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Work in the Time Now.

The world is strong with a mighty hope
Of a good time yet to be,
And earnestly casts the horoscope
Of her future destiny;
And poet and prophet, and priest and sage,
Are watching with anxious eyes,
To see the light of that promised age
On the waiting world arise.
Oh, weary and long seems that time to come
While they wait for that time to come
They forget 'tis a good time now.
Yes, a good time now—for we cannot say
What the morrow will bring to view;
But we're sure of the time to-day,
And the course we must pursue;
And no better time is ever sought;
By a brave heart under the sun
Than the present hour, with its noblest
Thought,
And the duties to be done;
'Tis enough for the earliest soul to see
There is work to be done, and how,
For he knows that the good time yet to be
Depends on the good time now.
There is never a broken link in the chain,
And never a careless hour,
For cause and effect, and loss and gain,
Are true and changeless laws.
Now is the time to be true,
For the harvest of future years;
Now is the time for a noble deed,
While the need of the work appears.
You must earn the bread of your liberty
By the toil and sweat of your brow,
And hasten the good time yet to be
By improving the good time now.
'Tis as bright a sun that shines to-day
As will shine in the coming time;
And truth has as weighty a word to say
Through her oracles sublime.
There are voices in earth, and air and sky,
That tell "the good time here,
And visions that come to faith's clear eye,
The weary in heart to cheer.
The glorious fruit on life's goodly tree
Is ripening on every bough,
And the wisest in spirit are to see
The light of the good time now.
Then up! nor wait for the promised hour,
For the good time now is the best,
And the soul that uses its gift of power
Shall be in the present blest.
Whatever the future may have in store,
With a will there is ever a way,
And none need burden the soul with more
Than the duties of to-day.
Then up! with a spirit brave and true,
And put the hand to the plow,
Nor wait for the good time yet to be,
But work in the good time now.

Work in the Time Now.

ing an old-fashioned song, to the
great delight of a group of old ladies
and gentlemen who jointly and severally
claimed her as their special property.
Only one person held aloof from all
the warmth and brightness, and even
relied on the late arrival of the
him for a few moments into conversation,
listening to his remarks with such
deference, in spite of the difference in
their years, that the young man was
flattered and elated. But for a short
time, however, the squire could not
stop long with one, and as he moved
away the solitary malcontent muttered:
"All very well; he's a kind-hearted
and means well when he brings
me here; but she takes care to show me
that I am out of place. Ah! she is
going to condescend!" savagely, as Miss
Burlinghame approached and said, with a
scarcely concealed hesitation which was
not noticeable in her manner toward
others.
"We are discussing a question of
vital importance, Doctor Elwell, and
we want your opinion."
The doctor, of course, banishing his
ill-humors, and offering his arms to his
youthful hostess with a low bow, accom-
panied her across the room to where
a merry half dozen or so of young people
were holding a laughing dispute.
"We are considering the propriety
of the gentlemen coming with drawing
from the field, and in view of the fact
that leap-year comes so seldom, giving
the ladies the exclusive privilege of
making a choice. What do you think,
doctor?" asked Kate Ormsby, a bright
and lively girl, whose black eyes flashed
with the spirit of coquetry which was
as natural as her breath, intensified by
the somewhat disapproving glance of a
blonde gentleman opposite.
"Dr. Elwell is not at all averse to
making some one else suffer a tithe of
the pang which rent his own spirit,
with a sudden intuitive recognition of
the fact that he might avenge himself
on the suit unoffending gentleman, re-
pelled with an emotion and embarrassment."
"I quite agree with you, Miss
Ormsby; during this year the right of
selection and proposal belongs to the
ladies alone, and any gentleman who is
so daring as to infringe upon right
should be made to pay a forfeit consist-
ing of nothing less than a love of a bon-
net or a Paisian fan."
"Oh! and that reminds me," cried
Kate, "you know it is an old custom,
handed down from our forefathers' time,
and as a relic of antiquity, to be solemnly
respected and rigidly enforced, that any
gentleman who has the hardihood to
refuse, must pay a forfeit of nothing less
than a silk dress."
"A provision which destroys all the
romance," said Edith.
"Rather hard on some poor fellow
who couldn't raise a silk dress," re-
marked Mr. Wheeler, the blonde, who,
by the way, was a very well-to-do dry
goods merchant of proverbially generous
liberality.
Dr. Elwell first turned faint at the
thought of the silk dress, then called
himself a fool and coxcomb, and finally
flushed crimson at Mr. Wheeler's re-
mark, which he considered a direct af-
front.
"If any one could not buy a silk
dress!" exclaimed Kate, indignantly,
"but then you must know, sir, that no
lady will propose to a gentleman until
she knows his state of mind."
"That's what I have to say with re-
gard to asking a lady the momentous
question; but we generally find our-
selves completely in the dark as to their
feelings for us."
"Ah! but you gentlemen display
your feelings more than ladies do," said
Miss Ormsby. "There they are, for-
getting the quadrille in the next room.
Let me see; have I a partner for this dance?
no, I have not," and Dr. Elwell im-
mediately begged the honor, and pro-
ceeded to the spacious apartment, which
was devoted to the service of Terpsichore,
with the little brunette on his arm.
My Wheeler pulled his blonde
moustache in vexation, and for a few
moments seemed to have changed places
with the disciple of Galen.
"What a charming man Dr. Elwell
is," remarked Kate Ormsby, who was
to remain a day or two with Edith, as
the girls were talking over the events
of the evening in the latter's chamber
before retiring. Edith colored a little
and bent to unbutton her boots as she
answered:
"Do you find him so? You seemed
to get on very well with him, though
I do not know him, I have only known
how to approach him. He is wrapped
up in his profession, I suppose. Papa
thinks his throat has greatly improved
since he began his treatment."
"I do not see the laugh Kate
stuffed in that measure of speech, and
the latter went on gleefully:
"Yes, I find him very interesting,
but not entirely free from the weakness
that mortal man befall. How con-
founded the men are! I declare, I am
dying to take them down a little, and
the first of April is near at hand."
The dreary month of March was en-
livened by numerous attractive evening
entertainments, one of the chief of which
was a candy party at the former's resi-
dence, to which the young ladies
escorted the young gentlemen of
their choice, in sleighs and buggies, as
the weather permitted, making rare
sport of the reversed order of things.
To all of these was Dr. Elwell invited,
and to all he promptly went, notwith-
standing the fact that he frequently
stated to his inner consciousness that he
was the most incomprehensible idiot in
existence, and that the special festivity
which was on the tapis at that particular
time, was to him, in the most tantalizing
guise to count him as its victim.
For one most aggravating fact re-
mained—although young ladies in and
out of the village for miles around
showed him honor, for which he should
be grateful, though bright eyes
sparkled and dimpled cheeks glowed the
more at his approach—spite of the fact
which continually haunted him that he
was only a young physician, struggling
for a place in life—on a vessel, for
whose smiles he reasoned with an eager
longing which no reason could subdue,
remained utterly indifferent to all ap-
pearances, treating him with a calm
civility that was maddening. Perhaps
no one but Kate knew what existed be-
neath the calm exterior, and if she sus-
pected, no one was the wiser.
"It shall be the last—positively the
very last. To-morrow I will write to
mother and girls—how I have neglected
them—and I will throw aside this folly,
at least a dozen times before, and give
my duties more than it has been of
late."
A virtuous resolution, truly! and, if
virtue brings its own reward Dr. Elwell

ought to have felt content; but his con- stant smile which crossed his coun- tenance rather belied his efforts as he gave a last survey of his neat, but not altogether stylish toilet, sighed over the last letter from home, which he put aside, and, as the light faded, he daintily note, re-read the conditions of the invitation, in the graceful chiro- graphy of Kate Ormsby: NECK-TIE PARTY. Under auspices of the Y. L. Y. Club, at The Residence of Squire Burlinghame, No. 69 Main Street, on April 1, 1878, eight o'clock, P. M. Gentlemen will enter immediately upon the opening of the doors, and each will select, as his partner for the evening, the lady who wears ribbons corresponding to the color of the necktie he has selected, and an article which he is to wear. The two who shall be last in performing this duty, are, as a forfeit for their tardiness, to be responsible for the evening's amusements, including games, dan- ces, etc., and in all respects taking the part of Master of Ceremonies and Floor Man- ager. Squire Burlinghame, Umpire. Elderly ladies and gentlemen, chosen, etc., per order of the committee. KATE ORMSBY, Secretary.

Dr. Elwell repaired to the apartment of
Mr. Wheeler, where the other young
men were assembled, among them two
who, having come down from the city
on business a few days before, were duly
lionized by one-half of the youth of the
community. Those worthies glancing
over the simple little sheet which had
cost more anxiety and study, then they
imagined, smiled indolently at the
trivial and trivial of the whole affair,
and then one of them remarked:
"Now, see here, boys, the young la-
dies are putting up a job on us, don't
you see? Why not circumvent them,
and turn their little game upon them-
selves?"
"But how?" queried one or two, while
the others listened eagerly.
"Simply by changing neckties," said
the first speaker. "You perceive that
with the relative amount of hairiness that
belongs to the sex—a unquestionable
veneration for the eternal fitness of
things, as it were—the fair ones have
sent me a brilliant flame-color, or car-
dinal. I believe they call it, in defence
of my necktie. I have a card, consisting
of nothing less than a love of a bon-
net or a Paisian fan."
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known for about three months, and who had held himself aloof from even friendly intimacy. It was inconsid- erably in Kate—unkind, so Edith told herself, as she bent over a rose bush, with burning cheeks and brimming eyes. The sight of the girl, who could Dr. Elwell do to forget that he was poor and she an heiress. What could he say but that he loved her, and loved her ever since their first meeting, and had been waiting for the opportunity of his peace of mind, that he felt he would be a blank to him without the sunshine of her presence, and "Oh, Miss Burlinghame, —Edith—gave me one spark of hope, one ray to enlighten my darkness, and I will give and become a man of some worth, precious boon, to win a name that," etc. There is no need, of course, to recount just what he said, nor what she said, nor what the good squire said the next morning, and it is not to be expected that his friend Wheeler, with a ing heart, told him of the base ingrati- tude of which he had been guilty to so kind a patron and a friend. Enough that, at the double wedding, a month later, Messrs. Jackson and Smythe came down from the city, and as groomsmen, greatly distinguishing themselves in that capacity, to the secret admiration of Dr. Elwell's pretty sis- ters; that this gentleman is progressing rapidly, and is in the best of health; that his friend Wheeler, and that Squire Bur- leigh, entirely cured of his bronchitis, divides quite impartially his grand- fatherly attentions between Kate's black-eyed boy, and little golden-haired Edith Elwell.

TIMELY TOPICS.

The sun's radiation is not without its
influence on the comfort of the occupants
of a house, and the best of them may be
very differently felt, according to the ex-
posure of houses. In a building now
affected by any shade, a scientist recently
made a series of experiments to deter-
mine the relative amount of heat which
he had entering the different sides.
He obtained the surprising result that
more heat enters a building through the
east and west walls than through the
walls facing directly south, although the
south side is exposed to the direct action
of the sun's rays nearly so long as
either of the others. A considerably
greater quantity of heat is received by
the east than by the west side.
Two new kinds of tea having very pec-
uliar qualities have been discovered by
Mr. Z. B. Baker, while visiting the
region west of Kiating-fu, China. One
of the varieties was rare and appears to
have been grown only by some monks
of the monastery on Mount Omi. An
infusion of it tasted like strong cognac,
and the other variety had been added
liberally; but its sweetness was a nat-
ural property. The other tea grew
spontaneously at heights of more than
6,000 feet above the level of the sea. It
is a leafy shrub, with a stem about four
inches thick, and it attains a height of
fifteen feet. In making an infusion every
part of the plant except the root is em-
ployed. The beverage produced is a
strongly colored but weak tea, having a
natural milky or rather buttery flavor.

People Who Live Near the Pole.

The Roman correspondent of the Phil-
adelphia Bulletin, speaking of the Cin-
dians, a remarkable people discovered
by the Swedish explorers of the north
pole region, says: The people found
there were not precisely savages—they
were clothed (roughly, perhaps) but
they were clothed in skins of rein-
deer or seal, and wore a pair of rein-
deer or seal trousers, which were
perhaps suit Parisian taste, but it was
adaptable to their climate. It is com-
posed of reindeer skin stockings lined
with eiderdown, reindeer or seal skin
boots reaching to the knees, and a der-
mis, and a pair of reindeer or seal
trousers, over which are worn in extra cold
weather other trousers lined with fur.
And then a tunic, coat, or blouse of the
same materials reaches to the knees,
and, according to the weather, several of
these are worn one over the other. For
the head they wear a cap to match the
rest of their charming costume, and this
cap is tied under the chin like a baby's
cap. Finally they wear over their
clothing a kind of bib or sealskins, which
bib they tie to their faces, when the
air threatens to bite the noses.
The very fashionable people of the
country fasten tails of animals to the
edges of their coats. This is to show
that they are rich, as their riches
consist in reindeer or seal families pos-
sessing as many as 100,000 of these ani-
mals. The ladies wear the same cos-
tume as the gentlemen, which gives
them a strange awkward walk. How-
ever, as it is a distinguishing mark of
their hair is of long plaits at the
side of each cheek, and their neck and
back are bare. It seems that the cold
has less effect on them than on their
lords. It is true that when they have
young children they carry them in their
arms, and that shelters them. Both
men and women are short of stature, but
stout and wonderfully strong, and they
can walk for miles with burdens on
their backs which we Europeans could
hardly carry. They are very large and
broad and they have no foreheads. In
this the women would be quite the
fashion in Europe, where the ladies do
all they can to conceal their foreheads.

A Treasury Clerk's Long Service.

John Laub, the oldest clerk in the
United States treasury, died recently in
Washington after a faithful service of
more than fifty years. He was ab-
sent but five days from his desk dur-
ing the entire forty-three years of his
service, although he was entitled to a
vacation of thirty days each year. No
other man in all that time ever did any
part of the work that it was his duty
to perform. In a room which he occupied
is a set of books covering the entire
history of the First Comptroller's office
—eighty-six years—and in those books
appear but two styles of penmanship—
his and that of his father. Mr.
Laub never allowed any person, not
even the secretary himself, to examine
his books; but it was ever an in-
quiry he would examine them himself,
and read their contents to the inquirer.
He was wretchedly deaf, and wrote a
plain round hand. He loved his books
as if they were human, and kept them
wrapped carefully in oil-cloth, when not
in use, but when compelled to take them
from their case, he would handle them
as if they were made of glass. He became
a machine, and had he been transferred
to any other duty would have been ut-
terly useless. He appeared at his desk
at the same hour every morning, and
went through the same routine every
day. He walked to the department
from his house and returned always by
the same route, and his appearance at
the same locality at the same moment
each day was as regular as time itself.
During his last illness he suffered much
pain and anxiety because his work was
neglected, and for fear some other per-
son would touch his books, and he
was given him only by an order from
the First Comptroller that they should
not be disturbed.

A Brave Baby.

A woman who lives in Ashville, Ala.,
writes to the *Aegis* of that place of the
miraculous rescue of her little three-
year-old boy from drowning. The child
fell down a well, the depth of which was
thirty feet. The mother saw him go
down. She says:
"On reaching the well I was just in
time to see him rise to the top of the
water. I was alone, save three other
little children whom I sent for help. I
presence of mind enough to let the
bucket down and tell him to take hold
of it, which he did. After some min-
utes he let loose from weakness, sank
again, except his little head. I lowered
the bucket lower, telling him to take
hold of the rope. He ran his hand
through a ring tied to for the purpose
of sinking the bucket, and caught the
pail, and there he held on for one and a
half hours, begging me all the time in
a baby talk to come down and help
him out. I would say: 'Hold on,
Bobbie.' 'I will,' he would reply.
At length a lady came to my assistance,
and we took a rope and made a noose on
the end of it, and, letting it down, told
him what to do. He put his foot
through the noose and drew it up
around his knee. I asked him if he
could hold on. He said he could hold
on to the bucket. 'Daw me out,' he
held the bucket, the rope around his
leg, I telling him not to let go, we drew
him up until I could reach his hand
shivering hands. Then I saved my
little baby from drowning. Safe I
my breast I clasped his little shiver-
ing body, and praised God for His mercies."

The Northeast Passage.

A very interesting account of the
Northeast passage by the steamer Vega,
which has brought us a reno-
wored Nordenskiöld, is given in a recent
number of *Blackwood's Magazine* by
Lieutenant Palander, who commanded
the Vega. There is some doubt if the Vega
would have made her entrance into
Behring strait the same season in which
she started on her voyage, but for the
exceptionally unfavorable condition of
the ice. She had passed the real points
of difficulty and danger, and was within
120 miles of Behring strait on the
twenty-eighth of September, 1878, when
the ice closed in upon her, and she was
unable to move until the eighteenth of
the following July. The region in
which she passed the winter is well-
known to explorers and whalers, many
of whom have passed through the same
waters, encountering no ice, even as late
as the first of November.
Now that the passage has been shown
to exist, the question whether it can be
made commercially useful is the next in
interest. If vessels can get through in
two months, as Lieutenant Palander
says they may, if no unanticipated ob-
stacles intervene, a considerable com-
mercial use may be made of the passage
in trading with the natives along near
4,000 miles of habitable coast. But this
question of an open passage is one that
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