

DON'T BE IN A HURRY.

Don't be in a hurry to answer yes or no;
Washing's lost by being reasonably slow.
In a hasty moment you may give consent,
And four years of torment leisurely repent.

EVELYN.

"Surely, to-night, I am the personification
of the character my dear friends
choose to ascribe to me; they ought to
recognize me," Evelyn Kurtz exclaimed,

She was a handsome woman, this
grand mistress of one of an Eastern
city's grandest mansions. The world-
her world-said that she was haughty
and icy as she was regally beautiful.

But there had come a time when her
love for her father failed to satisfy
every demand of her soul. She cared
naught for the admiration, the proffered
passion of the men who thronged about
her always.

And what hope had she, she asked
herself as she stood before her costly
mirrors, arrayed for a grand ball masque,

She took her frosted white silk mask
and went down to the grand lighted
hall to receive her father's good by
night.

She turned over the engravings
silently a moment, and then ventured a
remark.

before this man that she would so freely
make of her life.
"Ah! madam, you are one of the
few that appreciate their blessings,"

"Nay," she said, slowly, "I would
willingly give all the blessings I have
for one I have not."

"And then her partner brought her
ice, bowing to Leroy Cummings, who
replaced his mask and went away.

"The crowd parted them.
When they met again, and the courtly
woman was within his encircling arm,

"You know they do me injustice?
Say you know it; that you do not believe
what you just heard of me!"

"I do not believe what people say of
you, but that you are good and noble-
a woman worth naught less than worship;

"I will call on Lizzie before I go
home," she decided; and turned into a
pleasant, respectable street, and ran up
the steps of a house on whose door was
a dressmaker's plate.

"How sad. Are they very poor. Can
I do anything for them?"
"Well, when he was well, he worked
hard to support his mother in comfort,

earning anything, had little to support
him.
From that day Miss Kurtz kept him
supplied with flowers and luxuries.

"I have a favor to ask of you to-
night, Lizzie. I want to lie down a few
hours upon your lounge. By midnight
the doctor will pronounce the verdict of
life or death upon my patient, and I
have become so interested I wish to
hear it direct. I have sent the carriage
home until one."

"The doctor stood beside his patient,
with his fingers upon the thin wrist.
"His is dead," Miss Kurtz heard him
say, softly.

"He had come close to her now, and
was gazing with passionate longing into
her beautiful, sorrowful face. "I did
not mean that you should meet me."

"I don't see how he could well get
away from the bay. The only reason
you can see up there is in the spring,
and that is the only way he could move,

"I don't think he would attempt to move
further north under the circumstances;
and if he had started south I would
have met him when on that expedition
last summer."

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Surf-Bathing in Winter.

"Bathing," said the proprietor of a
row of weather-beaten boxes on the
beach at the Highlands, N. J., "cannot
be said to cease entirely at any time of
the year. Of course, after the middle
of September it would be useless to
keep the boxes open, but now and then
somebody comes to the beach in the
middle of winter, undresses hastily, and
plunges in. But he seldom remains in
the water more than a few seconds, and
to say the truth, I have seldom seen
the same face twice. The finest days
are chosen for such work, but no matter
how brightly the sun is shining, it is
an awful ordeal, and only to be under-
taken by persons of strong constitu-
tions. They come out, for the most
part, looking as though the sea was
boiling instead of freezing, dress them-
selves on the beach as though they had
no time to lose, and race along the sand
for half an hour."

"The most persistent winter bather I
ever saw was a boy about 16 years of
age, who used to come here a couple of
years ago. He lived about a mile from
the beach, and every morning from De-
cember 1 to February 28, at 8 o'clock,
rain or shine, he was paddling in the
water. The most singular thing about
him was that he could not swim a stroke,
and did not seem disposed to learn the
art. I offered to teach him, but he
said, 'No, thank you; if I swim I'd be
going beyond my depth and gettin'
drowned.'"

"He never bathed in the surf, but al-
ways in the smooth water inshore. He
would stand breast deep for half an
hour, occasionally ducking his head
under, but for the most part he was
contented with splashing the water over
himself with his hands or wading slowly
about. When he came out he did not
seem to be chilled, and, unlike most
of the others, he dressed himself at
leisure and strolled home whistling.
He was not a profitable customer, for
he never bathed in summer. He said
he hated warm baths. His family have
gone to Nantucket, so I suppose he is
now astonishing fishermen there."

A Sad Sea Dog.

Lieutenant Garlington, of the United
States army, who is now stationed at
Fort Buford, in Dakota Territory, and
who had charge of the Government re-
lief steamer Proteus that was sent to
the Arctic regions last summer in search
of the Greely party, was in Pittsburg
recently, and when interviewed said:

"I am sorry I cannot give you a con-
nected story, as I have been working
hard all day, and feel very tired, but I
suppose the people would like to know
my opinion as to whether the Greely
party are alive or not. There is not a
bit of doubt about it in my mind. I
don't see how it can be otherwise. If
they are at Lady Franklin Bay, which
beyond a doubt they are, they are cer-
tainly alive and well. Greely had plenty
of provisions to last him through the
winter, and he was stationed where he
could get plenty of fuel, and I see no
reason for his not being alive."

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when caught between two such icebergs.
No boat can ever be built that could
withstand the pressure. Although they
seem to be moving slowly, they have a
terrible force and are often crushed by
their own weight.

Walrus are very plenty up there in
some places. At the mouth of Melville
Bay I believe I saw a thousand at one
time. They crawl up on the ice and
lie there apparently asleep, but on the
approach of a hunter they drop into
the water in a lubberly, awkward man-
ner which is amusing. At times they
sport and play in the water and out
and keep the sea in constant confusion.
They are an interesting study, especially
when they are the only animated crea-
tures that can be seen. While watching
them one forgets that he is out of
the habitable world. The only land to
be seen is an alluvial deposit thrown up
by the waves near the north shore of
Greenland. There is a kind of moss
growing on the rocks, but from what it
draws the substance of life I know not.
One of the most interesting sights in
the whole northern region is the falling
into the water of huge fields of ice.
You will see thousands of acres of ice
and snow that extend high in the air.
The water wears this away on the under
side, and when the point projecting into
the water becomes so heavy as to force
itself off it breaks with a loud report
and falls into the water. The traveling
is all done up there with dogs in sledges.
The dogs are about as large as Indian
dogs, and are able to draw about their
own weight. They usually harness
from eight to twelve dogs to a sledge,
and under favorable circumstances and
smooth ice can go about sixty miles in
a day. If the surface is uneven and
soft the animals are worthless, and the
sledge has to be drawn by hand."

The Mohammedan World.

Though Christendom cannot be said to
be in danger from El Mahdi, it is likely to
be put to serious inconvenience. The
countries which the Mohammedans con-
trol are considerable in extent of territory;
they interlace with Christian countries
and across several of them lie some of
the world's most important highways.
Others lie off the beaten tracks of travel and
are only valuable for their scanty contribu-
tions to the world's commerce. In discussing
the question we have to consider the dif-
ferent opinions and interests among Mo-
hammedans and the prospect of their ac-
tion in large numbers, either for the pur-
poses of holding their deserts or invading
countries controlled by Christians, but par-
tially occupied by people of their own
faith. The majority of Mohammedan
zealots are nomads, without fixed homes
for occupation, and often robbers by prin-
ciple. These occupy the Sahara in Africa,
living chiefly on the northern and southern
edges, and extending more or less into
the Barbary States, Egypt and the Middle
and Western Soudan. There are several mil-
lions of them between the Atlantic Ocean
and the Red Sea. East of the Red Sea
they occupy all of Arabia—a portion of
them living in towns—Syria, Persia and
Turkistan. They form an important ele-
ment of the population of China and India.
In British India there are over forty mil-
lions. The population of Persia is nearly
eighty millions, partly nomads. The popu-
lation of Turkistan does not exceed
two millions, mostly nomads. The popu-
lation of Arabia is perhaps eight mil-
lions, divided between the towns and oases
of the deserts. A few millions more may
be found scattered along the southeastern
coast of Africa, between Cape Guardafui
and Cape Colony. The few millions of
people who occupy the Soudan are Mo-
hammedans by profession, though they
have no intelligent understanding of the
faith. Most of them are negroes, with an
intusion here and there of Arab blood.
Their Kings, Sultans or governors are
mostly white or yellow. A few are Afri-
cans. Mohammedanism has made progress
in Africa alone of recent years, the
sword playing its traditional part in the
conversion of the feeble natives. These
are the countries and the people on which
the fanaticism of the Mohammedan faith
must hereafter do its work. It is the ma-
terial that lies ready to the hand of the
False Prophet if he has the genius or the
power to use it.

Health Hints.

Don't shake a hornet's nest to see if
any of the family are at home.
Don't try to take the right of way
from an express train at a railroad cross-
ing.
Don't talk back to a woman who handles
the fire-shovel with grace and dex-
terity.
Don't go near a draft. If a draft
comes toward you, run away. A sight
draft is the most dangerous.
Don't blow in the gun your grand-
father carried in the war of 1812. It is
more dangerous now than it was then.
Don't hold a wasp by the other end
while you throw it out in front of the
store to see if it is alive. It is gener-
ally alive.

Don't try to persuade a bull dog to give
up a law of which it is in possession.
Position to a bull dog is ten points of
the law.
Don't eat things after you have enough
because you fear they will go to waste;
such a custom will bring you too much
to waste yourself.
Don't go to bed with your boots on.
This is one of the most unhealthy prac-
tices that a man, especially a married
man, can be addicted to.
Don't call a very large, sinewy man a
prevaricator. If you are sure he is a pre-
varicator, hire another man to break the
news to him.
Don't put an old bombshell in the stove
to amuse the audience. You may not
linger here below to enjoy the applause,
even if you should win any.
Don't when gunning, put the pipe you
have been smoking into the pocket where
you are carrying your powder, unless you
have a very strong constitution and an-
other suit of clothes.
Don't allow the baby to drink the con-
centrated lye. Concentrated lye is dan-
gerous, even in very small doses, except to
a man who is accustomed to drinking Bal-
timore corn whiskey.

His recently led No. 7 to the altar,
and when asked for the ring replied:
"Parson, I've hooked onto six of 'em
without a ring, and we kin git along
this time. I'll try and remember it in
the future, though."

Americans and Weak Eyes.

Within the past quarter of a century
opticians say that the portion of the
world's population using eyeglasses has
increased 400 per cent. At that not very
remote period, in country districts espe-
cially, the eyeglass was regarded as a
silly toy, and its wearer as a person de-
ficient in brains, but now the business of
mounting and selling eyeglasses in this
country has grown to immense propor-
tions. All the superior lenses are im-
ported from England and France at the
rate of over a million pairs a month,
and 80 per cent. of them are mounted in
this country, the principal factories for
the purpose being in Philadelphia and in
Southbridge, Mass. The work done in
these establishments is superior to any
turned out in Europe, although not one of
them was in existence ten years ago. It
is estimated that there are at present in
the United States ten million persons who
wear glasses, and the number is constantly
increasing. Some very interesting statis-
tics and general information on this sub-
ject were obtained from Mr. J. Ehrlich,
an optician and manufacturer of Brazilian
pebbles, who had been engaged in that
business for the past twenty years.

"Is the large increase in your business
an argument in favor of the theory that
the human race is degenerating in our
times?" inquired the writer.
"Not by any means," said Mr. Ehrlich
promptly. "There is nothing to show that
the eyesight of farmers and other men who
rise and retire with the sun is not as good
now as it ever was, nor that the eyes do
not last as long as ever. The great in-
crease in the glass-wearing population is to
be found in the cities, and even there
among persons who keep no regular
hours, and who are compelled to write
in bad and unequal light or under the
glare of the gas."

"But did not this condition of affairs
exist a quarter of a century back as well
as now?"
"Not to the same extent. Year by
year the population that is compelled to
work under the gaslight is on the in-
crease, and this increase represents the
number of persons who are compelled to
use glasses two, three and five years
sooner than they would under ordinary
circumstances. Every year brings some
new scientific invention, and there is
scarcely one of them that does not in-
duce what I may term faster living, and
faster living means shorter healthy living
for all the organs, but especially for the
eyes, which are the most delicate of all."

"What class of persons suffer most in
this way?"
"Those that are generally termed 'night
owls.' Among them are printers, tele-
graph operators, musicians and writers for
the daily papers. All men who are com-
pelled to fix a steady gaze on a given point
for any length of time must damage their
eyesight sooner or later. This is the case
with tailors, shoemakers, students and
book-keepers, who work in badly lighted
offices. Then there is a growing disre-
gard for the dictates of ordinary pru-
dence in using their eyes. It is a common
thing to see men and women reading on
railroads and steamboats. This should
not be done unless necessity requires it,
and neither should a person read by gaslight
while reclining in bed. As a rule the
most intelligent classes are those whose
eyesight first fails them."

"How does it happen that so many
young children require glasses nowadays?"
"There are two kinds of near-sighted-
ness. One is acquired from over-taxing
the eyes, and the other inherited by chil-
dren from their parents. The very young
children who wear glasses belong to the
latter class. Too close attention to study
eventually deranges the vision of the young
student and compels him use glasses."

"What proportion of the juvenile popu-
lation suffer from imperfect vision?"
"The figure may seem large but our
estimate is sixteen per cent. This covers
the ages from four to eighteen. Of course
by far the largest number of these are to
be found in Colleges and Young Ladies'
Seminaries."

"And of elderly persons?"
"Seventy-five per cent. of those who
are fifty years or over use glasses. I in-
clude, of course, those who use them occa-
sionally as well as those who use them
habitually."

"Do the improvements in glasses keep
pace with defects in vision?"
"Twenty years ago not one in a hundred
who wore glasses got a good pair; now
twenty-five per cent. of the glasses worn
are the best that can be made, and cost
less than inferior ones did formerly; twenty
years ago the present style of glasses was
rare, and spectacles were general. Now
the frame is of such finely tempered and
delicate steel that the eye glass has driven
the old-fashioned spectacle out of the
market."

"Where are the glasses manufactured?"
"The best concave lenses come from
France, and the best of convex from En-
gland. The former are used by short-
sighted persons, and the latter by those
who are long-sighted. A good pair, se-
lected and suited to the eye by a practical
optician, may be worn two or three years.
Much imposition is practiced in the sale of
glasses. The best framed glasses should
be had from \$1 to \$1.50 per pair, the best
French crystal in rubber for \$2, the best
lenses in the best steel frame for \$3, and
perfect pebbles in same style for \$5.
Some fancy dealers charge \$13 for glasses
not worth over \$2."

"All glasses sold as pebbles are not gen-
uine?"
"The greatest swindling is perpetrated
in glasses of that description. I believe,
however, that many jewelers sell inferior
glasses as pebbles through sheer ignorance,
not intending to deceive their customers.
There are several qualities of pebbles, and
unless a man understands his business
thoroughly he may be deceived in exam-
ining them through the tonrmaine. The
genuine pebble is ground from Brazilian
quartz. The surest way to detect the
bogus article is to remove the lens from
the frame and test it on a steel file. If
bogus it will be ground into dust, but if
genuine it will cut away the steel. It is
the hardest stone in existence next to the
diamond. The greatest swindlers in eye-
glasses are perpetrated by traveling ped-
dlers."