

TO THE END.

[J. H. Kennedy in The Current.]
Oh, fair, swift river, go on and go by!
Go on and go down, till the voice of the sea

THE INCREASE IN SPECULATION.

How the Number of Brokers Has Multiplied in a Few Years.
[New York Tribune.]
"Within a few years the number of brokers in this city has increased immensely," said an old-time "street" operator to a Tribune reporter.

The number of speculators is also multiplying. Twenty years ago speculation outside of stocks and gold, was scanty. Now look at the array of articles, such as cotton, wheat, corn, and other cereal products, lard, pork, bacon, butter, cheese, oil, iron, steel, copper, etc., etc., have been added to the list of things bought and sold on margins.

"Three hundred members could actually do the legitimate business of this exchange—the actual buying and selling of cereals in this market. But business must be made for the extra large number of members, and each article of produce shipped to this market is bought and sold forty or fifty times—but it is only delivered once. The petroleum exchange, finding there is not enough oil in the country, is now gambling in railroad shares; perhaps it will next take 'pools' on horse races. The lowest limit of shares in the petroleum exchange has been reduced to ten, so that even the comparatively poor can enjoy the luxury of putting up a margin on railroad stocks. This shows that the passion for gambling is increasing year after year.

"But the increase of this large non-producing element of brokers who merely act as stakeholders for those who gamble, adds nothing to the industry or development of the country. Not one bushel of grain or pound of metal is added to the resources of the country."

How Consumption Begins.

[Dr. Nichols in Youth's Companion.]
Small, ill-ventilated sleeping-rooms, in which rebreathed air is ever present, are nurseries of consumption. These are not found alone in cities and large towns, or among the poor and lowly. Well-to-do farmers' daughters and sons in the country—those who live among the mountains of the New England states, where God's pure air is wholly undisturbed—are often victims of consumption. How is this explained? Look into their bedrooms; examine into their daily habits of life, and the cause is made plain. Old-fashioned fireplaces are boarded up; rubber window-strips and stoves have found their way into the most retired nooks and corners of the land; and the imprisoned mountain air in country dwellings is heated to a high point, and breathed over and over during the days and nights of the long winter months.

It is certainly true that girls in the country take less exercise in the open air than those residing in cities. They appear to be more afraid of pure cold air than city girls. Consumption is not less rare among females in the country than in cities, in the present age. It was not so formerly. The declarations of grandmothers and old physicians go to show that, fifty years ago, consumption was hardly known in the rural districts. The winds whistled through the dwellings then, and the fire blazed and roared upon the hearth.

Half the time, in the cold winters, the backs of the inmates were freezing, while the front parts of the person were "roasting"; and yet there was less rheumatism than now, and no consumption.

Picking the Crocodile's Teeth.

[Narrative.]
All that Aristotle tells us about the crocodile is borrowed from Herodotus, with the exception of the number of eggs it is said to lay, and it is curious to notice that he even tells the story of the little bird (trochilus) which eats the leeches out of the crocodile's mouth—a story long discredited, but which has been to a great extent corroborated by Mr. Geoffrey Saint-Hilaire, the eminent French naturalist, who had repeated occasions to ascertain that the story of Herodotus was correct, in substance at least. He found that a little bird, the black-headed plover, flies incessantly from place to place, searching everywhere, even in the crocodile's mouth, for insects, such as gnats, which attack the great saurian in innumerable swarms, and, entering his mouth, covers the inner surface of the palate with a brownish black crust. The little plover comes and delivers him from his troublesome enemies.

The Ploughman: Every head has a soft place in it, and every heart has its black drop. Every rose has its prickles, and every day its night. Even the sun shows spots, and the skies are darkened with clouds.

Line-Kill Club: An experience of sixty years in this cold world has convinced me that no man who steps between disputants can do anything to get pulverized on either one of the principals.

THE ORIGINAL CAMILLE.

The Last McEncholy Days in the Life of Matilda Heron.
[Philadelphia Times.]
It is an old, old painting. Upon the wall of the room where it now hangs it has rested for years. This life-sized portrait in oil has a strange history. It is the picture of a woman dressed in the garb of the long ago. A gown of heavily-flowered silk, cut low neck and short sleeves, displays to advantage a well developed form. The face is full and round and the hair is combed plain over the forehead and down over the ears, in the style of twenty years ago. A string of pearls around the neck are the only ornaments. A sad, tearful expression of countenance and a rather severe attitude attracts the attention of all who see it. There was something wonderfully familiar to me upon the canvas as it looked down from its place on the wall that night, and wherever I moved in the room it seemed to follow. I studied the features well without getting any information as to whose portrait it was. It hung in a bedroom where I was sleeping, and at the moment there was no chance to gratify my curiosity. "That picture," said the landlady the next morning, "represents Matilda Heron as she used to dress in 'Camille.' It was her greatest character."

"How comes it here?"
"Why, she spent the last years of her life in the room where her picture now hangs over the mantelpiece. It was placed there by her direction and I have never disturbed it. She lived with me a long, long time, and I have many curious recollections of her. Her last days were very sad indeed. She lived a wretched life for a long time before she died." The talkative old landlady went on for an hour with stories of the great actress's life. It is perhaps better that the mantle of charity should be thrown over the weaknesses of mankind. We feel best when we remember our idols only as we have known and seen them. After great achievements Matilda Heron drifted into this lodging-house and died here from the use of stimulants. She was poor, very poor. "Even the pennies which bore down the lids of her dead eyes were not her own." During the last year of her life, when she did not play, the powerful intellect often rose above the fumes of wine and she wrote the history her own life. I found both her picture and the manuscript in the same house.

This autobiography is written in a plain, bold hand and in a very interesting style. It gives the story of her early life, of her marriage and separation and of her struggles and successes upon the stage. Some passages of it are very tender, others full of dramatic power and the descriptive quality exceedingly good. What she has written probably makes a book of 350 pages, and it is in such shape that it can go to the publisher's hands after the addition of the final chapter depicting her untimely death. She pledges this valuable work as well as the picture to the old landlady for the board she owed, and now, after all these years, I have found by accident these curious reminders of a promising life that was so early wrecked by over-indulgence. Almost every theatre-goer will recall Matilda Heron and the abundant evidences she gave of superior talent. While little Bijou Heron has followed her mother's footsteps to the stage, she has given evidence of no such accomplishments as her mother had. The poor girl had a sad life during her younger days, and it is well that she has at last found a pleasant home and congenial work in Boston. Some day I shall go over the old manuscript that Matilda Heron left and cull some of the choicest reminiscences for your readers. It is full of stories of actors and actresses of her time.

A City Health Officer's Views.

[Philadelphia Times Interview.]
"Among large and thickly populated cities London is considered the healthiest. The average rate of annual deaths there is 22.1-10 to 22.5-10 in 1,000. Now in the week ending Sept. 30, of this year, taking the population of Philadelphia at 927,995 the number of deaths was 18.4 to the 1,000 and the probable annual death rate for this entire year will be 22.1, which is the same as London. So you see we stand pretty high in the health roll."

"Do you find poverty, exclusive of cause, a producer of disease to any extent?"
"Undoubtedly it is. Now this winter, what with strikes, mills closing and general depression of trade there will be a very large increase in poverty of all kinds in this city. We shall at once perceive its influence on the health of the people. The laboring classes are especially liable to be depressed or enervated by bad or good business. When out of work they immediately begin to grow careless, first of their appearance, then of the appearance of their homes. They allow things to become dirty and do not care to be clean themselves. Then it does not need a physician to tell you that a depressed mental condition renders the condition of the body extremely favorable to the assimilation of disease. Nearly everybody has some disease latent in the system, which hard work, exercise and happiness renders innocuous, but which low spirits will very soon develop."

Education of Game Birds.

[Boston (Md.) Letter in Baltimore Sun.]
"I have about stopped hunting partridges," said a well-known sportsman to a group of well-known sportsmen assembled in the Game association rooms, "because I have had too much good partridge shooting to enjoy the kind I have to take now. I remember when I could mark a covey of birds and that any covey would use on the grounds where I first saw them until the very last bird was killed. Now, after having been fired at, it is ten to one that you never see them in that locality again. For the past four falls I have marked birds on my own farm and as soon as they were shot at they have disappeared entirely. We have no field shooting. These birds now use within short flight of the thickest cover and after making flight will pitch in the trees, a thing unheard of until late years and which prevents the dogs from setting them."

Whitehall Times: The smallest faults in one's own character make him blind to the largest virtues in the character of his neighbor.

Chinese Burial Grounds.

[Peking Letter.]
As you walk round Shanghai you think about half the land is waste. You fancy it is left, as large covets and heather-clad heaths are left where game-preserving flourishes, but if you look closer, you see tuft-covered mounds. It is a burial ground. Nowhere else in that neighborhood will you see a square yard of land that is not under tillage. Half the little wars with the Chinese came from trespassing on these cemeteries. The French at Shanghai had what threatened to be a big row when they wanted to drive a road through one of them. They are "taboo."

Sometimes of an evening you may see a village elder walking round and explaining to the youngsters that their ancestor of 100 years ago is buried here, and that five mounds off lies that happy father who was raised to the rank of marquis because his son came out first classic and senior wrangler in the final examination. I am speaking of an old burial ground. In a new one you see the solid, highly varnished coffins (often carved) lying on the surface. There they are left for a year or two, after which they are hatched or bricked over, according to the wealth of the family, the result being a mausoleum like those set up to several of our royal family. This soon gets grown over with grass and weeds, and ends by becoming a mound, still hallowed in the recollection of the elders, still visited on anniversaries with the appointed offerings. The thing to remember is that in China all is above ground; there is no digging of graves; simply laying down of coffins and covering in by-and-by.

In old times they used to bury beside their dead gold and precious stones of all kinds. They are more economical nowadays; one remembers how they burn horses, and birds, and furniture, etc., out of gold or red paper, instead of the old offerings, which have grown too costly. In their present state of mind, the Chinese are not likely to take to cremation, or to let their grave fields be desecrated by plow or spade, therefore, they are bound to go in for sewage, and, if our people out there want to make life pleasant, let them try to get an imperial edict for deodorizing. Our residents cannot complain much about the unhealthiness of the present system. The Chinese, on the whole, are a healthy people.

Evils of Bicycle Riding.

[Chicago News.]
The London Lancet, a high authority upon medical matters, takes very strong grounds against the excessive use of the bicycle, which is perhaps more common in England than in this country. Dr. Strahan, the writer of the article in question, shows that the position of the bicycle rider is such as to throw an undue weight of the body on the pelvis and its organs, by which they are seriously affected and ultimately permanently injured. In the case of growing boys, Dr. Strahan declares, this unnatural pressure upon the perineum directly and deleteriously affects that portion of the system, and that the results are so grave as to be avoided, even at the expense of giving up so delightful and popular an amusement as bicycle riding certainly is.

The writer cites in proof of his position the decline and wasting away of whole races, like the Tartars and Scythians, who owe their decline solely to the exhaustion and atrophy of the delicate muscles of the perineum by continuous horseback riding, and yet bicycling is said to be ten times as severe on the perineum as riding. Especially does Dr. Strahan condemn bicycling upon rough roads or up inclines as certainly and almost immediately hurtful to those who practice it. There has been a good deal of inquiry as to the use of the bicycle, but so high an authority as Dr. Strahan, endorsed by the London Lancet, ought to be enough to satisfy any one that bicycling should be indulged in with the greatest moderation, and then only upon level and smooth roads or streets. The disregard of so plain an injunction is fraught with far more dangerous consequences than the thoughtless may imagine, the full effect of which they may not comprehend until it is too late to remedy the matter.

The Passion for Tiles.

[Gothic Letter.]
I had a book sent me within a few days by a stranger, but I take an extract from it. It is a beautiful book of designs for tiles, chiefly ornamental tiles to cover floors and walls, and make mantel-pieces. I can well remember when I first went to Europe as a young man of 21, that I looked at a tile with more interest than a painting by a great master. I marveled to see houses covered with brick, and those bricks baked like our square bricks, and with hooks at the top and bottom which hooked on to the next tile, so that the whole room was kept free from moisture, and not a shingle nor board nor a piece of slate used there. American slate roofs, I suppose, are altogether better than the roofs in Europe, but at the time I speak of not many American houses were covered with slate. I often wondered in Europe whether the Americans would ever come to tiles, and I have lived to see the time when there is a passion for tiles as absurd as in the period of Martin Luther when he desired all the tiles on the roofs at Worms to turn into devils, so as to illustrate his courage.

The Israelite.

[Minneapolis Tribune.]
How could modern political history spare the names of Disraeli, Gambetta, Jules Simon, Lasker, Andrassy, and a dozen other Jewish statesmen? How could the philosophy and literature of this country dispense with the contributions of a Lessing, a Heine, a Hartmann, a Spinoza, an Auerbach, a Strauss, or a Schopenhauer? What economists of the century have ranked in original power with David Ricardo, Ferdinand Lassalle, and Karl Marx? What men have contributed so many great composers as that as that which among others gave the world Mendelssohn, Meyerbeer, and Offenbach? The financiers need not be mentioned by name; but what European country can build a railroad or wage a war without the concert and aid of Jewish financiers?

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