

The Descent of Proserpine.

No amaranth buds, no balm I bear,
No plover for a soul forlorn,

Look not on me, nor call me queen,
Nor at my feet a gift implore,

Oh, mother! wail the golden air,
To some remembrance of thy child,

And on the margin of the sea,
By the sea pink and lavender,

Upon the mountain side; and thou,
Ceres, the flower I love dispose

A BAD EXPERIMENT.

Clara Fitzgerald one day came to the
conclusion that she had never done anything
remarkable. She was nice looking,

Clara, however, now determined that she
would do something grand with her heart,

Hereto, Clara had scarcely ever thought of
wasting words upon him, but now there came to her a grand resolve.

The resolve came to her as she was
lying awake one night, and the next morning at breakfast there was a warm glow

That same evening Shelleron came, and
on being ushered into the parlor found Clara at her piano, in a brown study

"What a stranger you are!" she said, as he came
where she was sitting. The truth was that Shelleron had been there two evenings before,

"If any one cared for my future perhaps I might."

"Yes, to me it seems so." Men are not generally grateful for the
friendship of the women they love, but Shelleron did not expect even so much,

His blood kindled, and he went through the most exquisite agony. He felt what life might have been for him if this refreshing cup could have been held to his thirsty lips.

"Mr. Shelleron," Clara said earnestly, "will you tell me something?"

"The truth from my very soul." "Do you really care for me?" Shelleron could not for a moment comprehend Clara's motive in asking him this question,

I may be, to guide my destiny unerringly to rest?"

"Wherever you go I will be with you."

"Clara, do you mean what you are saying?" Shelleron cried.

"You are mistaking pity for sympathy."

"No, I have said it, and you must decide for yourself whether you will believe me or not."

"I do believe you," he said.

"Will you promise me in your quiet moments to try to fully understand how the very current of my being is yours?"

"I am going to work your monogram on a pretty handkerchief I have gotten for you."

"Clara received two letters from her. The first was written as if it had been an effort to write it, while the second was a crushing blow to his hopes. It read:

"I did not reply to your questions in your letter simply because I had nothing to say, and that is always the wisest thing to do under such circumstances."

Shelleron was completely dazed, and went about trying to conceal his intense grief and suffering.

"The first time he saw Clara after her return to Conway Grove, he asked if he might not have the evening with her at her home."

Then poor Shelleron saw clearly that this girl was out of his life, and had never gone into it as she promised. The next morning Clara washed a letter. She opened it and read:

"On the twentieth of December last you told me that you would never leave me. I believed in your promise most implicitly. I was a weak man, and when you held the cup to my thirsty lips I could not help drinking. Had I never felt your sympathy I could have felt genuine pleasure in your friendship; but after knowing the height and depth of your love, anything less would be an intolerable torment."

"In a miserable hotel near Conway Grove there sits a bear-eyed man with unshaven face and unkempt locks. A poor hulk of humanity who never smiles, and daily calls down the imprecations of Heaven upon the woman who took away his life."

"If we analyze the acts we instinctively approve in ourselves and applaud in others, we shall find that many of them involve a certain degree of self-sacrifice, while those which we deplore in ourselves and criticize in others involve some kind of self-indulgence."

Sudden resolutions, like the sudden rise of the mercury in the barometer, indicate little else than the changeableness of the weather.

SKATING SOLDIERS.

A Military Resource Employed with Profit in Norway Winters

Norway, during a considerable part of the year, is covered with snow; and her winters, which in other countries are of short duration, extend to five or six months, and in the most northern parts to a much longer period. During this time it is impossible to leave the beaten roads, for the purpose at least of traveling; and when fresh snow happens to fall, even the communications by means of them is stopped till the sledging is able to be continued by means of a machine, which, being dragged by horses along the road, restores the former track, by clearing away the snow in part and flattening and leveling the remainder.

The latter is called aander, from the right foot being used more than the left, particularly in turning. Both skates are about three inches in width, and an inch in thickness in the centre, where the foot is placed, which is firmly bound to the skie by loops at the side made of willow or fibres of bir roots, to which are fastened leather thongs. The skies are smeared with tar and pitch, and the under side is hollowed in the centre into a groove to prevent their slipping laterally, and to enable the skieholder, or skater, to keep a straight course.

The Duke Eugene de Leuchtenburg's project for connecting the Sea of Azof with the Black Sea by a canal across the isthmus of Perekop at Sivash is attracting some attention at present in Russia. The depth of the channel is to be 18 feet, the breadth 65 feet, with ports constructed at the extremities. The passage from sea to sea would be thereby curtailed by 100 miles, and the periodical storms of the Sea of Azof avoided, as well as the obstruction given to navigation by the dangerous passage of the Straits of Kretch and the long closure of the sea in the southern parts by ice.

THE FASHION IN CIGARS.

A Dealer Tells of Many Odd Notions Held by those who Smoke.

For want of a better place a reporter sought a secluded nook in a Bowery cigar store to dash off two or three paragraphs. While he was preparing his copy a well-known comedian, who is noted almost as much for his smoking propensities as he is for his funny ways on the stage, came in, and, throwing down a silver dollar, asked the dealer why he didn't always give him the same brand.

"I do," replied the man behind the counter, rolling out a handful of seal-brown beauties on the glass case in front of him.

"They are not the kind I usually smoke—give me something different."

"Well, the Henry Clay is protected by its shape, which has never yet been successfully counterfeited. Almost anything else, however, that is consigned in ship cargoes can be palmed off as imported stock. A smoker's vagaries are beyond comprehension. A rascal can make a reputation for a cigar and the notion of the smoker will ruin it."

"No. It is folly to select a light-colored cigar under the impression that it is a mild one. The darkest looking cigar is known as the 'Oscuro' and the lightest as the 'Claro.' The shades between these are the 'Maduro,' 'Colorado-Maduro,' 'Colorado' and 'Colorado-Claro.' The fact may be that all, or almost all of these shades will be found in one lot of tobacco which may be used wholly as wrappers. In that case the color would signify but little, for the filler might be entirely different—either lighter or darker. Cigars are all made up together and assorted by colors afterward, purely as a matter of looks. The difference in color is accidental. By that I mean that the same tobacco leaf varies in shade—that part nearest the ground being always the darkest. The discrepancy in shades means nothing, but is turned to account by dealers in selling the same cigar to men of all tastes, as you saw me do just now."

At no period of the world's history has the influence of woman both directly, or indirectly been so fully acknowledged as to-day. The open college doors and the invitation to woman to a wider field and more active participation in the busy world has had no effect to rob the sex of any womanly charm, as croakers foretold. When the history of the last quarter of the nineteenth century is written, the historian will write over against the names of many women the word illustrious. It cannot fail of record that a woman aroused the people in the great contest which ended in knocking the shackles from six millions of slaves. It was left to the voice of another woman to arouse the dormant energies of the nation to the wrongs of the Indian, and to outline the reform inaugurated. In literature she has exerted most healthful influences, while in politics, as wives of Presidents and statesmen, the ennobling influences have been so marked and positive as to call out a Nation's thanks and gratitude. The most hopeful sign of the times is that these reforms will not go backward—that humanity will have its sympathies enlarged, and that the rights of every class will be more sacredly protected.

In America, ice-water is the first thing a waiter places before you at breakfast, lunch and dinner, and thousands use it as their first course, as if their stomachs were intended as refrigerators for the food following. This absurd habit ruins the constitution and digestion of thousands, and probably does more harm than all the alcoholic liquors combined by the temperance fanatics. If American women would drink a pint of harmless claret in place of ice-water there would be less anemia and invalidism among them, fewer pale faces and fragile forms.

The great difference between virtue and vice is this: For virtue you have a price to receive; for vice you have a price to pay.

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HORSE NOTES.

—Sunday racing is found to pay well at New Orleans.

—The jockey Stoval will ride for Carroll & Co., this season.

—David L., record 2.24 1/2, is only 14 1/2 hands high and weighs but 700 pounds.

—The pacing stallion Cobanet, 2.17 1/2 will be used in the stud this season.

—The Dallas State Fair Association will give a trotting and running meeting in April, offering about \$6500 in added money.

—James Murphy, who trained for J. B. Haggin last season, will have charge of some of Ed. and Pat Corrigan's horses this year.

—Out of thirteen head the get of imp. Buckden, won 45 races out of 570 starts in 1886, earning \$39,807. Supervisor, with \$445, was Buckden's biggest winner.

—During the week James Murphy, the trainer, purchased of B. J. Tracy, of Lexington, Ky., the bay colt Banbury, by King Ban, dam Rosaline, by Commodore.

—Charles Wood, who since Archer's death, is looked upon as the leading English jockey, gives The Baron as the next Derby winner. He says the horse has vastly improved since he rode him to victory at Epsom last season as a 2-year-old.

—George Henry Buford, brother of General Abe and Colonel Thomas H. Buford, died at Yarnall Station, Ky., on February 2, of pneumonia. He took a deep interest in the trotting horse, and at one time owned half of the Blackwood.

—American jockeys who suffer all-night martyrdom in Turkish baths will be interested to know that Wood, the English jockey, does not go in for Turkish baths at all. Plenty of exercise and frequent runs with Southdown fox-hounds keep him close to trim, and a couple of pills over night with no breakfast in the morning prepare him for a ride at short notice. The comfort of an English jockey's life is illustrated by the fact that wood has invested 300 guineas in the greyhound Coleraine to gratify his fancy for coursing.

—Columbia, dam of Abbotsford, died at Woodburn on January 7. She was a bay, foaled in 1867, by Young Columbus (sire of Commodore Vanderbilt); record, 2.25. The following is a list of her produce: 1870, b. c., by Virgo Hambletonian; 1871, b. f., (dead was fast); by Virgo Hambletonian; 1872, b. c. Abbotsford (record, 2.19) by Woodford Hambrino; 1873, b. c. (died at year old); by Belmont; 1874, b. c., by Tomahawk; 1875, barren; 1876, b. f., Dido (pacing record 2.33) by Scott's Hiastoga; 1879, gr. f., by Young Norman (by a Norman draught horse); 1880, blk. f., Abbesse (sold 1880), by Wedgewood; 1882, foal died.

—William Dittson, of Philadelphia, has purchased the following brood mares and fillies from the Fairview farm: Aelia, b. m., foaled 1879, bred by Startle dam Amy Harris, by Colonel Windmill; in foal to Alecto, Helen's Medium, b. m., foaled 1881, sired by Happy Medium, dam Helen M. Greger, by Rattler; in foal to Alecto, Mineiska, b. m., foaled 1881, bred by Belmont, dam Lady Denton, by Billy Denton; in foal to Happy Medium, Gtter, b. m., foaled 1882, sired by Happy Medium, dam Brightness, by Belmont, price \$1500, Mabel Medium, b. f., foaled 1885, sired by Happy Medium, dam Blanche Star (dam of Annie S., 2.26) Belmont Star, 2.32, by Conklin's American Star; price \$1250.

—Tim Gore has already been backed to win the Kentucky Derby by enough money to make the bookmakers take alarm. Jim Gore is by Hindoo dam Katie, by Phaeton. He was sold at Major Clark's sale last spring as Ezekiel to A. J. McCampbell, of Louisville, for \$3000. He started six times, winning three, viz: May 27, at Latonia, the Harold Stakes, beating Duke of Bourbon, Laredo, Dahme and five others in 1.03, Duke of Bourbon and Dahme conceding him eight pounds; at St. Louis, the Carriage Builders' Stakes, beating Jennie Treacy, Kopia, Concilor, Pendiens and Petite, in 1.18; and at Chicago, the Kenwood Stakes, beating Right-away, Carey, Potean and eleven others, in 1.02. There is some objection to Jim Gore—he is bad-tempered and liable to sulk.