

THE DITCH.

The farmer dug a ditch to drain a plot that he had planned...

But soon the violets learned to grow, as in the haunts it used to know...

At first, unused to wander here, it found the pathway plain and drear...

By root and curve it learned to sing, and glad children sought its wandering...

—Cora A. Matson-Dolson, in the National Magazine.

THE ESCAPE.

BY AVELYN ORCHARD.

The fine snow was drifting across the steppe before the first wind of winter...

I will save. Take me to your father. Serge walked by his side, secretly gloriying...

It struck the knell of the long silence; Sergius, Koniski, sometime student of Warsaw...

They came, talking volubly of matters, concerning their mutual interests, being friends of long standing...

One brief year had he spent in Warsaw; twelve short months into which had been crowded the fierce experience of a lifetime...

"This is Arthur Beauville, father," said Serge. "He has ridden at peril of his life to us. I will leave him to explain his errand..."

"You have had your chance and made a fool of yourself, Serge, besides dragging Vera into danger. You can stay at home now and make a fool of yourself to some purpose..."

"The times are troubled, but we are not to have in the Castle of Koniski, and there has been no surveillance since the children came from Warsaw..."

Serge was expecting no one; he was simply contemplating the road which led to life, and wondering how long before the cords would become so strong that they would draw him away from every life that bound him to the stables...

"She has no mother," said the old man from behind the thickness of his beard. "I am afraid."

Suddenly a remote sound smote upon his ear; and through the film of the flying snow he beheld in the far vista of the road an approaching vehicle. He drew himself up, an alertness seemed to spring to every muscle...

"If Arthur says so, it is true, father, but it is you who will decide. I am your only girl, and here I stay."

"What brings you here, Arthur?" asked Serge in a low voice. "That is a matter of urgency I can see."

"If Arthur says so, it is true, father, but it is you who will decide. I am your only girl, and here I stay."

"It is a matter of life or death, Serge. On Sunday the Terror began, and when I left the stables were in the streets shooting down the defenceless citizen..."

"May God deal with you as you deal with her," he said, holding his hands a moment towards them as if in blessing...

"I question if she will go," said Serge, and his face began to burn slowly, as if the fire within consumed him...

"At daybreak, when there was a lull in the steady storm, the carriage stood ready in the courtyard. The Englishman came out first, not wishing to intrude upon the last farewells..."

"Is all right, Ivan?" he asked the squat-faced driver, whom he had bound to his service by many kindnesses. The man nodded, and bent to tighten the girths as they came from the house...

"Buttons and Women's Clothes. Why does a woman button her garments on the left side? The question is being discussed in the Tailor and Cutter by several correspondents, one of whom advances this theory: 'For ladies to have the buttonholes in the right side of their garments has its origin in the times when it was necessary for a lady when going out at night to have a gentleman escort, who supported her by his left arm, leaving his right or sword arm at liberty. Thus the lady's left hand would be free to fasten or unfasten her cloak at her own pleasure and without inconvenience.'—London Telegraph.

OCEAN CAUGHT FRESH FISH

DEVELOPMENT OF THE TRADE--WONDERFULLY INTERESTING INDUSTRY--ONE HUNDRED MILLION POUNDS A YEAR LANDED IN BOSTON--By N. D. FREEMAN, OF BOSTON.

Those who see the products of the sea only when placed before them in the form of food little realize what the production of it by the hardy fishermen who go out upon our fishing banks at this season of the year means. What dangers they face and what risks they take to furnish for our enjoyment the fish which please our palate and add so much to our food supplies...

The fish are taken by means of a trawl, which is towed by a steam trawler, or by means of a dory, which is towed by a small boat. The fish are then packed in ice and sent to market. The industry is one of the most important in the United States, and is constantly increasing in volume and value.

There has been the same advance and perhaps even greater in the size and style of vessels used in fishing as along other lines of business. The crack American fishing vessel has at all times stood next only to the crack American yacht, than which there are no safer or faster sailing vessels afloat...

damaged by the obstructions. She has been going about four months. At first she did not meet with very good success, but later has made good trips, and those interested in the venture are very much encouraged. Should this be demonstrated to be the more economical way of producing fish it means an entire revolution in our manner of fishing, and in time our markets will be supplied with fish caught by steam fishermen instead of sailing vessels.

The fishermen are very much interested in the new method, and are constantly increasing in number. The industry is one of the most important in the United States, and is constantly increasing in volume and value.

The discovery of the potentialities of coal tar has allowed of the production of the beautiful alizarine and aniline dyes of to-day, and it has made them far cheaper than the old pigments. It is characteristic that while an Englishman made the discovery on which a great part of modern chemical industry is based, none of his countrymen could be induced to take advantage of it...

STORING COAL UNDER WATER

Captain Beecher Reports Advantages of Using Submerging Cisterns.

In a report to the Bureau of Equipment of the Navy, Washington, D. C., and also in a paper printed in the proceedings of the Naval Institute, Captain W. H. Beecher, commandant of the naval station at Key West, Fla., urges the advisability, if not necessity, of storing coal for the use of the service in concrete tanks capable of being filled with salt or sea water.

After relating his experience with fires in coal piles at his station, which he attributes to the fact that the coal is in heaps from twenty-five to thirty-five feet high, and that the consequent pressure generates heat, setting fire to the escaping gases, he gives the following as the advantages of a watertight concrete coal shed:

"The submerged storage of coal will hermetically seal the gases in that coal. Small pockets of combustion cannot be formed with the coal under water. The gases cannot be formed with the coal under water. The pressure upon the particles of coal at different depths will not be so great. The pressure at the bottom will not develop heat, because the pressure in a reservoir of water fifty feet deep does not generate any heat at the bottom of that reservoir...

One of the marvels of a busy season, with its demand for labor in every line, is the number of men who stretch their listless length day after day on the grass of the park benches over the sporting columns of the daily papers.

It is not work, however, that the park idler wants. He would even scorn "employment" unless it came to him with the "soft-snap" guarantee. And it may be as well to say, though the statement may shatter the languid hopes of the soft-snap man, that this guarantee does not accompany the demand for labor that is heard on every hand.

Huge Ranches of Mexico. Ranches in Mexico are of no mean size. Ex-Governor Terrazas, of Chihuahua, has 17,000,000 acres. The Zuloaga family is said to hold 5,000,000. Properties of 1,000,000 and 2,000,000 acres are not uncommon.

As Seen From a Balloon. Sense of danger you have of course none, for you are so aglissat the dangers run by your dear ones below from motors and bicycles and trains and gas-works, and all the other things terrestrial, that all concern for your own safety goes.

He Got a Prompt Answer. A certain well known London lawyer excelled in cross-examination. His gift of humor often served him where other methods were unuseful. For instance, a young woman in the witness box was asked her age. She hesitated to reply.

English Praise of Baseball. In many ways baseball is a game particularly suitable for the youth of England. To excel at it requires many of those qualities which are particularly lacking in British sport generally.—Fr's Magazine, London.

SALTED WHALE.

Some Say It is Better Than Poor Beef—South America Cries For It.

The preservation and exportation of whale meat is becoming a big industry in parts of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. For some time past the fishermen of Gaspe have been in the habit of salting down portions of the meat of the whale for their own use when short of other food, but now it is found that the article is eagerly consumed by some of the South American peoples and consequently it is becoming quite an article of commerce.

One company has established a large plant on an island in the region known as Seven Islands, in the north of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and maintains a regular whaling steamer to kill and tow in the whales to the factory. Two species of whales are taken, the humped back and the sulphur bottom. They are so plentiful that there is no difficulty in killing and towing to the factory one a day, which is all that the present capacity of the factory can accommodate.

Formerly all the fresh went into guano, which is worth \$30 to \$35 a ton. Now, however, the prime meat is all salted down for food, and excellent eating it makes, too, for those who like it, many contending that it is superior to the coarser grades of beef salted in barrels, especially when used in stews and hashes, or served up as corned beef.

WORDS OF WISDOM. Blue sermons often come out of a brown study.

The worst part of any trouble is waiting for it. The radius of a man's life will depend on its centre. Many a life that is short in years is long in its reach. Only the smile that is rooted bears fruits of refreshing.

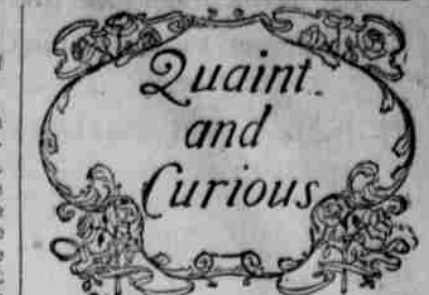
Habitual brooders hatch out only the buzzards of despair. No man ever broke his own back with his brother's burden. You lose force with men as soon as you lose faith in them. Every great talent has come out of many a furnace-like trial.

Big Profits in Fancy Apples. Stories are coming East of the large profits made by fruit growers in the western Washington State. In the Wenatchee valley the prosperous condition of orcharding has increased land values to as high as \$250 per acre for the raw land with water rights.

Hot Blood of Youth. There were a couple of old forty-niners down in Tombstone, Arizona, said a tourist the other day, "who were great friends. One of them was eighty years old and the other eighty-one. They were talking their morning toddy one day and fell into a disagreement over the date of some pioneer occurrence. Each was insistent on his own recollection of it and finally they got into a regular quarrel. Backing away from the bar they drew their guns and blazed away at each other, but their sight was so dim and their hands so unsteady that all the bullets went wide.

Preserving Churches. The difficulty in respect of church conservation is held in two contradictory lights, and is required for two incompatible purposes. To the incumbent the church is a workshop or laboratory; to the antiquary it is a relic. To the parish it is a utility; to the outsider it is a luxury. How can these incompatibles be united?—Estates Gazette.

Chocolate Man's Costly Toy. Has Bad Luck With Pulp Making. Fox Farming and Lobster Canning. M. Menier, the chocolate king, of Anticosti, is finding his island kingdom in the St. Lawrence Gulf rather an expensive plaything. He contemplated establishing large pulp mills in the best wooded districts of the south shore, but in the last two weeks forest fires have swept through those districts, leaving only smoking tree trunks and shrivelled soil in their wake.



The Vienna Abendpost claims for Stegriedl Markus, of Vienna, the honor of having invented the motor car.

In 1857 the Duke of Parma had his photograph upon his visiting cards. Hence the term "cartes-de-visite."

Marmalade, then made only of quinces, was known in Henry VIII's reign. The word is derived from "mermelao," a quince.

The original greenroom seem to have been painted green in order to relieve the eyes of actors dazzled by the glare of the footlights.

The most costly tomb in existence is that which was erected to the memory of Mahomet. The diamonds and rubies are valued at £2,000,000.

In the States of Arkansas, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, Texas, Oregon and Wisconsin an alien may vote upon complying with the State laws, after having made his preliminary declaration to become a citizen of the United States. Under possible exigencies of American politics, the election of a President and Vice-President and the determination of the policies of the Government might be determined by the votes of aliens. In all the other States no person is allowed to vote who is not a citizen of the United States.

An old Bible, bought by a French army officer in a second-hand bookshop at Mont de Marsan contained long lost treasure. The officer, turning over the book in his quarters, was astonished to find in it coupons and scrip to the value of more than \$2000. These bore the name of the holder, at St. Pierre du Mont, and the address of a notary of the same place. On communicating with the notary the officer learned that the holder of the scrip, a small peasant owner, had died some years ago, and that the property represented by the lost papers had not been disturbed. Great was the surprise when the officer handed over the scrip.

"Bribery" is a word with a curious history. In the old Geneva Bible it is said of the scribes and Pharisees that they "make clean the outer side of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of bribery." The authorized version has "extortion," and there is no doubt that by "bribery" the Geneva Bible meant robbery. "Bribery" probably meant originally a morsel, a broken-off piece, but it occurs first in old French, signifying a piece of bread given to a beggar. Hence the Italian "birba," vagrancy, and the old French "bric-à-brac," a beggar or greedy devourer. "Bribe" developed in two directions.—In the senses of robbery and of a present. When Falstaff speaks of "a bribed buck," he means not one that had been corrupted, but one that had been stolen.

A large revenue was expected from the lobster cannery industry initiated on the island under M. Menier's administration, but this year the industry has proved a failure because of the scarcity of the lobsters, the catch being less than half what it was last year, and the total output of the cannery on Anticosti for the season was only 1400 cases of four dozen pound cans each. M. Menier is wealthy enough to stand the heavy loss which the possession and maintenance of the island involves every year, for there are the Governor of the island and all his staff and official administration to be provided for; but all expected sources of revenue seem to have fallen off, and though there is good hunting and fishing on Anticosti M. Menier is unable to visit his island every year, and it is reported here that he is rapidly losing interest in it and may dispose of it or desert it.

Others before M. Menier have endeavored to make a paying proposition of the island, but their efforts have always resulted in failure. Aztec Women. The feminine direct descendants of the famous Aztecs are tiny creatures, exquisitely formed and refined in feature. They carry the head with the upbearing grace of the full-blooded Indian; their skins are not red, but a clear, smooth copper color, but they are decorated with bright feathers and gay ornaments. These women make the most wonderful pottery that comes to us from Mexico, for they have kept the old Aztec forms and decorations in their art, and they also weave wonderful baskets and do exquisite embroidery.—Scott Valley (Cal.) Advance.

An official return just issued by the Japanese Government gives the wealth of Japan at the end of 1904 as \$2,510,408,000, or \$145 per head.