

A SONG

The dewy spring time lingers,
The birds sing on the trees;
There is something in the air,

As in some chord of music
A pain too deep for tears,
So now the very beauty
Of the saddened spring appears.

Still let the dewy dawning
Arise for hearts that wake,
And the twilight shadows deepen
O'er the human heart's awake.

Still let them tell beneath
Of the joys that are to be,
But thou wert all to me, love,
Oh, thou wert all to me.

I never hunted a deer, but I think I can
Understand how any man, thrilled by the
excitement of a long chase, full of the
ardor of pursuit, giving the game all the
fair chances of the field, himself enduring
fatigue, thirst, pain in the chase, matching
his own endurance, patience and skill
against the speed, strength and instinct
of the game, can at last bring his rifle to
his shoulder and shoot down the entire
monarch bounding away for life. But to
be in a boat, hidden away in the darkness,
crouching back in the shadows of the
glowering doory, waiting through long
hours of darkness, listening to every
sound, gun in hand, finger on the trigger,
kidding in cold and mist, silent, motionless,
waiting, watching until the beautiful
creature comes timidly to the water,
lifts its startled head to gaze with bright,
curious eyes at the light that is death,
creeping nearer and nearer—to kill this
creature than at pistol range, in cold
blood—gosh! this is not hunting. It is
a deed of darkness worthy of the gloomy
shadows that hide the perpetrator.—Robert
J. Burdette.

An Odd Method of Bookbinding.
The British museum has a capital way
of binding its books and collections ac-
cording to the color of the contents. Of
course, theology has thoroughly estab-
lished the claims to be bound in blue.
Poetry, one would say without hesitation,
should be in pale yellow, a soft suffusion
not quite defined half way from green to
being red. Then it stands to sense that
natural history should appear in green
covers, like nature herself, with which it
deals. History being a record in the main
of bloody events—the struggle to survive—
should monopolize the red. Novels
might come in pink, or in particular mot-
tled jacket, biography in sober black. This
is a hint for private collectors as well.
Browning should have a color all to him-
self—a mixture of theology, philosophy,
biography and poetry. Bind the realists
in flesh color.—Globe-Democrat.

Society Women in Washington.
The duties of a society woman in Wash-
ington are not light. In fact, the govern-
ment ought to furnish a private secretary
to every woman who tries to pay her
social obligations at the capital. Says the
wife of Justice Miller: "The science and
practice of social bookkeeping have been
reduced to a nicety. The first thing is to
enter the names of all ladies calling and
leaving their cards, their addresses when
given, the day they called, the day they
receive and something about them when
they are strangers to you. This is the
foundation of your scheme. Then you
follow it up by crediting your return visit
and making any notes respecting the par-
ties to guide your future action."—New
York World.

The Wicked Reporter's Reward.
St. Peter—You were a wicked reporter,
I see, and only went to church when sent
there to take sermons. How many ser-
mons did you report?
Reporter—One a week for twenty years;
twenty times fifty-two is four twice eight's
sought, twice two is four, twice five are
ten, 1,040 sermons, sir.

"How long can I stay there?"
"Forever."—Omaha World.

Not the Music of the Spheres.
"My dear," said a sick husband as he
lay with his eyes closed, "I think my
time has come at last. I can hear strains
of the sweetest music that ever mortal
ear."
"That's a little German band on the
street, John."
"That's so," he said, rousing himself,
"tell 'em to move on."—New York Sun.

Care of Canaries.
It is said that canaries and other birds
may be freed from insects by placing a
white cloth over the cage at dusk. During
the night the insects will leave the birds
for the cloth, and in the morning they
can be destroyed by placing the cloth in
hot water. A repetition of the process
will soon clear away the pests.—Chicago
Herald.

The Science of Paths.
Proprietor of fine grounds (to young
landscape gardener)—Have you ever
studied eye—pathology?
Landscape Gardener—No, sir.
Proprietor—Well, then, you won't do
I must have a man who thoroughly under-
stands laying out paths.—Burlington Free
Press.

The Word "Checkmate."
It may be interesting to chess players
to know the origin of the word "check
mate." According to Notes and Queries,
it is literally the Arabic "shek mat," the
shek (king) is dying.

Houdin's Gift of "Second Sight."
It is almost astonishing to a student of
the history of conjuring to find, as he
surely will, that there is hardly a trick
of modern performers which does not owe
either its existence or modern development
to Robert Houdin. It was only a few years
ago that a writer in one of our leading
monthly magazines, himself a conjurer of
some local repute, stated that he had
learned "second sight" from a Polish Jew,
who had also taught it to Heller, and this
anecdotal Hebrew was made to affirm

that he had "dreamed it," much as Mr.
Stevenson tells us he dreams his marvellous
romances. The fact is that Houdin was
undoubtedly the father of this clever de-
ception, which, for nearly half a century,
has never failed to amuse and bewilder
audiences all over the world. It was on
Feb. 12, 1846, that the following announce-
ment appeared in his programme for the
first time:

"In this performance Robert Houdin's
son, who is gifted with a marvellous
second sight, after his eyes have been covered
by a thick bandage, will designate every
object presented him by the audience."

Houdin was first led to the invention of
this trick by observing his children at
play one day. The younger had bandaged
his elder brother's eyes and made him
guess the objects he touched, and when
the latter happened to guess aright they
changed places. The quick-witted French-
man, ever on the lookout for novelties to
be added to his entertainment, saw here
the germ of a great discovery; and after
applying himself diligently to working
out the problem, succeeded in laying the
foundation on which Heller and others
subsequently erected more elaborate
structures.—Horace Townsend in Phila-
delphia Times.

To Look at Pictures Properly.
The collector who has seen his choicest
prints turned over by uninitiated hands
while he has been forced by courtesy to
control his chagrin and to resist the im-
pulse to seize the precious plates and con-
ceal them from unworthy use, will appre-
ciate fully the force of what we say. Most
people might almost as well give the
simple views with which comic almanacs
are adorned as set down to examine a por-
tfolio of priceless etchings. Indeed, gen-
erally they would be bored by the latter
and entertained by the former.

The great mistake made by the major-
ity of persons is to suppose that no special
training is needed to see pictures properly.
The reception of any work of art presup-
poses previous and special training. It is
necessary to learn the artist's language;
to train one's perceptions to acute and in-
stant sensitiveness to the means by which
it is sought to produce an impression. If
one is to examine photographs with no
other end save to decide whether the re-
semblance to the original object is exact,
perhaps no great amount of special prepar-
ation is needed; but with a picture which
is anything more than a graphic diagram,
special education is a necessity. How few
persons ever take an engraving and sit
down deliberately to study it, to endeavor
to discover why the artist disposed his
figures and accessories in a given man-
ner; why the light and shade are disposed
thus; why the engraver has used certain
lines in reproducing certain parts of the
plate, and so on for the rest; and yet
everybody, as we said at the start, sup-
poses he knows how to look at a picture.
—Boston Courier.

Caste Among the Hindus.
The rajah was fond of smoking, and he
made an arbitrary distinction between
cigarettes and anything else that passed
his lips. He would have been horrified
if I had laid my finger on his hookah or
touched his drinking vessel, but to the
unclean hands that had fingered the
Egyptian cigarette that he was smoking
he paid no heed. Such exceptions to
caste rules are growing more numerous
every day. All drugs and medicines have
long been taken by Hindus without blame,
and in some places ice and soda water are
consumed by Rajputs who would not
drink water drawn for them by an En-
glishman from the well. Caste prejudices
have always been capable of adapting
themselves to necessities or very strong
desires. If they were enforced with a
rigid regard for logic, the system would
be impossible and would have broken
down, but caste, in some aspects, is noth-
ing more than public opinion among the
Hindus, generally tyrannical and back-
ward, but much more capable of improve-
ment than a rigid code of rules based
upon a principle.—Pall Mall Gazette.

The Smallpox in Mexico.
There is one peculiarity about the Mex-
ican people which I do not recollect ever
having seen in print, and that is their utter
disregard of the disease so dreaded by
Americans—smallpox. I have been in
Durango several years, and it is quite
rare there to see children in an ad-
vanced stage of the disease playing on the
streets with perfectly healthy children.
To say that I was astounded by faintly
expressing my feelings when I first went
to that country, but I soon learned that
the disease was considered an especial
dispensation of Providence for the cleans-
ing away of the wickedness of humanity,
and those who pass through it are consid-
ered as among the purified.

Smallpox is not nearly so virulent in
Mexico as we have it in this country, and
there is no such thing as vaccination
thought of by native Mexicans. I could
never find any vaccine virus there, and
had to send to the States for it. Ameri-
cans take the precaution of vaccinating,
and I can call to mind but one fatal case
outside of natives during my stay in Mex-
ico—that one a young English officer who
fell a victim to the disease a short time
after arriving in the country. If there is
such a place as a pest house in Mexico I
never heard of it.—Globe-Democrat.

Use of Porcelain Shot.
Under this name small white globules
of porcelain are made in Munich. They
are made to take the place of ordinary
lead shot used for cleaning wine and
medicine bottles, as porcelain is entirely free
from the objection of producing lead con-
tamination, which is often the result
when ordinary shot is used. Their hard-
ness and rough surface producing, when
shaken, greater friction, adapt the porce-
lain shot well for quickly cleaning dirty
and greasy bottles, and, as they are not
acted upon by acids or alkalis, almost any
liquid can be used.—American Journal of
Pharmacy.

Venezuela's Cable Railway.
A cable railway is to be built from
Caracas to La Guayra, Venezuela, under
special concessions from the Venezuelan
government. Caracas is the capital of
Venezuela and La Guayra is the principal
seaport of the republic. They are only
about sixteen miles apart, but are sepa-
rated by high mountains, which heretofore
prevented easy communication. It is
proposed to tunnel the mountains
and carry the cable road through the
tunnel. The company guarantee to finish
the road in three years, and to charge a
tariff varying from ninety-six cents to
fifty-seven cents for each passenger.—
Boston Transcript.

The Editor's Frank Confession.
We are under obligation to state pa-
pers for kindly interests manifested in the
state of our health during our late illness,
which the "comps" who were running
The Midweek at the time charitably an-
nounced as "pneumonia." The attending
physician has since pronounced it a plain
case of election booze. But thanks, aw-
fully, just the same.—Ozay Solid Mul-
doon.

With a Dreamy, Emersonian Air.
"Mr. Cahokia," said the young lady
from Boston, softly, as she drew her
skirts carefully away from the sides of the
boat and gazed with a dreamy, Em-
ersonian air at the stalwart youth who
was handling the oars, "have you never felt
that aching void, that irrefragable long-
ing, that imperious inward cry that will
not be silenced when the soul realizes its
own isolation and knows that somewhere
in the trackless deep of space its
kindred soul is flying on restless wing,
mayhap at a remote distance, peradven-
ture almost within its grasp?"

"Why—of course, Miss Howjames," re-
plied the St. Louis young man, rather
vaguely, as he changed the course of the
boat to relieve his eyes from the sun's
dazzling glare reflected from the specta-
cles in front of him and noted with some
uneasiness that he was several hundred
yards from shore and a mile from any
other boat. "I have sometimes felt, as you
say, that sort of—er—gomeness—in the
early spring, you know—nothing but
ham and eggs, you know, at the res-
taur."

"Oh, Mr. Cahokia!" broke forth the
young lady, impulsively. "I am sure you
have often wished, with the poet, for
some little isle with wings, and that you
and your soul's mate within its fairy
bowers were wafted off to seas unknown,
where not a pulse should beat but ours,
and we might live, love—but what an I
sayings!"

"I think," said Mr. Cahokia, looking
despairingly up and down the stream and
wiping his brow nervously with his hand-
kerchief, "you were saying something
about islands and seas. When it comes
to geography, Miss Howjames, I don't
know beans."

"You don't know what, Mr. Cahokia?"
"Beans."

"Do you dislike beans, sir?"
"Can't go 'em at all, Miss Howjames."

"Mr. Cahokia," said the Boston young
lady, with chilling haughtiness, "I think
I will go ashore, if you please."—Chi-
cago Tribune.

Patrons of the London "Tallyman."
The "tallyman" plays no inconsiderable
part in the disasters of the poor, especially
in the little household where the wife is
vain or thriftless. The tallyman or travel-
ing draper is, as most of my readers are
probably aware, a superior kind of hawk
or an inferior kind of commercial traveler
—whichever you like. In purchasing and
selling it was at one time customary for
traders to have two slabs and to mark
with a note on each the number of goods
delivered. These tallies (from the French
word taller, to cut) were the means by
which accounts were kept. The tally
shop is a shop at which goods are sold
to customers on account, the account
being kept in corresponding books. One is
called "the tally," and is kept by the buyer;
the other side is the "counter tally,"
and is kept by the seller. Sometimes a
card is given to the customer instead of a
book. The tallyman calls with his goods,
his slabs and his household stuffs, and
displays his wares to the eyes
of the housewife.

Unfortunately, many poor men's wives
don't want much pressing. They see the
finery; there is only a small sum to be
paid down, and it will be so easy to pay
the rest by a small installment every
week! Many a good, honest workman
dates the day of his downfall to the tal-
lyman's first stroke of business with his
wife. The tallyman will be paid, and to
pay him the wife will sometimes pawn
her children's things and descend to
dodges which are the beginning of bad
times. The great desire of most of the
tallyman's lady customers is to keep the
fact that they are in debt from the hus-
band's knowledge, and a threat to tell the
husband or to apply to him for the money
is a very powerful weapon in the tal-
lyman's armory.—George K. Sims in Phila-
delphia Times.

Smallest Plant in the World.
The smallest flowering plant in exist-
ence is Wolffia microscopica, a native of
India. It belongs to the natural order
Lemnaceae, or the duck weed family. It
is almost microscopic in size, destitute of
proper stem, leaves and roots, but having
these organs merged in one, forming a
frond. There is, however, a prolongation
of the lower surface into a kind of rhizoid,
the purpose of which seems to be to en-
able the plant to float upright in the
water. The fronds multiply asexually by
sending out other fronds from a basilar
slit or concavity, and with such rapidity
does this take place that a few days often
suffices to produce from a few individuals
enough similar ones to cover many square
rods of water surface with the minute
green granules.

But small as these plants are, and sim-
ple in their structure, they yet produce
flowers. Two flowers are produced on a
plant, each of them very simple, one con-
sisting of a single stamen and the other of
a single pistil, both of which burst
through the upper surface of the frond.
There are two species of this genus grow-
ing in the eastern United States, one of
them, Wolffia Columbiensis, about one-
twenty-fifth of an inch in diameter, and
the other, W. Brasiliensis, somewhat
smaller in size. The American species has
been collected near Philadelphia.—Boston
Budget.

A Victim of Over Indulgence.
Lady Chatham's dog suffered from over
feeding, and became so violently ill that
its life was in danger. She sought ear-
nestly for a doctor for her favorite, and
at length heard that the blacksmith of
the village had said he could cure it. The
pet if he could be allowed to keep it
for three weeks.

My lady pleaded that she might be per-
mitted to visit her favorite two or three
times a week, but this was steadily re-
fused, and the man was at length allowed
to depart with the patient.

For the next three weeks much amuse-
ment was afforded in the smithy by the
sight of Lady Chatham's fat puddle tied
under the bellows in such a position that
it panted with the exertion of getting up
whenever the bellows was used. The
smith's boy also drove the creature round
the orchard three times a day, tied with a
string. This reduced the fat of the pam-
pered animal, while a simple diet of bread
and milk restored the tone of its digestive
organs. At the end of three weeks the
smith returned the dog fully recruited,
and received a handsome reward.—Rev.
William Quekett's "Sayings and Doings."

The Tender First Locomotive.
The abolition of the tender first loco-
motive is needed. Neither man nor beast
has half a chance for life when hit by the
perpendicular wall of the "tender." The
stands is simply struck down where he
stands and ground by the cruel wheels.
Struck by the sloping bars of the "pilot"
he may get off with a broken leg, or arm,
or fractured ribs—but at least he is
thrown out of the way of the modern Jag-
germatt, and does not have to be gathered
up in buckets and shovels.—Pittsburg
Bulletin.

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