

THE SECRET CHAMBER.

Mold upon the ceiling,
Mold upon the floor,
Windows barred and double barred,

Hist! the spectres gather,
Break upon group again,
Wreaking, writhing, gibbering

Fanny's Stranger.

By HERO STRONG.

"I tell you, Fanny Shawmut, you were made for each other!"
"And I tell you, Aunt Hildred, I would sooner die than marry him!"

Ah, well! Fanny had lost her heart to him before the crash and now she was completely subjected.

After all, it was a very delightful night. Fanny dozed a little, and her stranger sat beside her and kept her wrapped up.

The stranger put Fanny in a cab, and went with her to Cousin Bentley's, and asked permission to call on her, and so they parted.

The stranger was introduced as Mr. Fort, which Fanny thought a very singular name. But then, after all, "what's in a name?"

Of course, they had a very delightful evening, which was but the beginning of a series of delightful evenings.

Mr. Fort's heart held out just a fortnight, and then he told his love in words too glowing for the cold point of our cynical pen to write, and the two young people did a very desperate thing—they engaged themselves, and set the wedding day just one month ahead.

Fanny wrote her aunt a very graphic account of the whole affair, dwelling on Mr. Fort's kindness and devotion during the snowstorm, and ending with saying that her lover was so far in advance of that odious Earle Rochefort in all the virtues and graces, that she was sure Aunt Hildred would be delighted that her disobedient but ever-loving niece did not stay at home and marry that California bear.

When Aunt Hildred read the letter, she laughed till the tears came, and dimmed her spectacles, and she hugged the cat, and shook hands with Betty the cook, and then proved herself a true woman, and in her right mind, by overturning her wardrobe to see if she had any dress suitable to wear at the wedding.

Fanny came back to Elmwood just a week previous to this important event, and Mrs. Ames' house was turned upside down with the grand preparations. Fanny declared she hoped that abominable Rochefort wouldn't put in an appearance at the wedding for she knew she couldn't be decently polite to him; and thereat Aunt Hildred would go off into such convulsions of laughter that Fanny began to look serious, for she was certainly afraid her aunt's brain was softening. So many brains did soften nowadays.

The wedding dress and veil were splendid, and Fanny looked like an angel in them. Just about five minutes before the time set for the performance of the ceremony the bridegroom was announced.

The Cost of Slavery

By W. Romaine Paterson.

THAT the enslaved races endured oppression so long is no doubt partly to be explained by the strange Oriental passivity and fatalism which is in some measure shown by only one European people, the Slavs.

India has never been a unity and has never possessed a political consciousness. It was precisely because she rejected the reformation preached by Buddha that her organization on a basis of justice became impossible and that her conquest became easy.

Not long ago the Esquiline Cemetery was excavated and there was discovered a pit one thousand feet long and three hundred feet deep. It was an ancient burial ground for slaves, who were thrown into it along with the carcasses of animals and the refuse of the city.

The Sun's Heat

By Rene Bache

THE instrument in the observatory on Mount Whitney, by which the variations of the sun's heat are measured, might be called an electrical thermometer. It is an apparatus so large as to occupy a building of considerable size, yet the essential part of its mechanism, which makes the record, is a fine thread of platinum, connected electrically with a balance of marvellous delicacy.

The beam of the balance is a filament of spun glass five inches long and less in diameter than a hair, in the middle of which is a concave mirror as big as a large pinhead. This mirror (which weighs two and a half milligrammes—about as much as the hind legs of a fly) is fastened upon a square piece cut from a dragon fly's wing, and the whole affair is suspended from a fibre of spun quartz crystal two-feet long and one five-thousandth of an inch thick.

Habits of the Fly

By J. O. Cobb, M. D.

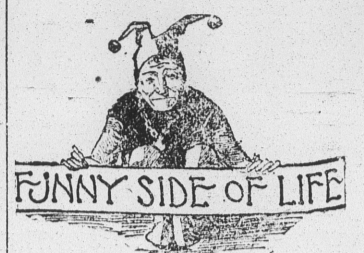
LET me picture to you some of the habits of the fly, and then we shall see if it is unreasonable to believe that he is an important factor in the spread of disease. Turn about you and see the swarms of flies upon decaying vegetable matter—in the garbage cans, on the manure piles, everywhere.

No Monster So Dangerous

By Hannis Taylor, former Minister to Spain.

I KNOW of no monster so dangerous to the life of a republic, as one who can in a moment throw bewildering millions in one direction or the other, especially when those millions grow out of abnormal conditions that should not exist.

IN STYLE.
In elbow sleeves and elbow gloves
And elbow hats,
She's clad just like all other doves.



Him—I would die for you! Her—Would you? Well, that's about the only chance there is of us two becoming one.—Cleveland Leader.

"I dropped some money in the market today," announced Mr. Wyss at the dinner-table. "Again?" exclaimed Mrs. Wyss, reproachfully. "No," replied Mr. Wyss, mournfully, "a loss."—Judge.

"Gosh, all hemlock!" exclaimed the first farmer, "ain't yet struck water yet? How deep hev ye gone?" "About a hundred feet," replied the other, placidly. "Ain't ye discouraged?" "O! I dunno, I can't say I ain't git-ting along well."—Philadelphia Press.

"I'm afraid," said Mrs. Oldcastle, "Mr. Harkins would have been better off if he had never inherited that money from his aunt. He is rapidly becoming a voluptuary." "Do you think so?" replied her hostess. "But nebber hed of got that way anyhow. Most men begin to fatten up when they get along about his age."—Chicago Record-Herald.

The Almighty Dollar.
A recent headline, "Rule of the Dollar," has suggested the inquiry, Who originated the familiar phrase, "the almighty dollar?" It was Washington Irving, in "The Creole Village," which he published in 1837. The phrase became so popular and excited so much controversy in consequence of a doubt whether the adjective was irreverent that its author had to explain eighteen years later that he intended "no irreverence, even to the dollar, which he is well aware is becoming daily more and more an object of worship." "Dollar" is certainly one of the world's great words now, and it is difficult to realize that it only means "valley." The "thaler" having been named after the Joachimsthal, in Bohemia, in whose valley it was first coined in the sixteenth century.—New York World.

A Step on the Ladder.
Assistant to the president of large railroad and industrial corporations is becoming a recognized office. The position is one much sought after by young men of brains and influence, for the duties educate them for the presidency itself. Although the rank is usually below that of vice president, the opportunities for learning business and administrative methods are unique, especially if the president be well over in years and inclined to relinquish some of his activities. The sons of railroad magnates and of financiers of large caliber are finding their way into these positions, for by this means the drudgery of climbing up from the bottom rung of the ladder is obviated.—New York Journal of Commerce.

A Malign Wife.
He—Do you know there is to be a grand ball for charity, and I am thinking of taking you. Have you ever danced for charity?
She—Certainly. Do you not remember that even before we were engaged I never refused your invitations?—Translated for Times-Atlantic Tales from "H. Motte per R. More."