

THREE SONNETS ON LIFE.

I.

BY LOUISE CHANDLER MOULTON.
Fair life, thou dear companion of my days—
Life with the rose-red lips and shining
eyes—
That led'st me through my Youth's glad
Paradise
And stand'st beside me still, in these dull
ways—
My older feet must tread, the tangled maze
Where cares beset me and fresh foes sur-
prise;
On the keen wind and from the far-off
skies
Is borne a whisper, which my heart dis-
may's.
That thou and I must part. Beloved so
long,
Wilt thou not stay with me, inconstant
Love?
Nay, then, the cry upon the wind grows
strong—
I must without these fresh adventures
prove;
And yet it may be I but do thee wrong.
And I shall find thee waiting where I
rove.

II.

BY PHILIP BOURKE MARSTON.
Prisoner I was within a noble hall,
Ringed round with many gracious images,
And through it floated strains which
might appease
The soul's sore thirst for music. On each
wall
Fair pictures hung, to hold the eye in
thrall—
High mountains, clothed in cold, im-
maculate peace.
A light of water between wavering trees,
Wild seas, wherefrom drowned mariners
seemed to call:
A table stood there, heaped with fruit and
wine,
But lo! the fruit turned ashes at my gaze
And to my taste the gold juice seemed like
brine.
Here must one die, then, with no chance
for strife,
Loathing the impotent beauty of the
place:
Then these words shivered past me: "This
is Life."

III.

BY HERBERT K. CLARK.
We are born with pain, being born, we
weal and cry:
Childhood thrives best upon a mother's
tears;
Youth is a storm of futile hopes and fears;
Manhood is marred by passion, utterly;
Age, though he hath seen so many follies
fly,
Hath not decreased his store when the
grave nears;
Folly and noise fill all our little years,
Till, as we are born with pain, with pain we
die.
And over us God's dome of azure towers,
Where suns and systems whirl and keep
their place,
And we call Life this piteous broil of ours,
And stoop to observe, with foolish earth-
ward face,
While that vast pageant of stupendous
powers
Sweeps on, enterally, through silent space.

Recent Legal Decisions.

CORPORATIONS—PRODUCING BOOKS IN COURT.—In a suit between third persons the President and Secretary of a corporation were subpoenaed to appear as witnesses to produce certain books and papers of the company in court. They refused to bring the books and papers on the ground that where the corporation is not a party there is no power to issue such a subpoena. In this case—*Wertheimer vs. The Continental Railway and Trust Company*—in the United States Circuit Court, S. D. of New York, Judge Wallace in granting a motion to compel the production of the books and papers, said: "This proceeding is opposed upon the authority of several cases in the New York Courts which deny the right of a party to compel the officers of a corporation to produce its books in evidence in a cause to which it is not a party. Notwithstanding these decisions, however, it is believed to have been the common practice in this State to subpoena officers as witnesses to produce the books of their corporations in action between third persons. In other States, so far as is known, the right to do so has never been controverted. Why should not the officers of a corporation be required to produce its books as evidence? The corporation can act only through its officers. The suggestion that the books are in the legal custody of the corporation, and not of its officers, may be theoretically correct. If technically true, it is not an objection to compelling the officers to produce them, for as Lord Ellenborough said, in *Anny vs. Long*, 1 Copt., 17: "Although a paper should be in the legal custody of one man, yet if a subpoena as a witness to produce it is served on another who has the means to produce it, he is bound to do so."
CONSTRUCTIVE LARCENY—BAILEMENT—INTENTION TO STEAL.—A handed to B, from whom he had made a purchase, a \$20 gold piece, from which he was to take the price. B could not make the change, and gave the coin to C to go out for smaller money. C took the piece, but never returned, and he was indicted and convicted of larceny. The case—*Murphy vs. The People*—was carried by the defendant to the Supreme Court of Illinois, by which the conviction was affirmed. Judge Scholfield, in the opinion, said: "If the owner of the goods alleged to have been stolen parts with both the possession and the title to the goods to the alleged thief, then neither the taking nor the conversion is felonious. It can but amount to a fraud. It is obtaining goods by false pretences. If, however, the owner parts with the possession voluntarily, but does not part with the title, expecting and intending that the same thing shall be returned to him, or that it shall be disposed of on his account or in a particular way, as directed or agreed upon, for his benefit,

then the goods may be feloniously converted by the bailee, so as to relate back and make the taking and conversion a larceny. The pointed inquiry in such a case must always arise: Did the owner part with the title to the things, and was the legal title vested in the prisoner?"

SALE—BREACH OF CONTRACT—PROOF—RECOVERY OF MONEY PAID.—A sold to B a quantity of corn, and B claiming that A failed to deliver all the grain, sued to recover an advance he had made on it and damages for the breach of the contract. A denied that he had broken his contract and counter-claimed for the balance due him and for the damages he suffered from B's refusal to take the balance of the grain. Judgment was rendered for A. On the trial the only witnesses were A and B themselves, so that there was no preponderance of evidence on the part of B, the plaintiff. An appeal was taken to the Supreme Court of Iowa, which affirmed the judgment. Judge Adams, in the opinion, said: "Unless the plaintiff has proven his case by a preponderance of evidence the appellate Court cannot give him a new trial, and a vendee cannot break a contract and recover from the vendor what he has paid on it unless he proves by sufficient witness that the vendor is in fault."

PROMISSORY NOTE OF HUSBAND AND WIFE—INSOLVENCY AND DISCHARGE OF HUSBAND—LIABILITY OF WIFE.—A husband and wife gave their promissory notes together, and the husband was subsequently discharged in insolvent proceedings. Suit was brought on the notes and the husband pleaded the discharge. The wife then pleaded with her husband that his discharge also discharged her and her jointly and severally. Judgment was rendered against the wife only, and she appealed. In this case—*Allers vs. Forbes*—the Court of Appeals of Maryland affirmed the judgment. Judge Miller, in the opinion, said: "We can discover no possible reason why the discharge of her husband under the insolvent laws should release her and her property. Her property does not pass to his trustee, nor are her rights therein in any way affected by his insolvency. The statute makes her stand, with respect to the obligations signed by her as these are, in the same position as any other party so signing them would stand. If the husband's discharge has the effect of releasing her from the debt, the security afforded by her name to the obligation would be destroyed, and the law would practically become a dead letter."

DEBT—STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS—PROCEEDINGS IN BANKRUPTCY.—A sued B for a debt, and the defense was made that the debt was barred by the statute of limitations. The plaintiff replied that as the defendant had been put into bankruptcy the meaning of the statute had been suspended. He had not proved his debt in bankruptcy. The trial Court decided in favor of the defendant, and the plaintiff carried the case—*Dee vs. Erwin*—to the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts, by which the judgment was affirmed. The Chief Justice Morton, in the opinion, said: "The bankrupt law of the United States does not prohibit a creditor whose debt has not been proved from bringing an action against the bankrupt; it only prevents him from prosecuting his suit to final judgment until the bankrupt has had an opportunity to obtain his discharge."

INSOLVENT LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY—CLAIM OF AGENT ON FUND.—A general agent of a life insurance company which had become insolvent and been placed in the hands of a Receiver, claimed that he should be allowed damages out of the fund in the Receiver's hands for the breach of the contract with him by the company. The trial Court decided against him, and he carried the case—the *People vs. Globe Mutual Life Insurance Company*—to the Court of Appeals of New York, by which the judgment was affirmed. Judge Finch, in the opinion, said: "There was no breach of the contract between the agent and the company by either of the parties; it was being fully performed on both sides until the injunction was issued forbidding the company or its agents from in any way or manner conducting or interfering with the affairs of the company. This injunction paralyzed the action of both the contracting parties. Before the agent can recover he must show that he had fully performed, or was ready to perform, the services for which he claims he should be paid; but, in the face of the injunction, even an attempt to perform these services would be a criminal contempt of the injunction. Therefore, he cannot show any ground for his demand."

The new town of Naples, in Idaho, on the Oregon Short Line Railroad, maintains a jail which is at once cheap and secure. It is nothing more nor less than a deep hole in the ground, into which prisoners are dropped with the grim warning that the guards will put a bullet through every head which appears above the edge.

Religious.

A greedy man God hates.
The wrongs we inflict upon others follow us like our shadow.

Have the courage to speak your mind when it is necessary to do so, and hold your tongue when it is prudent that you should do so.

The work which God has given me to do is to amend whatever is amiss in my natural disposition—that is what he would have me do; correct my faults, sanctify my thoughts and desires, become more patient, more meek and lowly of heart.

How many times we are impatient with our friends when they do not do as we think they should. If we knew the circumstances surrounding them, the difficulties they have to overcome, our pity, instead of our impatience, would, no doubt, be excited. We judge harshly because we do not know the real facts. When will we learn to be patient and charitable, at least until we have just reason to be otherwise.

AT NIGHT.—Here is one of Thackeray's pleasantest touches: "It is night now; and here is home. Gathered under the roof, elders and children alike at rest. In the midst of a great calm, the stars look out from the heaven. The silence is peopled with the past; sorrowful remorses for sins and shortcomings, memories of passionate joys and griefs, rise out of their graves, both now alike calm and sad. Eyes, as I shut mine, look at me, that have long ceased to shine. The town and the landscape sleep under the starlight, wreathed in the autumn mists. Twinkling among the houses, a light keeps watch here and there in what may be a sick chamber or two. The clock tolls sweetly in the silent air. An awful sense of thanks makes the heart swell and the head bow, as I pass to my room through the sleeping house, and feel as though a hushed blessing were upon it."

UNCLE ESEK'S WISDOM.—There is no victory so cheap and so complete as forgiveness.

If you suspect a man wrongfully you license him to defraud you.
Luck is the dream of a simpleton; a wise man makes his own good fortune.
Wealth in this world is just so much baggage to be taken care of, but a cultivated brain is easy to carry and is a never failing source of profit and pleasure.
Gratitude is a debt which all men owe and which few pay cheerfully.
Impossibilities are scarce. Mankind has not seen more than half a dozen of them since the creation.

Happiness consists in being happy—there is no particular rule for it.
About all that cunning can do for a man is to make him incredulous.
Too great economy in youth leads to avarice in old age.
All prudes were once coquettes and only changed because they were obliged to.

Experience has a very poor memory, and true charity none at all.
A fair compensation for honest service is the best present you can make a man, and the best gift he can receive.
Doing nothing is the most slavish toil ever imposed on any one.

True eloquence is the power of completely impressing others with our ideas.
The charities which a man dispenses after his death look suspicious.
Adversity links men together, while prosperity is apt to scatter them.
Some men seem to have a salve for the woes of others, but none for their own.

Extreme gravity is oftener the result of stupidity than of wisdom.—*Scribner's Monthly*.

Cilips.

The export trade in furniture is confined chiefly to medium grades, which are sent to Africa, China, the Sandwich Islands and to South America.

The little canary seed, which we feed to our birds only, is used by the natives of the Canary Islands as an article of domestic food. It contains a large proportion of nutritious farina.

In Florida the strong fibre of the leaves of a species of cactus is turned into rope, its juice into a pleasant beverage, and its trunk, after the removal of the pith, into pails.

French silk merchants are thinking about acclimatizing a species of spider which has been discovered on the African coast. This spider makes a thread very like yellow silk and almost as strong.

One of the industries of Australia is the cooking and canning rabbits, which are so plentiful in some districts that whole crops are sometimes destroyed by them. One firm during the last season which lasted twenty-five weeks, canned 675,000 of the animals.

According to the *London Court Journal* the institution of bronze earrings, with "Merit" engraved on them, is said to be contemplated by the authorities. These ornaments are to be given to female nurses who have distinguished themselves in hospital service during war.

Why a Kerosene Lamp Bursts

Girls as well as boys need to understand about kerosene explosions. A great many fatal accidents happen from trying to pour a little kerosene on the fire to make it kinder better; also by pouring oil into a lamp while it is lighted. Most persons suppose that it is the kerosene itself that explodes, and that if they are very careful to keep the oil itself from being touched by the fire or the light there will be no danger. But this is not so. If a can or a lamp is left about half full of kerosene oil the oil will dry up—that is, "evaporate"—a little and will form, by mingling with the air in the upper part a very explosive gas. You cannot see this gas any more than you can see air. But if it is disturbed and driven out, and a blaze reaches it, there will be a terrible explosion, although the blaze did not touch the oil. There are several other liquids used in houses and workshops which will produce an explosive vapor in this way. Benzine is one; burning fluid is another; and naphtha, alcohol, ether, and chloroform, may do the same thing.

In a New York workshop lately there was a can of benzine, or gasoline, standing on the floor. A boy sixteen years old lighted a cigarette, and threw the burning match on the floor close to the can. He did not dream there was any danger because the liquid was corked up in the can.

But there was a great explosion, and he was badly hurt. This seems very mysterious. The probability is that the can had been standing there a good while and a good deal of vapor had formed, some of which had leaked out around the stopper and was hanging in a sort of invisible cloud over and around the can; and this cloud, when the match struck it, exploded.

Suppose a girl tries to fill a kerosene lamp without first blowing it out. Of course the lamp is nearly empty or she would not care to fill it. This space is filled with a cloud of explosive vapor arising from the oil in the lamp. When she pushes the nozzle of the can into the lamp at the top, and begins to pour, the oil, running into the lamp, fills the empty space and pushes the cloud of explosive vapor up; the vapor is obliged to pour out over the edges of the lamp, at the top, into the room outside; of course it strikes against the blazing wick which the girl is holding down by one side. The blaze of the wick sets the invisible cloud of vapor on fire, and there is an explosion which ignites the oil and scatters it over her clothes and over the furniture of the room. This is the way in which a kerosene lamp bursts. The same thing may happen when a girl pours the oil over a fire in the range or stove, if there is a cloud of explosive vapor in the upper part of the can, or if the stove is hot enough to vaporize quickly some of the oil as it falls. Remember, it is not the oil, but the invisible vapor, that explodes. Taking care of the oil will not protect you. There is no safety except in this rule: Never pour oil on a lighted fire, or into a lighted lamp.—*Christian Union*.

Little Elfin's Plea.

A Reminiscence of the Last Days of Parepa Rosa.

The season of music was closing. Satiated with praise, Parepa Rosa drew her fur wrap around her shoulders, and stepping from the private entrance of the "Grand," was about to enter her carriage when "Please, mi ladi," in low pleading accents, arrested her attention. It was only the shrunken, misshapen form of little Elfin, the Italian street singer, with his old violin under his arm; but the face upturned in the gaslight, though pale and pinched, was as delicately cut as a cameo, while the eager and wistful light in the great brilliant eyes, the quiver of entreaty in the soft Italian voice held her for a moment against her escort's endeavor to save her the annoyance of hearing a beggar's plea.

"Well!" said the great singer, half impatient, yet full of pity.

"Would mi ladi please," in sweet broken English, and the slender brown hands of the dwarf held up the fragrant white lily, with a crystal drop in its golden heart.

"Do you mean this lovely flower for me?" A passionate gesture was her answer. Taking the flower, Parepa Rosa bent her stately head. "You heard me sing?"

"Mi ladi, I hid under the stair. 'Twas yesterday I heard the voice. Oh, mi ladi, mi ladi, I could die!" The words came brokenly from quivering lips, passionately in earnest. The loud voice of the world she had just left had never shown Parepa Rosa the power of her grand voice as she saw it now in these soft, dark eyes in a flame and in the sobbing, broken words, "Mi ladi, oh! mi ladi—I could die."

"Child," and her voice trembled, "meet me here to-morrow at 5," and holding the lily caressingly to her cheek, she stepped into her carriage, and was driven away.

It was Parepa Rosa's last night. In a box near the stage sat little Elfin, like one entranced. Grandly the clear voice

swelled its triumphal chords and rang amid the arches with unearthly power and sweetness. The slight frame of the boy wrapt, and shook and a look so wrapt, so intense, came on his face, you knew his very heart was stilled. The curtain rolled up for the last time, and as simply as possible the manager told the audience of last night's incident, and announced that Parepa Rosa's farewell to them would be the simple ballad warbled many a bitter day through the city streets by little Elfin, the Italian musician.

Long and prolonged was the applause, and at the first pause, sweeping in with royal grace, came our queen of song. At her breast was the fragrant lily. Queen, too, by right of her beautiful, unstained womanhood, as well as by the power of her sublime voice. She stood a moment, then sang clearly and softly the ballad, with its refrain, of "Farewell, Sweet Land." Accompanying her came the low, sweet wail of little Elfin's violin. There was silence in that great house at the close, then a shout went up that shook the mighty pillars. A whisper being heard that Parepa Rosa meant to educate the boy musically, the generous hearts of a few had opened the gates of fortune for little Elfin. To-day he is great and famous, and they call him to play before Princes.

Scraps.

Germany estimates that it has 200,000 vagabonds and beggars, including thieves and swindlers.

Senator Camden, of West Virginia, has gone to the Hot Springs of Arkansas for the benefit of his health.

The Duke of Edinburgh will be present at the Czar's coronation. The Prince of Wales will not attend.

Ex-Senator David Davis is to be presented by admiring friends in Texas with a chair made of ox horns.

Tufts College, Massachusetts, receives \$10,000 as a bequest from the late Miss Mary Blake, of Kingston, N. H.

F. Marion Crawford, the author of the successful novel, "Mr. Isaacs," is a nephew of Mrs. Julia Ward Howe.

The Indians in Nevada catch quail by scattering wheat soaked in alcohol on the ground. This the birds eat greedily and soon become staggering drunk.

The late Dr. Glenn, of California, employed not less than fifty men in the winter season to shoot wild geese, which were destroying his wheat fields.

A dramatic entertainment is to be given in Baltimore to raise funds for the purchase of a lot of ground for the burial of all actors who die in Maryland.

English sportsmen who contemplate a trip to a savage country where there are, of course, no gunmakers' shops, usually take with them the muzzle-loading guns.

The new lighthouse at Tampico is pronounced a success, and Mexican engineers are at work making estimates of the cost of constructing a shelter for ships at Matamoros.

There are said to be as many as twenty or twenty-five deaf mutes in the Crow Nation; quite a large proportion, and less than 3000. They are well versed in the sign language.

Ex-Governor Stanford is thought to possess the largest vineyard owned by an individual anywhere in the world. The vineyard at Vina, Cal., embraces 3500 acres all in thriving vines.

The coffee blight has spread from Ceylon and the Fiji Islands to Brazil, where the loss is already so serious that the Minister of Agriculture is making every effort to discover a means of stopping it.

The United States steam frigate Lancaster, flagship of the European squadron, the command of which has been transferred by Rear Admiral J. W. A. Nicholson, who is to be retired, has sailed and steamed 21,000 miles since leaving New York in October, 1881.

Queen Corola of Saxony has beautiful face and engaging manners. She is fond of English literature, and reads stories of American life and customs to her children. "She is to-day," says the *London Queen*, "one of the three perfect sovereigns in Europe."

Steps are about to be taken by the people of New Castle to commemorate, in some fitting way, the services to the town, direct and indirect, rendered by Sir William Armstrong. He has been a large contributor to the funds of various religious and educational societies, while his gifts of parks and pleasure grounds bring up his donations to between £500,000 and £750,000 within the past 20 years.

During the last thirty years the California quicksilver mines have produced 100,222,367 pounds, of which 67,397,800 pounds were exported. California produces one-half of all the quicksilver in use throughout the world. The Rothschilds control the Australian and Spanish mines.

Healthy Homes.

Robert Rawlinson, C. E., London, has given the following rules for securing healthy houses, in his "Letters and Papers on Sanitary Questions."

The subsoil beneath a house should be naturally dry, or it should be made dry by land draining.

The ground floor of a house should not be below the level of the land, street, or road outside.

A site excavated on the side of a hill, or steep bank, is liable to be dangerous, as external ventilation may be defective and the subsoil water from above may soak toward and beneath such houses. Middens, ashpits, and cesspools, if at the back, must also taint such basements.

The subsoil within every basement should have a layer of concrete over it, and there should be full ventilation.

Cesspools and cesspits, sinkholes, or drains should not be formed nor be retained within house basements.

The ground around dwelling-houses should be paved, flagged, asphalted, covered with concrete or be gravelled.

Outside channels should be in good order, and be regularly cleansed.

House eaves should be guttered and spouted.

Swill-tubs should not be near doors or windows.

Pigs should ever be at a distance; and, where pigs are kept, there should be rigid cleanliness. Improperly kept pigs has caused more human sickness and destroyed more life than all the battles the country has ever engaged in.

Garden plats should, of course, be in order, and be properly cultivated.

Many houses, from the mansion to the cottage, are unwholesome for some of the following reasons:

Damp and unventilated basements.

Cesspools and foul drains within the basement.

Rotten timber in floors and skirtings and tainted wall papers.

Kitchen sinks in improper places and unventilated.

Water closets in improper places and unventilated.

Rooms without adequate means for ventilation.

Water cisterns and pumps in improper places, supplying contaminated water.

These defects should be remedied by landlords.

Houses are also unwholesome from accumulated dirt, carelessness and personal neglect. As when:

Rooms are not sufficiently cleansed.

Carpets are left down too long and never swept.

Windows are seldom opened.

Water closets are dirty, neglected and without ventilation.

Dirty beds are unmade and shrouded by dirty hangings.

Dirty wardrobes and dirty clothes closets.

Nooks, corners and shelves which are never dusted.

These are points of construction to be attended to which I will name, so as to put them on record for the remembrance of those who may, at some time or other, build cottages or small houses, or be in communication with those who do build, or are going to do so.

A bed of concrete over the site of cottages will vastly modify otherwise objectional positions; but, indeed, a bed of concrete should be used in all cases.

To ventilate stairs and passages, open the staircase or passage window, or both, by drawing down the top sash several inches in summer, one or more inches in winter, and in some cases screw the sash fast, so that these windows must be open all the year round; if there is a skylight above the staircase, let there be ventilation here which cannot be closed. The result will be improved health to the family. Pay no attention to any casual remark, "How cold your staircase is!" Let the ladies put on an extra shawl. But the remark will seldom be made.

Schools, as a rule, are very defectively ventilated. Ordinary flat-ceilinged rooms are totally unfit for public schools. The space should be open to the roof-ridge, and this should be louvered.

Nurseries and children's rooms should be permanently ventilated. Dormitories for children should have ample ventilation; clothe the children warmly, cover the beds warmly, prevent direct draughts, and the cool air will not injure.

Avoid flue ventilation of every sort; let the fresh air come in as direct as possible. Night air is the only air you can have at night, so do not fear it. Dread foul, because tainted, air manufactured within the rooms. Any outside fresh air is better than lung and skin tainted inside air.

Do not build on heaps of rubbish, fillings in with cesspool refuse, chemical waste, or on swampy ground which cannot be drained. Thousands of houses have been so placed, and are now being so placed in the suburbs of our towns.