

Toward the sunset-gilded East
See the Old Year plod along;
Fall the twilight shadows fast,
And the restless winter blast
Shrills its eerie hoarse song.

To his threadbare clothes they cling,
Pleading with him to return
Back across the days, and bring
Half the joys that made them sing,
Half the hopes that made them burn.

A HEAVY RANSOM

To judge by his haggard looks
and the monotonous way in
which he was pacing up and
down the room, Honorable
Robert Spenceley was evidently
under the influence of a nervous mental
depression when his particular
chum, Tom Langton, favored him with a
morning call.

Online and Clovis, added their agonized
entreaties; indeed, so carried
away were they by their feelings that
they actually offered to go without
new hats and dresses for the next
twelve months, in order to contribute
to the ransom money. But his lordship
did not believe in giving way at once.

"But we buried one of them."
Honorable Robert was evidently in
the dark, and when they explained he
declared (truthfully) that he knew
nothing about it. As a word painter
he proved a decided failure, consider
ing the adventures which they ex
pected him to recount. He had nothing
to relate, simple monotony waiting
for the ransom, and no matter how
they piled him with questions, he
could tell them nothing of the doings
of the gang, for he said he never saw
any of them except the one who had
him in charge.

PUBLIC PLAY GROUNDS

TURNING CITY HOODLUMS INTO
SELF-RESPECTING CITIZENS.
Their Success in Boston—Wherever
Established They Have Been of Great
Service in the Moral and Physical
Culture for the Youngsters.

CHANCE FOR MUSCULAR ACTION.
It has been conclusively proven that
these so-called criminal acts are al
most entirely the result of undirected
energy. To say misdirected would put
too much responsibility on the boy. It
becomes destructive, and only needs
guidance to become a source of good
instead of evil. Nature endows every
normal youth with a fund of energy
and spirits which must express itself,
often demands expression in muscular
action, and if it finds no outlet
something is sure to happen. Nature
also endows the youth with vivid im
agination which must be fed or it
seeks its own feeding ground, and hav
ing little discrimination chooses poison
often instead of food.

PLAYGROUND CORRECTS EVIL.
The public playground has been
found to serve as the best means to
correct these evils and to turn the
"hoodlum" into a self-respecting and
respectful citizen, because it furnishes
a healthy and legitimate outlet for
the normal energies. Even in a city
with so many gardens as San Fran
cisco there is little or no place to play,
especially for the thousands coming
from working homes. Though there
may be no tenements, a man occupies
no more rooms than will house his
family, and there is no place for quiet
play for the boys and girls, and cer
tainly no space for those games which
require energetic motion. The open
spaces are small and not adapted to
sports of any kind. Golden Gate Park
is too far away for the majority.

CRIME AND ATHLETICS.
The youngsters, therefore, have no
recourse but to the street. Older
communities have discovered that the
lack of proper playgrounds is a source
of great expense and waste to the com
munity, expense which runs the cost
of the police system, including all pen
al and reformatory institutions, into
millions, and waste of the energy and
power which should go to making
staunch citizens instead of strong
criminals. Hon. Abram S. Hewitt
said about the small park question in
his relation to New York: "Improvements
of property have left children with no
other opportunity for play than those
that can be found in the streets. It is
impossible to use these for games
without incurring the interference of
the police. A sense of hostility be
tween the children and the guardians
of the public order is thus engendered
leading to the education of citizens
who become enemies of law and or
der. With a common accord the pre
dicted captains attribute juvenile row
dism and turbulence to the lack of
a better playground than the streets."
It would seem, therefore, that crime
in our large cities has largely resolved
itself into a question of athletics.

NEW YORK'S SMALL PARKS.
For this reason New York City has
been creating small parks for more
than a decade. Millions of dollars
have already been expended and many
more will be spent in the next decade
to undo what lack of foresight and
commercial greed has made necessary.
Wherever small parks are created, the
verdict of the police is unanimous that
they have changed the character of
the neighborhood. The hoodlum in
stead of taking his necessary exercise
in annoying passers-by or destroying
property, takes it by games of vari
ous kinds or in using the gymnasium
apparatus put up for him. The results
which have followed in the wake of
the creation of Mulberry Bend Park, in
New York City, and the Hudson Bank
Gymnasium furnish sufficient evidence
to prove the wisdom of the plan. There
the outdoor Recreation League has put
up a complete open air gymnasium,
and girls and boys, men and women,
after a hard day's work come here to
take the exercise and recreation they
have no means nor knowledge even
to furnish themselves, but which the
rich take good care to provide for their
own, as witness the bicycle, ball
games, golf clubs and gymnasia, tennis
and other tournaments.

SPACE FOR THE YOUNGSTERS.
Boston has one model—the Charles
bank Gymnasium—and has purchased
ten tracts of land which it is fitting
up as rapidly as possible. Philadel
phia has an association whose special
business it is to further the establish
ment of such grounds. Chicago has a
recently appointed commission of al
dermen and citizens which is select
ing and purchasing sites for small
parks and playgrounds. Thirty or forty
cities are actively at work on the
problem and making provision for
small children and large boys and
girls alike. Nor is it sufficient to mere
ly create open spaces. They must be
adequately fitted with apparatus and
should have a supervisor who can
teach its use, encourage skill and make
the turbulent element feel its owner
ship in the property. Thus it will soon
come to use it properly and to desist
from turbulence since it will find the
use of the apparatus and the playing

of active games much the more inter
esting.
MEST PROVIDE FOR THE BOY.
San Francisco, with a climate which
makes possible to encourage outdoor
life during the greater portion of the
year, has both a greater responsibility
to supply adequate outdoor spaces
which are the property of its citizens
and a greater privilege in that its in
vestment must be of greater value
since it can be used almost twice as
long as that in the less-favored East
ern cities.

CURIOUS FACTS.
St. Joseph, Mo., raises a municipal
banana crop each year. In the park
conservatory grows a banana tree
that faithfully produces an annual
bunch of bananas.

Carl Nielsen, the British consul at
Cologne, discovered an old Roman
graveyard in his own garden, and has
been having it excavated. As Cologne
was one of the most important of the
Roman military frontier posts, a valu
able collection of classical antiquities
worth many thousands of dollars has
been found. He is now said to have
one of the finest private collections
in Europe.

The Grand Duke of Hesse has a
curious taste for a man. His royal
highness is most skillful with his needle,
and his embroidery is exceedingly
beautiful. He takes the greatest in
terest in his work and is particularly
clever in the arrangement of colors.
He has a very artistic nature, as he is
devoted to music, dancing and act
ing; but he does not care much about
more active pursuits, though he both
shoots and rides.

Believers in presentiments are agi
tated by the extraordinary example af
forded by one of the fatal accidents on
the occasion of the return of the City
Imperial Volunteers, of London. Mail
cart Driver Wilkinson on the morning
of the procession was awakened by
his wife, as he was screaming. He
said he had just dreamed that he had
run his cart over a woman and killed
her. That forenoon he drove the cart
through the crowd at Ludgate Circus.
Several people clambered upon it, the
springs broke and the cart toppled
over on the crowd, crushing a woman
named Eleanor Ball, to death. He
related his dream at the inquest.

A Tale of Chivalry.
The Knight on his prancing steed,
rode up to the Castle gate, and striking
his hauberk upon his brazen shield the
clanging sound rang out upon the
morning air and echoed through the
moated grange.

Caught a Baby Whale.
A baby whale, two and a half feet in
length, was washed ashore in the
breakers a few miles south of the
Cliff House, Sunday afternoon, and
was immediately picked up by C. Baker,
S. Roberts and George Whistler,
who were walking on the beach. The
little whale was lively and in sound
condition, apparently, except for a
slight bruise on the side of his head,
and in half an hour the young man
had him in a receptacle filled with salt
water. The little fellow was brought
to the city, and thrives so well that
yesterday, to the amusement of his
captors, he had grown to a length of
nearly four feet. He is one of the
blue species and blows vigorously most
of the time he is thrashing around in
his tank. Seafaring men who looked
upon the little whale yesterday said
they had never seen so diminutive a
specimen of his species before, but
that he was nevertheless a whale. His
tail is shapely and is already avoided
by the young men who have taken
upon themselves to raise the embryo
leviathan to adult size.—San Francisco
Chronicle.

QUEER USES FOR CANNON BALLS.
Condemned as War Weapons, But All
Right in Stone Quarries.
"Cannon balls for blasting!"
This sign hung in a conspicuous
place before the door of a store in
Atlantic avenue led a reporter inside
and started a bit of questioning upon
the subject, says the Boston Globe.

"The method used in getting out
great cubes or monoliths from the
granite and marble quarries has been
to drive steel wedges along the line of
the lower portion of the split made
by a blast until the great chunk of
stone topples over on its face.

"These cannon balls are also used
as rollers, as they take up and go over
the inequalities of the quarry surface
and can be rolled in any direction
without resetting, thus doing away
with the old style wooden rollers.

John Sherman's First Speculation.
John Sherman lost his first position
in a surveyor's party when he had
reached the age of fifteen. Then it
was that he indulged in his first spec
ulation—one of the few that to him
were unsuccessful.

The Pay of Ministers.
At a meeting of the Universalist
ministers in Boston one of the brethren
opened his heart on the subject of
ministers' salaries. He felt deeply
that they were too low, and thought
ministers were paid only about half as
much as lawyers and doctors of equal
ability. He thought, for one thing,
that a minister should be paid for officiating
at funerals, where the family is
in a position to give fees and are
not attendants at his church. That
point, at least, seems to be well taken.

Sunflowers in Russia.
Sunflowers are one of the most val
ued agricultural products in Russia,
sunflower seed oil being about as im
portant there as cottonseed oil is with
us, and millions of gallons of it are
produced annually. A novel feature
of the industry is that the seeds are
also salted and regarded as a very de
sirable edible. At street crossings in
all the provinces of Russia there are
stands where peddlers with big bas
kets sell the salted product of the big
sunflower. A good crop of sunflowers
if they stand in the field is estimated
to be worth about \$25 per acre.

Incandescent Light
The pie which Professor
land makes for a tipless
missile. There is no
for a tip or nipple upon
is not an ornament; it is an
to light, and it usually is
the most important and
of the lamp. The paper is
of consideration, if only in
tion to the importance
rid of tips. Moreover, with
the lamps there would also
ings based solely on tip
whether the lamps are
less.—Electrical World and

THE SWINE ARMY.
The swine are squealing in the pen.
I wonder why?
O can they read the minds of men,
And do they know
A fatal day is nigh
When they must go?
Ah, do they squeal
Because they feel
Sick and sore at heart and sad?
Or is it something else they
To eat, or is it greed of food?
That makes them pierce the air
Ab, well! Their grief will soon be
And, free from care,
They'll swing from hooks
Or lie in links,
Unmindful of the passer's looks
And what he thinks.

THE TURKEY GOBBLES IN THE YARD.
As blithely as he can;
He scrapes his wings upon the ground
Although it rains
As possible to allow to man,
What time he struts around.
That happiness is in his heart
And that he doesn't fret
With what we call a vague threat,
Or hope around or let
Forebodings creep into his breast
And so
He proudly plays his part
Next week he may hang in the market
May grace some butcher's stall
Sans gobble and sans feathers, a
fact, sans all!

THE CLOSING HOURS.
The closing hours away
While appetite and bristles go
And while all day
The farmer who presides as fat
Leans on the gate
Far down the lane!
Ah wiser turkey, gobble on,
Thy pizzazz still is thine,
And at the dawn
Thy still for thee
To see
The red sun shine—
Thou hast a wing on either side
And still thy wattle wags where
They give thee greatest pride
So why
Become a prey to care
Since, after all
Not thou
Nor I
Shall know one day before or when
Or where
Or where
The axe may fall!
—S. E. Kiser, in Chicago Times-Herald.

REUBEN—"Can you tell me some
to buy that is sure to go up?"
nabonds—"Yep. Thermometers
Baltimore American.

MR. BUGGINS—"What's the
keeping that old umbrella around
no good." Mrs. Buggins—"All
I'll lend it to somebody."

FINANCIAL RECIPROcity.
Is built upon this plan:
A man first makes the money,
The money makes the man.
—Philadelphia Post.

SCRIBBLES—"Why so melancholy
thirteenth rejected by one of
Scribbles—"Pshaw! That's no
I had one poem rejected by
editors."

PLEASE, BOSS, "When the
cant, 'can you help a poor fellow
work?' 'No, sir,' returned
destrian. 'I only believe in
people into work.'"

THE TELEPHONE DAMEL.
Remarks in low tone:
That a ring on the finger
Worth two on the nose
—London Star.

MUGGINS—"Do you really
as much as you pretend to
gins—"Hate him! Why, man,
him with the hatred that a
feels for a man who lets his
grow."

AN INCIDENT AT FELDMAN.
A curious incident noticed
happened. The Russian band
playing full lungs the "March
the republican march of France
forbidden air in the monotonous
boring country of Italy.

THE PLEASURES OF OLD AGE.
No sane man would like to
live over again. It is a
the ordinary affairs of life
adapt themselves to your
One's pleasures are quieter,
as enjoyable. To live in
your children, to watch their
the development of their
great source of pleasure.
has music, reading, garden
May I also add that I know
of an old friend some years
said the two things most like
pleasure in declining life were
whist and to play the Violin
Man of Sixty." in the Spectator.

INCANDESCENT LIGHT.
The pie which Professor
land makes for a tipless
missile. There is no
for a tip or nipple upon
is not an ornament; it is an
to light, and it usually is
the most important and
of the lamp. The paper is
of consideration, if only in
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rid of tips. Moreover, with
the lamps there would also
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