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Agents wanted for the Centennial History of the U.S. The great interest in the thrilling history of our country makes this the fastest selling book ever published.

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WHAT MY LOVER SAID.

By the merest chance in the twilight gloom, In the orchard near the mill race...

Had he moved aside a little way, I could surely then have passed him...

As I entered she rose and took both my hands, "Captain Downes, you good, brave man, tell me truly, is there any hope?"

AMIDST THE BREAKERS.

I never was in better spirits than on the morning I left Shanghai. I was then captain of the good ship Morning Glory...

When I came on deck one morning, I was surprised to find the royals and topgallant sails stowed, though it was a dead calm...

"What's the matter, Jackson?" I inquired, as the chief officer came towards me.

"I think it's going to blow hard, captain; the mercury's all of a quiver in the barometer—the birds fly high and are making for land."

The hatches were tightly battened down, all sails furled except the three close-reefed topsails and fore course; and I put her right before the wind, to endeavor to run out of the circle of the storm.

Groaning and quivering, the good ship bore bravely on, now rising high on the crest of a mountainous billow, anon plunging deep into an abyss of darkness...

Still the hurricane raged with increasing violence. I could not close-haul the vessel for want of sea-room on the starboard hand; and I knew we should get into the inner circle of the typhoon—the point most to be dreaded—if we lay to on the off-shore tack.

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the vessel full on the broadside, flinging her on her beam-ends in the trough of the sea, where she lay moaning like a vanquished giant.

"Cut away the mizzen-mast," I roared through my speaking-trumpet. Jackson, then whom a better sailor never trod a plank, obeyed my order promptly;

The vessel righted on her keel; and the remainder of the crew and myself used every effort to save our hapless companions...

I was now in momentary expectation of the vessel foundering, for the helm was useless; huge waves, mountain high, were breaking over her, and the spars to leeward were dashing like battering-rams against her sides...

At last the welcome dawn arrived, so, bidding the second mate set at once about clearing the debris, I descended to the cabin for the purpose of visiting Mrs. Clifford, who I knew must need consolation.

"Breakers to leeward, sir!" he cried, excitedly, as I emerged from the hatchway.

I looked in the direction he indicated, and saw a long line of foam stretching out on our lee, while the roar of beating surges fell distinctly on my ear.

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hope of being rescued. There was plenty of fresh water in the deep pools and fissures of the rocks, but our scant stock of provisions soon disappeared; and then we had to use hick-demer—an edible scapelite—shell-fish and gulls' eggs, which abounded on the little island, for food.

A fortnight had passed away, and still no friendly sail had greeted our sight. The unusual diet and exposure to the weather—which was extremely hot—told upon us; and in our wan faces and attenuated forms the happy crew of the Morning Glory could scarcely have been recognized.

Then four of our number volunteered to take the boat, which we had been unable to repair for want of materials, and endeavor to reach Hong Kong, from whence assistance could be sent us.

The vessel righted on her keel; and the remainder of the crew and myself used every effort to save our hapless companions...

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WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN.

"The first prize in mathematics in Thompson University was carried off this year by Miss D. Angelina Smith, a girl of eighteen."

Mr. Joblink, stretched in an easy chair before the fire with a handkerchief thrown over his bald head, read this interesting fact aloud from the paper last night, but shortly repented himself for having done so, as it set Mrs. Joblink talking.

That good lady was engaged in darning Joblink's stockings, and addressed her conversation to her bosom friend, Mrs. Meezels:

"Yes, I don't doubt it. Folks is beginnin' to see that girls can do just as well as boys. Folks here in Virginy tell me I should be thankful that I ain't burnt out, and so I am; but when I think of what I might a bin if I'd kept single it makes me mad."

"Deary me, so you might," assented the weak eyed and admiring Mrs. Meezels.

"Now," proceeded Mrs. J., casting a side glance across the comfortable room at Joblink, who was rubbing his bald spot miserably, "now, why mightn't I a bin a reformer an' held conventions an' things an' showed folks how they was agoin' astray an' didn't know beans compared with me? But," sighed the good lady, "I got married, an' an' the mother of 'em."

"So you did, dear," said the sympathetic Mrs. Meezels.

"Who knows, now, that I mightn't a bin an artist or a jurymen, or—"

"Good Lord, my dear!" cried Joblink suddenly, throwing his spectacles off his nose to his forehead and holding the paper far away from him as possible, as if that would enable him to read the better, "Good Lord! my dear, the poor old lady is dead!"

"What poor old lady, Joblink?" snapped the testy wife.

"Mrs. Kinkadee's, you know—your old mistress. Dead, dear, and she's dead! Well, well, we must all go in our turn. She was a good mistress to you, Sarah. Dead, eh? Well, well, I—"

With three strides Mrs. Joblink snatched the paper from her astonished husband's hands, and still more surprised the kindly gentleman with a whack on the ear. But the murder was out, and Mrs. Meezels enjoys the knowledge that her friend, Mrs. Joblink, was no more than a servant girl before that poor dear man Joblink married her—with all her airs.—Virginia Chronicle.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN 'EM.—There is a vast difference, says the Danbury News, in the conduct of a man and a woman in new clothes.

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LYING FOR LUCK.

Walking in the early morning at a small station in North-West India, the writer, on passing a shrubbery, observed a man stealthily moving in the bushes.

The intruder was asked what he wanted, when he replied, "The Seth is dead." This Seth was the principal man in the native city adjoining the station, and a merchant universally known in the commercial world on account of his great riches.

Forgetting, in his surprise at the announcement, that the reply was scarcely an adequate one to his question, the writer took his walk, and, on returning, expressed his astonishment to the servants that they had not told him the Seth was ill, mentioning the catastrophe he had learned from the trespasser.

One of the servants having happened, on his way from the city that very morning, to have seen the Seth hearty and well, it was decided on all hands that the information was incorrect.

Thereupon one present remarked: "The man who told your honor was probably a dyer."

"A dyer?" cried the writer; "but why should a dyer tell falsehoods?"

"He was probably lying for luck," was the answer; and then it was related that when a vat has been prepared for a dye, some anxiety is felt as to whether it will turn out well—and the blue dye was said to be the most ticklish—and that during this doubt the dyers go out telling falsehoods, in the hopes that, if they are believed, the vat will turn out well.

Further inquiries were made afterward, and the facts were found to be correct; and, indeed, allusions to the custom were subsequently pointed out in native poetry. A lover would, perhaps, be made to address his mistress in some such mad hyperbole as this, "You deceived me, it may be, lest the blue vat of heaven, jealous of the heaven of your face, should wish to spoil itself."

There is no pretense that the incident marked any discovery; the circumstance is probably well known to any one taking an interest in folk lore and local customs, but it certainly explains how lying might be held a species of worship. Numerous traces exist of a conciliatory worship in countries where the popular faith conceives spirits of evil to have independent power; such worship is opposed to that offered in the hope of obtaining benefits, and is in truth a bribe to secure abstinence from mischief. Akin to this is the fear of offending such hurtful beings by using unpropitious names; thus the fairies must be called the Favorable Ones, (Bunbenides), and a certain undesirable personage should be mildly designated "the old gentleman." Perhaps—but antiquarians must decide this—in our sport of April Fool, there may be a trace of this worship of an evil spirit. And so, as we laugh at some fun-bewildered person on a showery morning in the Spring, and keep up the joke because we perpetrated it in our teens, we may be performing a rite which was of old like laying a garland of poisonous and sinister flowers on the altar of a demon, in the hope of securing good fortune for those who were not afraid of lying for luck.—All the Year Round.

A PORTUGUESE SPORTSMAN. He had some experience of woodcock, hare, and red-legged partridge shooting, and likewise of hunting with dog and gun, wolves, which he never by any chance shot. This fact does not astonish anybody who has seen a Portuguese gun loaded. A small handful of native and almost harmless powder, a little grass or a leaf or two, and an equal handful of shot of all sizes, rammed down with a huge wad upon it of extempore manufacture, constitute the charge. The gun is fired, the wolf escapes, and, what is more remarkable than this, the sportsman who holds the gun also escapes. The dogs are usually as unsuccessful as their masters, in catching the feet-footed wolf; nevertheless the wolf continues to be the favorite sport of the Portuguese. The good padre had many thrilling stories of uncaught wolves, and was moreover eloquent in his accounts of the thrush shooting near Oporto. "Crows! Are they game birds? You cannot eat them, can you?" "To be sure I can; they are the best game in the world," said the padre; "steved in vinegar, there is really nothing so good."—Ecce Homo.

SPECIMEN OF ARABIC ARITHMETIC. Until during the last quarter century the arithmetics introduced into Turkey by the American missionaries crowded out the Turkish text books, multiplication was taught in the Turkish schools according to the following rule: Add together the numbers to be multiplied; take the right hand figure of the sum for the left hand figure of the product; subtract both multiplier and multiplicand from ten, and multiply the remainder for the right hand figure of the product. Thus:

9.....10-9=1
3.....10-3=7
12.....7.....27

This is but a fair specimen of Arabic arithmetic. Of course the rule is applicable only to single numbers, and is subject to innumerable exceptions. For ingenious puzzles with numbers the Arabian has no equal.

THEY GOES THAT ONCE IN A GAME OF poker General Logan held three jacks—jack of hearts, jack of diamonds and jack of clubs. After running the bets up to the limit and calling down the hands, Logan found that his opponent had four tens, when, with true military fertility of resource, Logan furtively took out of his pocket one of his own photographs and played it upon his unsuspecting opponent for the jack of spades, thereby holding four jacks and sweeping the board.

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