

Transitory.

So stood in a garden by the sea,
And watched the white gulls flicker by.

A CRAZY MOON.

Mr. Gabarit, a retired sea captain,
and presently an alderman of La Ferte-
under-Bell, his native city, in which he
had established his residence after thirty
odd years of good and loyal reumatism
contracted in the national navy of
France, was promenading his garden
after his supper. It was in October,

And as he reached the end of his garden
he made a round about face, recom-
menced his promenade with the same
slowness, and continued to look above
him.

The moon? Well, yes, the moon!
What is more natural than to see the
moon rising on the horizon? Of course
there is nothing very astonishing in
that. It is its business, is it not, for
this heavenly body to roll like that in
the nocturnal firmament? and Mr.
Gabarit knew it, being a sea captain
and an amateur astronomer in his
moments of leisure. It is justly the
reason why, that, by a vague instinct,
in repeating this familiar word, "moon,"
he had sublimed it with a mute interroga-
tion—"What, the moon?" Only
three days ago its last quarter had dis-
appeared. Was it not a little soon for
its reappearance? What the deuce does
that mean?

Mr. Gabarit had arrived at the end
of his thought and of his garden in the
same time. He turned around, still
looking at heaven, and—if his pipe did
not fall on the ground it is that the
excess of his stupor caused him to close
his mouth more firmly. He remained
immobile, nailed to the spot, his eyes
dilated, asking himself if he was not
insane, as the moon, which two minutes
before he had seen emerging scarcely
above the black line of the hills, was
now in the middle of the celestial vault.
And what a moon! A moon formidable,
prodigious, big as one of those
giant pumpkins that the neighboring
farmers bring to the market of La
Ferte-under-Bell.

At first Mr. Gabarit thought that he
had a delirium of sight; he rubbed his
eyes to conjure this optical illusion.
But hardly had he ceased the operation
when his stupor was changed into a
fright. The luminous globe seemed
now to shudder under the gloomy ceiling
of heaven. It was running with such
swiftness that the eye could not easily
follow it in its course. Then it descried
a sharp curve and stopped.
Again, as if it had been taken with ver-
tigo, it allowed itself to fall toward the
earth, threatening it with a sudden
crushing; all at once, without a transi-
tion, it went again in the air with a
vigorous spring, scaling the most sub-
lime heights of empyrean. Without any
doubt the moon danced in heaven.

The ex-sea captain remained as petrified,
as annihilated at the sight of this
improbable phenomenon. Hastily he
left his garden, ran into the unique
street of La Ferte-under-Bell, opened
furtively a door under which a ray of
light was passing and found himself in
the back room of the drug store of
Pharmacist Cruchot, the only man sup-
posed to have his eyes open at 9 o'clock
p. m. in the general drowsiness of the
peaceful and somnolent city. With the
scientist was the Hon. Mr. Melon,
mayor of La Ferte-under-Bell, with
whom he defended with a herculean des-
peration the remains of a shaking tower
and the honor of an unfortunate queen
on a dirty chess board.

"What is the matter?" exclaimed
both players simultaneously, seeing the
frightened countenance of their co-cit-
izen Gabarit.

"What is the matter, my friends?"
answered the ex-sea captain as he re-
gained his breath. "There is that the
moon has become crazy! Come and see
it!"

"Crazy? The moon?" The mayor
and the pharmacist looked at each other
to men who had the same thought—It
is he, this poor Gabarit, who had be-
come crazy!

The old man caught the look.
"No, my friends, I am not crazy!
And I repeat it is the moon which is
crazy. Come out with me only a moment.
You shall see that as well as I did
myself."

The accent of his voice expressed
such a firm conviction that the two
chess players crossed the street, and
went into the street. There they re-
mained, their mouths wide open.
Gabarit had said the truth. The moon zig-
zagged in heaven. Phenomenon highly
improbable, yet visible, stupefying, in-
credible, of with the annals of meteorology
had never mentioned the apparition.

The heavenly body of the night, extra-
ordinarily drawn near the earth, as one
would judge by the size of its diameter,
danced a fantastic jig in the back-
ground, dived, then re-ascended, giving
the most diverse signs of a vertiginous
derangement.

"It is the end of the world!" cried
Hon. Mr. Melon with a strangled
voice.

Suddenly the luminous globe made a
rotation, behind the
and reappeared no
more.

The three friends gazed at the same
place, waiting for
eyes fixed on the

black line behind which they had seen
the moon vanishing.

One, two, three, five minutes elapsed.
The moon did not show itself again.

"It has foundered in the infinite,"
said poetically Pharmacist Cruchot.

"Let us go in, gentlemen," replied
the mayor of La Ferte-under-Bell.

They re-entered the drug store; where
they were seated in the back room they
looked at each other for a moment in
deep silence.

"Gentlemen," said the ex-sea captain,
"we have witnessed a fact unknown
until the present time in the history of
this world. How to explain this over-
throw of the laws of nature? I can
not."

"Neither," sadly sighed Pharmacist
Cruchot.

"In regard to me," continued Gabarit,
"no matter how familiar I am
with astronomical questions, I humbly
avow my incompetency. Scarcely do I
dare to risk this hypothesis, viz: The
moon, through an unknown cause, has
deserted forever our planetary system,
and we have assisted at the tragical
obscure of its departure. As to what
will follow, let us wait, gentlemen,
until the newspapers bring to us the
opinion of savants, who can not fall to
be moved by such an extraordinary
phenomenon, admitting," added he,
with a mournful tone, "that we are to
receive the newspapers any longer, and
that our planet itself is not carried away
in the whirlwind of an universal cata-
clysm."

On those big words, full of wisdom,
but also full of incertitude, the three
friends separated and went to bed.

The next day they met and read the
newspapers. Nothing. No allusion
whatever to the prodigy witnessed by
them. The day after a luncheon. A
third day passed. Nothing, always.
What is it possible that through a
providential favor they were the only
men for whom this miracle had been
performed.

It was incredible and nevertheless
true. The evening of the fifth day
Capt. Gabarit entered the drug store
triumphantly, where Mr. Melon already
was. He had written a pamphlet hav-
ing for title

"The Death of the Moon,"
by
Peter Paul Gabarit, captain and astron-
omist.

This pamphlet is respectfully dedicated
to the Savant societies of Brique-
ville-on-Orne

by
The Author.

Gabarit wanted his friends to affix
their names to the paper as witnesses of
the facts related thereon.

The same evening the pamphlet, bear-
ing the signatures of Gabarit, Cruchot
and Melon, was mailed to its destina-
tion.

But the next day, on the threshold of
his drug store, Pharmacist Cruchot
greeted Capt. Gabarit with a most la-
mentable pantomime. "What is the
matter Cruchot?" There is what the
unhappy Gabarit read in black and
white in the journal put under his nose
by the unfortunate Cruchot.

"The luminous aerostatic experiments
attempted last Friday have been
exceedingly successful. The balloon,
filled with hydrogen and interiorly
lighted up by an electric lamp, has de-
scended at a few miles of La Ferte-
under-Bell. The aeronauts, unwilling to
give anything but reliable information to
the press on their interesting experiments,
were compelled to delay until this
day the publication of the following re-
port:"

Capt. Gabarit had a cold sweat.

He was to have a colder one, when
he received fifteen days afterwards an
official notification from the Savant
Society of Brique-ville-on-Orne inform-
ing him that his report would be the
object of a communication to the Na-
tional Institute of France.

Do You Want a Postage Stamp?

Everybody has seen the automatic
weighing scales at the Brooklyn
ferries, which weigh any one who
comes along, and collects a fee for it in
a business-like manner. The automa-
tic newsboy, who furnishes you with
any newspaper you desire on your drop-
ping the required change into his hand
has been proposed and will possibly
stand on every street corner at some
day in the future. At present an automa-
tic box is being put up on the lamp
posts in Brooklyn to supply the public
with postage stamps, postal cards, a
pencil and postage letter envelopes.

At any hour of the day or night a
citizen may go to one of these boxes
and drop a penny into it, at which
there will appear a postal card and a
pencil with which to write a letter. If
he has a letter already written and
merely wants a postage stamp to mail
it he may drop two pennies in the box
at which, presto, a two-cent stamp
will come out of the box.

These convenient boxes are already
in use in London, and are much liked
there.

The boxes in Brooklyn are an im-
provement on those in London. They
look like writing desks, and are 75
inches high by 17 inches deep. Each
box is divided into several drawers—
one for stamps, one for postal cards,
one for stamped envelopes and one for
letter paper. There is a slot for drop-
ping a coin over each drawer. When
the proper coin drops in it sets in mo-
tion a bit of machinery which pushes
out the article wanted.

No one has to stand by the box to
guard it. It is a complete business
man in itself. If the box proves a suc-
cess in Brooklyn it will be made to
have this new post office department
placed in all the cities of the United
States.

—Mr. Haggin, of California, pro-
poses to enter the list of public breed-
ers. He will hold his first sale of year-
lings next spring.

—Tea jackets are more bought now
than tea gowns; they are less expensive,
and various skirts can be worn with
them. Some are made of plush, some of
woolen piece lace, and a skirt can, if
desired, be had of this same fabric, the
upper portion with quite a loose front;
it is very inexpensive. The woolen
piece lace is to be had in cream, pink
and blue.

AND ITS SECRETS.

Which Big Incomes
had—Women Dentists.

One afternoon, not long ago, I met a
friend, a dentist, who, being in a confi-
dential mood, consented to talk of the
profession of which he is a shining or-
nament. He said:

"Dentistry is not what it is cracked
up to be, and, although it pays big pro-
fitable bills for work done are not
collectable. For this reason honest
men and women are compelled to
suffer for the transgression of 'dead
beats.' I have a friend who recently
sold a set of teeth for \$65 which cost
him exactly \$16.25. By a set of teeth
I mean upper and lower sets. The
teeth mentioned above were set on
aluminum. Teeth set on rubber cost
the patient \$50 and the dentist \$10.
The prices given are average ones.
Some dentists who serve the 'best peo-
ple' ask even higher rates. All dentists
claim to do their mechanical work on
their premises. This is not so. Less
than one-half of the dentists in Brook-
lyn, N. Y., do their own work or em-
ploy mechanical men by the week. A
larger part of the work claimed to be
done by local dentists is performed by
a half dozen mechanical dentists who
make a specialty of that branch of the
business."

"What are mechanical dentists paid
for their services?" I asked.

"Eight dollars per set, which include
upper and lower. The dentist so con-
tracting for the work is obliged to
furnish the teeth, which usually cost
from \$4 to \$6 per double set. Plain
teeth are worth 10 cents and gum teeth
15 cents each. The best teeth are made
in Philadelphia and are sold at a branch
of the manufacturing firm in this city
(Brooklyn). Dentists try to convince
the patients that teeth are very ex-
pensive, and that to make an upper
and lower set takes two or three days.
This is all humbug. A mechanical
dentist who is a good workman can
make three sets in twenty-four hours.
You can see by the foregoing figures
that patients pay good round prices for
a man's name or reputation. Dentists
who employ mechanical men make a
plaster paris cast of their patient's jaw
so as to get the articulation, or fitting
of the teeth, correct. These casts cost
about 5 cents each, and when made are
sent to the dental laboratories where
the remainder of the work is done.
Until the middle of September dentists
might as well close their offices and go
in the country, as little or no work is
being done. The months of August
and September are the dulllest in the
year for the dental profession.

"Suavity of manner is the great
drawing card of many dentists. Ladies
prefer to patronize pleasant and agree-
able dentists to men who are surly and
uncouth in manners. Dentists who are
personally popular have the largest in-
comes. Women dentists? Oh, yes.
To my knowledge there is one in
Brooklyn. This lady attends almost ex-
clusively to women and children. Occa-
sionally she has a male patient, but
not often."

"Do women make a success of denti-
stry?"

"Not always. The feminine mind is
sometimes unable to grasp its intricacies.
Many women dentists practice
their profession in New York. They
are usually discouraged in their at-
tempts to study dentistry, as close
association with male students has often
unpleasant results. The only plan
which I think would work satisfactorily
would be to separate the sexes in
dental colleges. This plan has shown
good results in medical schools. More
women dentist practice their profession
in Europe than in America."

"How are \$12 a set teeth, made
while you wait, manufactured?"

"In almost the same manner that \$50
sets are made. A mechanical dentist
would charge the same price (\$8) for
making a \$12 set of teeth as he would
for a higher priced set. Dentists, how-
ever, who make teeth at the rate
named always do their own work. In
cheap upper and lower sets of teeth the
teeth cost \$2, while in the higher
priced sets the teeth are worth but \$2
more. In cheap sets the only addi-
tional expense is for rubber and plaster.
The latter is worth, possibly, 5 cents
and the rubber 25. The materials used
in dentistry cost but little. It is the
work and skill for which the patient is
obliged to pay."

THE CARE OF TOOLS.

Hints on the Best Means of Keeping
Them in Condition.

Wooden parts—The wooden parts of
tools, such as the stocks of planes and
handles of chisels, are often made to
have a nice appearance by French pol-
ishing; but this adds nothing to their
durability. A much better plan is to
let them soak in linseed oil for a week
and rub them with a cloth for a few
minutes every day for a week or two.
This produces a beautiful surface and
at the same time exerts a solidifying
and preservative action on the wood.

Iron parts—Rust preventives—The
following recipes are recommended for
preventing rust on iron and steel sur-
faces:

First—Caoutchouc oil is said to have
proved efficient in preventing rust, and
to have been adopted by the German
army. It only requires to be spread
with a piece of flannel in a very thin
layer over the metallic surface and
allowed to dry up. Such a coating will
afford security against all atmospheric
influences, and will not show any cracks
under the microscope after a year's
standing. To remove it the article has
simply to be treated with caoutchouc
oil again and washed after twelve to
twenty-four hours.

Second—A solution of India rubber
in benzine has been used for years as
a coating for steel, iron and lead, and
has been found a simple means of keeping
them from oxidizing. It can be easily
applied with a brush, and is easily
rubbed off. It should be made about
the consistency of cream.

Third—All steel articles can be per-
fectly preserved from rust by putting a
lump of freshly burnt lime in the
drawers or case in which they are kept.
If the things are to be moved, as a gun
in its case, for instance, put the lime in

a muslin bag. This is especially valu-
able for specimens of iron when fracted,
for in a moderately dry place the
lime will not want renewing for many
years, as it is capable of absorbing a
large amount of moisture. Articles in
use should be placed in a box nearly
filled with thoroughly slacked lime.
Before using them rub well with a
woolen cloth.

Fourth—The following mixture forms
an excellent brown coating for prevent-
ing iron and steel from rust: Dissolve
two parts crystallized iron chloride, two
antimony chloride and one tannin in
four of water and apply with sponge or
rag, and let dry. Then another coat of
paint is applied, and again another if
necessary, until the color becomes as
dark as desired. When dry it is washed
with water, allowed to dry again and
the surface polished with boiled linseed
oil. The antimony chloride must be as
nearly neutral as possible.

Fifth—To keep tools from rusting,
take one-half ounce camphor, dissolve
in one pound melted lard; take off the
scum and mix in as much fine black lead
(graphite) as will give it an iron color.
Clean the tools and smear with this
mixture. After twenty-four hours rub
clean with a soft linen cloth. The tools
will keep clean for months under ordi-
nary circumstances.

Sixth—Put one quart freshly slacked
lime, one-half pound washing soda, one-
half pound soft soap in a bucket and
sufficient water to cover the articles;
put in the tools as soon as possible after
use and wipe them up next morning or
let them remain until wanted.

Seventh—Soft soap with half its
weight in pearl ash, one ounce of mix-
ture in about one gallon boiling water,
is in every day use in most engine-
shops in the drip-cans used for turning
long articles bright in wrought-iron and
steel. The work, if not constantly
moist, does not rust, and bright nuts
are immersed in it for days till wanted,
and retained in its polish.

Eighth—Melt slowly together six
ounces or eight ounces lard to one ounce
resin, stirring till cool; when it is semi-
fluid it is ready for use. If too thick it
may be further let down by coal-oil or
benzine. Rubbed on bright surfaces
ever so thinly it preserves the polish
effectually and may be readily rubbed
off.

Ninth—To protect metals from oxida-
tion, polished iron or steel for in-
stance, the requisite is to exclude air
and moisture from the actual metallic
surface; therefore, polished tools are
usually kept in wrappings of oil-cloth
and brown paper, and thus protected
they will preserve a spotless face for an
unlimited time. When these metals
come to be of necessity exposed in being
converted to use it is necessary to
protect them by means of some perman-
ent dressing, and boiled linseed oil,
which forms a lasting covering, as it
dries on, is one of the best preservatives,
if not the best. But in order to give it
body it should be thickened by the addi-
tion of some pigment, and the very best,
because the most congenial of pigments
is the ground oxide of the same metal,
or in plain words, rusted iron, reduced
to an impalpable powder, for the dress-
ing of iron or steel, which thus forms
the pigment or oxide paint.

Tenth—Slack a piece of quick lime
with just water enough to cause it to
crumble in a covered pot, and while hot
add tall oil and work into a paste, and
use this to cover over bright work;
it can be easily wiped off.

Eleventh—Olmstead's varnish is
made by melting two ounces resin in
one pound fresh sweet lard, melting the
resin first and then adding the lard and
mixing thoroughly. This is applied to
the metal, which should be warm if
possible and perfectly cleaned; it is
afterward rubbed off. This has been
well proved and tested for many years,
and is particularly well suited for plan-
ished and Russian iron surfaces, which
a slight rust is apt to injure very seri-
ously.

Rust removers—(1.) Cover the metal
with sweet oil, well rubbed in, and
allow to stand for forty-eight hours;
smear with oil applied freely with a
feather or piece of cotton wool after
rubbing the steel. Then rub with un-
slacked lime reduced to a fine powder
as possible. (2.) Immerse the
article to be cleaned for a few minutes
until all the dirt and rust is taken off,
in a strong solution of potassium
cyanide, say about one-half ounce in
a wineglassful of water; take it out and
clean it with a tooth-brush with some
paste composed of potassium cyanide,
castile soap, whiting and water mixed
into a paste of about a consistency of
thick cream.

Polite Conversation Mexico.

On Sunday evening Mexico turns
out in her best. The dde of the day,
clothed in goat skin and tinsel is here
with his horse. He wears a silver-
mounted, wide sombrero, and carries a
long lasso and large revolver on one
side, and a dangling, feathered sword
on the other. Of course there are no
cattle to catch or men to carve and
shoot, but this is the cavalier style, and
the poor creature would feel it a burn-
ing shame to be out without his accout-
rements when there were so many
beaux and belles to gaze upon him.
When he meets a lady friend he lifts
his hat high in the air and says:
"Buenos todas, para servir." (Good
evening. I am at your service.) To
which Dona Luisa replies: "May bien,
gracias." (Very well, thank you.)
If he is on foot, he takes her hand and
says in Spanish, grandiloquently: "I
place myself at your feet, Miss." To
which she answers by saying, "I kiss
your hand, sir," after which they
begin a conversation composed of terms
equally extravagant. When particu-
larly friendly most they then fall to shake
hands but will grasp each other a close
embrace. The ladies usually begin by
kissing the left nostril cheek, next
they embrace a few moments, after
which they finish the verbal greetings
and proceed to exchange the latest
neighborhood news.

Whether he is great or small, set that
man down for a fool who boasts that he
does not read the local papers.

He whose only claim to the title
'gentleman' is in his clothes, must
necessarily be careful as to what he
wears.

FASHION NOTES.

—French frocks are gathered and
puffed where English gowns are plaited
and plain.

—That rough woolen stuff called
Sanglerier (boar's) cloth is more in favor
than ever.

—The chemistesse Russe continues a
favorite and is seen on toilets of every
description.

—Bronzes is combined with pale blue,
pale pink, light green, salmon and
poppy color.

—Serge grows in favor for dresses,
its admirable wearing quality recom-
mending it.

—Serge, with groups of silk stripes,
has the plain material to correspond for
combination.

—There is a marked difference in
the styles of imported frocks and
English gowns.

—Cashmere and camel's hair over-
dresses are worn with skirts of watered
or brocade silk.

—English gowns are made in sever-
ly simple styles, but are exquisitely
fitted and well sewed.

—Great variety is observed in the
weaves of new Titan and giant birds
for dress trimmings.

—Ribbon remains in favor for trim-
ming dresses, and is used for sashes,
belts, bows and loops.

—Children's millinery is more and
more fanciful. The hats are very high,
with the trimmings round the crown
carried almost up to the top, and felt
is a favorite material. Poppy-red suits
youthful complexions, and it is much
worn. For quills, and the young children
woolen and matelasse is made up into
frocks with bonnets to match, all trim-
med with beaver.

—A new dress-improver hails from
Paris. It is of a brilliant red color,
somewhat larger than the old matelasse,
well stuffed, but very light, and in the
French Capital it supersedes steels.

For a loose dress for an invalid nothing
could possibly be lighter or more com-
fortable than the elder wool, which has
a soft fluffy surface, is of no weight,
and is principally made on a gray tone
and cut en princess.

—An original form of trimming for
cloth coats is the fur laid on as a wide
collar at the back, tapering toward a
point in front of the waist and forming
a sort of pelierine. A peculiarly hand-
some mantle in black velours du Nord
reached to the feet, indicating the
figure; it had fur trimmings at the
throat and on the cuffs; the whole of
the front and sides were covered with
permeantierie network from which fell
innumerable small gimp drops.

—For hats Virot is using large balls
of smooth-cut, uncurled ostrich hair,
raised on an ostrich stem. These in
red on a white stem are charming; two
balls at the base, three standing up
high. They give a great deal of style
to dress. These same agrettes are
worn in the hair by young girls in the
evening. Peacock and other feathers
made up into sheath-like trim-
mings, which stand up well in front
of hats and bonnets. Gray or white
are most worn, especially the seagull
plumage.

—The stuffs employed are so diverse
in dressmaking, and some of the more
costly are of such short lengths, that I
notice many dresses are made in plain
stuff, with just a breadth of the fancy
material on the back and front and in-
troduced into the vest; or sometimes
the figured fabric only appears on the
skirt as side panels. Very often the
fancy material is let into the front and
back in a V shape, and this is becoming
to short waists. Many stout people
introduce a striped material on the
basque.

—For those who can afford such a
luxury plush will be the favorite fabric
for children's frocks. At the present
time there is an extraordinary demand
for this article. Certainly nothing
could be softer or prettier. Costumes
made of this material are to be seen in
all the leading dry-goods establishments
and speak for themselves. One of the
prettiest I have seen was a stone color
of a warm hue, which caught the light
of and reflected it. The bodice and skirt
was cut in one, as, indeed, such frocks
mostly are. Six close gatherings kept
the fullness together at the back. An
overjacket with loose fronts was bord-
ered with drops of chenille and beads.
The cuffs were made with revers and
cut up on the outside of the arm,
where the sleeves were filled in with a
puff of the material. This was in-
tended for a child of 11. For a younger
child a similar kind of dress was made
in silk with the jacket of fancy striped
plush. The top of the sleeve almost to
the elbow was made in plush. At the
back the jacket was cut to resemble
closely the tails of a coat, and beneath
it the dress was in box plaits. There
was a beautiful shade of light reddish
brown plush which finds much favor
for children's dresses. One made if it
had a long jacket, opening at the back
to show a sash, which was also carried
across the front of the plaited waist-
coat of soft silk, which at the edge
was fringed, and was allowed to fall
naturally in a fan shape. It was fur-
ther adorned with large buttons.
Another frock of this tone was trim-
med with a new galloon of frise; this
had a sash tied in a knot, the ends
fixed into a handsome chenille and silk
tassel. Another point in this frock
was the dress was cut to resemble
the tails of a coat, and beneath it the
dress was in box plaits. There
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had a long jacket, opening at the back
to show a sash, which was also carried
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coat of soft silk, which at the edge
was fringed, and was allowed to fall
naturally in a fan shape. It was fur-
ther adorned with large buttons.
Another frock of this tone was trim-
med with a new galloon of frise; this
had a sash tied in a knot, the ends
fixed into a handsome chenille and silk
tassel. Another point in this frock
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