Could We But Know. Could we but know

The land that ends our dark, uncertain travel, Where lie those bappier hills and meadown lon -

Ah! if beyond the spirit's mmost cavil Aught of that country could we surely know Who would not go?

Might we but hear The hovering angels' high imagined chorus, Or catch, betimes, with wakeful eyes and

clear, One radiant vista of the realm before us. With one rapt moment given to see and hear, Ah! who would fear?

Were we quite sure To find the peerless friend who left us lonely Or there, by some celestial stream as pure, To gaze in eyes that here were love-lit only-This weary mortal coil, were we quite sure, Who would endure? - Edmund C. Stedman.

AT UNCLE PAUL'S.

"There," said Juliet Garland, impatiently, "I can't wear these kid gloves again by any possibility. They've been once to the cleaner's, and I've done them myself twice with breadcrumbs!"

She sat in the deep window-seat, her bright hair streaked with morning sun shine, her blue eyes sparkling with vexation, while a pair of very much demoralized kid gloves, of the palest primrose tint, lay in her lap.

And Dora, her younger sister, looked listlessly up from the pile of music she was turning over-another of the bright blonde blossoms of humanity.

'Why don't you get yourself a new pair?" said she. "Oh, dear! There isn't a song here that is not a hundred years old. 'Juanita,' 'Her bright smile, 'Beautiful daises,' and all that sort of thing. Rosie must get something that isn't coeval with the ark. How is a girl to-"

"Why don't I get myself another pair ?" sharply cross-questioned Juliet. "Because I haven't any money-that is the reason!"

"It's so dreadful to be poor!" sighed plump, pretty Dora, contemplating her pink finger-tips; and at the same moment Mrs. Templeton, the married blonde of the family, came in with a worn look upon her face.

"More bills," said she. "Oh, girls what will Frank say? Stefani has actually had the hardihood to charge seventy-five dollars for that little hunch we gave to Mrs. Atwood and her son. And Madame Cherimont's account is eighty-nine, and I'm positively afraid to open the florist's bill."

"Then it's no, use asking for more kid gloves at present," said Juliet, disconsolately.

"Nor music," added Dora, with a shrug of her shoulders.

Mrs. Templeton burst into tears. "I declare," said she, "I'm discouraged. And you girls are always teas-

ing for something or other, and Frank is so cross whenever we exceed the of shadow on the glittering lake, and regular allowance!" "Crying will do no good," said Dora

who was evidently the philosopher of the family. "But what is that letter in your lap, Rosie?"

"Oh, that!" said Mrs. Templeton, "is from Uncle Paul. I declare, Stefani's bill upset me so that I forgot all about it. He wants one of you girls to come up to the Maine Camp and keep house for him. It's somewhere on the line man. Let other girls do as they think of the Rangeley Lakes, I believe- fit." Owls and whip-poor wills thrown in Come, girls, which of you will volunteer ?

Juliet gave a little shriek of dismay Dora elevated her pink, cushiony nands. But a third sister who had looked up.

being put up in the world's window' 'For sale!' Yes, I'll go to Uncle Paul." "But," gasped Mrs. Templeton, "what will society say ?" "What it pleases," Gladys answered.

Society don't settle my boot-bill, nor provide me with pocket-money." "Gladys," said Juliet, remonstrating-

ly, "I think you are crazy!" "Because I am emancipating myself from slavery? But you know,

Julie, I cannot see where all this is to end." "What will Mr. Mandeville say?

demurely questioned Dora, with a sly, sidelong glance at her sister. "He will say," Gladys stoutly

answered, "that there is one fortunehunter the less in the ranks." "Gladys, how can you speak so coarsely ?" said Juliet, not without indignation.

"Is it coarse?" said Gladys. "It is the simple truth. Mr. Mandeville is very handsome and agreeable, but I don't think he will miss me after the first evening or two. Oh, there are too many Peris in this Paradise! And poor, good, patient Frank, he will have one less to provide for. "Yes, I'll go with Uncle Paul."

"You may as well commit suicide at once," said Juliet.

"You'll never marry in that wilder. ness," said Mrs. Templeton.

"There are nineteen old maids in this block," said Gladys. "We count ed them yesterday, Dora and I. Do you suppose there are nineteen old maids on Lake Molechunkamunk?"

"Nonsense!" said Mrs. Templeton. "And besides," added Gladys, the laughter fading from her eyes, "is it really the end and aim of all female humanity to get married? Why shouldn't I be an old maid as well as another? Do you think I shouldn't survive it? Wait and see!"

Gladys Garland had definitely made up her mind on the subject. Within three days she had purchased a pair of thick boots, a blue flannel suit, and a poke bonnet of rough straw, trimmed with blue ribbons, and gone out to Lake Molechunkamunk.

Uncle Paul was glad to see her. He didn't live in a wigwam, as she had almost taught herself to believe, but owned a pretty little lodge in this vast wilderness, shaded with forest trees. two sisters .- Saturday Night. and embowered with blue-cupped morning-glories.

He was civilized, and did not assassinate English grammar like the champion hunter in the dime novels. And he had provided a pretty little boudoir for her, whose pink mosquito-netting set the black flies and gnats at defithe broad mantle.

"Oh, I think I shall be quite, quite happy here," said Gladys, as she sat in had turned yellow, which sent its a little boat where the drooping boughs of the hazel bushes made blots read while Uncle Paul fished.

"Don't regret any of the New York cavaliers, ch ?!' said Uncle Paul. And Gladys stoutly answered: "No!

But afterward she asked herself, had she told the whole truth?

"If Darrell Mandeville chooses marry Miss Dorrance, let him," she experts had in a few minutes transthought. I shall never pursue any formed several yellow stones into what

That very afternoon, however, when she returned from a long ramble in the woods, with her straw hat full of remove any discoloration, and the blackberries, she found the little lodge effect is immediate. The dried dia-But, on the occupied. mond remains white. "I am sorry to take you thus uncere- other hand, the illusion is of short been silently mending the flounces of a moniously by storm," said a handsome, duration. Rub the stone even lightly, pink silk skirt, in an obscure corner middle-aged gentleman, who looked to and the yellow tint is seen coming be what he was, a Wall street broker back again, and a little further attri. come out into the wilderness for his tion with the finger restores the prissummer vacation. "But my friend tine hue completely. This discovery has fallen over a cliff and broken his may entail upon many persons an leg, and this was the nearest point of awakening to the fact that the stones shelter within a range of seven they have are of far less value than miles. Perhaps your husband will ex- they supposed, and will necessitate cuse us, if-' even greater care than that exercised in "But it isn't my husband," said purchasing. Douglas Jerrold once Gladys, composedly depositing the raised the question whether any posberries on the table. "It is my Uncle session really paid its possessor which Paul. He is fishing, up the lake. But entails anxiety of mind, and diamonds, if he were here, he would say, as I do in one way or another, entail so much that you are very welcome. Where is that there are many to whom the great the poor man? I am not much of a sur- value set upon them becomes almost incomprehensible.

And then he closed his eyes; a dead ly pallor crept across his face. "I think he has fainted," said the Wall street broker.

And just then Uncle Paul came in-Uncle Paul, who was a born chirurgeon, and who understood all the healing secrets of the glen and forest-and Gladys heaved a deep sigh of relief. It would all be right now.

A broken leg is no joke, especially in the back woods, where splints have to be manufactured out of the most incongruous material, and arnica cannot be had short of twelve miles.

Mr. Mandeville made but a slow convalescence, yet he did not appear to regard the detention as unpleasant. The Wall street broker went back to his stocks and bonds.

"I think we could easily get you to Andover," he had said, wistfully. "And a parlor-car from there..."

"Oh, hang your parlor-cars!" said Mr. Mandeville, impetuously. "I am doing very well where I am now."

"Oh!" said the Wall street broker, a sudden light of comprehension irradiating his dull brain. "Oh, in that case I may as well leave you to your fate It's the old story of Ulysses and the Sirens over again."

* * * *

Mrs. Templeton came into the room where Dora and Juliet were remodeling their white dresses for a theatre party to the Casino, one September day, with flushed cheeks and shining eyes.

"Girls," she cried, "what do you think? Gladys is engaged!" "To some buffalo hunter?" said

Dora, scornfully. "No!" said Rosie, "To Mr. Mande,

ville. He has been up there for a month-at Lake Molechunkamunk." Juliet dropped her work.

"Impossible!" she cried. "Gladys engaged up in those wildernesses, while Dora and I are left to wither on the stem down here in New York; And to Darrell Mandeville, too-the best match of the season!"

"Things do turn out so strangely!" said Mrs. Templeton, reflectively.

And Gladys, the predestined old maid of the family, was the first to be married, after all.

"Gladys always was lucky!" said her

Coloring Diamonds

Some very interesting and important experiments with diamonds have recently been made at the Paris acade. my of sciences. An experienced diamond merchant bought a fine white ance, and an exquisite engraving of diamond for four thousand six hunthe Madonna di San Sisto hung over dred dollars. One morning he washed it with soap and water, when what was his consternation to find that it value down to eight hundred dollars The matter was brought to the attention of the academy, and experts submitted a report which showed that diamond whitening is a fraud easy to accomplish and as easy to detect. By plunging a yellow diamond into an aniline violet dye it becomes white while at the same time it loses neither its transparency nor brilliancy. In fact, on making the experiment, the appeared magnificent white stones of five-fold value. Take a yellow diamond, dip it even into no stronger dye than violet ink, wash it with water to

THE RURAL MASSES IN CHINA.

Hopeless Poverty - Early Marriages Joint Family System.

A family, C. D., consisting of eight persons, owns an acre and a half of land. The land was bought by the grandfather of the present head and has never been subdivided since nor added to. He grows about seventy bushels of rice and seventy-five of wheat and some vegetables and cotton besides, worth altogether in money about \$40. He has two nephews who work outside and bring home some thing to help, and in that way they get along, but are very poor He pays government land tax to the extent of \$1.50 a year. He and all his neighbors wear native blue cloth, spun and woven in the family by the women from cotton grown by themselves. He never wore foreign cotton. The coat he had on (a well-worn affair) had been made two years previously, and it would last two years more. It served him at night as a coverlet as well as a coat by day.

Another family owned four acres odd, only part of which was suitable for rice culture. Their income was about eighty bushels of wheat and 150 of rice, about a fourth of which they could usually sell. They paid some thing over \$3 a year as government land tax. They also grew more cotton than they could use, and sold every year about \$10 worth. They were better off than some of their neighbors. but never saved any money. They had fifteen mouths to feed.

The foregoing cases are given because they represent fairly the average condition to be found in rural China-The greater number of cultivators probably belong to the class of tenants. Some say the proportion of tenants to peasant proprietors is as seven to three : others put it as three to two; but, whether tenant or proprietor, the con dition of the cultivator is much the same-that is, it rarely rises above what is just enough for the bare necessaries of life. My own observations have been mostly confined to this and the adjoining provinces, and I excluded the cultivators of tea, silk and opium, who, growing a commodity more and more in demand and easily transportable, are in a far better position than the ordinary peasant ; but speaking for the greater part of China. I believe I am not over-stating the case in saying that for the working agricul. tural masses it is a daily hand to hand struggle with want. In a succession of good years they are very comfortable, they have enough to eat and to wear, and they have few other wants ; but population is ever increasing up to

the food limit, and when a bad year or

two comes they die off by hundreds or

thousands. Two or three causes may readily be named as having mainly conduced to this state of things-causes which are generally to be found among Asiatic The rule prohibiting the races. devolution of property by will, and making division compulsory among all male children, tends rapidly to reduce all holdings to a minimum-that is to the very lowest quantity out of which it is possible to make a living. Here, as everywhere else, energy and good luck raise individuals to a position of wealth, who may, if they choose, become large land owners ; but in the course of a few generations this universal equaliser, aided by the apathy of killed, 545; South, Gen. Pemberton the ordinary Chinese when in comfort- killed, unknown. Chickamauga, Sept able circumstances, will have reduced 19-23, 1863; North, Gen. Thomas things to the former dead level killed, 1644; Another equally potent factor is the killed, 2389. habit of too early marriage es. Parents deem it a religious duty to provide matches for their children as soon as Spottsylvania, May 8-21, 1864; North they are of marriageable years, and the young people go to the altar in as much the same way as they go to school in Europe. It never occurs to them to ask first whether there will be enough to fill the mouths that may come after. wards. The evil is further aggravated by the joint family system, which takes the responsibility off one's shoulders and puts it jointly on that of half a dozen others. When the man knows that he will get an equal share of what is going whether he earns it or

An Imperial Hog.

Peter the great must have been a pleasant companion at dinner. When he and his consort dined together they were waited on by a page and the empress' favorite chambermaid. Even at larger dinners he bore uneasily the presence and service of what he called listening lacqueys. His taste was not an imperial one. He loved, and most frequently ordered, for his own especial enjoyment, a soup with four cabbages in it; gruel; pig, with some cream for sauce; cold roast meat, with pickled cucumbers or salad; lemons and lampreys; salt meat, ham and Limburgh cheese. Previously to addressing himself to the "consummation" of this supply he took a glass of aniseed water. At his repast he quaffed quass, sort of beer, which would have dis gusted an Egyptian, and he finished with Hungarian or French wine. He is described as "eating rudely with a sort of swilling noise," a quite appropriate accompaniment of such an im perial hog's feeding.

But Peter wasn't a crank at his meals alone. Strange stories are told of his brutal and ferocious eccentricities. On one occasion, for instance Peter and his consort arrived at Stuth of, in Germany, for the night. The owner of the country house at which they stopped readily agreed to give them a small bedroom, the selection of which had been made by the emperor himself. It was a room without stove or fireplace, had a brick floor, the walls were bare, and the season being one of rigorous winter a difficulty arose as to warming this chamber. The host soon solved the difficulty. Several casks of brandy were emptied on the floor, the furniture being first removed, and the spirit was then set fire to The Czar screamed with delight as he

saw the sea of flames and smelled th odor of Cognac. The fire was no sooner extinguished than the bed was replaced, and Peter and Catherine straightway betook themselves to their repose, and not only slept profoundly all night in this gloomy bower, amid the fumes and steams of burnt brandy, but rose in the morning thoroughly refreshed and delighted with their couch and the vapors which had curtained their repose.

From that time forth a preparative to repose with Peter was to fumigate his chamber with burnt brandy.

Principal Battles of the War.

Following are the dates of the prin. cipal battles of the civil war, who anded in each, and the number killed on both sides:

Bull Run (first), July 21, 1861; North Gen. McDowell: killed, 481; South Gen. Beauregard; killed, unknown Shiloh, April 7, 1862; North, Gen risen to his feet and drawn two re-Grant; killed, 1735; South, Gen. A. S. Johnston; killed, 1728. Seven Pine and Fair Oaks, May 31 and June 1 1862; North, Gen. McClellan; killed 890; South, Gen. J. E. Johnston; killed 2800. Antietam, Sept. 16 and 17, 1862 North, Gen. McClellan; killed, 2010 South, Gen. Lee; killed, 3500. Chan cellorsville, May 2 and 3, 1864; North Gen. Hooker; killed, 1512; South Gen. Jackson; killed, 1581. Gettys burg, July 1, 2 and 3, 1863; North Meade; Gen. killed, 2834; South Gen. Lee; killed, 3500. Vicksburg July 3 and 4, 1863; North, Gen. Grant South, Gen. Bragg Wilderness, May 5, and 7, 1864; North, Gen. Grant; killed 5597; South, Gen. Lee; killed, 2000 Gen. Grant; killed, 4177; South Gen. Lee, killed, 1000. The abov figures are based on medical official re turns, and do not agree with returns o. the Adjutant General. No two return agree. The Adjutant General make, the killed at Wilderness 2261, and at Spottsylvania 2270; while Gen Meade's report, based on reports immediately after the battle, states killed at Wilderness at 3288; at Spottsylvania 2146.

The Mother.

Though lost in the whirlpool of passion Though high on the pathway to fame, When hopes of our innocent childhood Have melted away to a name, One thought, like a gem amid ruins, Will dazzle our eyes with its joy, And bring back the sweet words she uttered:

"You'll think of your mother, my boy. You'll think of the love that she showered

Untailing by day and by night; You'll sigh for the sweet, good-night kis The eyes with their meek, loving light! And whether his's pathway be pleasant, Or robbed of each rosebud of joy, Your heart back to her still will journey. You'll think of your mother, my boy!

Wherever the smiles of a mother Have relightened a heart and it ; care. God's blessing has hallowed that roof-tree! A glimpse of sweet heaven is there! ough forther the years lore us onward, They cannot her mem'ry destroy;

silence and tears all unbidden You'll think of your mother, my boy!

HUMOROUS.

"That prisoner has a very smooth countenance," said the judge to the sheriff. "Yes," said the sheriff, 'he was ironed just before he was brought in."

A sherry cobbler will never mend your old shoes.

A regular kidnapper - Soothing syrup.

Why the rabbits escaped.-His lordship (after missing his tenth rabbit): "I'll tell you what is, Bagster, your rabbits are all two inches too short hereabouts "

"No, sir," said Fogg, "I never knew Brown to mislead or deceive anybody in his life. No, sir; fact is, he couldn't. Nobody would believe anything he ever said."

Little Aggie's sister had invited her best young man to tea. There was a lull in the conversation, which was broken by the inquisitive Aggie: "Papa, is dose fedders ober Mr. Wobbinson's mouf ?"

"Yes," said the drummer, watching a rival at a hotel; "it's his first trip this way. Don't you see, he isn't on dirting terms with the table girl?"

A young man who went to the late war began his first letter to his sweetheart after this fashion: "My dear Julia-Whenever I am tempted to do wrong I think of you, and I say, 'Get thee behind me, Satan.' "

Sick man-"What! a female physician? I want a doctor, to make me well-not a woman, to make love to me." Female physician (bashfully)-'I promise to do neither."

"Gentlemen," said the Texas man in the restaurant when the waiter dumped a plate of hot soup down his back. 'gentlemen, don't laugh." As he had volvers his wishes were respected.

A Cuban Execution.

Arriving at the foot of the platform the death sentence was again read, and the "alguacil de corte" corresponding to our sheriff-asked the prisoner if he had anything to say to the people. He merely shook his head, by way of reply. and was at once seated, his legs tied, and his arms pinioned, with the hands crossed on his breast, and the collar of the garrote fixed about his neck. At this point of the proceedings the 'verdugo'' pulled from his person a long, bright knife, and handed it to the police who were present. A black cap was then drawn over the prisoner's face, and the priests began to recite the "Credo." When they came to the words, "His only Son," the "verdugo, by a swift and dexterous turn of the lever, launched the soul of the poor wretch into eternity. There was but a momentary quiver of the limbs and a straightening of the form, then all was still, for the man was stone dead. The mode of punishment is far more merciful than the hideous and bungling per. ormances frequently gone through with at our gibbets.

"Is Uncle Paul really in earnest?" said she. "Then I'll go."

"Gladys!" cried all three of the others, in different accents of amaze. ment, reproach and incredulity.

Gladys Garland rose up, flung aside the soft billows of pink silk that cumbered her lap, and came out into the light. Of all the sisters, she was peraps the loveliest and the most deterined.

"Why not?" said she. "Do you ink I am particularly in love with is sort of life? I declare, there have en times within the last month when gean, but-" ve felt inclined to go for a servantaid, or look up a situation as factoryand. Just consider, girls-the dress wear isn't paid for; the milliner is ways sending her girl around with ills. I can't go on this street nor on nat, for fear of meeting some one who will ask me for the money that I mestly owe them. Rosie, like a furling that she is, keeps giving arties and lunches and morning nusicales, to try and get us well arried. Frank, poor fellow, is workng beyond his strength, to give his wife's sisters a fair chance; but it isn't and Dora, but I, for one, am tired of thus, I thought --- "

the stopped abruply. There, lying on the little chintz-covered lounge, his pallid face supported by cushions, lay -Mr. Darrell Mandeville.

"Miss Garland!" he exclaimed. am so glad!"

"Mr. Mandeville," she uttered, in the same breath, "I am so sorry!" "Because I have drifted here, of all places in the world!" he pleaded. "Because you are so badly hurt!" faltered Gladys, with the tears coming into her eyes.

"I knew you were somewhere in bit of use. See how we all hang Gladys, I was looking for you. But I replied: ire. Now I don't know about Julie didn't expect to find you just now, and

Two Hatches.

One day, when our Rufus Hatch was waiting at the depot, on his recent excursion, for a train, he heard his name pronounced, and discovered that it was applied to a man who seemed a bit under the influence of liquor. Walk. ing up to him, Rufus asked:

"Is your name Hatch?" "You bet!"

"So is mine. Perhaps we are distantly related."

The man looked him all over, rubbed this region," he said. "In fact, Miss his eyes and looked again, and finally

> "It's so blamed distant that I'll never own it."- Wall Street News.

no, and that the benefit of denying himself any particular indulgence will accrue to others as well as to himself. a great motive for thrift is withdrawn. In one respect the Chinese peasant

is in a better condition than the Indian ryot ; he is not in debt to money-lenders. But I do not know that that is a virtue for which he is entitled to much credit, for there is no class of moneylenders to whom he could get in debt. Indeed, I am not sure that he is not thereby in a less adventageous position, for when hard years come he has no means of pledging his property, which, if he could, might save him from sheer starvation.

Florida has 630 factories, working 749 hands, with a capital invested 1,697,030.

Something of Hotel Life.

Gossipping about the hotels of New York and the costly habits which they stimulate, the "Lounger" of the Tribune touches upon a hidden feature of hotel life thus: "Many a guest is in debt and cannot get away from his ho tel. Many a woman, apparently independent and fortunate, is wondering while she smiles with visitors, how she can get her trunks away from the establishment, and what person in the house she shall strike for a loan and at what sacrifice. People often look into the tenement houses and think that the people must live very miserable there. but I wonder if they are not happier homes than some of these large hotels, where every week comes the repri mand that \$200 or more is due and the rules of the house imperative."

The troops then wheeled into column and marched away to beat of drums, and now came the strange sequel to this dismal spectacle.

As soon as the ground was cleared one of the police went forward and, seizing the "verdugo," arrested him for murder, hurrying him to the prison. where the "Juzgado" were still assembled. Placing him in their midst he accused him of having killed a man, and denounced him as a murderer. The judge asked him what he had to say in answer to this charge.

"It is true," replied the "verdugo," "that I killed the prisoner, but I deny being a murderer, for, although I committed the act charged," displaying his arms with the badge, "I did it in the cause of justice and in pursuance of the law, all of which I was compelled to do by virtue of my office."

"The accused is innocent, and is dis charged," answered the court, and thus the formula of Spanish law was sati fied .- Philadelphia Press.