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Poetry.

AN IDYL OF THE PERIOD.

IN TWO PARTS.

I

"Come right in! How are you, Fred?
Find a chair and have a light."
Well, old boy, reserved yet.
From the Mather's jam last night?"
"Didn't dance, the German's old."
Didn't you? I had to load—
Awful bore; but where were you?"
"Sat it out with Mollie Meade;
Jolly little girl she be—
Said she didn't care to dance,
'I rather have a quiet chat—
Then she gave me such a glance;
So, when you had cleared the room
And had captured all the chairs,
Barley nowhereelse, we two
Took possession of the stairs;
I was on the lower step,
Mollie on the next above;
Gave me her bouquet to hold—
Asked me to draw off her glove.
Then, of course, I squeezed her hand,
Talked about my wasted life,
Said my sole salvation must
Be a true and gentle wife.
Then, you know, I used my eyes
She believed me every word;
Almost said she loved me—love!
Such a voice I never heard—
Gave me some sym'bolic flower,
Had a meaning, oh! so sweet;
Don't know what it is, I'm sure
Must have dropped it in the street.
How I spooniced! and she—ha! ha!
Well, I know it wasn't right,
But we did [illegible] to me so,
That I—kissed her—pass a light.

II.

"Mollie Meade, well I declare!
Who'd have thought of seeing you,
After what occurred last night,
Out here on the avenue.
Oh! you awful, awful girl!
There—don't blush—I saw it all."
"Saw all what?" "Why how last night
At the Mather's, in the hall.
"Oh you horrid, where were you?"
Was'nt in an awful gossoon?
Mad men must be—I might, but he
Ran his neck right in the noose.
I was almost dead to dance—
I'd done it if I could,
But oddness and I upset stop
And I promised ma I would:
So I looked up, sweet, and said
That I'd call on her next week.
Hope he did—I see my bee—
Luckily, the light was faint;
Then how he squeezed my hand
And he looked up in my face
With his lovely, great big eyes:
Really, it's a dreadful case."
He was all in earnest too;
But I thought I'd have to laugh,
When he kissed a flower I gave,
Looking up oh! like such a calf,
I suppose he'll come to grief
In a wine-glass, on his shelves,
It's a mystery to me
Why men will deceive themselves.
Saw him kiss me! Oh, you wretch—
Well, he begged so hard for one,
And I thought there'd come know,
So! let him—just for fun.
I know it wasn't really right
To trifle with his feelings, dear,
But men are such conceited things
They need a lesson once a year

From the Thirsville Herald.

SUNSET.

BY BAYOUW.

A watery evening; dappled sky
With ochre clouds rolling swiftly by.
Far in the East a beacon light,
The ever-sacred moon rises the night—
With silver beam lining bow.

A bright and sudden flash, and lo!
To crimson turns the gleaming snow;
The skies with varied tints are lit—
And shafts of golden sunbeams, flit
Athwart the western glow.

Far to the zenith streams the light
In fleecy folds and radiance bright.
While to the northward, told on fold,
Like banners seeming with molten gold—
The clouds are floating fast.

Through broken gleams of rifted light
The glowing sun bursts on the sight,
And all the heavens with joy the while
Crown every mountain's purple height
With splendors rolling past.

A thousand cuddls up, and more—
They rise, like battlements of yore,
And rosy radiancy ripples over
Each snow-path, as low and lower
The crimson lights descend.

They glow and gleam from brow to base,
And glisten, in unwonted grace,
Like far Olympus' line of grace,
When gods uprose, with threatening face
Their temples to defend.

A transient gloom and brief as fair!
The shifting shadows, here and there,
Creep softly on, and twilight lends
A gorgeous gloom as night descends
On pic [illegible] scene.

The clouds have lost their rosy gleams,
And float away like shattered dreams
To gloom and silence; up the sky
The young moon climbeth silently,
And lends her silver bow.

Through drifting clouds a single star
Sails in a trembling radiance far,
And like some fair, translucent gem
Grows softly on night's diadem,
In splendor, all alone.

The last swift arrows tipped with light
The day sent forth, in realms of night
Are lost forever; earth and sky
In sable garments sadly lie,
And night ascends her throne.

Miscellaneous.

Wonders of the Sea Bottom.

The wonders of the ocean are not less than those of the land. Beneath the sea there are mountains, valleys, forests and plains, ocean groves of coral in wondrous formations, forests of submarine vegetation in a multitude of strange and beautiful forms. There are ocean rivers and ocean rivers; and an almost infinite multitude of submarine animals, polypi, insects, shell-fish, and other fish, little and great—a world of animal life as great in its variety as that of the land. The sea has its elephants and tigers, its prodigies and monstrosities of prey, surpassing anything known to the jungles of India or Africa. A world of busy and struggling life, of endless wars in which the greater attack and devour their smaller and weaker neighbors. In the unseen depths of the sea there are plants and flowers as numerous and abundant and in as many colors, if not quite as beautiful, as those of the upper world in the tropics. The work of deep sea soundings has of late years been reduced to something like a science. The revelations of this department of modern investigation have made us acquainted with a strange and hitherto unknown world; and not the least interesting things brought up from the ocean depths are the minute shells denoting a microscopic insect life that once existed on primeval shores, and which now forms a large proportion of the ocean bed. The invention of Past Midshipman Brooke, who was associated with Professor Maury, consists of a cylindrical iron rod passing through a perforated cannon ball which is attached to two moveable ears at the upper end of the rod by a sort of sling, so adjusted that when the apparatus strikes the bottom, the rod can be detached and drawn up with a portion of the ocean mud or sediment adhering to the little hollow cup at the bottom of the rod, which is prepared with soap or tallow so that a specimen of the submarine soil may adhere to it. Every time this apparatus is used the shot and sling are of course lost, the rod alone being recovered when the line is pulled in. By this contrivance, specimens of the sea bottom have been brought up from a depth of four miles.

Between the islands of Cubaand Hayti the navigator floats above a perpendicular line from 7,000 to 8,000 feet deep; a depth considerably exceeding the height of Mt. Washington. Between Hayti and Porto Rico, and between the latter and the Windward Islands the average depth is not quite 7,000 feet.—Beyond the Windward Islands, to the east and south-east, the plummet falls suddenly to a depth of about 17,000—a measurement 2,000 feet greater than the height of Mont Blanc. Sailing on toward the African coast the submarine bottom is found to rise suddenly at a point perhaps 50 miles from the Windward Islands, showing 13,000 feet.—Again it descends to 17,000 feet, and then continues to mark a depth, varying by sudden changes from 16,000 to 10,000 feet, all the way along the Atlantic Ocean until near the Cape De Verde Islands, when the depth, even close in shore, is about 14,700 feet. These plumbed lines rise to the height of 10,000 feet above the sea. Deep gulfs separate the one from the other; and a still deeper gulf, with almost perpendicular sides, like a huge submarine canal, separates these islands from the African coast.

These, and most other gulfs or the ocean bottom, in different parts of the world, are supposed to indicate the places and the extent of the disruption by which that mass of matter, then in a far less dense condition, was thrown off, which constitutes the moon.

If we add to the measurement of the depths beneath the sea that of the heights above, we can form an approximate estimate of the stupendous forces in the interior of the globe which produced such irregularities on its surface.

Maury's chart shows very clearly the comparative ocean depths, where soundings have been made. It remains to be ascertained what the depths of the great Southern Ocean are. The deep-sea basins which separate Asia and Africa from Australia and America have not been explored, chiefly because there, for vast spaces of blue sea, the navigator sails fearlessly before the wind, and dreads no rock or shoal which would make him desirous of knowing the depth of water on which he floats. The same thing is true of the Southern Atlantic; and in fact, the greater part of the world beneath the sea remains to be explored. It is believed, however, that the average depth of blue water is from 3 to 4 miles.

It is pretty well ascertained that the greatest ocean depths do not exceed, as a rule, the heights of the loftiest mountains; say, about five or five and a half miles. In its configurations, the bottom of the sea bears a close resemblance to the mountains and valleys of the dry land. There are plains, valleys, ravines, escarpments, deserts of sand, immense deposits of mud, rolled stones, picturesque rocks, and even water-springs and volcanoes.

The sea-green light below the waves only penetrates a short distance. The profound depths are dark. Yet, even there, there is abounding life. Insects and fishes made with organs of sense and perception to fit those silent abodes in the world of water are known to exist in countless numbers and an almost infinite variety of form. The pressure, from the superincumbent weight of water, is enormous; and to this condition, also, the structure of the inhabitants of the lower deep is found to be adapted. Of course they must be small in size. A whale could not long live in the lowest depths, because of density of the water, if there were no other reasons. Accordingly we find that the specimens of lower ocean life which are brought up by the improved apparatus of the deep-sea plummet are mostly microscopic in character. But some are larger. Strange creatures, of surprising forms, in the lower depths move more slowly in an element which may be called gross, when compared with our atmosphere. Below the water-zones inhabited by such submarine monsters as the polypi, with their family relatives the devil-fish, the cuttle-fish, and other strange creatures, seemingly as nearly related to the giant branching sea-weeds as Caliban was to human kind, there is a still lower world of animals gradually diminishing in size, but vast in numbers. It would seem as if Nature had sought to compensate her creatures by endowing them with an incredible fecundity to make up for the causes of destruction by which they are surrounded. It is so with land, with the rabbit, and other animals exposed to a multitude of devouring enemies. The fecundity of the rabbi makes amends for the constant wholesale destruction of his tribe by owls, foxes, wildcats and other foes.—Some fish of large size have only two or three young, like the majority of terrestrial animals; but what shall we say of the fertility of the herring, the mackerel, the cod, and other inhabitants of the seas? It has been calculated that if a herring could multiply during 20 years, without losing any of its spawn or fry, its offspring would form a mass ten times greater than the globe! This sounds like a long; but remember that the increase in such a case would proceed in a geometrical ratio. And if such is the fecundity of these, it is obvious that the smaller creatures which are destined to serve as food for these enormous hosts must be more prolific still. On the mackerel-fishing grounds, off the coast of Maine, we have seen the sea colored by minute, ruddy-looking forms, supposed by the sailors to be of a vegetable nature, and to rise at certain seasons from the bottom. It comes from the bottom; but it is doubtless animal, not vegetable, in its nature; and it is known to form the mackerel's food.

It is in the temperate, and even more northern zones, that the greatest variety of submarine plants and wondrous vegetation in the sea depths is found. As we advance toward the equator, vegetation becomes less abundant and less varied. The waters are too warm to be agreeable to the greater number of the algæ; and if in any part of the equatorial seas the submarine vegetation attains the scale of grandeur, it is still wanting in the delicacy and elegance which mark the submarine vegetation of the temperate zones. From our Connecticut coast to the Bermudas there is an unceasing abundance and amazing variety of sea-vegetation, only a small part of which is ever cast ashore upon the rocks. But how beautiful are some of these! What lovely and delicately-fashioned sea-flowers can be picked off the outer rocks of our coast!

Of the algæ, the principal family of the marine flora, at least 2,000 species are known to exist. The *varieties* are almost limitless. Some of these under-sea-plants assume the most strangely grotesque forms. In English waters, where investigations have been most extensive, 105 genera and 370 species of algæ may be counted. The law of nature which gives a numerous animal life to the polar regions, as the white bear, Arctic fox, reindeer, musk-ox, &c., while it denies to those inhospitable regions all vegetable life, extends also into the sea. The whales, seals, walrus, &c., and a multitude of fish proper, abound in the Arctic seas; but not so the beautiful luxuriance of submarine vegetation which exists at all points off our Connecticut and Rhode Island shores. The vegetation of the sea, as of the land, disappears before the ice and the unending cold. It is so in descending into the ocean depths; in the deeper, darker depths there are fish and various forms of submarine animal life (chiefly infusoria) long after vegetable life disappears. It is the finer forms of the so-called sea-weeds in the upper waters that present us with the most beautiful specimens of sea flowers.

Dark brown and slimy in their appearance they are gathered, these little marine plants often develop, when properly cared for in the pressing-book, a delicate fineness and beauty surpassing anything except the miracles wrought in Winter by the artist, Frost, upon the crystal-spangled surface of the window-pane.

The bottom of the sea is an enchanted country. Its animal inhabitants are self-luminous; they thunder upon their seemingly motionless bed, they harden themselves into stone. The old classic fable of Daphne transformed into a laurel is realized, every year, every day, in the ocean. There is no region, with a favorable climate and an agreeable site, where animals are not found in myriads, adding, day by day, by their petrification, in building up rocks and reefs of an immense extent. Thus is the coast of Florida made. Thus have its dangerous "keys" been formed—nay, a vast part of that great peninsula itself is a coral formation. And it is still forming—the work is all the time going on. So of the countless coral islands and reefs of the measureless Pacific. An island ten miles wide and twenty miles long only half reveals its real extent; its broader part is its wide-extending base beneath the sea. The substance of which the ancient city of St. Augustine, in Florida, was built, called by the Spanish settlers, *coquina*, is a curious accretion of marine shells. They are mostly small; and all are nicely clean. What *holds them together*, so that the builder can go to the quarry at the edge of the sea and with an axe cut them out in blocks for building, does not appear.—But what countless billions of these little shell-fish must have died to produce these deposits.

It is a wonderful work. If we direct our gaze into the liquid crystal of the Indian Ocean, we shall see realized the most wonderful dreams and fairy tales of our childhood. "Fantastic bushes bearing living flowers," says one author, "the massive structure of the meandrina and astrea contrasting with the branchy tufts of the explanaria, which blossom in the form of cups, with the madriporide, of elegant structure and evervarying ramifications. Everywhere throughout this region the eye is charmed with the brilliancy of color: delicate shades of sea-green, alternating with browns and yellows, rich purple tints passing from the most vivid red to the deepest blue; nullipores, yellow or pink, delicately touched as the pencil, covering decaying plants with a fresh development of life, and themselves enveloped with a black tissue of retipores resembling the most delicate carvings in ivory. Near by are the yellow and lilac fans of the gorgonia, worked like jewelry in filagree.—Strewn over the bottom are thousands of sea-stars and sea-urchins of the most curious forms and varied colors. The flustra, the eschara attached to branches of coral-like mosses and lichens, and the patellide striped with yellow and purple, look like great cochineal insects on the ground. Then the sea-anemones, looking like limacine cactus flowers, brilliant with the most glaring colors, adorn the clefts of the rocks with their waving crowns, or spread out their blooms, till the sea-bottom resembles a border of many-colored ranunculuses. Around the coralbushes play the humming-birds of the ocean—brilliant little fishes, now sparkling with metallic red or blue, now with a golden-green, or with the soft hue of silver. All this marvelous manifestation of life is displayed in the midst of the most rapid alternations of light and shade, changing with every breath, with every undulation that ripples the surface of the sea.

We have not yet fairly touched upon the animal life of the sea—itself a world of wonders. It is enough to require a chapter to itself.

How Railroads Are Managed.

Lively Meeting of the Stockholders of the Pennsylvania Central Railroad—Racy Proceedings—Owners of Roads Not Permitted to Know the Doings of Their Agents.

A Pugnacious Stockholder, &c., &c.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Pennsylvania Railroad was held in Philadelphia, on the 21st inst. The attendance was quite large. Hon. Daniel M. Fox, Mayor of the city, was called to the chair, and Joseph Lesley, Esq., was appointed Secretary.—The twenty-fourth annual report of the Board of Managers was then read by the Secretary. The statement of the Treasurer was then read, and Hon. Isaac Hazlehurst submitted the following:

Resolved, That the report of the Board of Directors for the year 1870, be and it is hereby accepted by the stockholders, and that it be published in pamphlet form.

Resolved, That the act entitled "An act authorizing corporations to increase their bonded obligations and capital stock," approved the 29th day of December, A. D., 1863, be and it is hereby accepted by the stockholders of this Company, and that the acceptance of the said act by the Board of Directors and their action thereunder be and the same is hereby ratified and confirmed.

Resolved, That the action of the Board of Directors of this Company in agreeing to subscribe for $400,000 of the capital stock of the American Steamship Company of Philadelphia, when organized, and in agreeing to indorse the bonds of said company to the extent of one million and a-half of dollars ($1,500,000), in pursuance of authority conferred by law, be and the same is hereby ratified and confirmed.

John Hulme said that he had just listened to the annual report read. It contained a mass of figures which no man could digest upon hearing it when the report was read. He would move to meet, a vote of thanks was passed, and thus ended the stockholder's meeting. No word of inquiry was made, and no demand for explanations of the report. The result is that the poor stockholders upon reading the report several months afterwards, discover things which have never come into outside or inside organizations will become rich enough to buy a majority of the stock of railroads, and thus have the power, by control thereof, to contract with themselves, to monopolize all the profits, and leave the poor, confiding, innocent shareholders to starve. As to the fourth section, it is well known that certain favored parties are allowed drawbacks to such an extent as to effectually exclude others from using said railroads. I am informed that on the Northern Central only one coal company can carry anthracite coal to Baltimore, the lounge drawback of which would completely swallow up the profits of the owner *de facto* of the line. I myself, being a stockholder and owner of a few shares of the Pennsylvania Railroad and all the roads leased, owned, or controlled by Pennsylvania Railroad Company, together with the amount and character in classes of freight transported therein, and state in detail the amount of money respectively received for transportation by all the classes of cars above named. Also, state the amount received by the said various railroad companies for the use of depots, horse-power in making up trains, labor of loading and unloading, and for repairs of the cars of said transportation companies during the year 1870.

3. To state the amount collected for berths in sleeping cars and extra charges in palace cars by the owners thereof whilst running over the Pennsylvania Railroad and all its leased, owned, or controlled railroads, together with the amount received by said railroad companies for repairs, horse-power, and depot use from said Sleeping and Palace Car Company during the year 1870.

4. To state the amount of drawbacks, allowances, or deductions made to the different transporters of coal, iron, lumber, or other materials over the Pennsylvania Railroad and the other roads leased, owned, or controlled by the said Pennsylvania Railroad Company, together with a full statement of all discriminations and differences made by the officers of any of said companies in the rates of charge for the transportation of coal or other things, and from and to the same points to the different customers of said railroads.

5. To state the amount of salaries paid to all and each of the various officers of the Pennsylvania Railroad and all the roads leased, owned, or controlled by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, together with the names of all said officers and the extra allowances made and received by them over their regular salaries during the year 1870.

6. That this resolution, together with the report thereon by the President and Directors of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, be printed in pamphlet form and distributed amongst the stockholders of the said company, at least two weeks prior to an adjourned meeting of stockholders to take the report into consideration on the first Monday of June next.

In offering this resolution, embracing six sections, I desire to say a few words relative to each. The first section provides for a detailed balance-sheet showing all the liabilities and assets of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, and of the various companies controlled by it. Said roads, as I understand, number thirty-three, and stretch over the country for thousands of miles. The necessity for such a statement is self-evident. The stockholders of the Pennsylvania Railroad ought to know the condition of these outside properties. They and not the Board of Directors have been made responsible for debts and liabilities, and should know what they receive for assuming such an enormous amount of responsibilities, certainly much more explicitly than is shown by the past reports of the President and Directors of the Pennsylvania Railroad. In the twenty-third annual report for 1869 we find an item in the assets stated as "Cost of bonds, stock of municipal and other railroad corporations" of over $6,000,000, and another item of "Bills and accounts receivable and amount due from other railroads" of over $8,000,000. Proprietors of railroads should know what these securities consist of and their real value. This lumping of assets is deceptive. In comparing the reports of the board of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company for 1868 or 1869 it will be found that the stock of the Pennsylvania Railroad increased:

In 1869 in the sum of	$6,482,250
And the bonded debt increased also	5,170,384
Total increase of liabilities in one year	$11,652,634
The interest on which sum is at 6 per cent.	690,758
To meet this interest there is only a gain of gross revenue in 1869 over 1868 of	17,311
Again we find by comparison that the gross earnings of the Pennsylvania Railroad in 1869 amounted to	11,891,413
And the net earnings for the same time to	5,111,413
Leaving for operating and other expenses	$ 6,780,000
Whilst in 1869 the gross earnings amounted to	17,250,812
And the net earnings thereby	5,907,541
And operating and other expenses	$12,246,288

Thus showing a decrease of $863,869 in net earnings after seven years hard labor, and in the meantime nearly doubling the stock and bonded debt of the Company. Verily, it is time for the owners of this huge concern to slumber no longer, they had better wake up and demand of their agents a full and clear statement, so as to ascertain what has become of the enormous expenditures which have necessitated the prodigious increase of capital stock and debt and the curious difference as shown between gross and net receipts. In regard to the second and third sections of my resolution it is unnecessary to say anything, for it is already known by every business man from the Ohio to the Delaware, that the whole system of farming out the legitimate business of railroads, such as the various fast-freight lines, sleeping, and palace-car companies, is an atrocious outrage on the shareholders of railroads and on the community at large, involving as it does, two sets of expenses, and two, or may be five, illegitimate profits to be borne by the public by way of increased charges for transportation, and at the same time taking the cream of railroad business into the pockets of these parasites at the expense of railroad shareholders. I am credibly informed that one of these fast-freight lines originally invested one million cash for cars, and out of surplus earnings have increased their capital to five millions, on which latter sum one per cent. per month dividends are realized, which is sixty per cent. on the actual cash outlay of one million. I do not vouch for the truth of this statement, but I do know that if this system be not soon abolished, the value of railroad shares will be, for it is foreseen that ere long this