

SWEET MYSTERIES.

Slowly the seeds in the garden are growing, Glad homilies! Tides, set in motion by winds briskly blowing, Pause ere they rise; The nestling shall rise and aspire to Heaven's gate, And the butterfly, though in a shroud he must wait In dim surprise; For all things shall rise, Gently kind spring has awakened the flowers, Sweet mysteries! Swiftly the grub on the wing, with new powers, To happiness flies; Ever with reftuent wave and strong motion Landward now march the forests of oceans Grand auguries! For all things do rise, In the world visible lurks the invisible, Making men wise, Telling of blessed truths plainly perceptible To love-it eyes, Telling of Heaven and the happy To-morrow, Telling of joy with no vestige of sorrow, And of bright eyes, Where love never dies, -C. P. Wilson, in New York Sun.

THE THIEF ON THE SHIP.

MR. MELHURST'S compliments, sir, and would you please come down to her stateroom immediately. I had just shut myself into my little office on deck, having run through the ship's account before turning in that night. It is quite a mistake, by the way, to think that we pursers have no more onerous duties to perform than at sea than to watch over the passengers' comfort, read prayers on Sunday and keep a store of nautical information at our finger-ends for the benefit of every curious voyager. Nowdays the purser of a crack American liner—making, perhaps, a record passage of six days or so—has his work pretty well cut out for him during the entire voyage. On the present occasion I had scarcely got my accounts fairly in hand when I was interrupted by a slight tap at the door. I arose at once and opened it, and there stood Mrs. Melhurst's Canadian maid, with flushed face and nervous, agitated manner. "Is there anything wrong?" I asked, with some surprise, when she had delivered her message. "There is, sir," she replied hastily. "All I know—" She was about to make some eager statement, but pulled herself up suddenly, and tripped along the deck without another word. I switched off the electric light, and followed her. Mrs. Melhurst's maid once that some-berths, the couch were littered with trunks and hand-elf, looking decid-alar, Mr. Morse," o an empty jewel on the upper ornaments are "I exclaimed in e replied sharply, yourself that they tell you. At happened to er that I had crescent shaped ment. She ex- I came in here, ooh and left the berth. I was e cabin door, but e case was empty, "you absent?" ou had the key in the time?" ver let it out of my a the saloon." ggered, I examined but there was ab- show that it had h. I could hit upon o than that Mrs. sibly have mislaid- re. This had the rating the lady to it seems that she d every nook and -that I was glad order to lay the aptain. be head of the sa- heard some one s, three or four d and saw Mr. ay, had made s on previous a, "taking me a, "you've on board gone and walked cigarette case, a pair of gold—" nommonly like as ou refer to had a s, for I don't see arial could get the door bolted he managed to rthole. hat has hap- an? I use the laphia law- stateroom that-

and I remember flinging the cigarette case, rings and a pair of gold sleeve links on the upper berth. Then I put on my dressing gown, stretched myself upon the couch, and had a downright good snooze. When I got up, about five minutes ago, I found my trinkets had vanished. "Pon my word, things were beginning to look serious and no mistake! I lost no time in hunting up the captain and made him acquainted with the state of affairs. He was just as much puzzled as I was myself. The first thing next morning he sent a message to Mrs. Melhurst, requesting a private interview in his cabin on deck. He also signified his wish that I should be present. We both questioned the lady closely, but her replies did not tend to throw any light upon the singular occurrence. Nevertheless, we determined to keep a close watch upon the state room in future. It was pretty evident we had a "black sheep" on board—probably an old hand at the business. For the next few days we had no further complaints. The thief was evidently "lying low," waiting until tranquility was restored before making a fresh attempt. Meanwhile I kept my eyes open. I observed the little peculiarities of the different passengers, and took particular note of the manner in which they occupied their time.

On board ship when you find a man who shows a marked preference for his own society above that of the loungers on deck or habitues of the smoke room, one is inclined to jump at the conclusion that he has some solid reasons for his exclusiveness. If, in addition to this he happens to be of an uncommunicative disposition, with black hair and swarthy complexion, given to wearing a slouched hat and long cloak—rightly or wrongly, you put him down as a decidedly suspicious character. Now, we happened to have a passenger on board—a Brazilian named De Castro—who tallied in every way with this description. But for the fact that I had conclusive evidence to show he could not have been directly concerned in the robberies—for inquiries proved he had remained on deck the whole evening—he certainly would have been treated to a private interview in the captain's cabin. As it was, I was forced to conclude that black hair, swarthy complexion, slouch hat and cloak were quite compatible with a man's innocence. Nothing further occurred to excite suspicion until the last day or two of the voyage. Then, one evening after dinner, word was brought to me that three other staterooms had been rifled in the same mysterious manner. Watches, jewelry and even money disappeared, though in all three the passengers stoutly declared they had left their doors locked. When the alarm reached me I had to be satisfied in my decision. I had to be satisfied in my decision. I had to be satisfied in my decision.

"Don't Cure" for Colds. The big refining room attached to the Gas Works, at Jackson and Washington streets, makes a queer place, but it is an effective one. A few parents can testify. This season of the year, when whooping cough and diphtheria are rages, the room is much frequented. Indeed, many of the best physicians of the city recommend the gashouse treatment for whooping cough. The children make two or three visits with their parents, and finally go away cured. The manner of being treated is quite after the little folks' hearts. The floor of the big building is covered with a black mass of finely-powdered earth, iron filings and other ingredients, which is being constantly turned over by a line of men with shovels. The gas passes through this mixture, and is relieved of the sulphur which it had taken up early in its process of manufacture. As the men turn over the black mass, pungent fumes of sulphur escape. It is this gas which acts so beneficially on the whooping cough. The children who are taken to the gashouse by their mothers are allowed to play and romp in the banks of earth to their hearts' content. They soon begin to sneeze and cough, which shows that the fumes have begun to eat loose the mucus in the throat. The children shout and scream and throw the dust at each other, and wonder why it is that their mothers object when they throw mud at each other in the street. During the last week each day averaged about five children. Those who have the refining-house in charge are very courteous, and welcome parents with their children. They have never known the "don't cure," as it is called, to fail when the case was taken in its early or middle stages. It is very beneficial in cases of catarrh. No one about the house has the least suspicion of catarrh.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Glow Worms. Special attention is being given by the French military authorities, says a Paris correspondent, to the questions of succoring the wounded on battlefields when night comes on after a great battle. Experiments have been made with powerful electric arc lights, but the apparatus has conditions. At length, it has been practically determined that the ambulance corps men shall wear little incandescent glow lamps in their hats, just like the ladies of the ballet in a spectacular extravaganza. Each man is to carry a little primary battery in his pocket for the production of the current. The wounded in need of succor will look out for the little moving lights, and if possible drag themselves toward them. The Oven Bird. One of the most wonderful of the feather inhabitants of South America is the oven bird, which mixes hair with mud and builds its nest in the form of a baker's oven. In its structure there are two compartments, one of which—where the eggs are laid—is high up, so that the birds may hatch their young in the dry.

the porthole, my blood ran cold, and in all my life I never had such difficulty to keep down a yell. In the dim light I saw a long, thin hairy arm thrust in through the opening. The next moment a small black hand had fastened upon a leather case lying close to the window and withdrew it as quick as thought almost. I sprang to my feet and bolted out into the passage. I dashed up the saloon stairs and made for the lower deck. There, just about the spot where I judged the stateroom to be situated, I came face to face with the Brazilian, De Castro. In spite of the heat he was wearing his long cloak with the deep cape, and had his eternal cigarette between his teeth. He looked at me with an air of frank surprise; and I looked at him with an air of profound suspicion. Suddenly a happy thought flashed through my mind. I turned round and sprang down the saloon stairs, running full tilt against the chief steward, who was standing at the top. "Get me a handful of nuts—quick!" I cried. When he brought them I hurried back on deck. The Brazilian had moved away a little towards the stern. I went close up, stood right in front of him, and then began deliberately to crack the nuts. He regarded me with a pitying sort of look, but I paid little attention to him. Presently I saw a corner of the cape drawn aside and beheld a pair of small, gleaming eyes fixed greedily upon me. It was enough. My suspicions were confirmed. I flung the rest of the nuts into the sea, and walking straight up to De Castro, said: "I must ask you to accompany me to the captain's cabin."

"Not you mean?" he asked, drawing back. I was determined to stand no nonsense, and straightway took him by the shoulders. The moment I laid my hands upon him I heard a vicious snarl under his cape; it was pulled suddenly aside and out flew a monkey. The little brute went at me, tooth and nail. I saw the gleam of a knife, too, in the Brazilian's hand, but I let him have my fist straight between the eyes before he could use it, and he measured his length upon the deck. The quartermaster came running up, and the rascal was dragged off to the captain's cabin. When searched there Mrs. Melhurst's diamonds, Mr. Carter's cigarette case and rings and a miscellaneous collection of other valuables were found upon him. In his stateroom we discovered a perforated box, apparently intended for the use of the monkey, who was evidently quite as accomplished as his master.—Cassell's Saturday Journal.

The Salts in the Ocean. The salts of the sea have fallen throughout all time, countless living things which have thronged its water and whose remains now form the rocks of continents or lie spread in beds of unknown thickness over 65,000,000 square miles of the 143,000,000 square miles of the ocean's floor; they have lent the substance to build the fringing reefs of the land and all the coral islands of the sea, and there are at present, on the basis of an average salinity of three and one-half per cent, in the 290,700,000 cubic miles of water which make up the oceans, 90,000,000,000,000 tons, or 10,173,000 cubic miles of salt. This is sufficient to cover the areas of all the lands of the earth with a uniform layer of salt to a depth of 1000 feet. It seems that the sea was made salt in the beginning as a part of the grand design of the Creator to provide for the system of evolution which has been going on since the creation. Many distinct species of living organisms exist in the sea as a result of its salinity, and their remains have contributed largely to the growth of continents. The three great factors in accounting for the system of currents in the ocean, by which it becomes the great heat distributor of the globe, are changes of temperature, the winds, and salinity. The last mentioned becomes an important factor through the immediate and essential differences of specific gravity and consequent differences of level that it produces in different parts of the ocean through the action of evaporation and rainfall.

Killed a Basking Shark. "A curious thing," writes a Westminster Gazette correspondent, "occurred on the last homeward voyage from Australia to the P. and O. Royal Mail steamer Himalaya, when the ship while steaming up the Red Sea, ran into and killed an enormous shark. The sea was dead calm at the time, and the brute was basking in the sun on the surface. The ship's prow cut the shark almost in two. The fish was about twenty-five feet long.

WORDS OF WISDOM.

Wild oats thrive in all climates. Better never than not late enough. A rough road is always a long one. As ye sow, so shall somebody else reap. A cloud with a silver lining is still a cloud. Every man has his own road to happiness. Do not cross a bridge until it comes to you. No man is a hero to his fiancée's small brother. Art is long, and a good deal of modern art is also thin. Conceit is a fault confined exclusively to other people. The great opportunity of your life is the one you overlooked. A woman always thinks it takes at least two to keep a secret. The "melancholy days" come when the poets begin to write about them. It is pleasant to reflect that the new woman will always be in an insignificant minority. Too many wives have imbibed the idea that a parlor is intended for exhibition purposes solely. History continues to repeat itself in spite of the fact that a good deal of history is not worth repeating. Do not judge other people; you can make them feel much more uncomfortable simply by criticizing them.—New York Press.

In Ceylon. Half an hour before the first gray light of dawn had begun to steal round the distant crags of the Kandyan Mountains we had started, in order to reach the edge of the forest, before sunrise. Our guide had timed us well. The cold gray light of morning was still round us when we reached the river, rushing and gurgling with a liquid music over the sandy shallows and between the scattered masses of rock that strewed its bed. The eastern sky was flushing from a silvery pink to violet as we neared the first outlying satin-wood trees, that rose, vast pinnacles of shining green, strangely tinted by the colored light. And just as we reached the forest itself we halted involuntarily to see the sun rise slowly from the eastern ocean, the flood of gold above and around him flashing back in a thousand coronations from the glittering plain below. As we plunged into the jungle path, the last belated bats were flapping their way homeward, and giving place to the first birds of the day, the crows, whose joyous cries already made the dim recesses of the forest start into life. The flood of morning sunshine which lighted up the path, though it could hardly be said to do as much for the depths of the surrounding jungle, was the signal for the awakening of "the teeming life" of the forest. From every branch on either side our path was poured a sudden gush of music. The rich song of the dial bird was mingled with the more distant flute-like notes of the oriole; and from the far recesses of the forest the deep mellow call of the jungle-cock filled the air with a luxury of sound. Then the insect life awoke. Huge dragon flies, starting in their bright metallic coloring, dashed past us; bright moths and gaudy butterflies floated hither and there, and penetrated the overarching canopy of leaves, like huge painted motes dancing in the golden tide. Our little party moved silently along the forest path, even the horses treading softly, as if unwilling to disturb the universal jubilee.—Lippincott.

TEMPERANCE. A little from well tilled, A little wife well will feed, Their good offices man all he killed, By a little more distilled. HOW TO KEEP BENEVOLENT BREWERS. There is hardly any doubt that the readiness of many foolish people to laugh over the drunkenness of others, to treat intoxication as a subject and occasion for fun, is calculated to encourage rather than to reform or avert intemperance. There is just as little doubt that the habit of ridiculing, abusing or degrading an unfortunate person who happens to fall between his cups does quite as much in the sad work of making and confirming drunkards.—Dallas News. DETRIMENTAL TO EVERYBODY. Governor Hughes, of Arizona, in his annual message to the Legislature of the Territory, urges the banishment of the liquor traffic from that Territory. One of the reasons he gives is, that it costs the Government more than the revenue derived from it. What is more, he says, the Territory is also poor, and the liquor traffic is a great evil to the Indians, and in fact is a cause of misery to even animals.

TEMPERANCE AND HEALTH. A paragraph in the Government Gazette of Australia throws light upon a phase of the temperance reform, that is well worth the study of every true lover of his country and his race. It occurs in the annual report of the Assistant Government Statist upon the vital statistics of Greater Melbourne, recently published. Dealing with the increase in the death rate of the metropolis, which has been going on during the past few years, the statist says: "It has been influenced by the beneficial effects on the general health of the city, a cessation of heavy and increased sobriety and temperance, and the decrease in the death rate of the metropolis, which has been going on during the past few years, the statist says: "It has been influenced by the beneficial effects on the general health of the city, a cessation of heavy and increased sobriety and temperance, and the decrease in the death rate of the metropolis, which has been going on during the past few years, the statist says: "It has been influenced by the beneficial effects on the general health of the city, a cessation of heavy and increased sobriety and temperance, and the decrease in the death rate of the metropolis, which has been going on during the past few years, the statist says: "It has been influenced by the beneficial effects on the general 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