

SELECTIONS.

THE SUN SHINES ALL THE SAME.
Dead silence in the darkened room,
The last faint gleam of a candle's fire;
A woman kneeling by a bed,
A baby cradled closely by her;
A rude straw pallet on the floor,
A sleeping boy of half a score;
The broken walls, the cold, bare boards,
The shattered panes, the lockless door—
All speak as with a thousand tongues,
The thrice-told story of the poor.

The daylight breaks through half-drawn blinds,
And hours creep on with weary feet,
And as the morning struggles in,
The waking sounds rise from the street.
The kneeling woman softly sighs:
The baby coo in half-reveries;
And turning through the morning's gray,
She sees the sun rise in the east.

Oh! weary night, gone down Time's void,
As I with thee taken life and love;
Oh! weary night, through countless hours,
All starless were thy shining above.
The morning dawns, but brings no life,
Still cold and gray, the stolid birth,
Night had no softening in her glance;
Young morn no sympathies with earth.

he sleeping boy, with sudden start
Awoke, and stood beside the dead;
No word he spoke, but as he knelt,
He kissed the sunlight on the bed;
Then, as though drawn by hands unseen,
He rose and to the window came,
And with a sad, cold look he said:
"Mamma, the sun shines all the same."

The mother raised her fearless eyes,
Dim with her watching by the dead,
And with a glance of instant light,
She saw the sunshine on his head;
With hands upraised toward the sky,
"Praised be," she said, "His holy name,
Whatever life afflict us here,
Who makes the sun shine all the same."

EVE'S APPLE-TREE.—The botanical curiosities of the island of Ceylon are replete with varied interest. Sir Alexander Johnston, while inquiring into the history of the country, had drawings made of a great many trees, plants, and other vegetable productions to which any religious, political, or moral interest was attached by the native Hindoos, Buddhists, Mohammedans, or early Christians. One of these is "the forbidden fruit, or Eve's apple tree," the Tabernemontana dichotoma of the "Hortus Kewensis." Its native name is "diwi kaduru," signifying "forbidden," and "diwi tigers." The flower of this extraordinary production, is said to emit a fine scent. The color of the fruit, which hangs from the branches in a very peculiar and striking manner, is very beautiful, being orange on the outside, and a deep crimson within; the fruit itself presenting the appearance of having had a piece bitten out of it. This circumstance, together with the fact of its being a deadly poison, led the Mohammedans, on their first discovery of Ceylon—which they assigned as the site of Paradise—to present it as the forbidden fruit of the garden of Eden; for although the finest and most tempting in appearance of any—it has been impressed—such was their idea—with the mark of Eve's having bitten it, to warn men from meddling with a substance possessing such noxious properties. Its effects are so poisonous that two European soldiers, shortly after the capture of Colombo in 1705, being unaware of the nature of the fruit, were tempted by its appearance to taste it, and very soon sickened and died.—The World of Wonders.

A NEW AND ADMIRABLE PLAN.—In South Carolina they have inaugurated a plan to smooth the way for bashful lovers, which, on its first trial, produced astonishing results, and which, we believe, could be generally applied with incalculable benefit to society. It is described as follows:

A short time since, at a wedding in South Carolina, a young lawyer moved that one man in the company should be selected as President; that this President should be duly sworn to keep entirely secret all the communications that should be forwarded to him in his official department that night; that each unmarried gentleman and lady should write his or her name on a piece of paper, and under it place the name of the person they wished to marry, then hand it to the President for inspection; and if any lady and gentleman had reciprocally chosen each other, the President was to inform each of the result, and those who had not been reciprocal in their choice were to be kept entirely secret. After the appointment of the President, communications were accordingly handed up to the chair, and it was found that twelve young ladies and gentlemen had reciprocal choices, and eleven of the twelve matches were solemnized.—Ex.

SAGACITY AND KINDNESS OF RATS.—It has often been noted that rats are very clever in the plans they try to secure plunder, and it also deserves mention that they are frequently found to exercise great kindness toward those of their number who may have sustained injury. The following story illustrates the second of these traits more than the first: While Alexander Gunn, cattle dealer at Bra-hur, England, was lately passing the Mail of Dale, his attention was attracted to a large rat coming out of its hole, which, after surveying the place, retreated with the greatest caution and silence. It returned soon afterwards, leading by the ear another, which it left close by the hole. A third rat joined this kind conductor, and the two then searched about and picked up small scraps of grain, these they carried to the second rat, which appeared to be blind, and which remained on the spot where they had left it, nibbling such fare as they brought it. They seemed then to relax in their own exertions, and only continued for a short time; after which one of the rats seized a small stick about five inches in length, which he inserted in the blind one's mouth, and in this way conducted it to the water, of which they all partook, and afterwards led its companion back to the hole.

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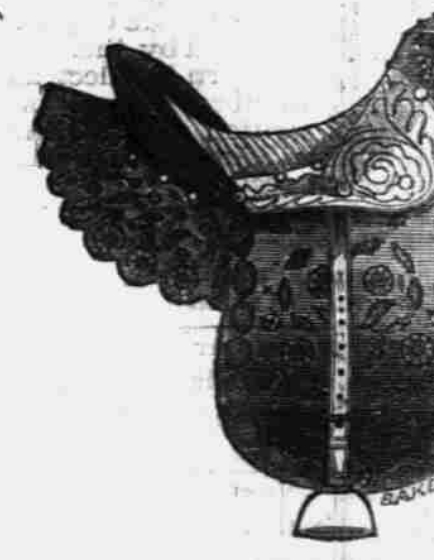
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