

Belleville, Pa., June 7, 1907.

## OPENING.

Cold Mrs. Earth was wrapped in gray  
When Spring came dancing along the way.  
Carrying a basket of brilliant hues  
From which each tree and twig may choose.  
The Maples, which looked so dry and dead,  
Covered themselves with tassels of red;  
Shrubs and bushes chose orange and yellow  
Till each seemed gay as his fellow;  
The Crocus offered her chalice bold  
To catch some gleaming bits of gold.

The gay Dutch Tulips snatched two rays  
And flouted in Andalusian blaze;  
Violets, wet with morning dew,  
Selected masses of purple and blue;  
Timid Arabus, hiding from sight,  
Enveloped itself in pink and white;  
Pansies thought it the greatest fun  
To take every color under the sun,  
And from their freshly made brown beds  
Gaily lifted their smiling heads.

Fair Spring has brought every shade of green  
And flung them now over all to be seen,  
Till the fields in overall brilliance shone,  
And every plant wore a different tone.  
Having thus adorned the trees and flowers,  
Spring hastened to bring refreshing showers.  
Cold Mrs. Earth, in new robes bedight,  
Was warm and young, to her heart's delight.

—By E. S. A.

## THE-HAUNTED-COAT.

On the afternoon of her graduation day Betty went up in the garret, because she felt uncertain and new, needing the grave companionship of things that had stepped aside with honorably rounded careers, to meditate among cobwebs. The June sun was warm on the roof, bringing out the smell of old resin from the knots in the rafters. Cobwebs here and there catching the sunlight upon their dust, demonstrated something geometrically with golden lines and angles against dark corners. A mud-wasp grumbled up and down the dim window, and in the street a hand-organ droned a march.

Betty, as clean and new in her white gown and slippers as a butterfly still hanging to its cocoon with creases in its wings showing how it was packed, perched awkwardly upon her old high-chair, and wondered what she ought to be thinking about. Life was solemn. Everybody had said so that morning. Her own essay had been to that effect, with many quotations to prove the point. "Life is real, life is earnest." The world, in effect, needed a number of things done to it, and young people who were just commencing bore heavy responsibility.

The discarded furniture and rubbish seemed taking counsel together. "Is it so solemn?" The cradle asked that, and a cross of wax-flowers under a glass shade answered:

"Why should it be so? One lives as long as one is pretty or useful, or thought to be so; then one comes up here. That is all."  
"It is very quiet," said a broken toy drum, across whose head lay a dejected doll in hoop-skirts; but a haircloth sofa replied with dignity:

"Well, what then? Quiet is a good thing."

The opinion of an old leather trunk, hardly perceptible in a dark chimney-corner, seemed less simple of interpretation. Her mother had shown her what was in it, crying, and that grief had bewildered Betty to whom all things before she was born seemed remote. The desire of idle hands to pry and seek came upon her, the lid went back with a shrill cry, and the smell of faded disintegrating things came up. She lifted the yellow lined cloth and admired the martial glitter of the uniform beneath, patting the smooth black broad-cloth, and running her fingers over the yellow buttons. How fine that young noble of hers must have looked in it! The girls in the queer dresses of those days must have thought so. When he wore it he was only a few years older than Betty, and he had died before he knew anything about being old and bald, when he looked as he did in the picture downstairs, like the young man Betty knew, except for wearing odd-looking collars, and those looks of hair in front of his ears.

She folded the coat over the trunk lid so that the rows of buttons presented a martial front. The long tails showed white silk lining; the epaulets must have been gorgeous when his trim young shoulders were under them. This was the sort of coat one wore to balls, had he loved to dance then as much as Betty did now? Had he been very sorry to die? Once that coat had been an unimportant part of him—now it was all that remained, stitches, shoulder-padding, a little spot that might have been wine, the buttons showing how they had been buttoned and unbuttoned—but he was quite unreal, who had once been as real as Betty herself. Did one stop being real? Would Betty's graduating gown outlast Betty?

A young man stood by the trunk looking down upon its contents with a thoughtful air.

"You are a dream, aren't you?" whispered Betty.

"That's all."  
But his voice was wistful as he wished he were more than that. Then he smiled dimly.

"How fine I used to feel in that! There's nothing like a little gold braid to set a fellow up." He touched the epaulets carelessly. There was a ball—do they play the 'Blue Danube' now?"

"Not often, but we're going to have it to-night."  
"To-night? What's to-night?"

"My graduation reception. We have a little dance afterward, you know."  
"Is that so? I'd have liked to go first-rate—thirty years ago—you'd have given me a dance, wouldn't you? Can I forget that night in June?" he hummed.

"And it's as real to you now as it used to be to me—I say—"

"He was sitting on the coat."  
"The silk is falling to pieces, and the moths have been at the sleeves." He sighed as he buttoned it over his chest. "It's odd how fond one is of the little things one leaves behind; they aren't of any real consequence, yet we keep buzzing about like bees over honey—and it's foolish to come back, yet we're always doing it. Can I forget that night in June?—May I have the honor?"

He bowed before her with crooked elbow. Something happened to the garret; there were glimmering lights and shadows of another place, as when you take two

photographs on the same plate, and these strengthened and brightened until there was a great room banked with flowers and palms; an orchestra at one end of the room played the "Blue Danube," and there was such a crowd of people in gay queer clothes as Betty had never seen in all her days.

"May I have the honor?" said the trim young officer again, still bowing and offering his arm. His coat looked very new indeed. One could not imagine moth holes and tattered linings. She slipped her hand under his elbow and was whirled into the rustling crowd—all drifting together like autumn leaves while the band played the "Blue Danube."

"How do you like it?" whispered her uncle. "It's my first official ball. I couldn't come to yours, you see, so I've taken you to mine. It's old-fashioned, I know—but once it was real!"

"I'm just dreaming it?" said Betty dolefully.

"Of course. What else could there be now? What are you looking sad for? It's not gloomy. Why should things be sad just because they're over?"

Yet the dream ladies, though they smiled and bowed and waved their fans as they circled softly about in their funny hoops, might have been saying to themselves or whispering to their partners: "How nice it would be if it were only real."

"You mustn't cry," said her uncle anxiously; "please don't! It will go—whisk—! if you do, for it's only a dream—about—! There she is! Look quick! That dark girl with red roses at her breast, and one in her hair. She had to come. It was her dream, too. She had promised me a dancer, and I can't give it up, even for you, though you are real. Stay here, Betty, and keep the dream steady for us."

Betty stood by a pillar while he departed swiftly, and tried stoutly to hold the dream to its moorings, though sometimes it would waver, like a fog before a wind, showing a garret rafter through the chandelier, or an outcropping of the leather trunk where should be a red sofa with two pale ladies sitting on it.

Her uncle and the dark girl did not dance together long, but went out under an archway which looked cool and dim, and Betty was left alone, watching the people. At first she had to laugh a little at the hoops; presently her opinion changed, the hoops seemed the only proper dress in the world, and it was she who was absurd and out of date. One's hair, moreover, should be parted in the middle, brought down over the ears with a rigid smoothness, then curl accurately in the neck, and have a moss-rose or camelia tucked into it. Betty gathered her slim skirts even more tightly about her and stood close to her pillar. How real they seemed! Would Betty's graduating reception ever be like this?

"Here she is!" said her uncle. He was smiling. The dark girl was on his arm, and no longer wore a rose in her hair, for it had changed to the buttonhole of the young officer's coat, and smelled so sweet that Betty's face suddenly quivered and wrinkled.

"You mustn't cry!" said her uncle anxiously.

"It's the music and the rose!" gasped Betty.

"If you cry, you'll spoil everything," pleaded the dark girl, clasping her hands.

"Oh, please don't cry!"

"There isn't anything to be sorry about, Betty. I thought it would give you pleasure."

"But—it's all over, and you died. You were happy about her and the rose, and all, but nothing ever came of it, and it's so long ago!"

"We had this evening, didn't we?—besides—"

The girl caught Betty's ankle around the neck and pointed at Betty's face.

"It's rolling down her cheek—when it falls—"

The tear splashed from Betty's chin to the floor, the room wavered and broke into ripples like a lake with rain on it, and the brown rafter shut down. One glimpse of two reproaching young faces looking back at her, and then there was only the evil habit of gambling in the future. He became unconscious through the pain, but was brought round again in a few minutes.

—Two Northerners, traveling in the mountains of Kentucky, had gone for hours and hours without seeing a sign of life. At last they came to a cabin in a clearing. The boys lay in their dirt holes, the thin claybank male gazed round and round in a circle to save the trouble of walking, and one lank man, whose clothes were the color of the claybank male leaned against a tree and let time roll by.

"How do you do?" said one of the Northerners.

"Howdy?"

"Pleasant country."

The native shifted his quid and granted, "Lived here all your life?"

"Not yet," he said languidly.

Nature's Object Lesson.

In almost every community will be found some one woman who is a splendid example of perfect health. She knows nothing of disease which afflicts most women. Motherhood to her is pure joy with scarce a pain-pang to mar it. She can enjoy life to the full, eat heartily, sleep soundly and throw her whole energy into work or play as it may happen. That woman is Nature's object lesson. She has no privilege above any other member of her sex. No rights that do not belong to every woman. This fact has been proven in thousands of cases in which women have been lifted from misery up to the high level of robust health by the use of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. The possibilities of perfect health inhere in every woman. Its development is obstructed by local diseases. "Favorite Prescription" removes the obstruction and makes weak women strong and sick women well.

—In ordering eggs from advertisers or in filling mail orders great care should be used to avoid mistakes. Be sure you are right and then go ahead.

## VERSES FOR "THE BLUES."

Just being happy  
Is a fine thing to do;  
Looking on the bright side  
Rather than the blue;  
Sad or sunny musing  
Is largely in the choosing,  
And just being happy  
Is brave work and true.

Just being happy  
Helps other souls along;  
Their burdens may be heavy  
And they are not strong;  
And your own sky will lighten  
If other skies you brighten  
By being just happy  
With a heart full of song.

## THE PROFESSOR'S WAY.

By ERNEST LEWIS.

Professor Sweetzer, naturalist for a certain New England college, was a little man. He was round shouldered. He was awkward on his legs. He wore goggles for his weak eyes, and he arrived at the age of fifty-five without having loved. As between bugs and beetles were ahead. It was only on rare occasions and when under the stress of excitement that he took the slightest notice of the other sex. Even when he did sit up and take notice of them he could not have recalled half an hour later what he said or whether they had red hair or black.

On a certain day it came to the ears of Professor Sweetzer that a portion of the vertebrae of a whale had been found on a farm in Connecticut. He arrived on the spot next day and verified the find. On an occasion thousands of years before an old bull whale had decided to take a trip inland and through some error of judgment had left his bones in a gravel pit. A piece of the backbone six feet long had been uncovered. The professor wanted to excavate for the rest. Where there is six feet of whale you can take it that there is more. He engaged board at the Widow Webb's and hired a man to wield the pick and shovel and thus went to work.

The Widow Webb was fat and forty and childless. She was worth a stony farm and \$900 in cash. A still older sister lived with her, and the farm work was done by a hired man with the good old fashioned name of Hiram Stebbins. Hiram was thirty-five and drank nothing stronger than cider, but he thought deeply. One of them was that if he married the widow he would become the possessor of the farm and \$900. He had been thinking of this and taking the farm work easy when Professor Sweetzer put in an appearance. Hiram looked at him and grinned. If any one had told him that within a week he would be jealous of that little dried up and humped specimen of humanity, he would have roared with laughter.

As soon as the professor had inspected the bone and become enthusiastic, he was a changed man. He became a fluent talker. He became fatherly toward the widow. He called her "my child," and often took her hand and held it while he tried to make her understand that he really was a chemist and that a chisel could stand on his tail in the water as well as on his head.

When Hiram witnessed the hand holding act, he quit grinning. He was mad all that day as he hoed corn. He was mad when he came up to supper. He was mad when one of the cows kicked him at milking time. While the professor took a ramble in search of beetles, Hiram carried the milk into the kitchen and began:

"Widder Webb, how does it feel to have a baboon holding your hand?"

"Hiram, what do you mean?" was demanded.

"I mean that I have seen you and that little runt of a man squeezing hands a dozen times, and neither of you seems to care who stands by. Fell in love mighty quick, didn't you?"

"Look here, Mr. Stebbins, you have no right to talk to me this way. You know who the professor is. He's a great man. He has taught me more about whales in the last three days than I knew in all my life before. He also knows all about birds and bugs and bees. It's twice as interesting to hear him talk as it is to hear a sermon."

"Has a feller got to squeeze your hand to talk to you about whales?" asked Hiram.

"He hasn't squeezed it. That's simply his way. He is a fatherly man. When he gets to talking he don't know whether he has got hold of my hand or the leg of a chair. You ought to be ashamed of yourself to talk as you do. I always thought there was a mean and jealous streak in you, and now it's come out."

"Oh, it has, eh?" muttered Hiram.

"Perhaps if I went around looking for the bones of an old whale, I'd be all right."

"I guess it would be better than grunting around. You don't care for educated folks, but I do. I was born that way. If I was to ask you about whales, you couldn't tell me anything."

"But the professor could?"

"Yes, sir, he could. Hiram Stebbins, do you know that the Latin name of whale is Physter macrocephalus? Do you know that we get spermaceti and ambergris from its body? Do you know that he sometimes reaches the length of seventy or eighty feet? You stand there with a mean look on your face, and yet let me tell you that the sperm whale can swallow a man at a gulp. There are no teeth in the upper jaw, but the lower one has from twenty-five to thirty on each side. The eyes are small and placed far back in the head."

"Well?" granted the hired man.

"Well, the cheloid feeds upon fishes and cephalopodous mollusks. You probably thought he fed upon turnips. The whole is gregarious. Five hundred or more have been seen in a single herd. Terrible conflicts often take place among the males, and it is not unusual to find the lower jaws deformed. The

left eye is said to be smaller than the right, and the whale cannot see behind him."

"All from the professor!" sneered Hiram as he bowed and walked out to fasten the hencoop for the night.

When the professor wasn't assisting

his man to dig for bones he was hunting bugs and bees and butterflies. To his great joy, he discovered a seven spot bumblebee. As all of us know, a bumblebee is of dark color, with yellow spots on his back. There are often from five to six spots and only rarely a seven spotter. This bee, along with a dozen others, was placed in a pasteboard box, and when the house was reached the box was deposited on a window sill of the veranda. The professor had told the widow all about whales. As soon as he had a little spare time he meant to tell her all about bumblebees. Two days had gone by when the moment came. The bone digging labors of the day were over and supper disposed of when the professor and the widow took chairs on the veranda. He had found the shell of a small turtle in the gravel that day, and he set out to first explain about that. Hiram Stebbins was greasing his boots and chewing the rag in the kitchen and could hear every word. He also knew all about that box of bumblebees on the window sill.

According to Professor Sweetzer, turtles had hearts and lungs, hopes and aspirations. He would even go so far as to say that turtles loved and were loved in return. They did not sing like a bird nor bellow like a frog, but they were supposed to have musical ears for all that. In his earnestness the man got hold of the widow's hand. It was only his way. If he had got hold of her ear it would have been the same. He had called her his dear woman and his dear child half a dozen times, and in his lecture he had got as far back as the turtle's markings when Hiram Stebbins could restrain himself no longer. He saw red. He thirsted for gore. He rose up to do murder, but checked his onslaught and walked softly into the sitting room. The widow was up and the bee box before him, while the backs of the sitters were toward him. He lifted the cover and stepped back.

The dozen bumbles had been hopping mad and calling each other names for the two days. The cover was no sooner off than they swarmed to get room to square off. As they caught sight of the professor and the widow, however, the hatchet was instantly buried. There was a wild swoop, followed by wilder yells. Old seven spot led in the fray. He it was who lifted the professor over the veranda rail and let him drop among the hollyhocks while the rest were paying the widow attentions. The professor ran and was followed, the widow shrieked and was stung again and again. It was not until Hiram rushed out with smoke and flame that she was rescued and a neighbor woman sent for to treat the lumps and bumps and put her to bed. The professor returned hot. Old seven spot wouldn't let him. No news came from him as the hours of night wore on, and Hiram wondered, but next morning the widow received a note reading:

"My dear child, please send my satchel by bearer. I'm off after more bones. The turtle, as I meant to have told you, is utterly without ambition."

"Waal," said Hiram to himself as he worked in the cornfield that day, "there was the professor and me and the widder and the whale and the bumblebees, and if I hadn't come out top o' the heap, who has?"

When Dickens Was Reporting.

There is no doubt that Charles Dickens when in Bath on a reporting exploit picked up the name of Snodgrass, as he did so much else immediately afterward introduced into the pages of "Pickwick," writes a correspondent of the London Chronicle. Alexander Snodgrass was mine host of the Raven in Quiet street from 1826 (if not earlier) until about the year 1832, when he moved to the Caledonian tavern in Trim street. There he lived, and there he died, in May, 1853, at the age of fifty-nine and was laid to his rest in that famous little burial ground on the heights of Lansdown, of which the tomb of Beckford, the eccentric author of "Vathek," is the central monument. In the same graveyard lie Elizabeth Snodgrass (she was a milliner, died August, 1850, and Robert Snodgrass, probably son of Alexander, who died in 1852. Dickens was in Bath in the early thirties.

"I could choke the Chronicle with notes on Dickensian Bath," threatens the correspondent. "Only this morning I was assured that the prototype of Barnaby Rudge was a Bath tradesman of the same name, who is well remembered and whose grandson carries on business still, and we all know that Little Nell was a little Bath Nell."

Trailed by Indians in New York.

Bishop Hare of the diocese of South Dakota was sent west many years ago as a missionary bishop of the Episcopal church. He founded the mission at the Rosebud Indian agency, and it was his custom to give each Indian that he confirmed a silver cross of a peculiar pattern.

A number of years ago a lady from New York was visiting in South Dakota, and the bishop gave her one of these crosses.

Some years after that there was a general convention of the Episcopal church held in New York city, and several Indians were sent as delegates, all wearing Bishop Hare's crosses.

Arriving in New York, they were dazed and at a loss to know how to find the building where the convention was to be held, but stoically they started out upon the street. Soon after they met a lady, whom they immediately began to follow. Whenever she turned, wherever she went, they went too. The lady became much annoyed and finally thoroughly frightened to find that wherever she went a line of red men was trailing behind her.

But investigation explained it. She wore their cross, and they, seeing it, had believed her one of their number who would surely go to the meeting they wished to attend, so they had taken her for their guide.

How a Road in Ireland Was Made.

The way in which the Irish imagination accounts for the curious notch in the Devil's Bit mountain, Tipperary, is indicated in its very name. But there are two versions of the legend. According to one, it is said that Nickie Ben, just to try how sharp his teeth were, bit a piece off the upper jaw; but, finding it rather too hard even for his digestion, he threw it up at Cashel. In the same county, where it has remained ever since. In confirmation of the story it is gravely asserted that the rock of Cashel would exactly fit into the gap left in the aforesaid mountain. In London Notes and Queries the tale is told as follows: "In the Barnane mountains, near Templemore, Ireland, there is a large dent or hollow, visible at the distance of twenty miles and known by the name of the 'Devil's Bit.' There is a foolish tradition that the devil was obliged by one of the saints to make a road for his reverence across an extensive bog in the neighborhood, and so, taking a piece of the mountain in his mouth, he strode over the bog and deposited a road behind him!"

Afraid to Risk It.

When the Hon. Beverly Tucker, minister to the court of St. James, was presented to Queen Victoria she indicated that he be seated by that slight motion of her plump hand which all England obeyed. Tucker was portly and heavy, and the only available chair was fragile and small. He appeared not to notice the invitation. A moment later it was repeated, for even at that first interview began the queen's liking for Minister Tucker, which ripened into such an intimate friendship as no other American ever enjoyed with her majesty. Still the weakness of things terrestrial was more potent than the finger of Victoria, and Tucker again ignored the command. Then the queen put it in words, when Tucker, with a profound bow, replied:

"Your majesty, I never sit in the presence of royalty."

"I accept the compliment at your hands," replied the queen, "and now you must accept comfort at mine."

"Comfort!" exclaimed Mr. Tucker. "Why, I should break both my back and your majesty's chair if I attempted to sit in it!"—Lippincott's Magazine.

Our Debt to Ancient Greece.

Greece and Rome were at the opposite poles of the human world, and equally opposite are their influences upon modern times. Rome was practical, hard headed, juristic, while Greece was intellectual, emotional, artistic, abounding in what may be called the forebrain versus the brain behind the ears. Rome's empire was lengthy, material, matter of fact, while Greece banked on the intellectual and spiritual, finding her greatest conquests in the realm of mind rather than in that of matter. Rome produced no great original thinker, her greatest men shining, like the moon, by borrowed light—light reflected from the sages of Athens. Rome taught not law, order, obedience, but the mother of ideas and sentiments was Greece. From the Eternal City we have inherited our jurisprudence, but it is from the City of the Violet Crown that we have derived our art, science and philosophy. In a word, to quote the substance of Dr. Johnson's saying, eliminate from our modern civilization all that it owes to Greece and the residue would be barbarism.—New York American.

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