A MIRACLE.

At night all bare of verdure The hill and meadow lay; The brook 'neath bushes leafless Went rapid on its way.

A few short hours I left them; Lol when I came again, The brook, slow threads of silver, Wound down a leafy lane.

The hill was green and shining With turf of tender blade, And blossoms in the meadow A gay mosaic made.

If I had staid and waited, And watched there day and night, No secret of their magic Could I have brought to light.

long-bearded man.

himself."

less full.

east."

the seats.

manner.

wise?

I glanced at him furtively and re-

I began to wish myself anywhere but

Our evident constraint was, for the

"Won't you have something to eat?"

he asked confidentially, coming up to

us; "the train starts very soon for the

"Shall I bring it in here?" he inquired,

when the stranger assented and ordered

"You are going by this train?" asked

surprised; did he intend doing other-

"So am I," was my answer, shyly

"How should I?" and he half smield.

I saw then that he had beautiful

"The waiter brought him his steak,

I was put out with myself, auntie,

with auntie's sister-in-law, and with my

escort himself. Were we going to travel

together all that way in this most un-

given; his reserve was very infectious,

going to Massachusetts."

"Did you not know that?"

toward the place I had occupied.

moment, ended by the polite waiter.

marked that it was very chilly.

Oh i miraole most splendid, Oh i magic all divine, Of which our learned duliness But calendars the sign.

How dare we speak it lightly, As name of common thing, The name of this great miracle, The miracle of Spring.

THE RED NECKTIE.

I, Jessie Sutton, had been spending a year with my aunt in the west. As I was to return home a sister-in-law of aunt's had suggested that a cousin of hers who was also going east was jolly company-a splendid fellow and just. the one for a traveling companion. I could travel to Chicago alone, and he would meet me there, and we could complete the journey together.

So aunt had her sister-in-law write to him, and it was all arranged. As I had never seen him, there was a spice of romance about the matter which suited me exactly.

But as we were total strangers to each other, how could be recognize me or I him among the thousands of people in Chicago? My aunt, good woman, instantly suggested the way. I must wear a gray jacket and he a red necktie.

"Take care of yourself, my child," were auntie's last words; after sundry injunctions as to doing this or leaving that undone, all of which hints she deemed necessary for my safety and comfort. "And to be sure to look out for Mr. --passing engine and the starting of the train cut short the sentence.

Then as I sank back on the seat. after waving my handkerchief in fare- teeth, partially hidden, as was indeed well, it suddenly flashed upon me that I' the entire lower part of the face, by the had not heard the name, and for the life thick moustache and beard. of me I could not remember it. Had I ever heard it? I asked myself. Yes, and we both sat silent; he occupied with it had most certainly been mentioned in his supper. I with all sorts of misgivthe first letter; that I was sure of; ings and conjectures. whother again I did not recollect. Aunt and I had always spoken of the red necktie, and what with hurried preparations and farewell visits, the last days had been very busy ones.

I could not help feeling somewhat have pained me more than any diverblank after this diccovery, until the sion of his from the gentlemanly courlaughable part of it struck me.

ulating and talking most volubly, but a bold stroke occurred to me-what if I his companion was silent. I had only addressed him at a venture? "Do you attach luck, good or ill, to a time to see a tall, foreign-looking man certain name, Mr. ----?" before they came to where I was stand-

"Edward," finished myldisconcerting "There he is, miss," exclaimed the vis-a-vis before I could bring my lips to waiter, eagerly; then turned on his utter Jones or Smith. How I should heel and left us. Exactly what I felt have liked to have boxed his ears, unthat moment I cannot describe. It was ladylike as it sounds. "If you mean a mixture of satisfaction that the that I believe all Tommys must of nestranger had come, and a very distinct cessity be good, and all Harrys bad-no sort of timidity and uncomfortableness | Miss Jessie." together, at the presence of that silent,

"Was he teasing me, and doing his part of "hide" better than mine of "seek?" I could not decide. For a few moments I sat stupidly silent, then made even a "Yes," he assented, drawing up his more stupid remark, and thought what fur cloak closer about his throat, and a fool I must appear to him.

"Why did you not ask my name outstopped as if waiting for me to proceed. "Surely he ought to say something," right, Miss Jessie, instead of beating thought I, "if he were only to introduce about the bush?" asked he of the red necktie, after a pause.

Did I hear aright? I all but jumped there. I looked around (we were still up, as I took in the purport of the standing in the doorway); the little question. The color mounted to my room was empty, the large one much | temples; fortunately my veil hid it partially.

He had misunderstood me willfully. Why should he? Surely my curiosity was a pardonable and natural one under the circumstances. I resolved he should not have the best of it-let him keep up the silly mystery as long as it pleases him. the necessity of keeping up the ball

The desire to unravel it had evaporated with the desire to make it appear something; "there is a nice little table to him as if there had been none, at least so far as I was concerned. where miss was seated, and he pointed

"Why should I try?" trying to speak unconcernedly; "one does not usually We moved simultaneously and took travel with or be escorted by a gentleman whose name one does not know." He gave me a curious, searching my companion, in a casual, off-hand ook.

"And yet you never saw me before "Naturally," answered I, somewhat this evening," he said slowly, keeping his eyes upon me.

"Nor you me," I returned, "But "Then I shall be most happy to escort that has nothing to do with the case." you as far as our roads lie together," "A great deal, I should say," was the was the further rejoinder, but he uttered answer, accompanied by a provoking still somewhat constrainedly "I am smile.

> What did he mean? I opened my of the art of conversation, no harm in lips once or twice to ask him to be more definite but shut them again in the fear that for some inexplicable reason or point. The merest trifle generally sufother my companion would keep up his mysterious manner.

For hours neither of us said a word. I closed my eyes but not a wink did I sleep during the longest, weariest night of my life.

At length the dawn reddened the east. The rain had ceased, the skies had cleared, and as I turned and opened my window, I noticed that the air had the pleasant coolness of an early autumn morning. I threw back my veil, the better to inhale the fresh air.

comfortable manner? Nothing would "Good heavens!" was the early morning greeting of my strange companion. tesy due to a lady, but there was a pe- hold of both my hands. as he quickly started up and then seized The Gift of Small Talk.

commonplaces.

tearing his foot loose from the trap, and surely but not slowly he is working There are people who have no other himself up into the most tremendous talent, whom we never call clever, but degree of lage and ferocity. who do possess this instinct, and who When you have thus trapped a thous can talk most sympathetically, while and pound grizzly, you have not caught knowing scarcely anything about the

a bear; you have simply caught the devil individual addressed. There are others incarnate! Indeed the question somewho are deficient in this gift, who can times is not whether you have caught only say "Really," and "Indeed," the bear, but whether you have not These "Really" and "Indeed" and "Oh" given him a first-class opportunity to people are the despair of the dinnercatch you! Now let us see how thes is. giver. The gay, chatty, light-hearted The grizzly thus caught, and thus people who can glide into a conversation worked up into the most formidable easily are the best of dinner-table comferocity, has to be followed up afoot, panions, even if they do sometimes talk first through a dense forest, and then too much about the weather and such carefully and laboriously into the heart of a tangled swamp, where one cannot see ten steps ahead, and where, if the It is a good plan for a shy young peron, who has no confidence in her own monster should suddenly rise directly in powers of conversation, to fortify herfront and charge, trap, clog, and all, self with several topics of general interretreat would be absolutely impossible. est, such as the last new novel, the last Add to this that at the time of the hunopera, the best and newest gallery of ter's arrival the bear may have just sucpictures, or the flower in fashion; and ceeded in tearing his foot loose, or may to invent a formula, if words are wanthave just managed to break his chain, ing in her organization, as to how these or may have just finished eating up the subjects should be introduced and handclog bodily, all of which things have led. Many ideas will occur to her, and happened in my experience. He would she can silently arrange them. Then then be in a beautiful state of frenzy, she may keep these as a reserve force. and would be perfectly delighted to using them only when the conversation wipe out a hunter or two if only to drops or she is unexpectedly brought to quiet down his nerves.

Uselessness of Blinders on Horses.

ther unfairly, leading the conversation "Blinders," "originated in the pride up to the point where they wish to enof persons who imagined their horses ter; but these are not the people who presented a finer appearance. Custom need help-they can take care of themand ignorance combined in perpetuatselves. After talking a while in a pering their use, so that to-day probably functory manner, many a shy young nineteen-twentieths of our horses are person has been astonished by a sudden disfigured by these worse than useles contrivances, including multitudes of miserable, broken-down animals employed in the sever grades of labor, and which could not, from sheer from full wells one brings up buckets weariness and lifelessness, be induced full of clear water, but there can be to shy, or run away by anything short of a bomb bursting in their immediate fact remains that brilliant thinkers and vicinity. scholars are not always good talkers.

and there is no harm in the cultivation which insists horses are less frightened by objects which are screened from a little "cramming," if a person is their view by blinders, but which they afraid that language is not his strong can hear (such, for instance, as locomotives), than when they can see just fices to start the flow of small talk, and false by the experience of all who have most terrifies a horse. The animal who will become unmanageable when

Trapping grizzly has its perils and ex- made to face away from an approachcitements also. The trap employed is ing train will quietly stand its ground of the double spring pattern, with steel if allowed to face the object. I know jaws, and weighs complete thirty-eight this from personal experience with The beautiful Madonnas of Raphael many restless horses.

"Blindyrs de not prevent horses them. I will then pass this branch of road, and hence blinders can only serve Where are Your Foreheads?

It is about time some one was appointed to make an investigation on the subject and see whether the girls nowadays really have any foreheads, or whether they have all "gone off," like Pat's gun with a "bang!" A sensible writer says that men seem to wear them as they used to do. And ladies, also, of advanced or advancing years. But as I go to the city daily, and see in the streets and on the cars and ferry boats whole bevies of bright and beautiful girls, I am constantly wondering at, if not admiring, the ingenuity displayed in covering up, hiding, and practically getting rid of this crowning feature of the human face divine. What it has done, or what change has passed upon it, that it should be so ignominiously expelled from sight, I am unable to discover or imagine. Time was when a lover might have been as much enraptured with his mistress' fair brow as with her beautiful eyes, but now he can only sing, if he sings at all, of the fascinating frizz, the delightful fluff, of the lovely bang his lady wears behind which her forehead long since disappeared.

To me it seems against nature. If she had wanted the forehead covered up with hair, she'd have made it grow there, like the beard on a man's chin. I wonder if you like it any better than

I do? I don't believe the minister does, for I've noticed two or three times, when he had girls to baptize, he could hardly find a spot on the foreheads big enough to put his fingers on, and it did seem to trouble him a little. Perhaps I oughtn't to say it, and yet somehow it set me to wondering how the angel it speaks of in the Book of Revelation could find room to seal the servants of God in their foreheads or write their Father's name there if they were all covered up like that.

I'm very much afraid we've seen the last of them-the foreheads, I meanand another generation won't have any, unless a change comes very quick. You know these scientific men say that a faculty or organ that is constantly disused-I believe that's it-tends to disappear altogether. And why not a what the object is is proven wholly feature too? I can't bear to think of all the beautiful foreheads covered dispensed with blinders on their ani- with hair growing down to the eyes. mals. It is the unseen object which can you? And yet, what's to hinder I don't see, if the hair is deliberately and steadily trained to grow there. The old artists knew better than we, not to take the regality from the feminine face, by hiding the brow under a mop of hair. and Murillo have brows of queenly loveliness. And imagine Florence Nightingale going about in bangs,

Advice to Swearers.

Nobody cares for the swearing of an to prevent their seeing objects over- habitual swearer. His volleys of propassed from the rear by a noiselessly- far as we can learn Washington only gliding bicycle, which fright would swore once during all the eight years have been avoided had the animal been of the revolutionary war. But that one of retreat, changed a rout into a victory and made things hum. But the fellow who swears on all occasions, and swears hot and cold with the same mouth, the intellectual pauper who ekes out his barren supply of ideas with an use. The vast majority of blinders are abundant crop of profanity, whose conversation is a long chain of mill press directly against the eyelashes and privileges, and talks as a beaver works eyes of the horse, which causes pain to his swearing is weak, tiresome. So the animal, besides frequently destroy- if you want to swear with any effect, my boy, be very seldom about it. Be "I strongly and carnestly wish there exclusive in your profanity. If you can't get along without it bring it out.

the person who can use this agreeable weapon of society is always popular and very much courted. Big Sport.

alone. Some people use this power ra-

pounds. The sorings are very powerful and have to be bent with levers. It

is quite an art to set and place a trap from observing each object in front cunningly, and trappers vary in their and upon each side of them as they methods and are chary of explaining approach it while traveling upon the

rush of brilliant ideas, and finds herself talking naturally and well without effort. The best way to learn how to talk is, of course, to learn how to think;

"The unsoundness of that logic

small talk without much thought. The

venture. Besides, the gray jacket and red tie are certain signs of recognition, and no doubt he knows my name."

tempted to read by the misty light that known his name! Somebow I fancied was a dismal, rainy afternoon

At last it grew dark. Perhaps I had exhausted my store of wonderings as to what my unknown escort would be like, clearly then before me, the old shortlived romance of nearly eight years ago. been so long past and buried. What imagined, has conjured it into life again?

"Chicago! Chicago!" shouted the brakeman, waking me up from the reverie that had ended in an hour's sound sleep.

It was 9 o'clock. I had to wait an hour for the train from the south, I uation. ordered tes from the depot restaurant. There were few occupants in the room. and either the waiter had little to do or I looked helpless and forlorn. He was ing room and the most trivial courtesles certainly polite and attentive; and when since we started, no conversation had he ventured upon saying, "Leave by passed between us. Therefore the rethe next train, miss?" I confided to mark was welcome-besides it was rehim the state of the case, and begged assuring. I brightened up. He did him timidiy, when the next train came know niy name (that he had my trayin, to look out for a gentleman wearing eling-bag-on which I had engraved a red tie.

faster, as the time drew near. Would once," he repeated, as I turned a halfhe come, or had he missed the train? Should I have to make that long journey alone, after all, for now that I was was he like?

.

I am afraid that, however quiet and staid my outward self may have been, inwardly I felt like any 16-year-old school girl. Indeed, I am ashamed to say that I did walk across once or twice hair and a twitch there to my yell, and five-and-twenty one likes to look one's best at meeting a stranger.

The bell announced the train's approach, then I heard the engine's shrill whistle, and the bustle and confusion as the passengers alighted. The train seemed very full.

I had drawn near the door leading into the general waiting-room, so that I could watch the passengers.

My polite waiter had disappeared, seeking my red necktie on the platform,

"After all," I said to myself, "it is cultarity about his constraint that puzonly carrying out the romance of the ad- zied me. After all, though a stranger, he was a half connection and might well have been friendlier, more especially as he must have noticed the effect So I munched my sandwiches and at- his manner had on me. If I had only

gleamed through the windows, for it this would have placed us on a pleasanter footing. Then his last remark! Had no one told him my destination?

The second hour of waiting seemed to me far longer than the first, and I was or I was tired of speculating about him; glad enough to find myself-with my certainly he did not occupy my thoughts companion, of course-in the easternthen. It was the past that stood so bound train, which quickly sped away. My ideas of the romance of such : fourney had now entirely collapsed: Why should it crop up then? It had anything more prosaic was hardly to be

There we sat, a young man and s young woman who, to judge from all appearance, wished themselves anywhere but where they were. As for myself. I may safely assert that I never experienced a more awkward sit-

"Pretty name, Jessie!" said my companion suddenly. Now, with the exception of a few sentences in the wait-"Jessie"-in his hand at Chicago never My heart did begin to best a little occurred to me). "I knew a Jessie

sentling face toward him. He might have known a hundred for

aught I cared; it was only the opporso far, I should go on, of course. What tunity of learning his that interested me, so I exclaimed quickly:

> "What is yours?" "Edward."

I sank back on the seat in thorough disgust at my failure, It was evident I must let things take their course. Be a to the mirror, giving a pull here to my sensible woman, Jessie, I argued to my-I caught myself wishing I had put on a be Mr. Jones or Mr. Smith, providing more becoming hat. I suppose at even he brings you safely to your destination? My companion had, however, noticed my discomfiture, and it amused him, I

could see by his smile. But his translation of my vexation was an incorrect

"I am sorry 'Edward' does not meet with your approbation.

"Oh, dear, nol It is as good as any other," I rejoined carelessly. Once I off with a braye heart to make it. had pronounced it a horrid name and "How are you getting on, George?" flatly refused to call some one by it, she asked, at the explication of a comple But the past had gone back in shadow. of moutins, In a faw minutes I espied him at the land. The present fully cocupied me. A pause, in which I was tacking on

"Don't you know me, Jessie?" he ex- the subject, says a writer. Let us supclaimed.

The daylight fell upon his face, showhands away.

"How dare you?" I began: then overcome with astonishment and mortification at the sudden change of behavior, covered my face.

"Jessie I am Nelville Tracy-Edward Nelville Tracy."

My heart stood still for a moment. carce know if the sensation I experienced was due to doubt or surprise. Then I scanned my companion narrowly. Recollections came slowly back. With me recognition was not at all as clog, in such a way that it cannot it is usually depicted in novels. Where was the boyish face that had been before me in my reverie only last night? strength to tear himself loose. Neither He had left me a slight, fair young fel- must the clog be too large and heavy, low; now a sunburnt, bearded man or the same result will follow. It may claimed his name.

How long it was before I could quite convince myself I was not dreaming, get loose, and ordinarily in a few hours, He is generally caught by the extreminor he deceiving me, I could not say. There was so much to explain, so ty of the forepaw, just above the claws; much to relate-the wherefore of our the hold on him is not very great; his parting has so little to do with this exertions to get away are tremendous, story, that I pass it over-that we forgot the singular trick of Tate that had ing the foot that sooner or later he will the most natural thing in the world that grizzlies that I caught got away; one we should be going home together. And when the riddle was uuraveled, it was, of course, a simple one. He had tale, the other leaving a small piece of thought he was going to have a very nice little adventure when the waiter had all but torn themselves loose; in. ounced down on him in mistake, and one case the foot was almost cut through. manlike, was nothing loth to follow it and only a small piece of skin the thickup, not recognizing his former love until I threw back my veil.

Well, eight years had altered me some- the much-detested clog. what also. The reason of the non-appearance of the right (or wrong?) escort, I learnt soon after in a double letter of apology from aunt's sister-inlaw and humself. He had missed the fallen timber and travel must be afoot hours later.

I have traveled etten enough with my red necktie since then, but he postively declares that was the pleasantest journey he ever took with me, because it ended so happily. And all's well that ends well.

A MICHIGAN girl told her young man that she would never marry him until he was worth \$100,000. So he started

"Well," George said, hopefully, "I have saved up \$22."

pose, therefore, that the hunter has taking them from behind, which is an fanity have no terror in them. They made his camp in a neighborhood redo- end never to be desired. I have fre- mean nothing. It is the man who never ing it very tanned. This I noticed; but lent of grizzlies, and that he has his traps quently seen horses shy so violently as swears who scares you out of your boots this was all. Indignantly I drew my set in a likely place for bear. At the to nearly overturn the vehicle on being if once in a lifetime he does swear. So end of the trap chain is a ring about five inches in diameter, and this is driven about a half a toot over the end of a heavy stick or log five inches through unblindered, and thus aware of the time counted. It turned back the tide and six or eight feet long. The object approach of the machine. of this "clog," as it is called, is to make "Blinders also much diminish the a trail which can be readily followed, beauty of a horse, the eye being one of and to hamper the bear sufficiently to

its finest features. But the greatest prevent his going to a great distance objection of all is the curiosity (and away before the hunter can arrive. injury, as well) resulting from their Great care must be taken that the chain be fastened to the extreme end of the made pearly flat, so that they commonly get across two trees, and so give the brute a chance to use his enormous ing the sight.

could be legislation to compel all horseowners who insist upon using blinders to occasionally, like rare old family diabe accepted as a maxim that a grizzly caught in such a trap will eventually use only heavily convexed ones, which shall not press in the present cruel eight hours a day, like the kitchen manner against the eye-lashes and eyes," hydrant.

Fashionable Envelopes.

The latest fashion in envelopes is and result in in so cutting and laceratsomething exceptionally fine. They are brought us together again. It seemed tear out of the trap altogether. Two made of vellum of the purest white and are bound all round with satin ribbon of some delicate color, which is tied in who was probably taken by the claws alone leaving some hairs only to tell the a knot and scaled with wax of the same shade. There is a great art in scaling his foot behind as a souvenir. Many a letter, and the candle, the sticking of scaling-wax, and a daintily engraved seal are now requisites of the fashionable writing table. When sealed, note ness of a man's little finger remained to and candle are ready, do not begin by thrusting the end of the wax stick into hold the terribly infuriated monster to the flame and conveying it in a flaming splatter of wax to your envelope. Take The traps are set far back in dense plenty of time to do it. First lay the and gloomy forests near the tangled scal right to your hand, so that the imswamps, where grizzlies love to make their lair. The ground is covered with pression may be square and not wrong side up. Then hold the wax consideraself. What does it matter whether he train, and arrived in Chicago several and is slow and difficult. The bear on bly above the flame of the candle-not being caught starts off on a tremendous makes a brittle, streaky seal, and is rush for the swamps which is close by. hard to manage. When the wax has Here he catches on a rotten log for a segradually softened apply it with a circond and ploughs a path through wide cular movement of the hand upon the enough for a cart, there he hangs on note. Rub it well around and down two fallen trees fifty feet long, but lie nutil you have the proper circle and of hangs for an instant only, moves the sufficient thickness. Then do not apgreat trees to one side and rushes on. ply the seal; the wax has cooled so that Next he strikes against a tree, and in it would not take a clear impression. his rage turns and eats the whole side Hold the envelope some little distance out of it, leaving the fresh white pine from the flame, then lay it upon your red with blood stains from his gums. desk and apply the seal. The result Now he reaches the swamp and plunges should be a clear-cut impression. deep into its recesses, venting his rage

on the balsams and poplars, absolutely Many speak the truth when they say chewing down saplings and even gnawthat they despise richts and prefer-ment, but they mean the riches and ing them into lengths like stove wood. All this time he is slowly but surely preferment possessed by other men.

And-you won' be offended, my son -but if you will observe closely you will perceive that young men, boys, fledgelings of about your age, swear more than men-more frequently, more with less point and direction. A man becomes ashamed of it. It belongs to the cigarette and matinee period of life, my boy. It is a habit that flourishes in the bread-and-butter days, along some where between the high-school and the college, and while the blue ribbon on the diploma is bright. It belongs to what Puck so aptly calls the "unsalted generation," the fresh young men. So

monds don't keep it running six or

put it away and put on manly things. I know some good men some of the best in the world, who will confound it. and even dog-gone it, and in New England even a deacon has been known, under a terrible strain, to " condemn." But as a rule, my son, don't do it. Don't swear. It isn't an evidence of smartness or worldly wisdom. And a good many fools do it. 1, my son? Ah, if you could only gather up all the uscless uncalled for ineffective swears I have dropped along the pathway of my life, I know I would remove stumbling blocks from many inexperienced feet, and my heart would be lighter by a ton than it is to day. But if you are goinng to be a fool just because other men have been ch, my son, what a hopeless fool you will bo

"A populan writer laments the fact that American poets are declining." It is different with the American poets themselves. They lament the fact that the editors of magazines and newspap ers are de