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AU REVOIR.

It seems not right, that just when earth is waking
From her cold slumbers, when the young flowers start
To kiss the warm wind, and all things are breaking
Into the Spring's wild jubilee, thou shouldst depart,
Leaving the sunshine in the skies but taking
All with thee that makes sunshine in the heart.

The happy birds around are gaily singing
Each to his chosen mate in love's low tone;
Alas! the sweet Spring hours to me are bringing
But the sad thought, "I must be left alone."
While all things else have something to them clinging,
My hope of hopes and joy of joys has flown.

But wilt thou not in love and pity say
That ere the tempest shall come back to reign,
Ere Summer from our eyes shall pass away,
Thou wilt bring Summer to our hearts again.
Then, tho' thou leavest us, that sunny ray
Of coming joy shall shine thro' all our pain.

Promise but this, and smiles shall blend with weeping;
Promise but this, and tho' our tears may rise,
They will be light as are the dew-drops sleeping
Beneath the gleam of summer morning skies,
Half night, half day, but the night only keeping,
That thy bright smile may kiss it from our eyes.

CURIOSITY.

WHO, without consideration, would ever assert that seekers after truth, noble toilers in the fields of knowledge, might ' minds to whom the world at large is so stupendously indebted for so much of its wisdom,—who, I repeat, would, without thinking over the matter, assert that such men are members of the identical class to which belong those human beings who are endowed with, or, more correctly, who have developed to a great extent the petty, Paul Pry propensity which we designate "curiosity," more definitely, "inquisitiveness?"

It seems at first incongruous, almost absurd, to place the two together as belonging to one and the same class, "information seekers," yet contemplation assures us that the fact is obvious; it may be disagreeably so, but obvious all the same. The difference between them lies in the motive and object which prompts their search. Proportionately as the motive of the one is to be admired, that of the other is to be

despised; the one strives to penetrate the mysteries around, above, beneath us; the other strives to penetrate the affairs of other people, which are mysteries to those whom they do not concern; the one acting from a love of knowledge and of truth, seeks to benefit mankind; the other, from love of gossip, mischief, or spite, seeks the gratification of his baser nature. Knowledge, whether of a higher or lower kind, is sought, therefore the seekers are of one and the same class.

It is a sad fact that we cannot predicate the universality of the longing for the higher nobler knowledge, but are obliged to admit that, contemptible as it is, curiosity, whether to a greater or less extent, is a quality common to humanity; it may be controlled, it may be concealed, but—it is there, one of the many legacies left by our first parents. So early is it brought to light in childhood that we might almost term it an intuition; in many cases being crushed in childhood and youth, it never attains a normal development, and is so mild and harmless as hardly to attract notice, but too often is found in full growth, and in connection with harmful traits of character, rendering the individual a person to be despised and dreaded.

It is interesting to watch people who, from pure love of the thing, have cultivated a capacity for ferreting out other folks' affairs, a capacity that, properly directed, say in the business of a detective, would make them famous; they sniff a secret miles away, and pounce on the track of prey with the stealth of an Indian and cunning of a hungry hyena. Their imaginative faculty is of extraordinary growth; ever on the alert, out of five stray links of circumstantial evidence they can construct a chain about as many feet in length; and from conviction of their own sagacity and correctness would, if they had the power, sentence their criminal without so much as a trial.

A letter addressed in a strange hand, a slight pallor on the face of the receiver, a