

County Register

W. H. D. AKE.
BOSTON, MISSOURI

THE DOLL THAT GREW.

Two children sat in a window low,
Where golden rays were fast to creep,
A cradle swung, now fast to sleep,
Rocking a doll to sleep.

His chubby face, and his ringlets brown,
His laughing eyes, and his dimples fair—
A sunbeam, lost in the light, look down,
Gilding her yellow hair.

I said: "Good-by, happy ones, good-by!
For I come back, little girl and boy,
Your laugh will fade to a common sigh,
Mocking this childish joy."

"Their eyes looked grave for a moment's thought,
"But could not take in the meaning cold."
"She shook her head, till his brown crown
Caught the light of the window gold."
"Showers of curling gold."
"When you come back, will you be so tall,
"He said, "and proud." "Yes, we will," said
"The doll will grow, and the cradle—all
"Lovely as they can be."

And far away in the world of life,
In dreams and fancies, that picture fair—
"The girl's sweet face and the boy's glad pride—
"Followed to every where.

Al, could it stay, could it always be,
"But each joy falls with a broken wing;
"Then night comes on, and it cannot see,
"Meaning, it cannot sing.

With years of winter upon my head,
"With hair summer upon my face,
"I came, by haunting, along the life line,
"Back to the self-same place.

The same sun struggled and wandered through,
"And glistened raptures of brown and gold;
"The doll had grown, and the cradle, too,
"Lovelier than of old.

The two sat still in the window low,
"Their hearts so full of a love so deep—
"A cradle swung, so soft and slow,
"Rocking their child to sleep."
—Edward P. Oldham.

MODINGTON'S MONEY.

BY WILL LEBENBERG.

It was a nasty business that I got into on my last trip to Rio, but it was all the fault of Ruggy, or I might say, it was the fault of the bad rum he had been drinking; for Ruggy would drink, and I'd see that he always picked out the richest stuff he could get his hands on.

Our ship, the Flying Fish, had been lying in port at Rio for nearly a week, and as Capt. Hope was very easy with his men we came and went pretty much as we pleased. There was not a day that Ruggy did not go ashore, and though he managed to keep pretty straight when under the eyes of the captain, I knew well enough that he was drinking more rum than was good for him.

But drinking was not the only fault Ruggy had, for, once let him get filled up on rum, and he would be seized with an almost insane passion for gambling. At such times he seemed totally devoid of all reason and would willingly stake his last copper on any game, no matter how great the odds might be against him. I have seen him bet his clothes, his last plug of tobacco, and even his allowance of grog—which was saying a great deal in Ruggy's case—upon the most trivial incidents of the voyage, such as the way the wind would blow the next day, whether there would be clouds or sunshine, and he would sometimes go as far as to bet on the direction which the next gull seen would be flying, such was his passion for gambling. But let me come to my story.

Among the few who were to take passage with us for New York was an old man by the name of Richard Modington. He had amassed quite a snug fortune in some speculating schemes in Rio, it was said, and was now returning to his native land to enjoy the fruits of his labor. His luggage had been sent to the Flying Fish, and, as he was an old friend of Capt. Hope, he came aboard himself, though we were not to sail for several days. He spent most of his time in his cabin, for it was whispered that he brought a large amount of money with him and wanted to be near it.

I had been knocking about the city in the afternoon, and about sunset, as I was returning to the ship, I met Ruggy. He carried a small hand satchel and seemed greatly excited. I could see that he had been drinking, and I would have left him, but he held on to me, saying that he wished to talk to me on important business. Reluctantly I followed him into a brightly-lighted public house, and, passing to the rear end of the room, we entered a stall and took seats at a table. My companion ordered some refreshments and wine, insisting that he would not disclose his business with me till we had eaten and drunk.

I was but a youth then, and though I had never tasted strong drink, I was urged on by Ruggy, I drank a glass of the wine. The taste was pleasant and the effect very strange to induce me to take the next glass. I kept this up till my brain was in a whirl and my senses benumbed. Then it was that Ruggy began to unfold his object in detaining me.

He first opened the satchel and drew therefrom a large roll of United States money and a bag filled with Spanish doubloons. He held them before my eyes and began to talk wildly, incoherently, of some vast fortune he was soon to gain through their agency. My senses were too much benumbed by the wine to feel any great surprise at seeing so much wealth in his possession, yet I sat stupidly waiting for him to explain.

"It's old Modington's money," he said, at length, in a hoarse whisper. "But I didn't steal it. Oh, no, Ruggy has never been guilty of that—not if he knows it! I've only borrowed it, Jack, my boy, so you need not look so frightened."

"But—but what do you mean to do with it?" I asked. "And how did old Modington happen to loan you so much money?"

"He closed one eye, stared at me with the other and nodded knowingly, a cunning look coming over his countenance.

"I ain't no fool, Jack," he said, laying his hand on my shoulder. "Don't think I was fool enough to ask him, for he is not the man to see into a plan like mine. He'll lend it, but it will be all mine when he's dead. He'll get his money back, every cent, and he will be none the wiser, though we will be richer by thousands—yes, thousands! Why, then, should we not take fortune at its word? I'm not the man to sit down

like a sluggard and watch the golden die run by without making some effort—not I."

As he ceased speaking he arose and half dragged me through an arched doorway into a large room filled with a crowd of people, who pressed eagerly about a number of gaming tables.

Pressing me into a corner, he said in hurried whispers:

"Now, look here, Jack, I am not the covet to go back on a mate—not I; so just you do as I tell you, and we'll go out of this room like Jews."

Well, he then went on to tell, in a rather incoherent and excited manner, how he could, in a short time, by the use of the money he had in his possession, win enough at the roulette table to make us independently rich for life. He had a sort of system of playing the game, he went on to say—a system of doubling the bet whenever he lost—that could not help win in the end. It was as plain as black and white, and there could be no chance of losing in the run. My mind was too much muddled by the wine to follow all he said, but something of his reckless enthusiasm was infused into me by his excited words and manner, and without stopping to count the cost I was ready to join him in his mad scheme.

Thrusting a handful of doubloons into my hand, he signaled me to follow him. We made our way through the crowd to a table, around which a number of people were gathered, watching with eager interest the turning of a large wheel in a sunken disk in its center. Each player had a large pile of coin before him and the betting was lively. This was the first game of its kind I had ever seen, and I stood motionless for some time watching its progress before I could see into its mysteries.

But not so with Ruggy. He seemed perfectly at home at the table from the start and began betting heavily. I stood clutching the gold in my hand, watching with bated breath as he staked heavy sums—to be either won or swept away in the next breath. It was a strange and new sensation to me—this watching of the rapid turning of fortune's wheel, and there was something in the very uncertainty of the result that was inexplicably fascinating.

At length I ventured to drop a doubloon on the red, but a turn of the wheel and it was swept away. Then I tried another, only to see it meet with the fate of the first. I stopped now, discouraged at the result of my first ventures, and fixed my attention on Ruggy, who was winning heavily.

His face was aflame with excitement, and there was a wild light in his eye as he raked in stake after stake of shining doubloons. This continued for nearly an hour, but then fortune forsook him, and in a short time he lost every dollar he had.

I shall never forget the look of disappointment and wild despair that came over his face as he turned to me.

"It's all gone, Jack!" he said, in a strangely hoarse and unnatural voice. "God help me—what will become of me now! I took the money from old Modington's cabin, and he'll never let me hear of it again, if he catches me!"

He gave vent to a low moan and leaned upon my arm, his whole form trembling, his face as pale as death.

"Come, let us leave the accursed place," I said, attempting to lead him away; but at that moment his eyes fell on the gold coins in my hand, and with a staggered toward the table.

"One more chance!" he breathed, a fierce light leaping into his eyes. "One more chance, Jack, and pray that it may not fail me!"

He leaned over and dropped the handful of gold on the table, then started back and, agitated cry upon his lips, his eyes fixed upon some object across the table. I glanced up and saw old Modington standing with his restless, burning eyes fixed upon us.

The next moment I followed Ruggy as he rushed wildly from the room. How we passed the night I cannot tell. It all seems like some strange dream to me now.

Daylight the next morning found us crouching in the shadows of a deserted building of the outskirts of the city, weak and haggard, the damp winds from the sea chilling us to the marrow.

We were both sober enough now, but nothing could undo the dreadful folly of the night. How I reproached myself for the part I had played in the dreadful business!

Penitence and fugitives from justice in a strange land, whether could we go? My mental agony at that moment could not have been greater.

Ruggy laid his hand on my shoulder.

"Jack," he said, in a shaky voice, "it's all my fault. I deserve to be punished. Come, we must go back to the ship. I'll tell the whole story. They shall take you back. And I—they can send me to prison."

Tears came into his eyes as he spoke, and the hand he laid on my shoulder trembled with emotion.

"No, Ruggy, you shall not do that," I said, touched by his words and manner. "I, too, am to blame. I should have saved you from this folly, instead of becoming a party to it. But we will go back to the ship, confess all, and share the blame alike."

We got a shore boat to take us to the Flying Fish. The captain and mate had gone ashore, but we found Modington in his cabin.

He eyed us keenly as we came in.

"Mr. Modington," said Ruggy, "I stole six thousand dollars from your cabin and lost it all at the gaming table last night. I don't suppose it will make the crime any the less when I tell you that I fully intended to return the money as soon as I had won what I was sure of winning. But your money is gone, and I am here to give myself up. Do with me what you will."

"I, too, am to blame," I said. "He had been drinking, and I should have saved him, but I only aided him."

"A nice pair," said Modington, eying us severely. "You know what this business means, I suppose?"

"Yes," replied Ruggy, feebly.

"And you both doubtless know that it is my duty to hand you over to the law?"

Ruggy sank down on a seat and passed one hand over his pallid face, while tears gleamed in his eyes.

"It may be my duty to give you over to the law," went on Modington, "but I have never been noted for doing my duty; that's one of my faults. No one knows anything about this business

but we three; suppose I give you fellows a chance—what then?"

"I—I don't deserve it," said Ruggy, breaking down and covering his face with his hands. "And—there is the money; it's gone—"

"Never mind," replied Modington, the lines in his face less hard than at first. "Listen, now: I was pretty well myself in my younger days, and more than once I came near being ruined by the drinking and gambling habit, so I know something of how you feel. I suspected that you had taken my money, and I followed you to the gaming hall. You saw me and came away, leaving the two hundred dollars on the table where you dropped it when you saw me. Well, I saw that it was the last you had, so I thought it little use to follow you. But in your excitement, you did not drop the gold on the red, where you had been playing, but on one of the high numbers. Well, the wheel was turned and the number won. I claimed the bet, as you were gone, and as they knew me well, they paid it without a murmur. The bet had been on the spot where it had to be paid thirty-two to one, and so out of the small stake of a couple of hundreds, they were compelled to pay me six thousand and four hundred dollars. That gives me back all you took and leaves a balance in your favor of six hundred dollars, which you may have at the end of the voyage. No one else, ourselves, need ever know of this affair. I think you both have suffered enough; but let this be a warning to you, and remember, gambling and drinking are the first steps to crime."

We tried to express our gratitude, but he said, with a wave of his hand:

"Never mind. I have a cause for complaint, and you have done more for me under like circumstances."

Well, the whole affair was kept a secret, as Modington had promised. But Ruggy was completely broken of gambling; and as for drinking, neither of us has touched a drop since, nor could we be induced to take a cent of the money which Modington wanted to turn over to us at the end of the voyage.

I shall never forget my first and last drink, and to this day the very smell of wine makes me sick and brings vividly to my mind the most miserable hours of my life.—N. Y. Ledger.

HOW LOBSTERS ARE HATCHED.

LA Water whose Temperature Must Be Fifty-Five Degrees.

"During the season that has just closed we have hatched 75,000,000 lobsters, 45,000,000 codfish, and 5,000,000 catfish, or flounders," stated Superintendent John Maxwell, of the United States fish hatchery station at Wood's Hole. "The lobster eggs are put into glass jars, each of which holds 75 ounces; they are placed upon a table very similar to the one used to hold the cod-hatching boxes. There are two glass tubes which enter the jars at the top, which is closed with a porcelain cap. One of these tubes goes to within a fraction of an inch of the bottom of the jar, while the other enters only a short distance from the top and just above the eggs of the lobster."

"The one which goes nearly to the bottom keeps the eggs moving at a lively rate, and as they are moving that hatches them. As soon as the egg is hatched the young lobster, swimming about, rises to the top of the jar, and by the siphon is drawn into the receiving jar, which is covered with linen scrim, which allows the water to escape when it becomes filled and still holds the young lobster captive. The eggs are still kept stirred up by the fresh supply of water until the young are alive have been hatched and drawn into the big jar. It depends upon the temperature of the water, the same as with the cold eggs. The required temperature is 55 degrees and the time usually required is from two to four days. We begin to hatch the lobster eggs on April 1. Several years ago an experiment in hatching eggs was made during the winter months, but it failed at this station. Eggs were received on December 12 and continued to be taken until January 25.

"During this period 148 lobsters were stripped, yielding 1,717,700 eggs, which were placed in the hatching jars, the temperature of the water being 45 degrees. None of these eggs, however, began hatching until May 23 following, the water being 54 degrees, and on the 6th and 7th of June 856,500 fry were released in local waters. The period of incubation, therefore, ranged from 5 1/2 to 4 1/2 months, the loss being over 50 per cent."—Boston Globe.

The Effect of Environment.

The following story was told at a woman's club meeting. It was told to illustrate the effect of environment, to prove the powerful influence that surroundings may have upon human endeavor and achievement: A party of eleven once had the privilege of inspecting a factory devoted to the manufacture of spool thread. Their circle was the proprietor of the factory, which is one of the largest and most complete in the world. But what most impressed the visitors was not the size and evident prosperity of the plant, but the beauty of the place. Not only was every hygienic and commercial comfort attended to, but, so far as possible, every aesthetic consideration was observed as well. Around each wall of the spacious, well-windowed apartments where the work was done ran a broad, exquisitely painted frieze. The figures upon the frieze were a dainty dancing company, beautiful in color as well as in form, and fit to grace the walls of a dwelling rather than a mill. Finally one of the women, a practical, plain-spoken dame, asked the mill owner why he made beauty such an object. "I don't see the use of a frieze like that in a factory like this," she said bluntly. "Why do you have it?" The mill owner smiled. "Well, come to think of it, it's a very practical reason," he said. "I find that it makes better thread."—N. Y. Evening Sun.

—How noiseless is the growth of corn! Watch it night and day for a week, and you will never see it growing; but return after two months, and you will find it all whitening for the harvest. Such, and so imperceptible in the stages of their motion, are the victories of the press.—De Quincey.

Pleasure and pain spring not so much from the nature of things as from our manner of considering them. Pleasure, especially, is never an inevitable effect of particular circumstances. Largely that is pleasure which is thought to be so.—Rovens.

EXTRAORDINARY SITUATION.

Although the Richest This Country Has Made Itself the Poorest Nation in the World.

The New York World, remarking upon the assurance of the syndicate that it would come to the assistance of the treasury from time to time, as occasion may warrant, exclaims: "But what an extraordinary situation it is when the treasury of the richest nation in the world must helplessly lean upon the purchased favor of a syndicate and the charity of the banks!"

Be sure! Be sure! does our contemporary call richest. According to those who believe in the single gold standard, there are no other riches but gold. By adopting this standard we have made ourselves the poorest nation in the world, for we have deliberately lowered the price of all our products. We have depreciated the price of our products, and we are now told that by raising the price we would depreciate our currency. In other words, higher prices would give us an "unsound" dollar. We hear very little of unsound wheat and cotton in this connection; we have depreciated the price of our products, and we are now told that by raising the price we would depreciate our currency. In other words, higher prices would give us an "unsound" dollar. We hear very little of unsound wheat and cotton in this connection; we have depreciated the price of our products, and we are now told that by raising the price we would depreciate our currency. 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