

rolling and shaping the graphite composition, which was cut into little pieces, placed in a warm oven to harden, and finally encased in wood, as seen to day.

"IT IS WELL."

Beloved, it is well:
God's ways are always right;
And love is o'er them all,
Though far above our sight.

Beloved, it is well
Though deep and sore the smart,
He wounds, who knows and cares
To heal the broken heart.

Beloved, it is well
Though grief benight our way,
'Twill make the joy more dear
That comes with dawning day.

Beloved, it is well
The path that Jesus trod,
Though rough and dark it be,
Leads home to heaven and God.

A KISS FOR MOTHER.

The young people who have laughed over Eli Perkin's funny speeches may not find anything to laugh about in this article from his pen, but they will find much to think about:

"I want to speak to you of your mother. It may be that you noticed a careworn look upon her face. Of course it has not been brought there by any act of yours; still it is your duty to chase it away. I want you to get up to-morrow morning, and get breakfast. When your mother comes and begins to express surprise, go right up to her and kiss her on the mouth. You can't imagine how it will brighten her dear face.

"Besides, you owe her a kiss or two. Through years of childish sunshine and shadows she was always ready to cure, by the magic of a mother's kiss, the little, dirty, clubby hands, whenever they were injured in those first skirmishes with the rough old world.

"Then the midnight kiss with which she routed so many bad dreams, as she leaned above your restless pillow, have all been out on interest these long years.

"Of course she is not so pretty and kissable as you are; but if you had done your share of the work during the last ten years, the contrast would not be so marked.

"Her face has more wrinkles than yours; and yet, if you were sick, that face would appear far more beautiful than an angel's as it hovered over you, watching every opportunity to minister to your comfort; and every one of those wrinkles would seem to be bright wavelets of sunshine chasing one another over the dear face.

"She will leave you one of these days. These burdens, if not lifted from her shoulders, will break her down. These rough, hard hands, which have done so many necessary things for you, will be crossed upon her lifeless breast. Those neglected lips, which gave you your first baby kiss, will be forever closed, and those sad, tired eyes will have opened in eternity and then you will appreciate your mother; but it will be too late!"

WHAT POLLY LEARNED ABOUT SPONGES.

"Where do sponges come from, Aunt Marcia?" asked little Polly Fenton, who had been sitting for the last ten minutes in her aunt's pleasant kitchen, minutely examining the holes in a fluffy, yellow sponge, with which she had just been washing her face.

"Why, child, I thought you knew where sponges came from."

"I do not, Aunt Marcia. Won't you please tell me something about them?"

"Well, dear, the sponge is the skeleton of an animal that resembles a plant. Sponges grow at the bottom of the sea, and are also found adhering to rocks, shells, etc. There are fishermen who make it their business to gather them. They go down into the sea in diving bells and pluck them with their hands, or they are harpooned and dragged up to the surface, the harpoon being the main instrument used in gathering them."

"Are there many different kinds, Aunt Marcia? And what part of the world do they come from?"

"There are several different varieties, I believe, Polly, and the most of them come from the eastern part of the Mediterranean Sea. The finest sponges are imported from Asia Minor and the Greek Archipelagoes. These are the ones chiefly used. Sponges from the West Indies, called 'the Bahama,' are of poor quality, and those from Tunis are too hard for general use. The island of Kalimno, on the south-west coast of Asia Minor, is the headquarters of this industry. The fishermen go out in May and return in September, fishing during that time off the shores of the islands of Greece, of the southern Sporades, and especially of Rhodes, Crete, Syria, and the island of Rod and of Tunis. The fishermen do not go deeper than from fifteen or twenty feet to gather sponges, as it is considered those beneath that depth are not of any commercial value. When the sponges are gathered, they are exposed to the hot rays of the sun or buried in the sand until the fleshy substance has decomposed. Then they are washed, bleached, and assorted, from which place they are sold and sent out to be distributed over the world."



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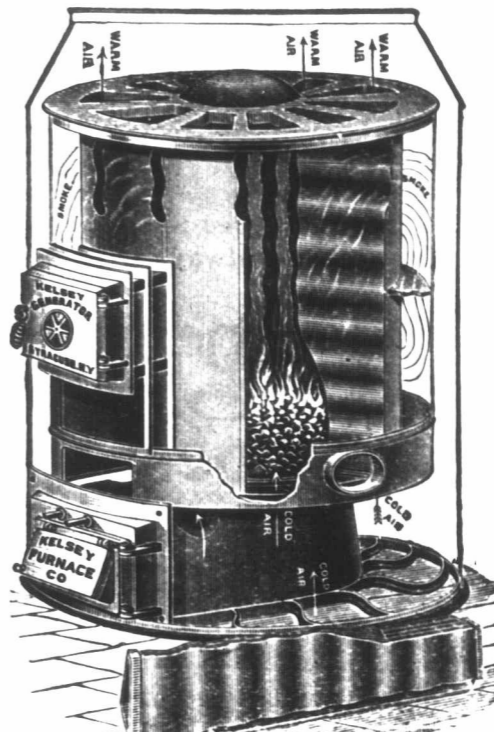
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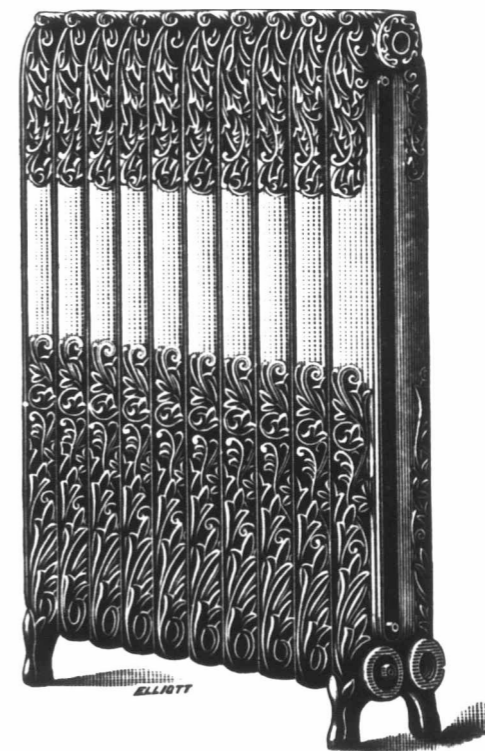
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