

YOUTH AND LIFE.

What would the world be if by chance Youth held it futile to advance, Futile to dream of loftier days...

But youth is mighty with desire, Untiring in its faith and fire, And enters where the seasoned mind falters and darkly looks behind...

Strong with the glory of the stars, Defiant of any will that bars The long road winding to its goal— Then life would be a cruel whole.

But look—there's promise in the bow That arches with prismatic glow The heaven of youth, that heaven which lies

Wide as the world-begetting skies, There's promise in the spring-time flood Of youth's tumultuous, thrilling blood; And there is burning, brightening life Amid the clashing steel of strife.

Ah, days of youth, they speed too fast— But they are matchless while they last.—GEORGE MONTGOMERY, in Harper's Weekly.

"MIJI-BR-R-R-ICK."

MIJI-br-r-ick! Miji-br-r-ick! You fat rascal! What right have you to lay bare the fire on that Persian rug, dozing and purring as happy and cozy as a cat can be...

Well, well, there is his step on the stair and his whistle. Here he is with his arms full of bundles. Why, where did he get the money? I heard him complaining all day that he was broke, and muttering bad words under his breath...

Oh, what a darling girl! Her fluffy brown hair, falling over her frosted, rosy cheeks; her dimples, and her long lashes; her dark eyes, and that beautiful blue suit, which clings to her figure so closely! My! My! Wow! What! Miji-br-r-ick! You're getting excited. What is that curious creature hanging about her neck, Miji-br-r-ick? It is detestable.

Well, I shall soon see, for she is taking it off and putting it on a chair. How he watches her every action! How curiously he speaks to her! And she seems to avoid looking at him. Will she have a cup of tea after her cold walk? Tea? Tea? Are my ears deceiving me? Why, I haven't smelt tea since I came to this place; that is, except some evil-smelling stuff the portress sent up one day when he was sick.

You don't know it, for I have kept it hidden from you, but I have been seeing her every day since. I suppose her friend must be making great progress

In music, for she gets a lesson every day. And I have seen her every day. For just as she would be coming in I would be going out, and I would meet her on the way to the ground. Or she would have finished her lesson and be starting home when I would be just coming up the stairs. How did I know the time so exactly when to be there? In the morning look out the window and you will see the corner of the street. Well, she passes that corner every day she comes. Now do you see why I moved my easel, even though the light is not so good where it is? And some days I would walk a few blocks with her. "Her father didn't like the idea of her going to see her friend," she said, "so it was better that I did not call until I met her some other way."

What right has a poor artist like me to tell a girl as poor as himself that he wants to marry her? Why, I can hardly find a decent living for you and myself, let alone a woman. She is a music teacher and plays the piano divinely, for I have heard her of an afternoon. Perhaps that is the reason I haven't painted much of late. Listening to her. Well, I begin tomorrow in earnest, for she is coming here to let me paint her. Oh, what joy! Is it any wonder that I'm half wild with delight? For such a picture as I shall paint will make my name and fortune and then— Then what? Never mind, old boy, you shall see what you shall see.

Mrow-ow-ow. Mrr-r-ow. Mrow-ow-ummmm. I wonder when that foolish fellow will come back? Here he has been out for an hour or two, when he should have been hard at work. And what a bustle he was in this morning. "The place was all upside down. After such a hint as he gave me last night about the fat mouse. I think he might have let me had a little quiet here by myself this morning, so that I might have hunted up something good to eat. As if I would touch half of that poultry roll he had for breakfast! I should say not. I turned my back on it in disgust when he placed it before me and said it was all we could have to-day. He saw I wasn't going to eat it, and took it for himself, with a shrug of his shoulders, and muttered, "ungrateful beast."

Heigh-ho. Men never understand cats. We are too sensitive for them. That is the reason we get along better with women. Their natures are so much like our own. Well, he cleaned up all the place this morning. Everything was dusty and dirty before. Now it is clean and bright. There is not much of it, to be sure, but still it makes rather an attractive picture, even for a well-bred creature like myself. I do hope she is a thoroughbred. I hate these models with their loud talk and boisterous laughter. They all like him, and that is why they used to come here so much. They don't any more. Guess they made so much noise he couldn't hear her play.

Well, I haven't heard how it came out yet. You see, when he got through kissing her, she explained how it happened. Then I went out. I took a pane of glass with me, I was in such a hurry to go. Of course I didn't jump to the ground. It was eight stories down. But I knew the window opened on a veranda a little below, and I lit there.

He came down and picked me up about an hour later. He was trembling all over with joy, and said he would forgive me. That it was through me he was the happiest man on earth. That she loved him, and, oh, such nonsense. But when it was all over and I had eaten my supper, he sat in front of the fire and gazed in the dancing flames. Then he looked sad, then sadder, and finally two big tears rolled down his cheeks as he softly said, "Miji-br-r-ick." I wonder why.—Washington Post.

The Mind in Disease.

The story is going the rounds of the papers of a young woman who fancied she had swallowed a frog in water that she had been drinking, and was rapidly sinking, all efforts of physicians and others having failed to afford her any relief. Finally it occurred to some one that at least she might be deluded into health, and a tiny frog was caught and put into a tube with which they were attempting lavation of the stomach. When the frog was thrown out of the tube the girl expressed the greatest relief, and said she hoped they were satisfied that all of her complaints had a reasonable foundation. From that moment she began to improve, and was in a short time completely restored to health.

This may seem like an extremely foolish affair, but it is only one instance in many in which the mind has had a most marvelous effect on the physical condition. Strong men have died from the results of imagined injuries. No one doubts that persons have been frightened to death, and it is time that ridicule of and unbelief in statements of this sort came to an end. The influence of mind upon matter is a subject that calls for the closest investigation and the profoundest study. There is no question whatever that mental agitation and irritation aggravate, if they do not actually cause, disease. Delicate people and invalids should be carefully watched if they are to recover and retain their health. Many a child droops and dies because it feels that it is unappreciated or neglected. Many who survive merely drag out a miserable existence, instead of being full of joy, hope, energy, promise and pleasure, and making of themselves bright and shining lights in the world.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Free Cuba will be prosperous and progressive Cuba. Spanish Cuba is never likely to be either prosperous or progressive, sentimentally observes the New York World.

A chorus of 4,000 voices is now in process of organization at Washington to form the leading musical feature of the National Christian Endeavor Convention there in July. This chorus is to be known as "The '96 Convention Chorus."

Newspaperdom is fairly well represented in the United States Congress—by those engaged in making law as well by those whose duty it is to report the proceedings of the lawmakers. There are twenty-seven editors, nine who have been engaged in the profession at one time, and four others who followed the printer's calling in former days.

As soon as it seemed likely that the newly discovered Rontgen rays might prove to be of value to the medical profession experiments were begun by many physicians and photographers with a view to determining the uses and limitations of the rays in surgery. The results in many cases have shown that the profession will reap great benefit from the X rays, especially in the direction of surgical diagnosis.

The French Government's new budget shows that a step has been taken in the direction of State socialism. Six hundred thousand francs have been voted to societies for the sick and aged, and 400,000 to societies for the relief of children. This foots up a million francs, the same sum voted to the missions that will represent France at the coronation of the Czar, as the previous vote of 975,000 francs has been increased.

The followers of Menelek, King of Shoa, while not so large as the fierce Zulus are about the toughest warriors in the world. They do not know physical fear. A New York Press writer has seen a man jab a burnt stick several inches in his flesh without wincing. This apparent insensibility to pain is accompanied with a religious frenzy in battle that renders the soldiers unconscious of bodily harm. They have no fear of death and their happiness is to kill.

A curious application of the Rontgen rays has been made in France by Professor Buguet, of Rouen, and the chemist, M. Giscard. They took true and false diamonds for the experiment, and obtained entirely different results. When the rays were applied to the false diamonds only indistinct images appeared on the photographic plates. The real diamonds, however, allowed the rays to pass, and as a result, much darker pictures were produced on the plates. Thus a certain method of discovering the quality of diamonds is assured.

The attempt of the Italians to get possession of Abyssinia is not colonization at all, even if it succeeds, but conquest. It may not succeed. The population is only about three or four millions, but when a population of that size puts 100,000 fairly armed troops into the field in their own country, they're hard to beat. The Abyssinians live in the mountains and love liberty. The height of their land keeps it cool and healthy, even under the equatorial sun. They are racially mixed. Some of them are descended from the old Coptic kings and from the Phoenicians, who once ruled all the Mediterranean. Others are the ordinary Ethiopians.

According to the New York Times, which prints a partial list of them, with the names of their owners, the number of their occupants and their street numbers, so far as they have any right to have such a number, there are about 2,500 rear tenements in New York city, occupied by over 50,000 people. These, says City and State, are peculiar breeding places of disease and crime. The law now forbids the building of any more of these rear or back lot houses, but the real problem is how to get rid of those now in existence. They are a terrible menace to the health and well-being, physical and moral, of the great city wherein they are found.

"A good many of the ignorant country people in Spain," says the Boston Transcript, "are very much more courteous to Americans than to English people, for the curious reason that they consider them subject also to the crown of Spain. It has been found in out-of-the-way villages near Gibraltar especially, where the English occupation of that fort is still looked upon as a temporary and offensive intrusion of foreigners on Spanish soil, that the whole tone of the people will change when it is found that a tourist is not English but American. 'Ah, I have a brother in Havana,' a grim-browed villager will say, with an inflection that implies that his American interlocutor must of necessity be from Cuba too."

Never let your passions get the better of your judgment. The following story will explain the propriety of this advice: A German farmer took a load of potatoes to the city to sell them. The jobbers offered him seven cents a bushel. That made him mad. So he drove down to the river front, backed his wagon into the water, pulled out the back board and dumped the whole load into the stream. Now, while this relieved the farmer of his wrath, likewise his team of their load, and made it unnecessary to haul the potatoes back many miles to his farm, the act of depositing vegetable matter in the river was in violation of a city ordinance. The farmer was arrested and fined \$15 and costs, and went home a wiser man.

Dr. W. H. Dall, a member of the party of scientific men recently sent to Alaska to investigate the mineral resources of the country, has prepared a report on the subject, which will soon be published by the Geological Survey. Dr. Dall says that many valuable and extensive seams of coal exist about the harbors in Cook's inlet and elsewhere, so that it is easy to mine enough to run a steamer in a few minutes. The Alaskan coal is what is known as the brown variety. Its color is not brown, but when scratched it exhibits a brown streak. The finer qualities of this coal are much like anthracite and the broken edges are brilliant. The difference between the brown coal and the anthracite is that the former has a larger per cent. of volatile matter. Dr. Dall says that there is a great field for a mining company, for the cost of transportation from the mines to the steamers would be very small on account of the nearness of the mines to the coast.

The amount of money handled by the Post Office Department in its money order business last year amounted to nearly \$325,000,000. The Government allowed postmasters fees aggregating \$450,000 on domestic and \$3,000 on international business, and their incidental expenses were \$148,000. The Government lost \$14,000 through lost remittances and burglaries and \$18,000 through bad debts. And still the money order business paid a net profit of \$812,000. Twenty-two million people bought domestic money orders, and nearly a million people bought international money orders. The people of New York State shipped \$13,000,000 through the Post Office department the people of Pennsylvania, \$10,000,000; the people of Illinois, nearly \$11,000,000. The people of the United States shipped more than \$4,500,000 to England through the Post Office department; and more than \$2,500,000 to Germany. Altogether the people of this country sent nearly \$13,000,000 abroad by postal order, and received less than \$6,000,000 through the same channel. But it is worthy of note that we sent nearly a million dollars less abroad last year than we did the year before.

The "Musical Glasses." In the quaint old town of Nuremberg some instruments are preserved, known now as harmonicas, which were played with the moistened finger; but I think the instrument best known is that which the composer Gluck is said to have invented, and which, by the name of the "musical glasses," was all the rage in England in 1746. Gluck arranged twenty-six glasses irregularly filed with clear spring water, and upon these he played a variety of music with his fingers slightly moistened.

In the "Year of Wakefield" the fashionable London ladies are described as able to "talk of nothing but high life, pictures, taste, Shakespeare and the musical glasses," while Horace Walpole, writing the same year, 1746, to his friend Mann, refers to Gluck's performance, but says he thinks he has heard of something of the same kind before. But it was to our Benjamin Franklin that the improved or perfected harmonica is due. He was in London eleven years after performing on these musical glasses, very well, it is true, but Franklin an once said something better could be done.

Accordingly he put his scientific instrument to work, and the result was an instrument he called the armonia, to which an "H" was added, as being more appropriate, and on the many celebrated musicians performed. It consisted of basin glass strung on an iron spindle, the lower edge dipped into a trough of water. As an improvement on Gluck's method, Franklin regulated the pitch of the tone by the size of the glasses, not the amount of water in or under them. Mozart and many other well-known composers did not disdain to write for the harmonica, and in 1788, a "Method" for students was compiled. The very simplicity, however, of the instrument made it easy of imitation and improvement. Wood and glass with straw were combined under various names.

Buttons. The first buttons were very expensive. They were made chiefly of gold and pearl, rich in design, and inlaid with other precious metals and jewels. Following these came the cloth-covered buttons, which were made entirely with the needle. These brought a high price, and the workmen received the largest wages paid in those days for needlework. As demand for buttons increased and man's inventive genius was taxed, machines were produced for the making of steel, brass, inlaid, plated and lacquered buttons, and later for the rapid manufacture of covered buttons.

These last were made by covering with silk, lusting, brocade, twist, velvet, molair and various cloths metal disks which have been previously cut out of sheet-iron and molded with dies. The frame of this button consists of two pieces of sheet-iron, the under piece being slightly convex and having a small round hole in the center, through which a tuft of canvas is pressed. This is for sewing the button to the cloth. The upper disk is also slightly convex and made a little larger than the lower piece. The edge of the upper disk is turned down about a sixteenth of an inch in the medium-sized buttons. These disks are cut from the sheet, formed and made ready for covering by one motion of the "fly-press" or punching machine.

For covering another machine is used simple in construction, but capable of turning out a great many buttons in a day when operated by an expert.—Chicago Record.

The minute hands of Big Ben, in London, is sixteen feet long.

OKLAHOMA BOOMERS.

The House Passes a Bill Giving Bona Fide Settlers a Gratuity of \$15,000,000.

The House of Representatives Monday passed quite a number of measures under suspension of the rules. One of the most important was that known as the Oklahoma land bill, which practically grants a gratuity of \$15,000,000 to the bona fide settlers on the public lands in that territory.

Neither in the report upon the bill nor in the arguments were any good reasons brought forward why the settlers in this territory should be exempted from paying the usual purchase price of Government land ranging from \$1.25 to \$2.50 per acre. The Government has paid or has promised to pay the Indians who held this reservation \$18,000,000 for their claims. After paying that sum, the Government will, if the bill that just passed becomes a law, turn this land over to the settlers who rushed in and took possession upon the opening of the territory. The Government will not be reimbursed for all this expenditure of money. Mr. McLean, of Arkansas, who advocated the bill, stated candidly that the measure was practically a gratuity to the settlers.

Another important bill passed was that introduced in the House by C. W. Stone, of Pennsylvania, chairman of the Committee on Coinage, Weights and Measures. It provides penalties for the mutilation of coins and for the passage of mutilated coin in circulation.

GOD'S AMERICAN VOLUNTEERS.

Baltington Booth Names His New Religious Organization.

A despatch from New York says Baltington Booth has named his new religious organization God's American Volunteers. "Eureka!" he exclaimed, "I have found it! The new movement has at last a name for which we have been seeking for weeks. God's American Volunteers. Three cheers, gentlemen, for the success of the glorious cause!"

The old Bible House, usually quiet and gloomy, echoed with the cheers that answered the call. Booth stood in the center of the group and waved his long arms with each cheer.

"The American Volunteers, all American and all for God," he added. "Patriotism for our country and faith in the Lord will lead us to victory."

The Volunteers will be governed by a military constitution, with Mr. and Mrs. Booth as joint presidents. The local branches will be called posts, and the various grades of officers will have rank and titles like those of the American army.

Weather Bulletin on Letters.

The scheme of adding the latest weather forecasts to the regular postmarks on letters will be commenced by the Postoffice Department on July 1. Applications for this service from over forty postoffices have been filed, and it will be introduced first in New York, Chicago and other large offices.

MARKETS.

Table with multiple columns listing market prices for various commodities such as Flour, Wheat, Corn, Hogs, Butter, and Eggs across different locations like Baltimore, New York, and Philadelphia.