

THE PARASITE.

With long arms reaching round the stalwart tree The insidious vine in outward verdure grew.

HE FORGOT IT.

Condition Upon Which Field Agreed to Acquire a Bad Memory.

"The late Eugene Field was notoriously improvident, his chronic 'hardiness' being a sort of byword among his intimates," said an old friend of the poet recently.

"Once at one of those semipublic functions held in a saloon, where every man is a host who has the price and every man a guest who has a thirst, Field, as usual, went broke.

"How dare you," snapped Field, affecting great indignation. "I don't even know your name."

"Beg your pardon a thousand times," responded the other, "I meant no offense, I assure you. I thought maybe you might be able to use the money. Please forget it."

"Field was silent for a moment as if in deep thought and then slowly drawled:

"Forget it! All right, I will, on one condition."

"On what condition?"

"On condition that you make it fifteen."—New York Times.

A Strange Custom.

According to a Yorkshire (England) notion a newborn infant should always be placed in the arms of a maiden before it is touched by any one else, and in some instances its right hand is bound in a cloth during the first day of its existence in order that it may gather riches when grown to manhood or womanhood estate.

A Story of Lincoln.

General John H. Littlefield, who studied under Abraham Lincoln, told this anecdote of him in Success: "All clients knew that, with 'Old Abe' as their lawyer, they would win their case if it was fair; if it was not, that it was a waste of time to take it to him.

An Invisible Alter Ego.

It is curious and interesting to note that the British Columbian tribe of the Shanakons have a soul belief which is an almost exact counterpart of that cherished by the old Israelites. They believe that every being has its double or shadow, thin, pale figure, seldom or never seen by mortal eyes, which after death descends to an abode beneath the earth and there leads a sad and gloomy existence.

Respect of Elders.

Respect of elders is the paralysis of the young. The young have a chance of clear vision, but in this blessed country they only see what their elders expect them to see, only think what their elders expect them to think.

When Horrors Sleep.

Horses always point one ear forward when they sleep. Exactly why this is done no human being can tell, but the probability is that the practice is a relic of the time when they were wild and obliged to be on their guard even when asleep.

TRAVELING IN SIBERIA.

The Kind of People One Meets in Third Class Railway Cars.

All the third class cars on the Siberian railway are grimy; there are sections reserved for women and children. The woodwork is painted drab inside, but there is not a vestige of cushion. I spent hours among these emigrants. I find them interesting. They are horribly dirty, and as they like to have the window closed, despite the temperature, the cars reek with odor.

Bread, tea and melons seem their chief fare. There are great chunks of sour bread, and at every halt kettles are seized and a scramble is made to the platform, where the local peasant women have steaming samovars and sell a kettle of boiling water for a halfpenny and a watermelon as big as your head for a penny.

Besides bread eating and scattering half of it on the floor and munching melons and making a mess with the rind and splashing the water about when teamaking there is the constant smoking of cigarettes. They are tiny, unsatisfying things, half cardboard tube, provide three modest puffs and are then to be thrown away.

Fighting Owls.

Owls have a habit of dealing with game they have killed that leads some observers to think that, like dogs, they prefer fowls that have not been too recently slain. One of the birds will often leave a chicken or rabbit for a day or two before eating it.

When he finds a trap so disturbed, the trapper leaves the rat where it lies and sets another trap beside it.

In all probability the bird will return the second night, in which case it will be more than likely to be in the trap when the owner comes next morning.

A farmer who caught one of the birds by setting a trap alongside of a chicken that had been killed judiciously reached out to catch it by the feet. The free-foot executed a movement that was entirely beyond the farmer's comprehension, and the next minute the latter found his wrist gripped in a set of claws to which the trap was as nothing.

The Earliest Yacht Race.

What is said to be the earliest of recorded yacht races took place on Oct. 1, 1661. John Evelyn in his diary of that date mentions that he sailed with his majesty Charles II. in one of his pleasure boats or yachts, "vessels not known among us until the Dutch East India company presented that curious piece to the king, being very excellent sailing vessels. It was on a match between this and his other new boat," continued Evelyn, "built frigate-like, and one of the Duke of York's, the wager of £100, and the race from Greenwich to Gravesend and back, the king lost it going down, the wind being contrary, but saved stakes in returning."

The word "yacht" is itself Dutch, but the vessels which the merry monarch sailed were little similar to the racers of the present day. Mention is made of other yachts and races, but the details are very meager.

"In all my forty years' experience with trees and plants," said a well known gardener, "I have yet to hear of a willow tree being struck by lightning. Spruce trees, white wood and pine trees almost seem to attract the electricity. Oak and other large trees and even many small trees are often maimed and killed.

But willow trees seem, for some reason, to be immune to death or injury in this shape, and I have never seen or even heard of a tree of this family which lightning has ever struck."—Cleveland Leader.

Women Live Longer Than Men.

In the tropics it is a recognized fact that the duration of life among women is much longer than among men, and the causes which contribute to this end seem to hold good for all climates. A well known medical expert on the subject of colonial life maintains that exposure to fatigue, chills, irregular meals and the frequent taking of alcohol account for men dying quicker in the tropics than women, who avoid all these causes. And unquestionably the same reasons have contributed to female longevity in this country, but the balance of life will be more evenly adjusted in another generation or two, since women are more and more entering into competition with men every day.

A Half-Million Dollar Poem.

It is stated that "The Absent-Minded Beggar," by Rudyard Kipling has realized in various ways about \$485,000 for the families of the British soldiers who have fought in South Africa, or somewhat more than \$10,000 for each line.—December Ladies' Home Journal.

The odds are against the woman who marries to get even with somebody.

A JOACHIM CONCERT.

How it Was Enjoyed by a Sympathetic English Lord.

Joachim, the violinist, told with keenest relish the following joke, of which, he said, he was the victim. Whether he or Lord R. was the victim the reader will decide for himself, according to his possession or lack of a fondness for classical music:

During his sojourn in London Joachim formed a close friendship with Lord R., a gentleman much sought after by society, but well known for his antipathy to all music. Having learned that Joachim was to give a series of concerts at St. James' hall, Lord R. announced to him that he would go to hear him play.

The musician thanked him for this mark of sympathy and added that he would be charmed to know the impressions of the noble lord afterward.

Two days afterward chance brought together the two friends at an evening entertainment. The virtuoso did not fail to ask Lord R. what he thought of the works of Beethoven and if the concert had not been a little long for him.

"By no means," replied Lord R. "I have been much amused. I did not recognize you at first under your negro mask, but later I laughed the more on account of it."

A chilly silence prevailed among the guests until Lord R. explained his meaning.

It seems that Lord R. had made a mistake in the floor. Instead of mounting to the first floor, where Joachim was giving his concert, he had entered at the ground floor, where some negro minstrels were giving a performance.

Defeated by Nature.

Nutmegs grow on little trees which look like small pear trees and which are generally not over twenty feet high. The flowers are very much like the lily of the valley. They are pale and very fragrant. The nutmeg is the seed of the fruit, and mace is the thin covering over the seed. The fruit is about the size of a peach. When ripe, it breaks open and shows a little nut inside. The trees grow on the islands of Asia and tropical America.

They bear fruit seventy or eighty years, having ripe fruit on them all the season. A fine tree in Jamaica has more than 4,000 nutmegs on it every year.

The Dutch used to have all this nutmeg trade, as they owned the Banda island and conquered all the other traders and destroyed all the trees. To keep the price up they once burned three piles of nutmegs, each of which was said to be "as big as a church."

Nature did not sympathize with such meanness. The nutmeg pig-dog, found in all the Indian islands, did for the world what the Dutch had determined should not be done—carried the seeds, which are their food, into all the surrounding countries.

Shark Skins and Shark Fins.

In all the equatorial islands of the north and south Pacific shark fishing is a very profitable industry to the natives, and every trading steamer and sailing vessel coming into the port of Sydney or Auckland from the islands of the mid-Pacific brings some tons of fins, tails and skins of sharks. The principal markets for the former are Hongkong and Singapore, but the Chinese merchants of the Australasian colonies will always buy sharks' fins and tails at from six to eleven pence per pound, the fins bringing the best price on account of the larger amount of glutinous matter they contain, for which they are highly relished by the richer class of Chinese as a delicacy. The tails are also appreciated as an article of food in China, and, apart from their edible qualities, they have a further value as a base for clear varnishes, etc.

Coal, Damp and Dry.

If a load of coal is left out of doors, exposed to the weather, say for a month, it loses one-third of its heating quantities. If a ton of coal is placed on the ground and left there and another ton is placed under a shed, the latter loses about 25 per cent of its heating force, the former about 47 per cent. Hence it is a great saving of coal to have it in a dry place, covered over on all sides. The softer the coal the more heating power it loses, because the volatile and valuable constituents undergo a slow combination.

Too Valuable to Lose.

An important cricket match was scheduled in an English village, and, to the disappointment of everybody, the best player was unable to play owing to a sprained wrist. The new curate was hurriedly substituted and by his brilliant play secured a victory for the local team. The next morning as the squire, himself an enthusiastic cricketer, was leaving the church, where the curate had just preached his first sermon, he was asked by the vicar what he thought of the new curate.

"Oh," responded the squire, "his voice is weak, his doctrine is shaky, he isn't as learned as he should be, but his cricket is a fair eye opener. We must keep him, even if we have to pay him double the salary."

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WATER IN THE AIR.

Even at Great Heights There is Considerable Moisture.

It is seldom realized, save by aeronauts and mountaineers, how much watery haze the lower air contains. Blue sky itself is but the ultimate fading out of haze, and when whole lower layers of the atmosphere are surmounted the blue above is bluer than before only by reason of the haze there being more attenuated. The result of investigations carried out chiefly by high flying kites goes to show that, though at great heights the air may be spoken of as dry, this is but a relative term. Commonly about one-half of the water vapor in the air is left below by the time the first mile and a half is climbed, but the actual moisture present varies with circumstances. Thus up to a few thousand feet the air is drier during winter and at night and damper during summer and by day than it is near the ground.

In the light of these facts it becomes easy to conceive how in certain conditions of moist weather and on a dark night the light of a large town reflected in the heaven may be seen even at a long distance. Under the clear skies of other lands reflection may be seen on the under surface of a cloud over great ranges. Thus the cloud heaps over thunderstorms on the American prairie may sometimes be seen at night on the horizon at a distance amounting to some 200 miles.

Again, it will be easy to grasp the further fact that haze in the air is more clearly manifested to the observer who, whether in a balloon or on a mountain side, has climbed above its lower moisture levels. Here the explanation is simply that from his new point of view the haze is seen against the dark earth while being itself illuminated by the light from the sky above.—Gentleman's Magazine.

The Street Market, Cologne.

This street market is a peculiarly democratic institution and one rapidly becomes friendly with the saleswomen or even a chance passerby, entrapped unawares and becomes a purchaser like oneself. Thrift and sturdiness are the distinguishing characteristics of these Rhine-land peasants. They know well how to drive a bargain, but they are honest to a pennig and good humored to a fault. Very interesting is their babble about the flocks and the crops, very quaint they look clad in their national costumes, and most delicious are the mountain strawberries, fresh cheese and thick cream which these clever housewives bring in from the country, especially to tempt hotel weary travelers. One eats the little luncheon with leekery—sweet cakes—in the shade of the green trees which line the Cologne market, gazing on the tiled houses which give it about and catching a glimpse of the cathedral's slender spire, pointing ever aloft, rising above all, "patiently remote," and in its superb proportion of matchless architecture, making one, as Lowell says, "own himself a happy Goth."—Catholic World.

Afghan Ferries.

The Afghan ferryman at some ferries on the river Oxus makes use of ponies to get his clumsy boat across the stream. "One or sometimes two of these rather insufficient looking animals are attached to the boat by bellybands or surcingle, which allow them to swim alongside, with the strain of the haul on their middles. They are to a certain extent supported in the water by the ropes which attach them to the boat, but only their heads are usually visible as they strike out with measured pace, snorting with each stroke, being directed from the boat as to which way they should go. So powerful is their stroke that two small thirteen hand ponies will easily pull a boat which might carry ten tons of dead weight. One almost looked to see if their feet were webbed as they struggled into the shallows of the river banks. It was a revelation as to the strength of a horse's stroke in the water."

For All Housecleaning.

One method of cleaning carpets which has been pronounced in every way satisfactory is to make a suds with good white soap and hot water, adding enough fuller's earth to secure the consistency of thin cream. Then, after providing a number of clean cloths, a scrubbing brush, a large sponge and a bucket of fresh water, pour some of the cleaning mixture into a bowl, dip the brush into it and brush a small piece of the carpet at a time, washing it with the sponge and cold water and drying with the cloths. When it has all been gone over in this way, let it dry.

For Stair Landings.

In most houses now being built the staircase is likely to be broken by a landing after a few steps. An effective way to make use of the lower rail is to make it the back support of a high settee. The seat to this should be rounded out in front and be provided with a cushion covered with some velvety fabric like velours or corduroy. The support for the seat should match the wood and design of the staircase. One seen fitted against a dark rail had a dull red cushion that was extremely effective.

All active love idealizes—that is, sees and loves the ideal of the loved one. Often, indeed, the absorption in the ideal is so complete that the outer life is mistakenly supposed to be identical with it, thus opening the way to shocks and bitter disappointments.—December Ladies' Home Journal.

THE DAYLIGHT IS GONE.

Come, dear—, the daylight is gone, The stars are twinkling to thee; Come, wander, my love, alone, If alone thou wouldst call it with me.

Let us go where the wild flowers bloom Amid the soft dew of the night, Where the orange dispels its perfume And the rose speaks of love and delight

Remember, love, I must soon leave thee To wander mid strangers alone; Alas! the sweet smile will not greet me For thy gentle voice at morn.

But, oh, 'twill be sweet to remember That though I am far, far from thee, The hand of fate only can sever Thy lasting affection for me.

THREE TALL STORIES.

Incidents With Endings Contrary to All Human Experience.

"I have got just \$3,000 to spend in building a house," said the confiding man who had dropped into the office of the architect, "and I want you to draw me the plans for a good two story frame dwelling that can be built for that sum, counting materials, work and all."

So the architect drew the plans and specifications for a \$3,000 house, and the man subsequently built it for that sum, with \$6.37 to spare, which he spent in giving the architect a dinner at a down town restaurant.

A woman awoke in the middle of the night with a shriek.

"John," she cried to her husband, "my sister Jane is dead! I know! I have just had a frightfully vivid dream about her."

But her husband quieted her, and presently she went to sleep, her cheeks still wet with tears.

Then he noted the exact hour at which his wife had had her dream. The next day, as can be verified by anybody who is skeptical, no messenger of any sort came with a telegram containing the sad news of the death of her sister Jane, who, at last accounts, was still alive and well.

"Curse on my folly!" suddenly exclaimed Mr. J. Robinson when about half way down town.

It was a beautiful day, and there was not a cloud in the sky.

He had donned his high silk hat and forgotten his umbrella.

Still—mark the statement—it did not rain.

In fact, it didn't rain for nearly two weeks after that.—Chicago Tribune.

ALL OVER THE HOUSE.

How to Arrange Cut Flowers to Secure Pleasing Effects.

In order to secure the best and most pleasing effects in the arrangement of cut flowers it is necessary that their manner of growth be considered. Flowers that grow on tall stalks should be put in high vases, which permit the long green stems to rise in a natural fashion, with some of the pretty leaves appearing gracefully among them. Tiny flowers should be placed in small receptacles corresponding to their size. The aim should be to give, as far as possible, a natural appearance to each kind of flower.

When gathering field daisies, also gather some of the seed grasses that grow among them, then place all loosely in a suitable vase, remembering that they do not grow with their heads close together. This arrangement, with the help of a stretch of the imagination, will remind one of a small field of daisies with the grasses waving and nodding in the wind.

Roses should not be crowded into a vase, but tumbled loosely into a bowl, and a little study will enable one to add the necessary touches that help to give to these beautiful cut flowers their natural grace and beauty.

Pansies should be cut with stems and leaves and massed in a low, flaring vase, where they have a chance to appear as if still growing.

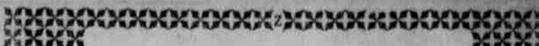
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THE FULTON COUNTY NEWS

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