

THE SEA GULLS.

O, the sweeping wing of the blue-gray wing
And the swerving dip of the breast
adrip
Of the gulls that seaward fly!

And O, for the chance of that wild,
free lance
Of a bird with a tireless wing!

The Unruly Member.
By HELEN FORREST GRAVES.

You would have recognized Rose
Lodge as the residence of an unmarried
female, had you seen it in Rus-
sia or Japan, or on the very shore of
the Ganges! It bore the unmistakable
impression of single blessedness, on its
porch and front steps—the box-edged
borders spoke it as plainly as if every
leaf and twig had been a voice.

"Do you know the Winstons?" she
asked of Mrs. Maj. Murrell.
"The young people who have just
rented Frankland Cottage? No, but
my brother, George, knows Mr. Win-
ston."

TRAMPS ARE MARCHING
WAYS OF THE HOBO NOMADS
DURING THE SUMMER.

The Army Has Its Advanced Guards
and Details Somewhat on Military
Lines—Enemies of the "Yeggmen"—
Water Tank Register.
This is moving time for tramps as
well as for respectable householders,
and the usual exodus from New York
has begun. Naturally, the great at-
traction this year is St. Louis, where
the wayfarers look for a harvest from
the Exposition crowds. Fully 5000
"bobos," "yeggmen," and gypsies will
go from this city alone, the great ma-
jority beating their way on freight
trains.

QUAINT AND CURIOUS.

In the flash of an electric spark 125
millionths of a second in duration a
rifle ball can be photographed in its
flight.
Though more populous than this
country, the Russian empire has but
800 newspapers. The number in this
country is 22,000.
Thirty convicts recently escaped
from the Nikolov-Ussuri jail in Sibe-
ria by driving a tunnel 180 feet long
under the building.

CUSTOM OF PARLIAMENT.

How Strangers Sometime Wander
Within Sacred Precincts.
The stranger within the parliamen-
tary gate (at Westminster) continues
periodically to excite a good deal of
interest.
The elective chamber resembles Vir-
gil's Avernus in that there are many
easy and different approaches to it,
and that night and days its portals,
at least, are open to the crowd. Un-
authorized entrants may, therefore,
now and then elude the most sphynx-
eyed of doorkeepers. Never in my
time has the casual invader actually
voted in a division.
I have repeatedly seen strangers
from Westminster hall, mixed up in
a little group of M. P.'s, pass unchal-
lenged through the lobby, then in-
troducing themselves to the interior,
find sitting-room below the gangway
—for a time. The moment of detec-
tion and ejection, sooner or later, in-
variably comes.

STRANGE AUSTRIAN LAKE.

Its Waters Marvelously Disappear and
Reappear.
Around the head of the Gulf of
Trieste, in the southern part of Aus-
tria, and extending across the base of
the Istrian peninsula, is a plateau of
limestone which presents some pecu-
liar phenomena, says an exchange.
Full-grown rivers issue from its
sides, disappear under other hills, to
reappear later at some distant point.
Mysterious springs rise through the
bottom of the Bay of Trieste, in times
of heavy rainfall, bubbling up with a
violence sufficient to endanger small
craft. In the heart of Cherso island,
which is in the middle of the Gulf of
Quarnero, is the Lake of Vrana. It
is surrounded entirely by hills, and
lies in a basin said to be forty-five
fathoms deep. The level of the water
is reputed to be at least forty feet
below the level of the sea about the
island. It has no apparent affluent or
effluent, yet the waters are always
fresh and cool. It is believed the
lake is fed by some subterranean pas-
sage, leading out under the bay from
the Istrian Alps; possibly from Monte
Maggiore itself.
Some distance to the northward is
a lake which disappears for weeks at
a time. This sheet of water, known
as the Lake of Zirknitz, is about four
miles long and from two to three
miles broad. Villages, chapels, and
castles are reflected in its waters.
Frequently in July, although not
every year, the waters begin to disap-
pear, and in August the bed, 50 feet
below the surface at some points, at
times gradually appears. From 20 to
25 days are required for the entire
lake to be discharged. When the
bed is revealed the peasants plant
crops of barley where only a short
time before they were drawing their
nets. The bed remains uncovered
sometimes for many weeks. The peas-
ants gather their barley and hay from
the bottom in the meantime. Then,
with a rush, the waters return, the
basin being refilled sometimes in a pe-
riod of 24 hours.
The limestone which forms the bed
is perforated with a vast number of
caverns and fissures. Nearly 30 of
these are visible. They are funnel-
shaped, and some of them are 50 feet
deep. The peasants give them names
such as the Kettle, the Sieve, etc.
There are 23 openings which draw
water off, only 12 of which both draw
off and discharge water. They con-
nect with caverns and subterranean
passages penetrating beneath the sur-
rounding mountains. In this neigh-
borhood, also, is the Grotto of Aels-
berg, the largest known cavern in
Europe and one of the most beautiful
in the world. It has been explored
for a distance of four or five miles.
Through a portion of it flows the
River Polk, which takes this subter-
ranean method of reaching its destina-
tion.
Besides the fantastic caves and
grottoes are deep pits, varying in di-
ameter from a few feet to several
miles, some of them having forests
and agricultural lands at their bot-
toms.

PARADE OF CHILD LABORERS.

Chicago is to be shown in dramatic
fashion how many thousands of chil-
dren are employed in its industries.
The Federation of Labor is planning
for a great child labor demonstration
for the Fourth of July, when all the
juvenile toilers of the city will be
invited to march through the streets,
bearing banners announcing their
tasks. An outing in Lincoln park will
complete the day's program.
The demonstration will afford an
object lesson to the citizens of Chi-
cago," said Organizer John Fitzpatrick
of the federation, who has charge of
the affair. "It will show what an
army of little ones who toil at ages
when they should be in school the city
supports. We have chosen Indepen-
dence day for two reasons. It is the
only day in warm weather which the
children will have to themselves, and
it will suggest freedom and equality,
whose disappearance has made such
extensive employment of children pos-
sible.
'I believe there will be 20,000 little
ones in line. They will come from
the sweat shops, the candy factories,
laundries, stores and telegraph com-
panies. Every line of industry will
contribute its part."

Caring for the Old.

One thing is very hard for us to
realize, and that is that old people,
though so childlike in many ways—
in innocence, in loveliness, often, too,
in eager interest in the activities go-
ing on about them—are not at all
childlike in one important particular;
they are not teachable. Nor is this
their fault, but the fault of old age
itself, of that hardening of the tis-
sues of brain and nerve which consti-
tutes old age. The spirit dwelling
within may be gently meek and full of
humility and wisdom; but the organ-
ism no longer nimbly responds. A
sort of slow petrification is going on,
and although in noble natures this
process results in preserving thoughts
and feelings of fertile delicacy in im-
perishable beauty, yet it does not
lend itself to the reception of new im-
pressions. The central growth may
go on, and new ideas which harmonize
with the old may be received into the
organism, but surface things, such as
daily habits are set beyond alteration.
—Harper's Bazar.

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