Brave rower, stay! Nay, boat and rower fade away.

Again the dim clouds gather o'er And slowly shape a battlefield, And, dead or living, wounded sore, One lies beside a broken shield. O warrior, canst thou heed or hear? Nay, for the visions disappear.

Fling down the shining surface bare. An idle tale it tells to me. The shadowy form I image there I trace in earth and air and sea. Earth, sea and air from pole to pole The magic mirror of my soul! —May Kendall in Longman's Magazine.

# A VALUABLE VALISE.

Returning from New York city by the - railroad a few years ago, I bought of the train boy a copy of a Cincinnati paper, in which I read a long account of the robbery of the City National bank of L-, Ky., and the sudden disappearance of its teller, Harry W. Swope. As usual in such cases, he had been a trusted employee, a member of the church and a society young man. The robbery was a particularly cool one, the gentleman having quietly slipped \$90,000 in notes into a valise on the previous Saturday afternoon after bank hours and walked out into the cold world.

That was the last seen of him, and it was not until after the bank opened on Monday morning that any one suspected anything wrong. The affair created an immense sensation. "Society" was shocked, the church scandalized and the bank directors furious. The newspapers printed long stories of the Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde sort of existence the young man had led for a number of years, and numerous friends of the "lately departed" knowingly shook their heads as they told the reporters that they knew something like that was sure to happen soon.

This sensation so interested me that when I reached Cincinnati I scarcely realized the express was, as usual, an hour behind time and had failed to make connection with the train to Lshould therefore be compelled to take the last train going west that night, which would cause me to stop over night

officials moving about.

How long he sat beside me I don't remember, but after a time he slowly arose and walked over to the telegraph office bank. At the end of the short street on at the farther end of the room. Before in uniform stepped up to me and bawled out the names of the towns which the train about to start was bound for. Hurriedly picking up my valise, I made straight for the gate and was soon aboard my train for the west.

The journey was made with the usual discomfort and monotony. The depot at N- Y-, Ind., where I had to stop over from 10 p. m. till 5 the next other direction.

"Look here, ve visit to that town, and remembering too well my hotel experience there a year before I resolved to spend one night in the depot waiting room with a few other passengers who shared my mis- left,"

All that night the face of the stranger who had occupied a seat beside me in the Cincinnati depot haunted me. There was something about him that reminded me of Teller Swope. He was just his size and build. His mustache, to be sure, was wanting, but that he should shave off this appendage was to be considered a matter of course. The gold spectacles he wore very much resembled those I had associated with the face of the intellectual looking teller, and I had observed on his fingers a number of rings, jewelry that Mr. Swope was said to be very partial to. As I turned the matter over in my mind the more convinced I felt that I Post-Dispatch. had lost a splendid chance of capturing the thief and securing a \$10,000 reward.

When 5 o'clock at last came round, I boarded the train for L-, not in the best of humor, and two hours later arrived at home feeling very blue. After which your physician has failed to cure, taking a slight breakfast, I went down write for information about this treat- to the office, where the big robbery was ment, and their book of two hundred still the talk of the clerks. Each of them had a theory of his own as to where the thief had gone, and when they appealed to me for my opinion I dolefully recounted my experiences of the previous evening. Of course they unanimously agreed with me that I had very foolishly allowed the fugitive teller to

Just before going out to lunch a mesthe result of years of study and experi- senger boy languidly entered the office Thinking it was the usual commission to get a yard or two of "goods like the sample inclosed," I thrust it into my pocket and started out to dinner. I had not gone far before I suddenly stopped and took out the envelope the boy had given me, opened it and read it. At first I could not understand what it all meant: then I turned it over and went through it

again. It ran as follows: DEAR GEORGE-Come home at once. In open ing your valies to get your soiled linen to send it to the hundry I discovered it packed with bank notes! What does it mean? Is anything wrong? Come home at once.

officials there of my discovery. I found the president of the bank in his private office engaged with several lynx eyed individuals whom I suspected from their SOME OF THE WAYS IN WHICH WOMappearance to be, as it turned out they were, detectives.

When I was granted an interview and explained my discovery, it created, very Mothers Neglect Their Own Needs In Exnaturally, a sensation. At first the old gentleman was inclined to regard me as a crank, but when I asked him to allow a clerk to accompany me home he seemed to be satisfied I was in earnest. He consented to my proposal, but after a moment's thought he said an escort was un- forever from her life. Economy became necessary, thinking doubtless that the the god enthroned on every altar of her handsome reward would be a sufficient home. Ruffles and ribbons were the inducement to insure the safe delivery insignia of levity and extravagance. of the precious valise.

street in the direction of home I was and papers were regarded as luxuriesning out of the bank after me, hat in hand. He said "the old man" had reconsidered Devotion to "Will and the children" the matter and sent him to accompany came to mean self assumed slavery. me back with the money. This seemed Luster left the eye, elasticity the frame. to me to be quite satisfactory, and as the Through a mistaken sense of duty she fellow was a very genial young man we grew unkempt, narrow souled, repulsive. immediately fell to discussing the rob- It has been said that the true age is what bery of his bank. He congratulated me we look and feel. I have known sweet. on my good fortune and knowingly hint- fresh faced women of 70 who were ed that "the old gentleman" would treat younger than she. me cleverly in the way of reward.

gan to feel an instinctive distrust in him. To save the wages of servants she dethe habits and business methods of the health. Pushing the growing daughter missing teller, but he returned evasive to the front, she sees less and less of answers. In one or two little things he society, dresses with increasing plaincontradicted himself, and finally, when ness and sinks to a household drudge, I unexpectedly asked him how long he self made and valued at her own estihad been employed in the bank, he re- mate. his hands on the valise and then seize daughter would be well spent in procurthe first opportunity to bid me goodby. | ing to the mother the time for self cul-

ually to become very uncommunicative, with pure, uplifting thought, so the imand sights. Try as hard as I could I failed an. to get anything satisfactory out of him concerning the robbery.

When I reached home, I politely asked while I stepped up stairs to get a glimpse head of the stairs, very excited. In an adjoining room we examined the vali pers said Swope had carried off with him—somewhere about \$90,000.

I did not tell my wife of my suspicions of the young man down stairs, but I resolved at once to arm myself in order to be prepared for the worst. It is a well clared unconstitutional, and I quickly made up my mind that if my bodyguard would let him have a dose of cold lead.

as we started on our journey back to the effective rest. middle of the street. At the same mo-

shook me violently, "I thought you told | tled his cheek. me you were going to take the train west tonight. It has just pulled out, and you're

Opening my eyes I looked around the waiting room in a confused way and reached for my valise.

It was nowhere to be found! My brusque arouser instantly took in the situation, and with a look of intense disgust on his face said as he turned

"I guess that studentlike sport who was sitting beside you has taken care of your baggage. He passed me a few moments ago on his way to the train with a couple of valises. Next time you go traveling, young man, you had better take some one along with you to care for you while you sleep."-St. Louis

## A Transporting Tale.

Charlie Ryan, who handles the passenger business of the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad from Cincinnati, has also to handle some passenger business that requires Napoleonic genius-to wit, the pass fiends. One of these, a sleek, insinuating fellow, walked into Ryan's office one day in June.

"Ah," he said, "is this Mr. Ryan?" Mr. Ryan didn't deny that it was. "Ah, well, I called to see if I couldn't get transportation for myself over your

road to White Sulphur.' Mr. Ryan smiled divinely. "Certainly, sir, certainly: all you want."

"Ah, many thanks. Do I get it from

"Oh, no, sir," bowed the polite Charles. "You get it at the ticket office down stairs. We don't sell tickets up here," and the man was so overcome that he went down stairs and actually bought a 'ticket .- Detroit Free Press.

The Convolutions of Soup Creek. Soup creek, in McDowell county, W. Va., is a remarkable stream. The creek passes a hamlet called Vivian, and about a mile below returns, runs around a tract of land about a half mile wide, and then passes under itself. This freak is to describe Jacksonville, Fla., said, "It is caused by the lay of the land, which

#### INVITING OLD AGE.

EN LOSE THEIR YOUTH.

aggerated Devotion to the Children. Those Who Claim the Immunities of Age When Only In the Midday of Life.

The oldest woman I ever knew was 28. At marriage the graces of girlhood passed Dresses robbed of a yard or two grew As I left the bank and turned up the ungracefully short and narrow. Books joined by a young man who came run- not necessities. An hour spent in read-

In the great middle class of America I said this young man was a very the wife too often invites age by concenplied him with questions concerning stroys the joy of life, the buoyancy of

plied, after looking at me in a dazed sort Thirty-five has no more right to the once the thought came to me: What if The appropriation of the one is scarcely my "escort" was one of the young men I less ridiculous than the assumption of had seen outside the president's office. the other. Far better than the expen-Perhaps he had overheard our conversa- sive boarding school is the example of tion and had planned this neat little the mother in imparting to the daughter scheme of playing the role of a clerk of the faultless taste of dress, the gentle that he intended to make an effort to get money devoted to the education of the This theory was strengthened when I ture. As the fair, snowy page is not so noted that my "protector" seemed grad- useful or beautiful as the one written and the conversation during the rest of mature maiden is less valuable to home the journey referred to passing objects and society than the ripe, cultured wom-

People of 40 and 50 should not shelve themselves and claim the immunities of age. They are in the midday of life; the the young man to take a seat in the hall time for the exercise of knowledge, power, grace and beauty, for the upof the treasure. I found my wife at the lifting of humanity. These gifts may be enhanced by dress and manner. The influence of the attractive, self respectand at a rough estimate we placed the ing wife, mother, sister or friend is more amount at about the figure the newspa- potent for good than that of the one with neglected person and unlovely mind.

Discontent invites age. Indulging the unrest of the dissatisfied is destructive to looks and temper. In his "Story of a Country Town" Mr. E. W. Howe says, "Be contented if it kills you." The adknown fact that in Kentucky the sixth | vice is not so bad as it looks. Contentcommandment has long ago been de- ment and stagnation are not necessarily synonymous. One may be free from worry while striving for higher planes showed any signs of playing me false I or work. Woman should have the courage of repose. It is infinitely better than Contrary to my expectations the young | the morbid conscientionsness that goads fellow made no offer to carry the valise | to endless toil. Effective work requires

Judicious mental work may help to which I lived we stopped to take a car. If the one out of the ruts of premature eld he came back a strong lunged individual My friend had again become very affa- age. Read and think of what you read. ble, and as we stood on the corner he of- Don't use your mind as if it were a fered me a cigar. I took it, thanked sieve and you were trying to see how him, and placing my valise carefully on much you could pour through it. There the ground between my feet I struck a is a belief extant that knowlege, if in the Bank of England is about 77,745,match to light it. Just as I was in the gained at all, must be acquired in youth. | 000 in number, and they fill 13,400 boxes. act of doing so I received a blow from Fallacious theory! Behold Galilei at which if placed side by side would reach the left that sent me staggering into the threescore and ten pursuing his studies 21 miles. If the notes were placed in a with unflagging zeal, Cato beginning pile they would reach to a height of 5% ment my "protector" disappeared in the Greek when advanced in years, Ogilby miles, or if joined end to end would form commencing classical studies when past "Look here, young man," said a gruff | 50! Gladstone is as much the student | ficial area is rather less than that of Hyde voiced fellow in uniform at my side as he today as when the bloom of youth man-

Be kind to the feelings and fancies of | tons.-London Tit-Bits. youth. If they prove perennial, so much the better. Don't forbid yourself glad. recreative thought and action. Don't be ashamed to make yourself as pretty as you can. A sensible woman may feel a thrill of pleasure innocent as a maiden's when receiving a glance of respectful admiration from a manly man. Smile without affectation, be pleasant without | work was done .- New York Times. being silly-in short, be young as long as you can .- Alva Rosse in Kate Field's Washington.

## Cradles Hundreds of Years Ago.

In manuscripts of the ninth and tenth centuries we had pictures of cradles formed of part of a tree trunk dug out, inces are expected to be present with with holes bored through the sides for gifts.-Philadelphia Press. the passage of straps intended to tie the baby down in his bed. These dug out cradles are still common in modern Greece. When we come to consult the manuscripts and bas-reliefs of the fifteenth century, we notice that the cradles are no longer mere baskets or beds on rockers, but little swinging beds suspended between two pillars, the prototype of the modern bercelonnette.—Harper's Bazar.

## Yes, It Is Strictly Grammatical.

The following is quoted from a leading article in the New York Tribune: "By his death the community loses the foremost and the best of American | name.-Vogue. actors, and one of the greatest trage-

dians that have ever lived.'

To settle a dispute, will you kindly state whether the above is strictly according to English grammar?—New York

## An Author's Apology.

A clever story whose hero is a young rector speaks of his removing his "biretta" during a protracted walk. "I wantonly put it on his head," says the the Mediterranean. author, with a laugh. "I knew he ought not to roam the country in that headgear, but it was so becoming that I let him do it."-New York Times,

Graphic. A schoolboy the other day being told a great summer resort in winter."-New York Tribune.

AT THE OLD TRYSTING PLACE.

The dead leaves rustle at my feet, The moon is shining brightly; Something has softly dimmed my eyes. Across the path one shadow lis The path two trod so lightly.

It was upon a night like this Love left us only sorrow; I held her little hand in mine; That parting is to me divine. Then there was no tomorrow

Since I have learned life's lesson well Hearts are not easy broken. Tonight all joys I have forgot; There's something sacred in this spot, Where sweet goodbys were spoken

I'd feel less lonely with myself If I were broken hearted; Would I could live that night again, With all its sadness-sweetened pain, When love from love was parted! -Lippincott's.

What a Young Man Did.

his diploma before he was compelled to face poverty and family disgrace. His father, who had been reputed to be wealthy, was an embezzler and a fugitive from justice. His mother and sisters passed restraining them. Edward III were entirely dependent upon his modest earnings in a broker's office.

He had planned taking an advanced course of professional study in architec- quire of substance valued at more than ture. His ideal occupation had to be £200, when a reasonable embellishment abandoned. He was in love with a was tolerated. Henry IV confirmed this genial fellow, but somehow I soon be trating all ambition in money getting. charming girl, but ceased to visit her regulation, but it does not seem to have since marriage was out of the question. been stringently enforced, for Edward IV An opportunity for a year's travel in Eu- was constrained to impose a penalty of

bitter struggle to make a living at un- to aspire to be as good as their masters' congenial employment for his mother sponses.—Chambers' Journal. and sisters, to support his father abroad and to overcome prejudice caused by the family disgrace. He became a successof way, "Oh, about a year or two." At styles and tone of 70 than to those of 17. ful business man, but was prematurely ghosts of his youthful hopes.

exciting stories. They are dull and pro- quent changes of bedding and the use of saic, but are nevertheless heroic. To soap and water. No one has a right to give up all that is dear to youth and to keep an animal in confinement who finds the bank sent me for "protection," as he repose of manner, the gracious spirit so be loyal to family obligations sometimes it too much trouble to attend to its health insinuatingly put it. If so, I readily saw admirable in woman. A part of the is a crowning triumph of unselfishness. and comfort. It should be regularly fed -Youth's Companion.

#### Many Ministers Present.

States minister to England, wished to body. out and said, with surprise, "For gra- show understanding and character. cious' sake, how many American minisminister.—San Francisco Argonaut.

#### What Could He, Indeed?

of a fashion magazine from the United talked to and petted as well as cared for. States. After examining it carefully for Its intelligence develops, and the beast some moments one of the number said to becomes very like the human being.a missionary who had been talking to Olive Thorne Miller in Harper's Bazar. them against "foot binding:" "China women pinch foot. You say China woman velly bad. Melican woman not pinch foot. Melican woman pinch here," laying | Sing prison two days before the famous her hand on her waist. "Life here, life escape of Roehl and Pallister. The genial not in foot. Melican woman velly much keeper had shown us everything and evmore bad than China woman." What erybody of the hundreds of prisoners could the missionary say?-Louisville Recorder.

Five Years' Bank of England Paid Notes. The stock of paid notes for five years a ribbon 12,455 miles long. Their superpark. Their original value was over £1,750,626,600 and their weight over 902 form!

## Followed Plenty of Advice

A Connecticut farmer who wished to paint his barn asked all his neighbors what would be the best color. He accepted the advice of every one of them, and there never was a barn that showed as many colors as this one when the

The removal of the topknot of a Siamese prince, which indicates that he has reached manhood, is accompanied by imposing ceremonies which last several days. The governors of all the prov-

A Ring on His Hands.

"Is Harkins worrying over the fact that Miss de Riche jilted him?" "No; but it annoys him exceedingly to think that the ring she gave back was ing on a bicycle. A man afoot couldn't purchased at her father's store and paid for, too, by Jove!"-Harper's Bazar.

The Fact Remains.

Miss Azure Hughes-I emphatically deny that the educated woman is ashamed to admit her age.

Giglamps-But all the same I notice

memory so wonderful that on a wager he spent a whole day at an auction, and at night repeated all the sales, the prices | wheel up to the waiting hands of the bagand the names of the buyers.

The properties and use of the mariner's compass were known to the Chinese eenturies ago. It was brought to Europe in the thirteenth century and first used on

The smallest tree in Great Britain grows on the summit of Ben Lomond. It is the dwarf willow, which is mature when it attains the height of 2 inches.

A map of Ireland made of hairs taken from the heads of the different members of the McLean family is in the possession of Mrs. A. McLean of Pelham, Ga.

Ancient Girdles.

Ancient girdles were in some respects like the chatelaines not long ago so much the rage among the ladies, but they differed therefrom in being more useful, more comprehensive in regard both to sex and to articles worn, and when completely furnished more costly. It is partly for this last reason that we find girdles bequeathed as precious heirlooms and as valuable presents to keep the giver's memory green after death. They were not infrequently of great natrinsic value. One of King John's girdles was wrought with gold and adorned with gems, and that of the wislow of Sir Thomas Hungerford, bequeathed in 1504 to the mother church of Worcester, was of green color harnessed with silver and richly jeweled.

Not a few wealthy commoners were able to afford the luxury of gold embel-A college graduate had hardly received lished belts and were not superior to that pardonable vanity so long as no regulation prohibited them. Those who have studied our social history will not be surprised to learn that enactments were forbade any person under the degree of a knight from wearing girdles, gilt or silver, unless he should happen to be an esrope at a friend's expense was given up. 40 pence upon the wives of servants and Year after year he maintained a hard, laborers who should have the pertinence

> Making the Most of Household Pets. Whatever beast is kept it should have

its own quarters in which it is at home gray at 40. His life was haunted by the and free from intrusion and to which it can retire when it chooses. This home Such lives do not furnish material for should be kept clean and sweet by freon food that is most healthful for it, and what is quite as essential to its imploi and consequently to its health, it should Ex-Secretary Lincoln, while United be talked to and noticed as much as any-

get into Westminster on the occasion of | I am certain many animals and birds a special service there. Archdeacon Far- suffer and die in our homes from pure rar had told Mr. Lincoln to go to the loneliness and from being regarded by east door of the cathedral to avoid the their human neighbors as creatures of crowd and to inform the usher that he an altogether different nature. Whereas was the American minister, so that he the truth is, if one will but cultivate could be conducted at once to the arch- their acquaintance, he will be astonished deacon's pew. When Mr. Lincoln sent to see how the dullest and most stupid in his name and title, the usher came will wake out of its apparent torpor and

I know a family very fond of pets, in ters are there:" It seems that several which the creatures show most extraorgentlemen of the cloth had each deftly dinary individuality. Their cats do made his way into the church by inform- things no cat was ever before known to ing the usher that he was an American do; their parrots and other birds show what we call human nature in a wonderful degree, and their dogs almost talk. The reason is plain; the animal or A group of women in China got hold | bird is made one of the family. It is

## A Gleam of Sanshine

I stood in the great courtyard of Sing save the fatal five in the condemned cells. We had seen the workshops, the dining room, the tiny sleeping apartments, the chapel painted by a convict's pencil with scenes from the "Prodigal Son." As we turned to go away the attendant called to me:

"Look yonder." There was a little girl, the daughter of an official of the prison, surrounded by three men in stripes. How they kissed her innocent face and almost worshiped her as she stood among them with the sunlight playing around her slender

"Strange thing, sir, but these fellows do so love children!" said the keeper. "If we only let them play where the prisoners can see them, they will watch them by the hour and spend days in making little toys for them. Ay," continued he, "and robins, mice, rats, anything alive, they will catch, tame and cherish."

The scene in the grim, gaunt prison was a fascinating one. As the great iron gate clanged behind us I turned and looked again. The group was still there. gilded by the April sunlight.—New York Ledger.

## A Cyclist Catches a Train.

"We have all seen men run for a train," said a traveler. "The other day I saw a man make a break for one on a bicycle-We had halted at a station from which a straight, level road ran back at a right angle to the railroad. At a considerable distance up that road we saw a man comhave got anywhere near us from that distance, and it didn't seem as though the man on the wheel could get within rods of us, but he came down the street whizzing. When he had come about half the distance, the conductor gave the signal to start, and the engineer sounded the whistle and started the train. It she doesn't put her college year after her | was astonishing how fast the man on the wheel was coming now. There was a broad, level space around the station. Hortensius, the Roman orator, had a The bicyclist swept over this in a great curve that landed him alongside the baggage car. Dismounting, he lifted his gage master. A fraction of a second later the steps of the first passenger car came along, and the bicyclist stepped aboard a winner."-New York Sun.

Mr. and Mrs. Fitts were out driving. 'I wonder," said she, "just what the poor horse's feelings are? It must be just horrid to be driven and dragged around, without any idea as to where one is going, except as some one directs.'

"I fancy I can appreciate his feelings," replied Mr. Fitts calmly. "I imagine he feels just about as I do when you take me out on a shopping trip."-London Tit-Bits.