



THE NEW YEAR'S SHIPS.

Across the wild, the chanting sea. They sailed in the New Year's ships— To greet them, down into the sand...

to make these men and women live as we do. "And love as we do," said the girl. "I don't think they need be taught."

THE CHILDREN OF THE ZODIAC.

By EDWARD KIPPLING.

"Through that love her as they'll, As a self of pure joy. Though her writing dim the day, Stealing grace from all alive, When half Gods go, The Gods arrive."—Emerson.

Thousands of years ago, when men were greater than they are to-day, the Children of the Zodiac lived in the world. There were six Children of the Zodiac—the Ram, the Bull, the Lion, the Twins, and the Girl; and they were afraid of six Houses which belonged to the Zodiac—the Balance, the Crab, the Fishes, the Sea Goat, and the Waterman.

Leo dropped back to the earth again, and saw the great Alderborn, that is set in the forehead of the Bull, blazing very near to the earth. When he came up to it he saw that his brother the Bull, yoked to a countryman's cart, was pulling a very wide field with his head bent down, and the sweat streaming from his flanks.

"Gone that insolent to death," cried Leo, and for the sake of our family honor come out of the mire. "I cannot," said the Bull, "the Scorpion has told me that some day, of which I cannot be sure, he will sting me where my neck is set on my shoulder, and that I shall die following."

Leo lifted his hand to the apple of his throat, moistened his lips, and recovering himself, said to the girl: "Must I be afraid of two, then?" "For two," said the Crab, "and as many more as may come after."

"I am afraid now," said Leo. "That is on my account," said the girl. "I know it is, because I am afraid for your sake. Let us go, husband."

Leo took six steps forward very slowly, and three long steps backward, and then he turned and looked at his brother the Bull. "That night divided them both never to leave each other for an instant, and when they had come to this decision they looked back at the darkness of the House of Cancer high above their heads, and with their arms around each other's necks, laughed. "Hal hal hal," exactly as the children of men laugh, and that was the first time in their lives that they had ever laughed.

Leo should have done. But the hardest part of the day is to come, Brother. Leo wished to be down and brood over the words of the Crab. The girl went away to talk to the cultivator, and the afternoon ploughing began.

"He is under the same doom as ourselves. Are you now?" said the Bull. Leo flushed and began again with a sore throat and a bad temper. Little by little he dropped away from the songs of the Children of the Zodiac, and a song as he went along; and this was a thing he could never have done had he not met the Crab face to face.

"I know, I know. But where shall I go? And where will you sleep in the evening? But let us try. I will stay here. Do you go on?" Leo took six steps forward very slowly, and three long steps backward, and then he turned and looked at his brother the Bull. "That night divided them both never to leave each other for an instant, and when they had come to this decision they looked back at the darkness of the House of Cancer high above their heads, and with their arms around each other's necks, laughed. "Hal hal hal," exactly as the children of men laugh, and that was the first time in their lives that they had ever laughed.

the Zodiac, who has forgotten his God—his wife dying slowly and to know that he cannot help her. The God told Leo in those last months of all that she had said and done among the wild and the babies in the lot of the roadside performances, and Leo was astonished that he knew so little of her who had been so much to him. When she was dying she told him never to fight in his anger, or quarrel with the other singers; and, above all, to go on with his singing immediately after she was dead.

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"pleaded Leo. "Let me be sure that my song—" "Make men brave?" said the Crab. "Even then there would be one man who was afraid." The girl was braver than you are, Leo. Leo was standing close to the restless inanimate month. "I forgot," said he, simply. "The girl was braver. But I am a God too, and I am not afraid."

Then Leo's speech was taken from him as he lay still and dumb, watching Death till he died. Leo was the last of the Children of the Zodiac. After his death there sprang up a breed of little men, men, whispering and flinching and owing because the Houses killed them and theirs, who wished to live for ever without any pain. They did not increase their lives but they increased their own torments miserably, and there were no children of the Zodiac to guide them; and the greater part of Leo's songs were lost.

Only he had carved on the Girl's tombstone the last verse of the Song of the Girl, which stands at the head of this story. One of the children of men, coming thousands of years later, rubbed away the lichen, read the lines, and applied them to a trouble other than the one Leo meant. Being a man, not a God, he had made the verse himself; but they belong to Leo, the Child of the Zodiac, and teach, as he taught, that what comes or does not come we must not be afraid.

THE SONS OF THEOSOPHUS THE GREAT.

When the great Theosophus, having overcome all his enemies, died in A. D. 395, he left the vast Roman Empire to his sons, Arcadius and Honorius. Arcadius was but about twelve years of age, was Emperor of the East, and Honorius, who was in his eleventh year, was Emperor of the West.

When Arcadius, king of the Visigoths, burst into Italy with his fierce warriors, in A. D. 408, Honorius fled to the east, the difficulties of the Empire increased. Fresh hordes of barbarians poured down from Germany into Italy, and in A. D. 408, Alaric, king of the Goths, was crowned emperor of Rome. He was a man of a humane and gentle disposition, but dull and ignorant, and he grew up without any strength of character.

One day a servant came to him and said, "Rome is destroyed!" "And yet she just ate from my hand!" exclaimed the alarmed emperor. "I mean," said the servant, "that the City of Rome is destroyed by Alaric!" "Oh," said the Emperor, "I thought my men," Rome was destroyed by Alaric!"

There is a very old proverb which says that a young man who repeats to us as an incentive to good deeds. But, personally, we do not believe it, in spite of its age, for even proverbs do not always improve as they become more antiquated. But why? Because they are not so good as they were once. A wise old maiden lady said in our hearing, last summer: "Early rising is very good indeed if you don't get up too early. Now I notice that folks hereabouts die early, too, and my doctor tells me that on an average every farmer has two-and-a-half wives. I wonder whether we confess never to have verified the statement any habit which gives a man an opportunity to lead two or three blushing brides to the altar ought to be abolished in spite of proverbs or anything else."

We know one woman at least who does not propose to let her husband have any such chance of getting up too early. She is Mrs. Virginia Thompson, who has served as Postmistress of Louisville under five Presidents, is a daughter of the Alexander Campbell who founded the faith, and is a member of the "Christian" or "Catholic" Church. Mrs. Thompson is a handsome woman, about fifty years of age.

John Marchant Mundy, the blind sculptor of Tarrytown, has completed the model for a statue of Washington. Mr. Mundy can hardly distinguish light from darkness without the aid of an opera-glass, and his work on the statue has been nearly wholly accomplished by the sense of touch. The "Soldier's" monument in the Sleepy Hollow cemetery is his work.

The rarest and costliest camera in the world has been presented to the museum of the University of Pennsylvania by Mr. Maxwell Sommerville, the owner of the largest collection of engraved gems in existence. His gift is a seven-by-five inch chrysopean, and it is carved with a head of Jupiter.

WOMEN'S KINGDOM.

We need to be told that a woman's kingdom was her home, but in the light of current events one is rather inclined to doubt whether women in these days look upon their home as the place where their chief duties lie. There are so many outside attractions and distractions that home, husband, and children go somewhat to the wall, and the thing may be granted—that where a girl has been brought up in a vigorous healthy way, has gone in for cricket and tennis without making her self indolent at either, and has lived an active life generally, she is more fitted for the exigencies of marriage, and generally more able to make things run smoothly in the household, than the retiring and dreamy creature.

The exigencies of life often make it necessary for women to take a very active share in the support of their selves and families, and some knowledge is essential to be able to do this. Recently we heard of a woman who had turned carpenter, and found it a most lucrative business. Here was clearly a woman who had not only planned everything, but she planned and saved, and glided, and dovetailed with her own hands, the result being a comfortable and useful home for her children. Technical knowledge of this sort can always be turned to account, and we need not be awed by the colonies to find a use for it.

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NEWS IN BRIEF.

Artificial marble grows in use. London policemen never carry pistols. Trunks are now made of paper pulp. A locomotive's strength equals that of 900 horses. A mountain of sulphur has been discovered in California.

Turniproot, Ga., has a gourd with a handle five feet long. American looms are being extensively used in England. A Norfolk (Va.) woman has given birth to nine sets of twins.

Every year 1000 children are born in the world who are congenitally blind. A recruiting sergeant says that few men have legs of equal length. There is a man seventy-seven years old studying at Harvard College. In France and Germany horses are now vaccinated for the glanders.

The temperature of man is ninety-eight degrees; that of fish seventy-seven degrees. Dried fish was formerly and is still to some extent a medium of exchange between the Orient and the West. The London Gazette is the oldest English paper. It was first published November 7, 1665.

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