DESERET EVENING NEWS

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THE WHITE MOTH.

"If a leaf rustled she would start;
And yet she died, a year ago.
How had so frail a thing the heart
To journey where she trooped so?
And do they turn and turn in fright,
Those little feet, in so much night?"

The light above the poet's head
Streamed on the page and on the cloth,
And twice and thrice there buffeted
On the black pane a white winged moth.
'Twas Annie's soul that beat outside
And "Open, open, open!" cried.

"I could not find the way to God;
There are too many flaming suns
For sign posts, and the fearful road
Led over wastes where millions
Of tangled comets hissed and burned—
I was bewildered and I turned.

"Oh, it was easy then! I knew
Your window and no star beside.
Look up, and take me back to you!"
He rose and threw the window wide.
'Twas not because his brain was hot
With rhyming; for he heard her not.

But poets polishing a phrase
Show anger over trivial things;
And as she blundered in the blaze
Toward him, with ecstatic wings,
He raised a hand and smote her dead.
Then wrote, "Would I had died instead!"
—Arthur T. Quiller-Couch in London Speaker.

Gruel in the Parlor.

John Howard Payne, the author of "Sweet Home," was when a young man, deeply in love with Mary Harden, a southern girl of grace and beauty. One morning, while Payne was staying in the town where this young lady lived, he entered her house with a pale and dismal face.

"Miss Mary," he asked pathetically "do you know what gruel is?"

"Indeed I do," she answered. "Why, what is the matter?"

"Oh, those horrid biscuits at the tavern seem to be made of saleratus, lard and half baked flour! Could you have a dish of gruel prepared for me?"

"Certainly," she answered, and hastened from parlor to kitchen, to lay the case before Aunt Minda.

"Oh, Miss Mary," exclaimed that ebony priestess of pots and pans, "yer know yer ma not gwine ter like that. I never knowed gruel carried inter her parlor to company. Yer got no pride, chile. Go in thar house, an give ther gentleman fruit cake and pineapple cheese."

"But, Aunt Minda, Mr. Payne has dyspepsia and wants only gruel."

So the gruel was prepared, and Bob Roy, the house boy, was summoned to serve it. He, however, proved to be as greatly flustered as Aunt Minda by such a compromise of family dignity. He would have presented syllabub and cake proudly, but gruel would smirch the family escutcheon forever. Still, his wounded feelings were mollified when he saw the steaming beverage quaffed like nectar.

"Bob," said Mr. Payne, "is there any more gruel where this came from?"

"Bless you, sir," replied Bob, "there's bushels."

"Then bring me another bowl!"—New England Magazine.

A Needless Duel.

"I was present at a duel," writes Mr. S. C. Hall in his "Retrospect of a Long Life," "a fatal duel, which was fought near Rosscarberry. Two first cousins had quarreled over something—the merest trifle—and a meeting was the result. A few minutes before they fired I heard one of the principals say to his second:

"'I declare I have not even anger against my cousin.' He had merely said what he thought, that the other principal had behaved like a goose, adding, 'I know that I am less than a goose for going out with him.'

"The first shot laid him on the sward, mortally wounded. At this long distance of time I can see the gradual film, the glazed look of death come over his eyes and hear the sob with which he yielded up a life full of hope and promise.

"A young fellow laid dead, while there was in dispute the barest point of honor that a judicious arbiter might have settled in half a minute by half a dozen words! I did not on that mournful day see the body conveyed to the house the dead man had left, but I passed there subsequently and could well imagine the intense agony of a household where he was deeply and fondly loved."

What Coal Has Done.

It is still the age of steam and coal, but is this to be the type of all future time? Electricity is already with us, and there are indications too plain to be disregarded that the coal fire is to retain under special conditions only, just as the windmill and the water wheel retain a place in the world's economy. Who, then, can say that the age of gas is not yet to come!

When we consider that of all the products of the mines coal has been reckoned the most important; when we remember that the Lehigh and Lackawanna coal fields alone have created fortunes more vast than the gold mines of California; when we realize that it has revolutionized the means of locomotion; that it has opened new highways of trade and travel; that it has supplanted the water wheel on land and the sailing ship on the seas; that it is the impelling force of commerce, and the foundation of a manufacturing system that has developed into proportions that were undreamed of a generation ago, what shall we say of the future, with the possible, yes, probable, displacement of coal by something vastly better?—Engineering.

How He Sold [illegible]

An agent [illegible] certain kind of [illegible] was well versed in the vulnerable points of housekeepers [illegible] fails to dispose of [illegible] One day [illegible] the bell at the house of Mrs. Candy [illegible] a noted housekeeper [illegible] answered the ring in [illegible]

[illegible] at a glance [illegible] but [illegible] style would not be successful with her, so he said, with a crestfallen expression, as he looked beyond her into her spotless hall:

"My dear madam, I must beg pardon for having needlessly interrupted you. I have here a soap which is warranted to remove stains from paint, carpets, furniture and—but I see I have come to the wrong house; for there's not a stain on your paint or your hall carpet, and doubtless your furniture is equally spick and span. So I'll say good mor"——

"Young man," interposed Mrs. Candy, with a slight relaxation of her severe countenance, "you may let me have a couple of them cakes. I ain't sure but they might come in handy some day!"

She gave one of the cakes to her niece a few days later, saying she had bought them of "an uncommon civil spoken young man, who had too much sense to be wastin' it in travelin' 'round as agent, but had evidently been drove to the business by misfortunes."—Youth's Companion.

Christmas Twice a Year.

"Madagascar is probably the only place in the world where Christmas is celebrated twice a year and where there are also two New Year's days observed by one and the same people," said Thomas Wilkinson, a resident of the island. "The natives of the island formerly followed the moon in determining time, but since the influx of missionaries the queen issued an edict that the Christian year should be followed. But in commencing the year the date of the first day was set some time in October or November.

Since the natives have been converted to the Christian religion they observe Christmas on the 25th of their own December, but also have made a holiday out of the day in their year which corresponds to our Christmas. And the same is true of New Year's. Christmas is observed by the singing of carols and hymns and offering prayers in the churches. The civilized custom of sending presents to friends is not yet followed, but I think it will soon come.—Chicago Herald.

How Gladstone Reads.

Mr. Gladstone is said to be very particular in the order and variation of his reading. One writer says that the three books he had on hand at one time were Dr. Langen's Roman History in German for morning reading; "Virgil" afternoon, and in the evening a novel. Unlike Dr. Johnson, Mr. Gladstone delights in reading a book right through, but it must be worth reading. His method of reading is more that of the tortoise than the hare.

He cannot read rapidly, nor has he ever acquired the fine art of skipping; he cannot boast, like Carlyle, of reading a page of Gibbon "with one flash of his eye." But he is not slow to discover whether the book is worth reading, and, if not, after a few pages it is cast aside, though as a general rule his judgment is lenient.

American Turkeys in London.

The American turkeys which appear in the poulterers' shops of London generally arrive in such bad condition from careless packing and refrigerating that they are inferior to the domestic bird. But when allowed to run wild and nest in English woods, as is done on some estates, on its merits and apart from any tricks of cookery, it is perhaps the very best land bird that is available for food. The game flavor is not too pronounced, but gives a character to the whole which is altogether absent in the tame black turkeys of the farmyard.—London Spectator.

Sugar Making in 1700.

The historian Lafitau, the period of whose observation dated back to 1700-3, describes how in March the Indians make transverse incisions with their hatchets, from which trickles an abundance of water, which they afterward boil over a fire. He says the sugar thus made has nearly always a burnt taste, but that the French make it better than the Indian women, from whom they learned how to make it. Bossu, writing in 1756, is equally explicit as to the source of sugar making.—American Anthropologist.

Sleeping Rooms in Modern Houses.

In modern built houses for rent many have fancy porches, bay windows, wonderful jigsaw trimmings, and two or three colors in the outside paint, until one scarcely knows which is house and which is trimming. Even here the sleeping rooms are of little account, and are made of the room left over after the more important apartments are provided for.—Good Housekeeping.

Rings Among the Romans.

Among the Romans rings were not worn, save by ambassadors, senators and persons of high degree, and Tiberius made a property qualification for wearing rings.—Cassell's Family Magazine.

What a state of things there will be when the bill introduced by Congressman Holman, of Indiana, becomes a law! It requires all persons elected to office to swear that they have not directly or indirectly given, paid or promised money or other valuables to influence their election. They must swear to this or forfeit the office. But Congressman Holman's bill may not become a law, and

Economy in Sweeping.

The advisability of [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]—New York Recorder.

How People Regard Newspaper Opinions.

In the case of the few reviews in which writers sign their names, readers almost invariably glance at the foot of the articles before reading them, and attach to their contents the exact weight which their knowledge of the writer enables them to attribute to him personally. It is our habit—and it is a [illegible]—to deal in impersonalities, and [illegible] very few people beyond the London pavements know even the names of the editors of the principal London newspapers.

A halo surrounds in the minds of most people the mysterious beings who control and direct the editorial staffs; and though occasionally, no doubt, this induces some few people to attach undue importance to commonplace utterances, yet as a rule it unquestionably has the advantage of leaving the editorial contents of newspapers to be judged on their intrinsic merits.—London Saturday Review.

Weighing to a Hair.

"As fine as a hair" could well be the praise accorded the wonderfully delicate weight tester for coins at the mint. As the coins run down into it through the long spout, the tester needs to balance them but for an instant, immediately shooting those that are not found wanting into the expectant and open mouthed sack at the end of a lower spout. If too light they are tossed out through another spout, and if too heavy through a third one.

Not long ago an astonishingly large number of coins were tossed into the "too heavy" spout. Surprised at this unusual rejection of so great a load of the silver pieces, investigation was instituted, when, lo! it was found that a single tiny hair caught in the scale had made overweight for every coin passed through.—Philadelphia Record.

Marvelous Memories.

Among men noted for wonderful memories were Milton, who was said to be able to repeat Homer; Professor Lawson, who boasted that he could repeat the whole of the Bible, except a few verses; Lord Macaulay, who made the same boast about "Pilgrim's Progress" and "Paradise Lost;" Dr. Leyden, a friend of Sir Walter Scott, who could repeat an act of parliament on hearing it read but once, and a London reporter, who took no notes, but could write out an unexpected debate verbatim. Henry Clay could not memorize a single stanza of a poem, but never forgot a name, a face or an argument.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Honor and Reward on a Pirate Ship.

On board a buccaneer in chase or battle the captain's power was absolute. He who first spied a sail, if she proved to be a prize, was entitled to the best pair of pistols on board her, over and above his dividend. These pistols were greatly coveted, and a pair would sell for as much as thirty pounds from one pirate to another.

In their own commonwealth the pirates are reported to have been severe upon the point of honor, and among Robert's crew it was the practice to slit the ears or nose of any sailor found guilty of robbing his fellow.—National Review.

A Florida Substitute for Money.

Mr. Dan Dixon, who lives near the Iamonia lake, accepts cooters as legal tender at his store. It is said to be an interesting sight to see Mr. Dixon's customers, after having purchased various articles, reach down into a sack and hand him a large cooter for value received, for which in return they get two or three small cooters in change, according to the amount of goods purchased.—Atlanta Constitution.

In Doubt.

Mrs. Boston—I don't know whether to let Annetta have that talking doll her uncle sent her or not.

Mr. Boston—Why, what's the matter with it?

Mrs. Boston—It's accent is so distressingly New York.

Corwin Lost Their Votes.

Tom Corwin was not only a very eloquent man, but he was the most renowned wit and humorist of his party, just as the late Samuel Sullivan Cox was of his party at a later day. Corwin's sense of humor sometimes got him into difficulty, and on at least one occasion lost him votes. He was on a campaign tour, and had stopped for the night at the house of a wealthy farmer, whose wife was as eager to display her book learning as her hospitality.

These efforts took the form of big, unusual words, which sometimes had a [illegible] Malapropian flavor. She prepared a most [illegible] and elaborate breakfast for the distinguished guest and his party, and then seated herself at the head of the table to do the honors. She poured out a cup of coffee, and then with a gracious smile, turned to the senator and asked:

"Mr. Corwin, do you take condiments in your coffee?"

"Thank you madame," replied Corwin gravely, "I will take a little sugar and cream, but neither salt nor pepper."

He didn't get a vote in that family, and scarcely one in the precinct, though both family and precinct were usually Whig.—Washington Post.

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