

A METAMORPHOSIS

A roaring, blustering beast of March Set free from out a cloud hung arch In pallid skies; as dim of dye And cold as frosted violet's eye.

A lion March that shakes his mane To fright those steeds of golden rein, Whose chariot wheels drive on space, With steady splendor, godlike grace.

For sand by sand, and hour by hour, And day by day, Apollo's power Repels the dark, encroaching night With long and longer shafts of light.

The lion halts. His rolling eyes Are fixed as with a spell's surprise, For emerald grasses rock and rise Beneath his feet like lullabies. The soothing zephyrs charm his ear; The Psyche butterflies appear On restless wings afloat, and faint To search for missing Love again; The blossom bells are awaying fine To rhythms of some thought divine.

The lion in the path of Spring Has coughed, and low is fitting To melodies, like waterfalls, Of chirring birds, whose crystal calls Make herald's way before her feet. Who comes like Una, pure and sweet, In bluish haze—her lute and veils As those imparked in yonder blue. Of green and white, all blossom wreathed— The fairest fancy heaven hath breathed Or earth has crowned. The lion dumb, With desert vision, sees her come.

Beside him sweeps her fragrant gown; Her hand is laid like thistledown Upon his head. Oh, wondrous sight! His sulphurous mane to fleeces white As those imparked in yonder blue. New dipt in Flora's mountain dew, Has changed; his eyes are mild and calm; The lion stands confessed—a lamb. —Elizabeth Backus Mason in Atlantic.

Why Southerners Have Good Voices.

Life in the country, especially in our southern country, where people lived far apart and were employed oftentimes at a considerable distance from one another, and from the houses or homes in which they ate and slept, tended, by exercise in communicating with one another, to strengthen and improve the voices for high and prolonged notes. A wider range to the vocal sounds was constantly afforded and frequently required.

Hallooing, screaming, yelling for one person or another, to their dogs, or at some of their cattle on the plantation, with the accompanying reverberations from hilltops, over valleys and plains, were familiar sounds throughout the farming districts of the south in the days gone by. It used to be said of my father's old negro foreman that he could be distinctly understood a mile or more away.

Hunting, which was enjoyed and indulged in more or less by nearly every citizen of the south, was also conducive to this characteristic development.—Dr. J. Harvie Dew in Century.

Worms Eat Lead Pipes.

In the Gesundheitsingenieur the fact is communicated by a correspondent that when tracing the leaky places in a lead pipe there was found in one of the leaks a live woodworm with its head protruding in the wall of the piping, the outer opening of the cavity being of oblong form 7 by 4 millimeters, and the inner surface of the same showing fine indentures. That similar cases have occasionally been met with appears to be the case, the fact being stated in one of the best known German text books of technical chemistry that certain woodworms—sirex gigas—perforate sheet lead, the holes produced showing a rough surface, with fine indentures—in one instance holes up to 6 1/2 millimeters diameter being found in sheet lead, the latter affixed to some timber work.

The Fisheries of Lake Superior.

At little Port Arthur alone the figures of the fishing industry for the market are astonishing. In 1888 the fishermen there caught 500,000 pounds of white fish, 300,000 pounds of lake trout, 48,000 pounds of sturgeon, 50,000 pounds of pickerel and 30,000 pounds of other fish, or more than a million pounds in all. They did this with an investment of \$3,800 in boats and \$10,000 in gill and pound nets. This yield nearly all went to a Chicago packing company, and it is in the main Chicago and Cleveland capital that is controlling the lake's fisheries.—Julian Ralph in Harper's.

A Queen's Collection to Be Seen.

Queen Margherita of Italy has promised the loan of her famous collection of laces for exhibition at the World's fair. It will include the varieties of lace made in the queen's factories by women and will be displayed with the queen's portrait and many old books upon antique lace. Rome has a society now similar to the Woman's exchange, where the artistic work of the contadina is sold, and from which representative work will probably be sent to the exhibition.—Rome Letter.

A Matter of Wages.

"I observe, James," said the Boston employer, "that you say 'either' and 'neither.' Are you not aware that such is not our pronunciation of those words?" "It doesn't seem to me," replied the boy from New York despondently, "that you ought to expect me to say 'either' and 'neither' on a salary of sixteen dollars a month."—Chicago Tribune.

Blood travels from the heart through the arteries ordinarily at the rate of about twelve inches per second; its speed through the capillaries is at the rate of three one-hundredths of an inch per second.

When the Summer palace at Peking was cacked a head of Buddha, carved from a magnificent ruby, fell to the Duke of Brunswick as his share of the spoils. After his death it sold for \$30,000.

A big human animal may be as unwholesome as a big fungus. What we need is a pure soul, a pure body, a strong will and a firm knit frame.

A good dentifrice is made of two ounces of pulverized borax, four ounces of precipitated chalk and two ounces of pulverized castile soap.

For dust in the eyes, avoid rubbing; dash water in them; remove cinders, etc., with the round point of a lead pencil.

Recollections of Oxford.

My not being at a public school has, I have no doubt, strengthened my love of my university and my college. In my time the 'head masters' had not had everything their own way. It was possible to enter Oxford at the age of nineteen—it was nothing wonderful to get a scholarship before eighteen or even earlier still. And to be scholar and fellow of Trinity from 1841 to 1847 was something to be. It was indeed a circle to look back to of which fifty years ago I was chosen a member, a circle of which a man is much to be blamed if he is not wiser and nobler for having been one. But love of the foundation, the feeling of membership, of brotherhood, in an ancient and honorable body, the feeling of full possession in one's college as a home, the feeling of personal nearness to a benefactor of past times, all that gathers round the scholarship that was something worthier than a mere prize, the fellowship that was something worthier than a crammer's wages—all this, I hope, has not even yet utterly vanished, but under the hands of one reforming commission after another, such feelings have undoubtedly greatly weakened in the Oxford to which I have come back.

In the unreformed university, the unreformed college in which I had the happiness to spend my youth, we had time to learn something, because we were not always being taught. We were not kept through our whole time, vexed by examination after examination, examined in this subject one term, in that subject the next term, all ingeniously combined for the better forgetting of one thing before the next was taken in. We had one examination, and a searching one, the successful passing of which could not seem to any but a fool to be the goal of study, but which, by the reading it required, gave a man the best possible start for study in several branches of knowledge.—Edward A. Freeman in Forum.

A Question to Puzzle Over.

He was a "likely" looking Afro-American, and as he boarded the elevated train at Twenty-eighth street attracted no small amount of attention. He betook himself to one of the cross seats, facing the rear of the car. As he settled himself comfortably, one of the two male passengers seated opposite said to his companion in what was evidently intended to be an undertone, but which was nevertheless plainly audible, "Do your people permit colored folks to ride in first class compartments in public conveyances?" What the reply to the question may have been will never be known. As for the occasion of the query, he did not betray by so much as the movement of a muscle or the quiver of an eyelash that he had overheard what had been said.

But just before Bleeker street was reached he straightened himself up and addressed the inquirer. "Dis yere ain't no question of the Fiftyent 'mentments," he said. "I knows right plain dat me and my race has all de rights ob de white peoples to ride in dese yer keers so long as we got de money and 'aves ourselves. So dat ain't de question. But what I would like to have you gemmens tell is dis, How kin a man be colored when he's born so?"

And as he stalked out of the car the passengers all looked at one another and wondered if he had been given a new problem in socio-political economy to puzzle over.—New York Times.

Where "Red Tape" Counts.

Said one of the oldest and most successful legal practitioners of the city bar to one of his rising young students a short time ago: "My dear young fellow, never fail to remember that in the successful career of a lawyer there is no one item so important as his reputation as 'red tape.' You may smile at this remark, but it is as true as Holy Writ, and the proper use of it in binding up a legal document has saved many a court paper from being handed back for perfection or revision to its legal sponsor. In earlier life I practiced in the court of one of the most particular judges in the commonwealth. I presented, as I believed, a well prepared report which I asked for confirmation, and to my surprise the judge unfolding it and looking it over found a hundred and one faults and directed me to prepare another one, 'but in better form,' as he said. I was utterly nonplussed.

"My time was so limited it was utterly impossible. An idea struck me. That night in my office I put on a showy outside wrapper, with a hand indorsement of the title, with the most liberal supply of the widest red tape that I could find in graceful bows. The next morning I nervously presented it again. The judge received it smiling, adding: 'That is the correct way all papers for the court should be drawn up.' There's nothing like red tape."—Philadelphia Press.

The Governor's Quills.

The governor of this commonwealth signs every bill with a quill. This isn't because he is fonder of that particular kind of pen, but it is rather in obedience to a well established custom that has obtained with the chief magistrates of the last decade. There are always a few members of the legislature that have the collector's passion, and requests are regularly received by Private Secretary Roads from lawmakers and others for pens that the governor has used for signing bills. Accordingly dozens of these quills are purchased ever so often, and the governor makes his signature each time with a new pen, which is carefully preserved and set aside for the next quill hunter that calls.—Boston Globe.

Isinglass.

It is said that the manifestly corrupted word, "isinglass," owes its change from a foreign to its English dress to the popular fancy, which, finding the Dutch term, "huizenblas" (sturgeon bladder), meaningless in English, quietly changed it into "isinglass" and secured its easy remembrance from association with the "icing" purposes for which it is used and the "glassy" appearance it presents.—Chambers's Journal.

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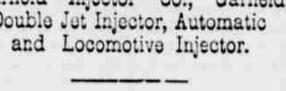
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