

ASPIRATION.
As one who tells by the river side
For reasons for and against
To change her home for an outside
Return to his home with some at all.

TRAGEDY OF THE STAGE.
From the New York World.

Although the incidents I am about to relate happened a good many years ago, they are as fresh in my memory as if they had occurred but yesterday. It was in '76 that I first became stage-struck. How I got upon the boards, my struggle upward, my hardships, my battles, all these I need not relate. It is sufficient to say that at the end of five years I found myself the owner of a small business in a small western company and at a small salary. The "star" and manager was a clever fellow named Whiting. He had scraped together a little money, and started out to make a name for himself. As yet he was unknown, except in a few of the smaller western towns, but he seemed to be on his way to prosperity and fame. His houses were always good and his audiences enthusiastic.

Out of the profession Whiting was a nice, gentlemanly fellow, immensely liked by everyone with whom he came in contact. He paid me good salaries as he could afford, and had a fair company. His wife was our leading lady, and she was one of the most beautiful women I have ever seen. Her photograph, when displayed around town, was equal to \$50 a night in the box office.

Whiting adored her, nothing was too good for her in his eyes. She loved him, too, perhaps, but not with the passionate adoration he bestowed upon her. Well, our tour was one grand triumphal march. We had quite an ambitious repertoire, among the plays were presented "Hamlet," "Merchant of Venice," "Monte Cristo," "Pink Domino" and "Virginia." I mention the latter play thus prominently because it was a prominent part in my story. I was doing the juvenile parts—Laertes in "Hamlet" and Icelus, the man with whom Virginia was in love. I was always delighted when I had a chance to embrace the lovely Mrs. Whiting, even in show, for I greatly admired her, as did all the young fellows of the company; but though she related and laughed and listened to our compliments she kept everyone at a distance until Kenton came.

At the end of our first season there were some changes made in the company. Whiting engaged Harold Kenton to do the "heavies," filled in the rest of the cast well enough and away we started again.

Things went more smoothly with us than ever. Salaries were higher and receipts larger. But before we had been out long I began to notice a growing friendship between Mrs. Whiting and Kenton. As time went on their intimacy increased, until it was the talk of the company. Only one person seemed blind to it, and that was Whiting himself. None of us liked Kenton much. He was an unpleasant sneering sort of fellow, though a good actor, and as you may suppose, great as a villain. But he had a way with women which took them with him immensely, and little by little, by means of his smooth tongue and complimentary speeches, he ingratiated himself with Mrs. Whiting. She meant no harm—that I'll swear—but I looked bad.

Well, one cold day in December found us in a little town of some 12,000 or 14,000 inhabitants. We did not expect much of a house, but on arriving at the place we discovered that the advance sales had been large, and the chances were that we should have a big audience. The play was to be "Virginia."

I was sitting in the office at the hotel that afternoon reading a paper. The house was so constructed that the only way to leave it was through the office. Presently Mrs. Whiting entered. She wore her hat and cloak, and I asked if she were going out.

term to apply to the killing of pests, but perhaps you're right. And what good would it do? Nevertheless, I shall follow them. Let me go!"

"He looks away from my grasp and stands out of the office. I followed; I was afraid something terrible would happen if he and Kenton met. I sneaked along, fearing he would turn and see me; but he kept straight on, never once pausing or looking behind him.

"I had gone some distance, and I was beginning to wonder where in the deuce he was taking me, when he suddenly turned down a small alley way. When I reached the spot he had vanished, but his disappearance was no mystery, for the stage door of the theater opened on this alley and I guessed rightly that it was through this Whiting had passed.

I hurried forward and pushed the door open. Sure enough Whiting stood within a few paces of the talking with the door keeper; in a moment he went into the theater. I felt certain I had not been perceived, so I too, entered.

"Good afternoon," I said, greeting the sturdy Irishman who confronted me. "Mr. Whiting is on the stage, is he not?"

"Stare and he is. What might you be wanting, wid him?"

"I'm a member of the company," I began, "and—"

The sound of voices in altercation reaching my ears at this moment, I paused abruptly, and peering past the doorkeeper, hurried forward toward the stage. Coming suddenly from daylight into semi-darkness, my eyes were blinded for a moment. When I could discern surrounding objects I perceived a truly dramatic picture. Kenton was upon his knees, with Whiting's hands upon his throat. Mr. Whiting lay in a dead faint. Kenton was gasping and almost purple in the face when I rushed forward, and seizing Whiting from behind, dragged him away by brute force.

"Would you murder the man?" I cried.

the creature's vanity and brought her to a sad pass, indeed.

The company kept dropping in fast, and things went as usual. When the curtain rose at 8 o'clock no one would have suspected how near we had come to a real tragedy that afternoon.

The house was crowded and the interest intense. Never had I seen such certain calls and was cheered to the echo. I kept my powder and followed his movements closely. He seemed all right, though his eyes were unnaturally bright. To his wife he never addressed a word, and she shrank away when he approached her. Probably she noticed whatever change there might be in him more quickly than anyone else could. Kenton was avoided in a marked manner, much to my satisfaction—and his; he was a cowardly cur, and did not fancy his present position.

At length the curtain rose upon the fourth act. It is in this that the famous scene takes place when the Roman father sends his daughter to save her from the clutches of the wicked Appius Claudius. The act went well, and gradually the time approached for the death of Virginia. I had had my little say and had withdrawn to the background to give Virginia all the room he needed. Every eye was upon him as he concluded his speech, and a little over 25 miles per hour is always considerably larger than when stated in knots, and the confusion of the terms sometimes gives rise to rather remarkable claims of speed performance. When a 20-knot ship, for example, is lightly mentioned, it should be remembered that this really means a little over 25 miles, similarly, with higher figures which are often glibly enough stated, the difference between the terms is worth bearing in mind. It will help to guard against the forming of ridiculous estimates of a vessel's capabilities.

A Chinese Superstition.
From the Family Magazine.

Chinese junks and boats have eyes carved or painted on the bows, which are usually supposed to be a mere fanciful form of ornamentation. But they have a real meaning, as a recent traveler found. In going up one of the rivers from Ningpo he started one day by seeing a boatman seize his boat and lay it over one of the 'eyes' of the boat, while other boats on the stream were similarly blinded.

Use of Odds and Ends.
The odds and ends left over from a meal should be thrown away. The careful housekeeper can find many ways of turning them into dainty and healthful dishes. Pieces of cold meat or fish may be divided into small pieces and warmed in a white or brown sauce, or the sauce and meat or fish may be put in a small baking dish, covered with grated bread crumbs and then browned in the oven.

Costly and Hard Worked.
From Harrison's Magazine.

Costly and hard worked. A good dress horse is a most expensive purchase, said a trainer to a writer, "as you may judge when I tell you that I frequently pay as much as \$1,500 for a single animal before it has been trained. I have one black horse now in my possession which I would not part with for \$2,000, although it is only employed in the ring. Last year, when I was exhibiting near New York city, a New York millionaire and his family visited my exhibition and were so much impressed with the beauty and grace of this noble animal that he offered me \$1,800 for her, but I declined the offer. An ordinary thoroughbred Kentucky horse bought for \$1,500 is worth to me when thoroughly trained for the circus ring, anywhere from \$2,500 to \$5,000.

Speaks the Truth.
Mrs. Holdson of Haverhill, N. H., says: "I know whereof I speak when I say Dr. Kennedy's Favorite Remedy is a positive cure for salt rheum, eczema, boils and sores. It cured me of an ulcerated sore leg."

A Knot and a Mile.
It is noted in *Oceanic Magazine* for July that one of the things which it seems difficult for the public mind to grasp is that there is a decided difference between the knot and the mile. It is certainly about time to have it understood that the two are not the same thing. It seems easy enough to remember that a mile is only about 57 per cent. of a knot, the latter being, approximately, 6932 feet in length, while the statute mile measures 5280 feet. Three and one-half miles are equal, within a small fraction, to three knots. The result of this difference, of course, is that the speed of a vessel in miles per hour is always considerably larger than when stated in knots, and the confusion of the terms sometimes gives rise to rather remarkable claims of speed performance. When a 20-knot ship, for example, is lightly mentioned, it should be remembered that this really means a little over 25 miles, similarly, with higher figures which are often glibly enough stated, the difference between the terms is worth bearing in mind. It will help to guard against the forming of ridiculous estimates of a vessel's capabilities.

New Questions on the Sea.
Boston, Mass., July 14.—The triple-screw cruiser *Minnesota*, sister of the *Columbia*, made a record of 23.65 knots (26.75 miles) on her trial trip to-day off the New England coast, and ended a preliminary cruise of 484.20 miles. Her contractors, the Cramp Shipbuilding Company of Philadelphia, Pa., have been ordered by the Government not to pay a premium on fractions of a quarter-knot, but the contract for the *Minnesota* provided for such a premium, and the shipyard in addition to the \$400,000 premium which she otherwise would have earned. She covered the round distance of 89.84 miles in 3 hours and 40 minutes.

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Apple Better Than Wheat.
The fruit of Hood River, the one that is to make the best soil as preservative, is the winter apple. That can be kept. It can be gathered leisurely, once in bearing, being better and stouter re-cessed and at the very best quality. John Sweeney's orchard last year, its first year of bearing, produced more net money than would or could have been derived from the same area of land from wheat in 30 years. This year it should yield 30 times as much, next year 75 times as much, and then for 20 years 100 times as much. In other words, one acre of winter apples is worth more, year in and year out, than 100 acres of wheat, 85% acres of good orchard will yield a larger net yield than a section of wheat land.

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IN paint the best is the cheapest. Don't be misled by trying what is said to be "just as good," but when you put it just upon having a genuine brand of Strictly Pure White Lead.

White Lead
It costs no more per gallon than cheap paints, and lasts many times as long. Look out for the brands of White Lead offered you; any of the following are sure: "Armstrong & McElroy," "Beyner-Bauman," "Davis-Chambers," "Fahnestock."

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THE PEOPLE'S STORE.
Our July Clearance Sale

Now is the time for the economical people who have been holding back for bargain time, to Come, or Write or Send for the Matchless Bargains in these departments.

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