THE TOUCH OF A VANISHED HAND

Oh, why should the world seem strange
With its beauty around me still?
And why should the sense of my wonted path
Seem suddenly all spoiled?

I feel you, a vague, a beyond step,
So closely on my way;
How could I believe in coming a light
Could pass to my dark a gray?

And wonderful, Because the hand
That lost is its clasp my own—
Whose touch was a benediction such
As only the blest know!—

Yet strangely it left to that,"
Some comforting whisper saith—
"Love can feel what earthly hearts fail to know
When they commune the silence of death."

If Christ in His mortal hour
Had need of the chosen band,
To watch with Him through the awful three
Of His dread Gethsemane,

Oh, never His human heart
Will pity and understand
That speechless anguish, no deep for words,
For the "touch of the vanished hand."
—Margaret J. Preston in Harper's Bazar.

All for a Cook.

"Just as we were about to start from the ferry," said a car conductor, "a handsome little woman carrying a girl about four years old entered the car. The little girl, who was among her self with a coat, soon fell fast asleep, holding it loosely in her hand. When later the woman bookmark me to stop, and shook the child gently to awaken her, the coat fell to the floor. Then the little girl began roaring like a young lion. 'Whatte the matter, dear? the fond mother asked. 'I want one penny,' was all that could be distinguished between the yells.

"'Never mind, dear, I'll give you another,' replied the mother. 'No, I want one one penny,' answered the little one, crying harder than ever. To stop the row I moved a number of the passengers forward and filled the mailing, and finding the coin, handed it to the little one. The search, however, delayed us two minutes, and behind us was a string of excitement a block long, and we had to bring the whip into use to gain lost time."—Brooklyn Citizen.

A Learned "L" Guard.

One of the best Greek scholars in New York is a guard on the Sixth Avenue Elevated road. Not long ago a famous professor in one of our leading universities published a volume on certain features of the ancient Greekish dialects, of interest only to scholars. The L guard referred to above wrote to a New York newspaper, pointing out several errors made by the professor. He signed himself "Sixth Avenue Elevated Guard, No. ——." For a month I watched the badges of the guards on that road as I made my daily trips back and forth.

One morning I was rewarded by finding the learned man I sought. "How does it happen," I asked, showing him my card, "that you, a Greek scholar of first rank, should be doing such work as this?" He looked at me sadly, and his red face grew more flushed than usual. "I was the best Hellenist of my year at Dublin," he said. "My Greek is still what it used to be, but my career has been ruined by my own reckless ness."—New York Cor. Pittsburg Leader.

Rattled.

Mistress—Bridget, I can't get into the parlor.

Bridget—Sure it's mself knows that; an' ye won't, for I have the key in me pocket!

Mistress—Open the door immediately.

Bridget—Will ye go in if I do?

Mistress—Certainly I will!

Bridget—Then you don't get the key.

Mistress—Open the door immediately! What do you mean?

Bridget—Sure it's by your orders! Ye said yesterday, "Don't let me come down stairs in the morning as we say that on the parlor furniture." So I just put the key in my pocket, an says I, "Then she won't!"—London Tit-Bits.

An Purely Regimental Pet.

Many years ago the Twenty-fifth King's Own Borderers possessed for a regimental pet a handsome deer. One fine morning this deer, in a fit of light heartedness, so far forgot himself as to pin his commanding officer against a wall with his horns. The gallant c. o. was promptly rescued from this undignified position, more startled than hurt; but so flagrant a case of "breach-ordination, accompanied by personal violence," could not be passed over, and the rash deer suffered the extreme penalty of the law.—London Art Journal.

Americans should watch the course of the legal investigations that grow out of the railroad disaster in France. Railroad officials and employes in Europe are held to a much stricter accountability than they are in America. The outcome of the French trials may afford some object lessons to us in America on railroad accidents.

Confiscation of a trade is made over the fall that the Church of England, from its various endowments and sinecures, receives $50,000,000 annually. That is nothing. In America, where the churches do not depend on the state at all for their maintenance, the annual income of the various denominations from mere voluntary contributions amounts to $150,000,000. Our way is certainly best. A church that cannot be supported by the voluntary contributions of its members has no right to live and ought to die.

Plenty of peaches in the peach districts. Make the most of them. That does not mean for consumption merchants to make the most out of them.

The strict examinations to which American food animals and meat products are subjected by this government before leaving our shores are already telling in our favor in Europe, especially in the case of pigs. First Germany, then France, enacted the embargo against American hog products.

Why People Get Married.

Though it is a common to repeat old maidens with their fellows, as to pity old maids as if single blessedness were a misfortune, yet many married people have sore ill to offer apologies for having entered into what some people wrong has called the "holy bonds of pickle." One man says he got married to get a housekeeper, another to get rid of his company.

Many women declare they got married for the sake of a home, for acknowledge that their motive was to get a husband. Gentle avowed that he got married in order to be "respectable." John Wilson said he took a wife "to please his friends." Wyndenly, who exposed his movement, said he did it to "spite his relations."

A widow who married a second husband said she wanted somebody to provide with her for the loss of her first. Another, because she thought a wedding would "amuse the children." Another to get rid of incessant importunity from a crowd of suitors.

Old maids who get married invariably assure their friends that they thought they could be "more useful" as wives than as spinsters. Nevertheless Quilp gives it as his opinion that some people of all persons who marry, whether widows or widowers, spinsters or bachelors, do so for the sake of getting married.—London Tit-Bits.

The Lumber Business of Three States.

The value of forest products, not manufactured at the mill, in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota, 1890, aggregates $30,426,104; value of mill products, $119,628,004; value of remanufactures, $21,112,615—making an aggregate value of products in three states of $167,167,518. The capital invested to produce this value was $270,916,671; men employed in forests, 35,370; women, 98; children, 10; animals, 29,461. In the mills the product required the labor of 81,839 men, 648 women and 854 children.

The amount represented in operation of machinery and chemical applications, 1890, was $35,553,224; the expenditure of steam and water power was reported as sufficient to lift 8,760,000 tons one foot in one minute; 1,241,151,180 cubic feet of merchantable timber was removed from natural growth; $7,800,234 were invested in vessels and other means of transport, and $22,880,238 were expended for wages, subsistence, supplies and miscellaneous purposes.

The aggregate increase of product since 1880 is reported to be 19.66 per cent. in quantity and 15.61 per cent. in value.—Harper's Weekly.

Is Not Cut for the Pin.

An old saw that the pin was put to long ago was that of cracking the intemperate habits of the English. Mr. Dowie converted the idea of drilling the tankards out of which the liquor was drunk into eight equal parts, each part marked with a silver pin. The cups were generous offers, holding two quarts. Gradually the quantity from pin to pin was half a pint, and the regulation was that the drinker "stop at a pin."

Reformers, however, prevented the purpose of good Mr. Dowie and established the rule of "good fellowship," by which the drinker was to stop only at a pin. If he drank beyond he had to go on to the next mark. As it was difficult to stop exactly at a pin the rule officers always carried some extra, and the trial usually ended with the drinking of the tankard.—Table Talk.

A Man Who Had Eighty Overcoats.

There are dozens of New Yorkers who have a passion for buying clothes, and they count their suits by the hundred. Pierre Lorillard was a great accumulator of clothes, and so has A. M. Dodge, the latter probably having as varied a collection of garments as any gentleman in the city. None of the fashionable set has ever excelled the late W. K. Vanderbilt in the size of his personal wardrobe. Mr. Sloane was known to have had eighty overcoats.—New York Sun.

A scientific writer says that the common idea that the American desert is a sand of sand is altogether wrong. Sand is not in it at all. It is composed of particles of dust perfectly dry and in the finest possible state of pulverization. The dust in many cases would make a most fertile soil under proper conditions. The desert is simply a desert from lack of water.

It is quite the thing now for the rain of decaying degenerate, surrated European nobility to ally themselves by marriage to signora American families that have made themselves millionaires by their own exertions. It is all very well for the physically and mentally declining families of the European aristocracy thus to bolster themselves up with the infusion of warm, rich young American blood, but it is rather tough on the Americans.

"German Syrup"

Croup. We have selected two or three times from letters freshly received from parents who have given German Syrup to their children in the emergencies of Croup. You will credit these, because they come from good, substantial people, happy in finding what so many families lack—a medicine containing no evil drug, which mother can administer with confidence to the little ones in their most critical hours, safe and sure that it will carry them through.

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Fully one-half of our customers are mothers who use Boschee's German Syrup among their children. A medicine to be entrusted with the little folks must be a treatment for the sudden and terrible foes of childhood, whooping cough, croup, diphtheria and the dangerous inflammations of delicate throats and lungs. It

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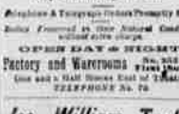
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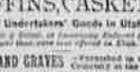
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