

POETRY.

A TWILIGHT MEMORY.

Opportunity fell the twilight shadows  
And we saw the shadows of the night  
One by one, the lamps of night.

MISCELLANEOUS.

MINNIKIN AND IMMENSKOFF.

BY A SHOWMAN.

WHEN I traveled in the country with a caravan I had a giantess and a dwarf in my collection of natural curiosities. The dwarf was a Polish gentleman, Minnikin by name, the giantess a Russian, and we called her Immenskoft, the title of a music hall song which was in vogue at the time having suggested an appropriate alias for her. I did very well with her. The dwarf had an enormous head, and would sometimes refuse to attend the visitors at his levee; but the giantess was always at hand to supply his place on the list of attractions. She was the most amiable creature in the world and she would sit down on the ground and take quarters in her slipper, or speaking in round numbers—as we did it on the bills—eight feet six. The dwarf was three feet five, but he could bring himself down to three feet whenever he was in a good temper, and the show was full. In a general way, however, he, although he had been about three feet two, we had all traveled the Midland Circuit together, and we were going up North, when an accident happened—Minnikin and Immenskoft dropped.

on her for the failure of his own mercenary calculations. Forgetting that he had undertaken to cherish and protect her, he began to treat her with studied cruelty, though for a time this cruelty was not of such a character as made it easy for her to complain. He was simply neglectful, and appeared to be unconscious of the existence of his wife; and one day, when, having just touched her brow with his lips in response to her tearful entreaty, he was asked if that was the kiss of duty or the kiss of affection, he replied that he declined to answer the question. Thereupon he threw off all concealment and all restraint, and like the wolf in the fable, never suffered himself to be at a loss for the indulgence of his ill-will. Her housewife care was something remarkable, and when, after prying into all the angles of her being, he failed to find any dust under her carpet, he broom, he would turn round and bitterly taunt her with the parrot's o' Polani, as if she had had a hand in that crime; and he would positively ask her what she thought of the battle of Warsaw when she ventured to renege with him for playing at loo till two o'clock in the morning.

Sometimes his ill-treatment seemed to be dictated by the most unfeeling malignity. Under pretence of liking fresh-cooked food, he would order her to make a pudding for the dinner of a size proportionable to his own appetite and nature, and, having this meagre dish with the peculiar aid of great care and which he called his "fall to" on a portion that while it was ample enough to serve for his necessities, would not make her a decent mouthful. It was the same with the food of the mind; she had a taste for the beauties of our literature, and was accustomed to enjoy the classics in folio, but he insisted on her reading them in diamond editions.

These were the main points of the story which I have told in many ways, and in a manner that would have touched a heart of stone. When she paused she drew out a handkerchief to wipe her eyes, and in doing so, she accidentally brought out of her pocket a garment which turned out to be a pair of drawers, which she had found its way there in a manner she could not account for, except that she had taken it up unknowingly in one of those periodical fits of mental distraction caused by her husband's brutal behavior. It often happened, when she was reading, that she fell into little mistakes of this kind in tidying up the place; but Minnikin made no allowance for them; on the contrary, they served him as excuses for further ill-treatment, and he had once indulged in horrid excesses of violence because she had inadvertently made an apron-string of his dress-eravat.

could hit so hard, and he reflected on it with considerable profit. As for the gentle creature who had administered the lesson to him, as soon as her first excitement was over, she felt quite broken down, and she was obliged to close the show for the day, "in consequence of the indisposition of the proprietor," as the notice stated. After she had done that, and placed a little refreshment on a chair by Minnikin's bedside, she withdrew to her own room, where she spent some time in weeping over a love-letter written on the back of a railway ticket, and a little wisp of hair, which were the sole mementoes of affection she had ever received from her cruel lord.

She was sorry, and if the truth must be told, afraid, for such was the influence of habit that it was difficult for her to divest herself of the notion that Minnikin was physically, as well as morally, the most completely of irresistible force. She thought her present victory over him was entirely due to chance and her own will; and she fully expected to feel the weight of his atmospheric part of the sun. At the very moment these reflections were passing through her mind, Minnikin was asking himself in a kind of sickening terror whether it was likely she would beat him again that day. So that each, as we see, knowing nothing of the fight of the other, was ready to give in; and victory was only awaiting to declare for the first claimant.

When I called three days after, I found the dwarf for the first time at home, and attending to his work. He was industriously exhibiting himself as Napoleon and as Cupid, while his wife was taking the reports of his doings, and he was very happy. He took me in to see her "Poppi," and she seemed to be completely happy. They are both now at work in my shop again, and a more affectionate couple does not exist. She often thanks me for having Minnikin in a state of hearing, for teaching her that it is sometimes good to pay the oppressor in his own coin.—Cassell's Magazine.

advance of the combustion, and by watching it with the spectroscope, the appearance and disappearance of the lines indicate the exact moment at which the operation is completed. The spectroscope promises also to become a very valuable instrument in medical investigations into the evidences of criminality. Blood-stains may be detected by it with the utmost accuracy. Mr. Sorby has shown that the one-thirtieth part of a grain of the red-coloring matter of a blood-stain may be detected with the greatest certainty. But it is in its celestial applications that the spectroscope performs its most wonderful achievements. The constitution of the sun, for example, which, ten years ago, was a matter of the purest conjecture, is now a matter of definite and positive knowledge. We know that it is composed of its chemical elements—not as completely, but with the same certainty, as we know the chemical constitution of the earth. Sixteen of the elements with which we are familiar upon earth, are proved also to be present in the atmosphere of the sun. They are the following: sodium, calcium, barium, magnesium, iron, chromium, nickel, copper, zinc, strontium, cadmium, cobalt, hydrogen, manganese, aluminum, thallium.

Matters were in this state, when Immenskoft, with scarcely concealed terror, entered the room where Minnikin lay, in the morning, and, having taken a seat at the table, he would order her to make a pudding for the dinner of a size proportionable to his own appetite and nature, and, having this meagre dish with the peculiar aid of great care and which he called his "fall to" on a portion that while it was ample enough to serve for his necessities, would not make her a decent mouthful. It was the same with the food of the mind; she had a taste for the beauties of our literature, and was accustomed to enjoy the classics in folio, but he insisted on her reading them in diamond editions.

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equally so to the stomach. Now, candy is but little less irritating than pepper; it creates the same redness, the same grade of inflammation, and there is the same demand for water to quench the inciting disposition of the stomach; the healthy digestion ceases; the appetite fails; the blood becomes poor and watery, and the tissues are all impoverished. It is not the sugar that does the harm, for pure sugar is healthy; it forms part of the milk of the infant, and enters largely into many of our best vegetables. It is the sugar mixed with various other articles, often poisonous, and the process of manufacture that render candy so injurious.

The presence of the green-eye monster is as frequently perceived in high as in low estate. Pretty young ladies are, it is said, peculiarly liable to it. It creeps into their hearts in such insidious disguises that the artless little beauties are not aware of its existence until it crops out in such passionate excesses that it frightens them to complete it. No one could possibly see a way that a young lady on Franklin street, Albany, became amenable to its influence. For some time past she has regarded a young man, a special favor. Charlie possesses many attractive qualities. He dresses in the best mode, wears an "Alpine" and cultivates a moustache. Yet he is fickle in disposition, and while his lips are attuned to the harmony of sweet words, and a low, passionate voice, he is ready to utter the fiercest imprecations. He is a miser, and he has a habit of stealing a little gold coin from the pocket of his admirer. He is a miser, and he has a habit of stealing a little gold coin from the pocket of his admirer.

As the town enlarges and the confectionery shops increase, I see more and more the ill effects of candies on children. "My child is so restless and thirsty at night," said Mrs. B. "What can be the matter with her stomach?" "Do you allow her to eat candy?" I questioned. "O dear! yes," was the reply. "I wouldn't deprive her of the happiness of anticipating and receiving the package of candy which Grandma brings every night, for anything. She is so fond of candy that she often prefers it to her dinner. But you wouldn't believe how much water she drinks at night. I always place a large pitcher by my bed, and sometimes she will drink half a gallon of water. And these things make her so restless and wakeful that we are all disturbed by her. Can't you give her some medicine for her thirst?"

tion, he informs us that during his career as fighting editor of various newspapers he has succeeded in biting off some sixteen noses and twenty ears, and gouged out nearly forty eyes, having then now all healthily preserved in a glass bottle, which he is willing to exhibit to any one who desires it. He also informs us that, besides being a good biter, he has broken several arms and legs of his numerous antagonists. He has also killed six men by throwing them out of the editorial window, and has broken three spinal columns by knocking the owners thereof down several flights of stairs. He is an infidel, and has no fears of a hereafter.

He proposes to conduct his department on the barber's plan: first come, first served. All orders will be promptly executed, and gentlemen can examine a map of Mount Auburn Cemetery while waiting for their turn. State Constables served first, snickers next, after which indignation members of the dramatic profession will be attended to. Weapons constantly on hand, for which there will be no charge. He will not undertake to give explanations for the first interview, for the reason that they will not be required; her noses, ears, &c., will be properly labeled and put carefully away for future reference of friends. Dead bodies properly buried at relatives' expense.

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FACTS AND FIGURES.

A MUTIFUL son in California has had his father arrested for profanity. PHILADELPHIA has shipped 15,754,470 gallons of petroleum during the present year. THE Baptists of Germany have increased to ninety-six churches and over 17,000 members. THE French Government has authorized the French Cable Company to lay a wire from Brest to England. UP to January 1, 1869, eight life insurance companies in Hartford, Conn., had issued 153,333 policies. A BOSTON iron and steel factory has a monopoly of the business, and sells 4,000,000 or 5,000,000 per day. THE model of the bust of the late James T. Brady, ordered by the New York Law Institute, is completed. THE Russian Railroad Gazette says that Russia has already paid up to \$200,000,000 in bonds to American railroad contractors. A COLUMBIAN in Iowa City preaches three times every Sunday, each time in a different locality, and during the week cultivates a farm of 160 acres. A SUIPER garter-stake with two blades, each exactly alike, was composed of such distance from the neck, was killed near Nashville, a few days ago. THE robe worn by Princess Louisa, of Sweden, on the occasion of her marriage to the Prince Royal of Denmark, was made of Berlin wool, and cost \$24,000. THE father of a deserted woman of St. Louis has obtained a judgment against the recent husband for bed and board for the last two years, amounting to \$1,380.50. IN a recent seizure of a champagne making establishment in New York, the articles found on hand were four barrels of champagne, one barrel of sparkling wine, one barrel of stout, and one barrel of whisky. A T. STEWART says his business never was better than this year, and that he never advertised so much before. He gives his advertisements credit for keeping his trade lively in dull times. A MAX in Bridgeport, formerly a soldier, has a walking stick composed of 300 pieces of leather, and made from a pair of old boots owned and worn by President Lincoln previous to his assassination. THE first instance of the marriage of a Hindoo widow occurred in Bombay on the 27th inst. The bride was a Hindu widow, and during the year. In December, 1858, there remained nearly 7,000 persons in the various city prisons, poor houses, &c. IN New York city, during last year, 92,322 poor, blind, insane and drunkards were provided for at a cost to the municipality of \$1,028,200. In 1858, there remained nearly 7,000 persons in the various city prisons, poor houses, &c. MR. JOHN BELLOCK, of Bristol, R. I., 100 years old on the 23d day of last June, has a drinking glass of alcohol, which he has had in his life, and never has drunk any of it, or used spectacles. The old gentlemen can see to pick up a pin or needle from the floor as quick as any young person. IT is a little singular that the links of railway necessity to make an absolute connection between the most eastern point of our Atlantic coast and the Pacific Ocean, should be the short line between San Francisco and Sacramento, and a road of about the same length in the State of Maine. THERE is a man living in Adams county, Ill., named W. J. who claims to be 108 years old. He is said to walk to Quincy, a distance of eight miles, carrying under his arm a clock to be repaired. He appears vigorous as most men at 50, and if as old as claimed, is probably the oldest man in the country. SOMETIME since a Portland, Me., man had his pocket filled with \$500. Shortly after, he received a letter from the thief, stating that he had stowed in his pockets with his stolen capital, and that he should pay interest on it until he was able to return the principal. Two payments of interest have already been made. A LETTER to a New York paper states that there are now about 300,000 pounds of cotton in this continent, comprising 3,400 bales. Total receipts of the order in two years, nearly \$5,000,000; aggregate amount expended in the same time for the relief of the distressed, burial of the dead, support of the widow, and education of the orphan, about \$2,000,000. THE leading French journals are counting up the literary record of the world as follows: Paris to New York, 11 days; San Francisco, by rail; Yokohama, by steam; 21; Hong Kong, 6; Cebu, 12; Bombay, 3; Cairo, 14; and back to Paris, 6; total, 80. And out of all this immense line of route, there is only a distance of 140 miles, between Allatrab and Bombay, which is, *per se*, not performed by steam, either on land or water. They set out their married children by means of pairs in Roumania. When the pair is opened, the fathers climb to the top of their carriages and shout with the whole power of their lungs, "I have a daughter to marry. Who wants a wife?" The call is answered by some other parent who has a son he is anxious to pair off. The two parents compare notes, and if the marriage portion is satisfactory, the treaty is there and then concluded. THE teachers have a curious custom, and a most effectual one of preventing horses from straying. Two gentlemen, for instance, are riding together without attendants. Wishing to alight for the purpose of visiting some objects at a distance from the road, they tie the tail of one horse to the head of the other, and the head of this to the tail of the former. In this state it is utterly impossible that they can move either backward or forward, or pull one way and the other the reverse; and, therefore, if they wish to move at all, it will be only in a circle, and even then there must be an agreement to have their heads in the same direction. AT the recent examination for women, held by the University of Cambridge, England, in Group A, including religious knowledge, arithmetic, English, history, literature and composition, ten ladies were placed in the first class, eight in the second, seven in the third. In Group B, (languages) two were placed in the first class, two in the second, ten in the third. Several ladies obtained high marks in the examination, and were placed in the first class, English, French and German. One passed in mathematics, three in political economy, two in drawing, and one in music. Thirty-six ladies entered their names. Of these, eleven were either absent from the examination or failed to satisfy the examiners.

THE MARGATE BATHING-WOMAN'S LAMENT.

I nearly broke my widowed art,  
When first I took the notion,  
To take regular sea-baths,  
And bathe in the ocean.  
The infants, darling little ones,  
Still cry quite frequent, bless 'em!  
But they're only screaming each,  
Which hardly pays at all.  
The reason struck me all at once,  
Says I, "It's my opinion,  
That the sea-baths, longer bathes,  
Because of them they're screaming."  
The last as I came out that style,  
"I'm glad to see you off here,  
You don't know the way  
To re-arrange my quoffer!"  
By which she meant the oil of air,  
Which she had used for years,  
Can doubtless of a covit at  
Millbank or Pentonville, Sir.  
The Parliament should pass a law,  
Which then she asked him how  
That folks as wear the Sheneens should  
Bathe regular in the season. From Punch.

Playing with Edge Tools.

On Wednesday, a lady named Robertson living out at the Mission, left her child, a little boy about 4 years old, playing in one of the rooms of her house and went to a house several rods distant. After half an hour's absence she returned, and on entering the house she saw the child, that nearly made her heart cease to beat. There on the floor sat the little boy Harry, his face, hands and clothing covered with blood, and bleeding profusely from a number of deep and gaping wounds. In his hands he held an open razor, which he showed to his mother on her entering the room, and said, "Mamma, I've got papas' shears." It seems that the boy had, by means of a chair, climbed on the table and there had reached his father's razor, which was in its case on a shelf, and had taken it down. The nearly distracted mother seized her child in her arms, and rushing to the door screamed at the top of her voice for help. She then laid him down on the bed and rubbed the blood off his face, and turned with a number of light cuts on the face and hands, and five or six long and deep wounds on each of the forearms. Fortunately no large arteries were cut.—San Francisco Times.

Embroidery Extraordinary.

A REMARKABLE fine piece of worsted embroidery on canvas, representing the scene of Scotland Moving Over the Dyke, has been on exhibition during the past week in a show window on Broadway, New York. It was worked by Mrs. James Bennett, of Brooklyn, a lady of unusual taste and ability, who has devoted to it the principal part of her time during the eight months. Its dimensions are 36 by 29 inches, and it contains 686,000 stitches, and 168 different colors. Fifteen richly dressed human figures, two horses, a dog, a group of sheep, a shepherd, and a cow, are the principal features of the picture, which is worked in what is called "quarter stitch," that is, the stitches are only one-fourth of the usual length; the best judges, among the many who have lately examined and admired his work, suppose that it must have been done in Europe, inasmuch as very few American ladies possess the skill or the leisure necessary to produce with the needle so spirited and perfect a picture. The Whitcomb Brothers pronounce it by far the most meritorious of the more than five hundred works of the kind framed by them, and consider it undoubtedly one of the finest pieces of embroidery ever produced in America. It is valued at \$1,500, the sum refused by a gentleman on Twelfth street for a larger, but much more coarsely embroidered, copy of the same scene.—New York Tribune.

A Fighting Editor.

THE proprietors of the Boston Saturday Evening Express have recently engaged the services of a permanent fixture of their establishment of a fighting editor. They thus announce the fact: "We have the sublime pleasure to announce to the deputy State constables, and all others interested, that we have engaged at an immense salary, one of the indispensable adjustments to an independent newspaper establishment, to wit—a fighting editor. This course has been taken by us in order that we may have an equal show with all belligerents who desire to get proper satisfaction for anything we may say. The gentleman engaged for this purpose informs us that he has been in the business for some fifteen years, and that he is fully competent to attend to all the duties required of him. As a recommendation,

How the Greatness and Wealth of the Laborers was Created.

A RATHER apocryphal account is given as to how the greatness and wealth of the Laborers was created. The father of the late Lord Taunton, a very young clerk, by an innocent mistake got rich, and a partnership in the then first banking house in the world. Being clerk to the House of Amsterdam, he was sent over on a confidential mission to the house of Baring in London, to be supplied with a quality which the vulgar call "cheek," he asked the great Mr. Baring for the hand of his daughter in marriage. The millionaire was dumbfounded at the young man's assurance, and when he had recovered his breath he asked him how he could think of a daughter of the Barings marrying a penniless young clerk. Young Laborer, nothing daunted, said: "But suppose I was a partner in the house?" "Oh," replied Mr. Baring, "that would be a very different matter." The aspiring youth posted off to Amsterdam, and immediately asked the author of "Anastasi" for a share in his business. "What," said the great man, "from a young clerk of only two years standing, to be made a partner in the house of Amsterdam? Nonsense." "But," said young Laborer, "suppose I could get Miss Baring for a wife?" "In that case," replied Mr. Hope, "the thing might be practical." And in that way it was practicable, as by this playing the two great men, one against the other, the young clerk got a rich wife and a share in the great bank, and thus was founded the noble house of Taunton.

Sleeping under the Clothes.

THERE is reason to believe (says Miss Florence Nightingale) that not a few of the apparently unaccountable cases of scrofula among children proceed from the habit of sleeping under the bed-clothes, and so inhaling air already breathed, which is further contaminated by exhalations from the skin. Patients are sometimes given to a similar habit; and it often happens that the bed-clothes are so disposed that the patient must necessarily breathe air more or less contaminated by exhalations from the skin. A good nurse will be careful to attend to this. It is an important part, so to speak, of ventilation. It may be worth while to remark, that when there is any danger of bed-sores, a blanket should never be placed under the patient. Never use anything but light Whitney blanket and bed-covering for the sick. The heavy impervious cotton counterpane is bad for the very reason that it keeps in the emanations from the sick person, while the blanket allows them to pass through. Weak patients are invariably distressed by a great weight of bed-clothes, which often prevents their getting any sound sleep whatever.

Tea Brands and Their Meaning.

"HYSON" means "before the rains," or flourishing spring, that is, early in the spring; hence, it is often called "Young Hyson." "HYSON SKIN" is composed of the refuse of other kinds, the native term for which is "tea skins." Refuse of still coarser descriptions, containing many stems, is called "tea bones." "BOHEA" is the name of the hills in the region in which it is collected. "PECOE," or "Pecoo," means white hairs, the down of tender leaves. "POUNCHONG," "folded plant," "souchong," "small plant." "TWANKY" is the name of a small river in the region from whence it is brought. "GONGO" is from a term signifying "labor," from the care required in its preparation.

What Makes the Heart Beat.

THE beating of the heart does not depend on the general nervous system, either cerebro-spinal or sympathetic, as may be shown by the fact that the heart of a tortoise continues to beat for many hours after it has been cut out. In fact, it may be cut into parts, and these parts will continue to beat. The fact is explained by the fact that the heart is a muscle, and is not under the control of the nervous system. The ordinary nerves consist simply of fibers, and can only convey impressions made upon it by nerve cells, such as those found in the brain, or ganglia, or in the Pacinian corpuscles at the extremities of the nerves. Now the nerves of the heart connect both fibers and cells, and it is the action of these cells that affects the nerve fibers, originating nerve force, and thus governs the muscular movement of the heart.