

The Squire's Pew.

By JANE TAYLOR.

A slanting ray of evening light
Sheds through the yellow frame,
It makes the faded crimson bright,
And yields the fringe a gem.
The window's graphic frame falls
In oblique shadow on the walks.

And since those trappings first were won,
How many a cloudless day,
To rob the vivid of its hue,
Has come and passed away;
How many a setting sun hath made
That curious lattice-work of shade.

Crambled beneath the hilted green,
That cunning hand must be
That carved this fretted door, I ween,
And four-and-twenty years
And now the worn hand done her part
In mimicking the client's art.

In days of yore (as now we call)
When the first James was king,
The courtly knight from yonder hall,
His hither his bride did bring.
All spotted round in state,
With hooded suit and buckled shoe.

On damask cushions, not in fringe,
The newly-wedded pair
Purvey-bank with brazen hasp and hinge,
In each, English spell,
Each holding in a hilly hand,
Responsive at the priest's command.

Then striding down the vaulted aisle,
The young man long and lily
Himself a character in rhyme
Of their respective friends,
And there in marble laid and cold
The knight and all his train behold.

Outstretched together are expressed
His and his lady fair,
With hands spilt on the breast
In attitude of prayer;
Lovers' eyes and in armor, he,
With ruff and ruffs and bodice, she.

So that in order as they died,
The merriment of spring bed,
Devoutly kneeling side by side,
As though they did intend
For past pleasures to atone,
By saying endless prayer in stone.

These mellow days are past and dim,
An age has fled away,
In regular descent from him
Have filled the stately pew,
And to the same succession go
To occupy the vault below.

And now the old man-polished squire
With his boy train appear,
Who only to the hall retire
A season every year.
And fill the seat with bells and beads
As 'twas so many years ago.

Perchance all thoughts as they tread
The hollowed floor of stone,
Of that darkhouse of kindred dead
Which shall, as silent rest,
In return receive to silent rest,
Another and another guest.

The feathered hearse and sable train
In all its wonted state,
Shall wind along the village-lane
And stand before the gate,
Brought many a distant country through
To join the final rendezvous.

And when the race is swept away
All to their dusty beds,
Still shall the mellow evening
Slime gently o'er their heads,
While other flowers fresh and new,
Shall occupy the Squire's Pew.

Sunday Reading.

Ancient Babylon.
It will not be forgotten that the French government two or three years since, sent three gentlemen to make scientific and artistic researches in Media, Mesopotamia and Babylon. One of them, M. Jules Oppert, has just returned to Paris and it appears from his report that he and his colleagues thought it advisable to attempt the exploration of ancient Babylon. This task was of immense difficulty, and was hampered by the intense heat of the sun, by privations of all kinds, and by the incessant hostility of the Arabs. After awhile M. Oppert's two colleagues fell ill so that all the labor of the expedition devolved on him. The first of all made excavations of the ruins of the famous suspended gardens of Babylon, which are now known by the Arabic name of the Hall of Amurrah. Curious architectural and other objects which are destined to be placed in the Louvre at Paris.

He has succeeded in making a series of minute surveys, and in drawing up detailed plans of the immense city. His opinion is that even the largest calculations as to its extent are not exaggerated; and he puts down that extent at the astounding figure of five hundred square kilometers. This is a very large city, being nearly twice the size of Paris. But of course he does not say this enormous area was occupied, or anything like it; it comprised within the walls huge tracts of cultivated lands and gardens for supplying the population with food in the event of a siege. M. Oppert has discovered the Babylonian and Assyrian monuments, and by many of them had ascertained exactly what part of the soil was inhabited and what part was appropriated to gardens. On the limits of the town, properly so called, stands at present the flourishing village of Hillah. This town, situated on the banks of the Euphrates, is built with bricks from the ruins, and many of the household utensils and personal ornaments of the contents are taken from them also. Beyond this there is the vast forest strewn with the ruins of the city. In the middle of it is the royal palace, itself almost as large as a town. M. Oppert says that he was able to distinguish the ruins of the famous Tower of Babel; they are the most imposing, and stand on a site formerly called Borsippa, or Tower of Languages. The royal town situated on the two banks of the Euphrates covers a space of nearly square kilometers, and contains most interesting ruins. Among them are those of the royal palace, the fortress and the suspended gardens. In the collection of curiosities which M. Oppert has brought away with him is a vase which he declares to date from the time of one of the Chaldean sovereigns named Naram-Sin; this is some three or four thousand six hundred years before Jesus Christ; also a number of copies of cuneiform inscriptions, which he has every reason to believe that he will be able to decipher.

Backwater. "What is the meaning of a backwater?" said a reverend gentleman during an examination at a parochial school. This was a puzzle. It went down the class till it came to a simple urchin, who said, "A 'Preps' is a flea."

The difference between a carriage horse and a carriage wheel is that the horse goes best when tired, and the other don't.

Blessed are they that love and do courtship by moonlight, for they feel so romantically and helpfully and funny all over.

The Power of Temptation.

We start the voyage of life. We enter ourselves that we are able to meet temptation. We trust in the strength of our principles. We could resist the siren of our hearts. Guileless ourselves—we do not mean guileless in the sense that we have no guile to succumb to, but guileless in the sense of sincere and confiding—we suspect no fraud in others. Suspicion is not the characteristic of youth. It is the unhappy work of experience. It is the influence that enters our hearts, notwithstanding all our efforts to resist it, from long acquaintance with the insincerity of mankind. The world flatters us, and a thousand temptations, adapted with consummate skill to the young, allure us. Professed friends meet us on the way, and assure us that there is no danger. The gay, the fashionable, and the accomplished, invite us to indulge in the pleasures of the moment, to treat with them the path of pleasure, and to doubt the suggestions of experience and of age. We feel confident of our safety. We suppose we may tread securely a little farther. We see no danger near. We take another step, and yet another, thinking that we are safe yet. We have tried our virtuous principles thus far, and thus far they bear the trial. We could retreat if we would. We mean to retreat the moment the danger comes near. But who knows the power of temptation? Who knows when danger shall rush upon us so that we cannot escape? There is a dividing line between safety and danger. Above thundering Niagara, the river spreads out into a broad and tranquil basin. All is calm and the current flows gently, and there is no danger to the boatman. In safety. You may drift near and nearer to the rapid, admiring the beauty of the shore, and looking upon the jangling spray of the cataract, and listening to the angry roar of the distant waters, and be happy in the consciousness that you are safe. You may go a little farther, and may have power still to ply the oar to reach the bank. But there is a point beyond which human labor is vain, and the boat is carried down the rapids, and the quivering bark, and bear it on to swift destruction. So perishes many a young man by the power of temptation. You may drink a social glass, you may think with a friend, and be safe. One glass more and you may be safe still, and another may be taken, you think, without danger. You may go to the theatre once, you suppose, and be safe. You may go a second time, and be safe. You may go again and be safe still. You are fascinated with the scenery, the acting, the sentiment, and go again. The acting, the sentiment is not such as you saw and heard at the first of your childhood; not such as a mother would love; not quite such as you would wish a sister to see. You cannot help feeling that it is indecent and profane. But you will be sensible of less and less horror at the indecency and profanity there. There is a point where no young man is safe, and where no unconverted heart is secure from the power of temptation. I need not describe the result. One alternative does not stand alone. None have been injured by staying away from such scenes. But those that have been broken as the result of a visit to such a place of amusement.

Advertisements.

Ayer's Cherry Pectoral.

For the rapid cure of Coughs, Colds, Hoarseness, Bronchitis, Whooping-Cough, Consumption, Asthma and Consumptive.

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The Forest Wine!

This excellent Medical Wine and the Forest Pills, are the most valuable medicines ever discovered. They are the most valuable medicines ever discovered.

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Afflicted Read.

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