

WITH BUBBLING GHOAN

A PATIAL SENSE OF SECURITY AWFULLY REALIZED AT SEA. 'A wet sheet and a flowing sea, a breeze that follows fast. From his look-out the faithful old captain of yonder merchantman casts an uneasy glance at the distant horizon. See! yonder a small speck of cloud no larger than a man's hand. He watches it with his piercing eye for a few moments, then reaches for his long telescope. To his experienced view this harmless little cloud betokens danger. Across his bronzed face there comes a look of determination, and with quick orders to the seamen, the craft is put about and all sail made for the harbor. The vessel is now in the safety of the harbor, and the captain and his crew are safe. The storm bursts! The decks have been cleared, the sails close curled and all ordinary preparations made for emergency. The storm increases but all seems safe. But see! the vessel gives a sudden lurch, turns quickly about, and away she goes!

A STAGE ADVENTURE.

There were five men in one of the old Mariposa stage-coaches before the days of the railroad, and it was 5 o'clock in the afternoon of an August day. We were on our way to Stockton, and of the passengers one was a lieutenant in the regular army, another a tourist in search of health, a third a ranchman, and the other two were prospectors and miners. None of us had met each other previous to the start. These were perilous times, and the first half hour was spent in sizing each other up. I don't know to what conclusion the others came, but I looked over the four men and said to myself: "The lieutenant ought to fight in case we are attacked, but he seems too nervous to be gamey. The tourist is ill and has no sand, but the ranchman and prospectors can be depended on."

grapevine hanging down, and again we made use of a tree to seek a higher elevation. We had been going up for half an hour before we bore off to the right in the direction of the rift. We then had to move far more cautiously, and I presume it was a full hour from the time we left the valley before we lay on our stomachs a hundred feet above the campfire and looked over. The men were directly beneath us, seated close together, and were smoking as they counted the money. We had but one way to attack. Luckily for us it was a strike and we were successful. I could have dropped a coin fair upon the hat of the man beneath me. We were out upon a rocky shelf, but there were loose stones of all sizes all about us. I selected one weighing about twenty-five pounds, the miner gave me a quizzical look, and we calmly and quietly edged with the stone. The fall of the smallest pebble would startle the men below, and we used as much caution as if our lives would pay the forfeit. After a bit we were ready. The men had not moved. For about a minute I held my nerve. Then, with a horrible sight, I saw the rifle of the miner seem to read my thoughts and he put his mouth to my ear and whispered: "Remember how they shot the ranchman, and remember that they took out every thing."

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On the sea of life, how many men are wrecked because of the unsuspected weakness of a link in the chain of health, one weak vital organ in the body.

The mystery of death is even greater than the mystery of life. We think the links of our chain are strong, but we too seldom critically examine them for weakness, and never really know that they will bear the strain that we put upon them.

"I have a friend," said Dr. Dio Lewis, "who can lift 900 pounds and yet is an habitual sufferer from kidney and liver trouble and low spirits. The doctor who was one of the wisest and soundest public teachers of the laws of health, wrote:

"The very marked testimonials from college professors, respectable physicians, and other gentlemen of intelligence and character, to the value of Warner's safe cure, have greatly surprised me. Many of these gentlemen I know, and reading their testimony, I was impelled to purchase some bottles of Warner's safe cure and analyze it. Besides I took some, swallowing three times the prescribed quantity. I am satisfied that the medicine is not injurious, and will frankly admit that I found myself the victim of a serious kidney trouble I should use this preparation."

One year ago the *Serota*, while in a great storm, parted her two-inch rudder chain, the key, which was rusted through. No wonder, it was rusted through. The key to human health is the condition of the kidneys. Many may long be diseased and be ignorant of the fact, because they give forth little or no pain. They in reality cause the majority of all the deaths, by polluting the blood and sending disease all through the system.

Toothpicks From Japan. A well-known New York firm recently tried the experiment of importing 70,000 toothpicks from Yokohama. These "ure-dents," as they are described in the invoice, come in natty little boxes containing 1,000 each, in bundles tied round with green silk. They are cut from hard wood, have a point at only one end, and cost 35 Mexican cents a thousand. *New York Evening Sun.*

Martha's Epitaph. Down in Houston County, Ga., there is an ancient village called Old Wilner. In its most prosperous days there was a big school for the ladies, and the school was run by a woman named Martha. His name was Moore. He lost his wife, who he loved very dearly. He had her buried in the old burying ground of Wilner, and out of the meager funds he erected a marble tombstone at the head of her grave. As it was in the wild woods, and cemeteries generally were then, it was a favorite hunting ground for the juvenile population. Thus it came about that the old epitaph appeared to-day, cut deep in the mossy stone. "Boys, Don't Shoot Birds Around Martha's Grave." The name, Martha Moore, with date of birth and death, appears above. It is a curious epitaph, and it is the only bit of history left concerning the old teacher and his wife.

A Home Library. It seems almost incredible to say that a library fairly representing approximately two thousand of the most eminent authors of the world, of all lands and all times, can really be placed within the reach of ordinary homes. Yet this is what is accomplished by Alden's Cyclopaedia of Universal Literature, volume VIII, of which is issued in November. The work, completed in 1897, is a masterpiece of scholarship, and is a valuable addition to every home library.

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