THE TALISMAN AND THE LEECH. A FRAGMENT.

It was a lovely lady that on her sick-bed lay It was her lordly lover spurred for the leed And met upon the highway, crouched on th

"Take this;" the crone, upstarting, placed on his hand a ring Of dull and tarnished copper, a mean and bat-

And before the knight could thank her she vanished quite away,

And there was naught but a wee brown bird

sitting upon the spray;
And the light-hearted lover onward he spurred
his courser gray;
And kissed the battered taiisman, and blessed
the kindly fay.

Up the ringing street he darted to the chief physician's door—
Heaven! what ghastly company was standing it before!
The souls of all the slain were there, ten thousand souls, I trow, Like witch-fires in a pallid night a-wavering

On passed the knight to another leach, but before the door perdie, Was quite as ghastly if not quite so great a company; And up and down the burg

"Alack! doth never a leech have skill?" was his despairing cry;
"And must the Lady Cunegund in her youth
and beauty die?
There is but one physician left, and yonder at his door— O, heavens! there floats a single ghost—a sin-

lady's hurt away. away with me, And thou shalt save a precious life, and win a priceless fee."

Up sprang the good physician then behind the gallant knight,
And swiftly up the sounding road clattered the courser wight; And merrily the knight he sang and shoute "A blessing on the kindly fay that guided me

Dost thou not know, Sir Knight, there is no goblin, neither fay?
But tell me truly, who it was to me thy steps did guide, For how should a poor leech be known

"O, trust me, trust me, Master Leech, thy fame spreads far and near; On every side of thy healing skill what mira cles we hear! For though thy cheek doth brightly bear the rosy hue of youth,

"Sir Knight, it ill becomes thy rank to mock a simple man, One who doth practice Gaien's art with all the skill he can; But only yesterday I hung my shingle out at

And I have had but a single call-one patient,

"Now by St. Anthony!" exclaimed the

THE LOVERS' QUARREL. "Never while I live," said Miss Rash-

leigh, "never while I live, will I see your face again! She meant it when she said it; and as

ring towards her lover, who had offended Orville lying quite unconscious, like It missed him and rolled down upon

the floor and over the sill of an open china closet—one of those old-fashioned closets that used to stand on either side of the mantel-piece.

room, he turned to pick it up. The ring she had worn would always be precious

Miss Rashleigh went straight to her own room, as miserable a girl as ever lived, and a moment later Grandmother Rashleigh bustled into the drawingroom, pushed the open closet door to, picked up the fallen magazine, set the annuals and books of poetry straight on the table, pulled down the shades, arranged the chairs mathematically against the wall, and bustled out again. "I've had these things fifty years." she said to herself, "and ther's Cornelia to. I shouted and howled and kicked, and her beau with no more respect for them than if they were so much lum- "O, oh, oh, oh, oh!" shri

and went away to her own room up stairs, where a fine silk patchwork quilt "You banged the door on me," said was in the frame, a surprise for said Mr Spear. Cornelia.

times to Tripheny King, who was helping her; "I rather think Cornelia will for a fortnight, in this small family." have the best thing I've done; and We use the parlor much more, and I there's a bit in it of every handsome am deaf, and so is old Hepsiba, and silk there's ever been in the family, and of her father's and grandfather's wed- you'd have killed him, Cornelia," added ding vests."
"Yes'm, its real memorial quilt,"

said Tripheny. "It takes you, mum, to plan such things." The quilt was finished and bound

that afternoon, and Tripheny's joy of ville. "I knew that closet had a spring-quilting being over she went home. lock. No: don't blame Cornelia." But she carried about the village the news that she "was sure all was over sighed Cornelia. "O! how pale you But she carried about the village the between Miss Rashleigh and Mr. Spear. | are! She'd heard Cornelia saying something to her grandma, and the old lady was furious.

"He would never have done that if he had cared for me, you know, grandma," Cornelia was saying at that mo-"Stuff and nonsense! He loves the talk things over together."

men!" Cornelia answered.

And then her grandmother made the house too hot to hold her, and she went A Woman Who Could Keep a Secret. to her mother's, her usual course when she fell out with grandma.

he, he! Orville Spear ha'n't been tiring nearly five years ago. The great-

should talk over my affairs and every with her and who attended her school, meddling old maid giggle about them!" that she was 105 years old.—Philadel-

Piety jumped to her feet, seized her parasol and turned towards the door.

"Good afternoon, Miss Cornelia and Mrs. Rashleigh," she said, with a contemptuous courtesy. "I'll remember for it the proprietor said: "Never mind; it doesn't amount to much; some time."

"The proprietor said it doesn't amount to much; some time."

But Cornelia was crying.
"O, mother, dear," she sobbed, "is isn't true, is it? Orville did feel dread-

fully. Won't you see, mother?" But at this moment Sally, the little servant girl from Grandua Rashleigh's, came flying into the room, without any more warning than if she had been

shot from a gun.
"The old missus says you are to come over at once, both you ladies!" she cried, standing before Mrs. Rashleigh, and repeating her lesson like a parrot. 'There's something of importance, and you're needed at wonst."

"Get your bonnet, Cornelia," said her mother. "I'll just put on this sun-hat. What is it, Sally; do you know?" "I know it's something dreadful. "My love is lying dying, and for the leech I go.
In youder burg physicians a many are, I trow:
Would that the skillfulest of all among them

"I know it's something dreaming.

Missus is almost wild, and there's lots of folks there. Something about Mr.

Spear."
The two ladies said no more. They hurried away together, and, entering grandma's parlor, found there assembled more of the members of the Spear family, and a friend or two besides.

Orville had, indeed, disappeared. He had never been home since his visit to Cornelia, and now the alarmed relatives were anxious to get all the information they could regarding the interview between Orville and Cornelia.

"I had reason to be angry, Mrs. Spear," said Cornelia, proudly; "good reason, and I took off my ring and gave it back and went out of the room. That is all I know. I don't know when he went or where. I-I thought he woudn't mind so much. I believed he had stopped caring about me."

"He ought to now, at all events," said grandma. "My boy is dead, I'm sure. I shall have the pond dragged!" said Mrs.

watched the spirit of each patient under a his money at home. He wouldn't have gone traveling without a change of clothes. O, you wicked girl!" "I hope," cried the eldest Miss Spear, "that he'll haunt you!"

"I could kill you, you hateful thing!" cried the youngest Miss Spear. Cornelia had kept up bravely until

now; but when her two friends turned upon her thus, she gave a little scream and fell over on the sofa. She was in a dead swoon, and the water they sprinkled in her face did not bring Grandma grew frightened.

"I hope it isn't an attack of heart disease," she said. "Poor child! she looks as if she were dead." "O, don't say that," cried the mother.

They gathered around Cornelia and did all they could for her, and soon she recovered and sat up, but all her pride O. dear! O, dear. wish I had died! I wish I had never

come to! O, Orville! Orville! what has become of you?" "O! oh!" moaned the mother. "O! oh!" moaned the sisters

And Cornelia's head fell back again. "Emma, get the lavender out of the daughter. "Quick! It's on the corner

Mrs. Rashleigh rushed to the closet. "It won't open," she cried wildly. "It's a patent lock," said grandma; "locks as it shuts. Here's the

And Mrs. Rashleigh flew back to the door, opened it and uttered a There on the floor, huddled up under the shelf, lay poor Orville Spear.

Cornelia sat and stared at him in the most awful way. She thought him dead, but the more experienced matron saw that he was yet living.

Sally was sent post haste for the doc-tor; and there, in Mrs. Rashleigh's she spoke, she threw her bethrothal drawing-room, he found Cornelia and Romeo and Juliet in the scene at the tomb, and the rest of the party in a state of bewilderment and terror past description.

At last, however, both were conscious and seated in arm-chairs, regarded each She did not notice where it rolled; he did though; and after she had left the and Mr. Orville Spear uttered the first

"Of all the confounded fools-" "Who, dear?" asked his mother. "Me," said Orville, regardless of grammar. "Who shut me in?"

"What were you in the closet for?" asked grandma, with a guilty con-"To pick something up that rolled there," said Orville.

"The ring?" asked Cornelia, frantic-"Yes, the ring," said Mr. Spear. "More fool I! Some one banged the door

"O, oh, oh, oh!" shrieked Cornelia, "I believe you hid there just to kill me, Then she closed the door behind her, for no other purpose than out of re-

"A jealous woman will do Grandma Rashleigh gave every young person of the family something of her own manufacture on his or her wedding everything flying. I just pushed it as I passed, and you ought to bless your "Now," the old lady had said a dozen stars that you are alive, for people don't the old lady, "throwing his pretty dia-

mond ring on the floor! "O!" moaned Cornelia. "O!" "It wasn't her fault. I was a confounded fool all through!" cried Or-

"And how pale you are, Cornelia!" sighed Orville. "Did you really care when you thought I was dead?"

"Ladies," said Grandma Rashleigh, "now that Orville has recovered and is getting on, let us go into the other room, and leave these two young folks to

ground you walk on!" said the old lady.
"You'll never get such another, CorWhen the tea bell rang soon after, Orvifle and Cornelia came out of the "I shall never marry at all; I hate drawing room arm in arm, and the wedding-day was fixed .- Philadelphic Call.

Miss Elizabeth Richards, a member Three days passed. At the end of the third Piety Pratt stepped in at Mrs. Rashleigh's—young Mrs. Rashleigh, as they called her, though she was nearly fifty, for grandma was old Mrs. Rashleigh. leigh.

"I expect you'll feel upset when I tell you the news, Cornelia," said she.

"You've been too cruel this time—he, he! Orville Spear he'r't here."

"You've been too cruel this time—he, he! Orville Spear he'r't here." heard of since he was at your house. His mother says he went over to explain and make up, and he never came back—he, he! She thought maybe he'd stepped over to his brother's, but he hadn't—he, he! I reckon he's drowned himself!"

Luring nearly live years ago. The greatest secret of her life was her age, and this she never told any one, always avoiding the question when asked. On her death-bed, a few hours before she died, she refused to reveal the number of years she had lived, and destroyed all avidences of the date of her birth. all evidences of the date of her birth. "I don't know why the whole town It is asserted by one who was familiar

phia Record. some tickets." Josh turned and walked has a long tongue."

some tickets." Josh turned and walked has a some tickets." Josh turned and walked has a long tongue."

some tickets." Josh turned and walked how he had been misuadersteed he blushed and stam.

(I) I beg.pardon, Miss. I didn't mean minutes. They are frequently found in Montana fighting with snakes, always coming out victors.—N. Y. Sun.

England allows children to work in stores when ten years old, but from that age until fourteen they must go to school half a day.

Come With the Crowd.

See here, my boy! The bells have rung the old year out and the new one n and a new watch has come on deck. If you think you are going right along in the same old grooves, while the rest of us are making changes, you are up a tree. You've got to toe the mark along with the remainder of the world.

Now, then; you are beginning life. You are from sixteen to twenty-one years old. You think you know all about it, but the fact is you are'nt more than half-baked yet. What you don't know would cover all Lake Erie, while your worldly wisdom wouldn't knock an owl off his perch. Suppose you make a resolve to begin the year 1884 by not knowing more than half as much as Plato, Diogenes and other wise men. If you should condescend to admit that you didn't even know more than your own father, it wouldn't greatly affect your general standing with the world. Perhaps you smoke and chew. What for? What's the use of paying out \$100

a year to insure bad breath, headaches, red eves, decayed teeth and nervous debility, when you can secure a broken leg, which is far nicer, by a tumble down stairs? Chewing is a vicious, nasty habit. Smoking affects the brain and nerves and stomach. We admit that a young chap of your age look like a great statesman when he comes down the avenue puffing away at a five cent grab, but suppose you didn't look like anybody but yourself?

Maybe you drink a little; very probably you do. A young man of your age is apt to think it smart to guzzle down lager and tipple wine, but there's where he is lame. Even old drunkards would caution you against the practice. Drink not only wastes money, but it severs friendships, breeds anger, brings about quarrels, and there is no end to the train of wretchedness it entails. Yes, great lawyers, statesmen, poets and philosophers drink, but they lose respect by it. Men have a contempt for their weakness, and the world reads their epitaphs with sneers. Don't make a persimmon of yourself because some

one else has. Played poker or faro yet? If so, we hope you got such a skinning as will last you your life-time. Let gambling alone. Fight as shy of gambling rooms as you would of a mad dog. People tell you about luck. That's all bosh. The gambler has you by the throat the moment you enter his door. You can't make any money out of him, but he will see to it that you add to his capital.

Now, as to your personal traits. You may have come naturally by your egotism, but keep it in check. The world in general looks upon it as a disease. Even if you know all you think Men hate boasters and braggarts.

Bluntness is a good thing sometimes; sometimes it isn't. Civility and a conscientious regard for other people's heaven? No; he is in union with othing vice; be honest in your opinions, in the word, and the rest in ut don't imagine that it is your duty to break up a family or start a church scandal; in your dealings be square. You may lose by it for a time, but when the public comes to understand that you are a just and upright man you'll and the Bible is preached in every pulmake money and keep friends as well.

In fact, young man, suppose you square up with your tailor, pay the balance at your boot-makers, part your hair on the side and fall into procession with the rest of us. We don't claim to be pretty, and we don't own all the brains in the country, but we can teach you several things that may come useful in future years, and we guarantee to prove that horse sense and square dealing are certain to pay a semi-annual dividend .- Detroit Free Press.

A Real Santa Claus.

As long as Mr. Samuel M. Cortright was a resident of Mauch Chunk he gladdened the heart of every poor child in that town by presenting it every Christmas with gifts in some shape or other, and for years his mode of observing Christmas was the feature of the day. New that Mr. Cortright is a citizen of Allentown, he dispenses his favors to the children of this city, and the thousands of gifts he distributed yesterday have added to his fame as the children's friend. On Monday his announced that at two o'clock on Tuesday he would distribute 4,000 presents to 4,000 poor children and invited them to call around at that hour. Long be-fore the appointed time the children were on hand, as well as grown persons, who came with the expectation of seeing fun, and they were not disappointed. To lend to the interest of the occasion Mr. Cortright engaged the Allentown Band, and the music attracted others who would otherwise not have graced the occasion. At two o'clock the fun began. Instead of 4,000 poor children being on hand there were about 400, the town not being able to raise the first number. It is strongly hinted that many of those who did assemble were not very poor, but with characteristic liberality Mr. Cortright did not draw the line between the poor and those better off. The snow, which fell thick and fast, did not appear to dampen the ardor of the boys, though some of the younger ones were nearly snowed under. At first the children passed by the windows two by two and received their presents, but soon this system was broken up, and then the presents were pitched out the windows. This caused a great deal of scrambling and afforded the four hundred spectators any amount of fun. The gifts consisted of portfolio slates, scrap books, dolls of all sizes and nationalities, nig-ger babies, savings banks, tops, balls, whips, popguns, tin horns, express wagons and toys of all kinds and descriptions. The fun was kept up for about two hours. Some of the more successful grabbers succeeded in getting eight or ten toys. The children, as a rule, all fared well, and in their estimation Mr. Cortright is the prince of good fellows. -Allentown (Pa.) Chronicle.

They Met by Chance.

In a city a man may ride up and down on the cars with another, stand at church and meet him daily and yet not know his name for years. Such an instance had the finish put to it yesterday. A citizen coming down Clifford Street in this world.—Norristown Herald. overtook a gentleman whom he had talked with at various times, and saluted

"Good morning, Mr.—ah—Mr.—'hem —good morning." "Same to you, Mr. -let's see-seegood morning!" "Say," said the first, as he halted,

"do you want to know my name?" "Well, sir, it's Baker-Christian Baker."

"And mine," replied the other, "is Cooper—George Cooper. Let us consider ourselves introduced and take the car at the next corner."-Detroit Free

-The United States boasts the only poisonous lizard, the Heloderma, a specimen of which was recently exhibited at the Central Park Zoo. Experiments were tried with it at the Smithsonian, and the scientist who was bitten

SCHOOL AND CHUPCH.

-Kentucky pays her common school teachers \$1.40 for each pupil.-Louisville Courier-Journal.

-Sitting Bull has become a very good Indian. He is lending himself as curiosity to Dakota church fairs .-Siouz City Journal. -"A discourse to old bachelors and maids, young men and maidens, on the sin of single blessedness," was the ad-

vertised title to one of a recent Sunday's sermons in New York. -Figures showing the growth of Christianity since its early stages have been compiled and are as follows: Day of Pentecost, 3,000; end of first century. 500,000; reign of Constantine, 10,000,-000; eighth century, 30,000,000; Re-formation, 100,000,000; in 1883, 450,-

000,000. - Chicago Tribune. -Forty professors in American colleges met at Columbia College recently for the purpose of forming a society to promote the study of modern languages. A resolution was discussed that the degree of B. A. should not be conferred on any student who could not read fluently French and German. - N. Y.

-The prayer-book now in the pew President Arthur uses at St. John's Church is the same that has been used by all Presidents who have attended that church. It is a plain, large-sized book, bound in smooth black morocco. with "President's pew" printed in gold on it in plain Roman text. - Washington

—The Baptists in Virginia have es-tablished a ministers' relief fund for the aid of aged and disabled ministers. One-third of the funds annually received is invested as a permanent fund, the annual interest on which, with the other two-thirds, is used for the relief of needy minsters and their families. The permanent funds amount to \$6,505. N. Y. Examiner.

-The Calvary Baptist Church, of New York, was opened to the public re-cently. It is built of Lockport sandstone, English Gothic style, with five front porches and spire 229 feet high. The building cost \$500,000, and the or-gan \$20,000. At the close of the sermon a collection of \$30,000 was made. - N. Y. Tribune.

-The assertion is made by Rev. E. E. Hale, over his own signature, that public schools in Boston are closed by local school committees to give an opportunity for licensing liquor sellers. By Massachusetts law no saloon can be licensed within a given distance of a public school. By the opportune closing of one of the schools for a few days eleven saloons obtained licenses, and then it was teopened .- Boston Herald.

-From the altar in the Catholic church I was excluded, because there is a law that no married priest shall celebrate. What! is God alone sittingly represented on earth by an equally holy trinity, the husband, the wife and the child. I believe that the day when priests are allowed to marry, the Pope ceases to be bishop of Rome, pit and read in every home, will see the reform in France accomplished. - Pere Hyacinthe.

PUNGENT PARAGRAPHS.

-Three degrees of mining speculation - Positive-mine; comparativeminer: superlative-minus.

Women never will be paid as much for lecturing as men, simply because they have done so much of it for nothing .- Cucago Journal. -A woman always carries her purse

in her hand so that other women will

see it: a man carries his in his inside pocket so that his wife won't see it .-- Live while you may-Timid passenger (as the gale freshened.) "Is there any danger?" Tar (ominously,) "Well, them as likes a good dinner had better hev it to-day!"—Chicago Trib-

-It was loaded-He blew into his gun to see
If loading up it needed;
The jury to a man agree
The gun blew after he did.

-Chicago Sun. -The man who gets up in the morning feeling that he would like to die fo his country, changes his mind the minute he feels in his pocket and finds he has been "stuck with a trade dollar. -Detroit Free Press.

-ln a prayer meeting in Westfield. Mass., a brother arose and said: "I want to hear sung that beautiful hymn, 'Split Doors.'" A ripple of laughter was suppressed by a sister who struck up "Gates Ajar." "That's it! that's it!" the brother shouted, as he sat down to enjoy the melody. - Boston

-A cynical old bachelor, who firmly believes that all women have something to say on all subjects, recently asked a female friend: "Well, madam, what do you hold on the question of female suffrage?" To him the lady replied, calmly: "Sir, I hold my tongue."-

N. Y. Independent. -A young woman in Holyoke, Mass., called on the City Clerk, and, after examining the marriage license register, told him to erase her name, as the young man who had taken out a certificate did it without her leave, and she did not propose to marry him. She was accommodated.—Boston Herald.

-A letter was recently received by a Massachusetts newspaper addressed to the "Paregoric editor." It was thought to be intended for the Paragraph editor, but one of the staff, who had just been made the happy father of a beautiful baby, said he guessed it was for him, and it was handed over to him.-Somerville Journal.

-Rev. Mr. Talmage, in a sermon recently, told of a New York merchant who stopped the use of the "vile weed" and saved his tobacco-money, and at the end of thirty-nine years he had \$20,-102.03. At this rate he would have to do without tobacco and save his money the polls with him, attend the same for more than a thousand years before

Curious Blunders.

Many curious blunders happen in our every-day life which, if written up, would be very amusing. For example, I saw a very handsome young fellow standing at the furnishing-goods counter at Macy's the other day. Looking innocently at the handsome young lady clerk behind the counter, he remarked:

"I suppose you have something pretty in scarfs, Miss?" "O yes," said the rosy-cheeked girl, handing down a package, "here's some blue satins for a dollar—just too sweet for anything."

"I think you are a little dear," he said, with a pleasant smile. "You are very complimentary," she replied, her cheeks covered with crimson blashes.

When he thought how he had been misunderstood he blushed and stam-



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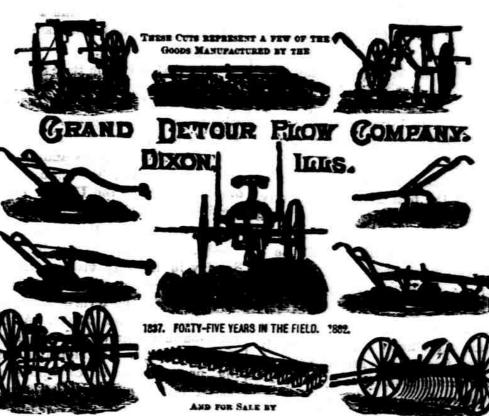
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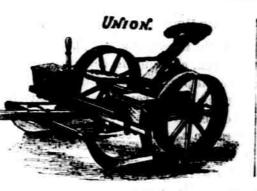
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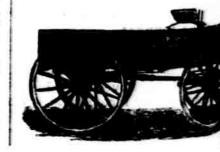
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