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THE GUEST.

A crowd had gathered in the marketplace
A week had fallen on the weary throng
Then rose a stranger with the hair of lace,
Raised up his voice and sent it forth in song.

Twas a sweet, the lay, and when the end was come
The people praised the minstrel hale him here
For three again, and some made bold to hum
The dainty air that was so light to hear.

Triumphant trolled he on, until at length
He, being born of wit and sharp of eye,
Did see the time was come when victory's strength
Was at the full, and caused—as methought.

A chorus of regret rose as he turned
To pass out on his way. And many pressed
Upon him silver, saying, "The well earned,"
And cheered him roundly with right royal zest.

So through the city gates he went. And he
When he had reached the high road, at his side
Be saw a man, white locked, with back bent low,
Who, sadness, trod his measure stride for stride.

And then it came to pass that we be know,
The minstrel heard him trolling, followed free,
The stranger how his hope was bouncing grew
That he might win excel in minstrelsy.

Here he had longed for praise and found it seven,
Now it was his, but how his fear we did rise
Lest he might lose it. Then, about the first
Night pierce the glory of his dazzling surprise.

The stranger listened. "Lad," at length said he,
"Your song was sweet—I heard it with the rest—
But if up that you build your hope, 'twill be
Time it die, or wither at the best.

"When you have found what art is naught without,
Ever impossible, then will be your lot
Relenting. Aye, and all your fear and doubt
Will vanish as the shades at break of d

"But others in imitation," asked the pe
"Pluck it the self with. Or shall I wait
Until the next me? Tell me and, in truth,
I'll strive for it handsome and prove me great."

"No one can tell another where it lies,
Nor how to gain it. Only this I know:
That it were vain to wish it—that rare prize,
Most seek it, lad. And now adieu! I go."

He saying turned he back. The minstrel pressed
Upon his way. And so for many years
He lived the world with, eager to his quest
Of seeking that which should dispel his fears.

Until at last, one day when young spring
Was waking up the world, he stood same more
And lifted up his voice and 'gan to sing
In that same market where he'd sung before.

And now, as then, all tongues were hushed and still
The crowd was silent while the minstrel sang;
But when he finished, lo! no cheers did fill
The air with echoes. No hands extrang.

The men stood grave eyed and the women wept,
And then he sang again and straight they smiled.
Then troubled as with fear. And as he kept
Them trammel and spellbound 'neath his magic spell.

And when he turned to go they thronged around
And fond to kiss his robe or touch his hand
In boundless adoration. And the ground
He first had trod was reverenced through the land.

For he had found "what art is naught without,"
Found it everywhere, here, there, everywhere.
In field, in midnight where the grasses sprout,
In sea and sky, in water and in air.

Here man had shared his vision and he saw
Earth's shine and shadow; knew earth's joy and sorrow
Heard noised birthing and the blast of war—
And felt humanity within his soul.
—Julia M. Lipsomes in Youth's Companion.

Medicine and Surgery in Japan.

Surgical operations are very successful in Japan, and the healing process is rapid, owing probably to the abstinence of the people from alcohol and their not being flesh eaters. The Japanese are unsusceptible to scarlet fever, and smallpox, which was at one time rife among them, has been checked and almost exterminated by voluntary vaccination.

The mortality of Tokio, a vast city which covers 100 square miles of ground, is only twenty per 1,000. The infant mortality is high, owing to the too early exposure of newborn children. It is not unusual to see a week-old baby strapped on the back of a child of about eight, and sent out to be jumbled about as its infant nurse plays and romps with other children in the street.—London Hospital.

Oldest Pieces of Iron in the World.

The oldest pieces of wrought iron now known to exist are the sickle blade found by Belzoni under the base of a sphinx in Karnac, near Thebes, the blade found by Colonel Vyse imbedded in the mortar of the great pyramid, and a portion of a crescent saw exhumed at Nineveh by Mr. Layard—all of which are now in the British museum. A wrought bar of Damascus steel was presented by King Porus to Alexander the Great. This relic of unknown antiquity is still preserved at Constantinople.—St. Louis Republic.

England May Have Been a Dead Sea.

The borders of the Dead sea are now extensive salt pans, and the water is not so dense as the Droitwich, England, brine. The few mollusks that are found correspond with the brackish shells of recent salt lakes, while the ripple marks perpetuated in the lower flagstones indicate the near influence of the sea tides on an expanse of muddy coast adapted for wading and stumpy-footed animals.—Gentleman's Magazine.

The investigations that are going on concerning the origin of the influenza have led some men of science to conclude that a micro-organism or bacillus of some kind, which lives and is diffused through the air, is the cause of this most troublesome

SPECIAL FORMS OF INSURANCE.

How Employers and Employees Are Protected Against Loss.

Many special forms of the insurance business have been developed in the last few years, and one of the most recently established has for its purpose the protection of employers against pecuniary loss through any accidents which may result in the death or injury of their workmen. There is already one company in New York which devotes its attention exclusively to this business, while several of the accident companies make it a special feature. The policies which are issued for this form of insurance are of a blanket nature, covering all of the workmen that may be on the pay roll of the manufacturer or contractor from day to day.

The pay roll itself is made the basis for the insurance charges. The rate for the employers' liability policy is about one-half of 1 per cent., which would mean five dollars a day to the employer whose pay roll is $1,000 a day. Under this policy the company limits its liability to $5,000 on each person and $10,000 to a single accident in which several persons are injured.

Another policy, issued also on the basis of the pay roll, is for the benefit of the workmen themselves, and provides for the payment either of one-half or full wages, in case of accident to the workman, for either six months or a year, and the payment of six months' or a year's full wages in case of death. It has been the usual custom for the employer to take out a combined policy, protecting the workman as well as himself. In return each workman is charged by the employer a few cents a week for the protection which is thus afforded to him. Still another phase of this business is the public liability, indemnifying against injury to the public by the insured or his men.

Under this system the employer who is insured is not disturbed by vexatious lawsuits. When one of his men is killed or injured, instead of going to the expense of hiring lawyers and defending himself in the courts, he simply fills out a blank with an account of the accident, states the age and wages of the injured man, and sends it to the company's office. One of the company's employees makes an investigation, and if he finds the accident is the result of carelessness the employer is so advised.

Then if the injured man brings suit the papers served on the employer are turned over to the insurance company's lawyers, who carry on the proceedings and pay all fees. But if the employer is found to be plainly liable the company sends a representative to the injured man and makes a fair cash offer on the understanding that he will sign a release of all legal claim.—New York Sun.

Power Stored in Watch Springs.

Many watches make 5 beats per second, 300 each minute, 18,000 every hour, or 432,000 per day. Thus it will be seen that half a dozen turns of the key once a day, taking up but a few seconds of time, stores up a modicum of power in the spring which is cut up into nearly 1,000,000 of beats. If we multiply the daily beats by 365, the number of days in a year, we find that the watch ticks 157,680,000 times while the earth is making one annual trip around the sun.—Yankee Blade.

A Knockdown Blow.

Now Boarder (complainingly)—You have had hash on the table five days in succession.

Mrs. Slimdiet (with dignity)—If you would stop in your race for fifty lacre long enough to observe the ways of refined people and look over The Society Monitor occasionally you would learn, sir, that table knives have gone out of fashion, and the only stylish dishes now are those which can be eaten with a fork.—New York Weekly.

Marvelous Growth in Population.

In 1803 the population west of the Mississippi numbered 4,339,015 and that of the states and territories west of the Missouri 725,023 or about 300,000 less than the population of Nebraska is today. In 1850 the population of Nebraska was 29,841 and that of the two Dakotas 2,592. In 1890 the population of Nebraska was 1,056,793 and that of the two Dakotas 611,327.—Edward Rosewater's Omaha Address.

Human Vivisection.

Human vivisection is by no means rare in many an American home, where most of the time is spent in cajoling growing children for the amusement or interest of the parents or visitors.—Anna C. Brackett in Harper's.

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