

one who is unfortunate enough to break a mirror. What folly. What a blot on the much-vaunted civilization of the present time that traces of the dark superstition which clouded the minds of people two or three centuries ago may yet be found, taking root and growing in the minds of men and women who should know better. Why should the breaking of a looking-glass bring bad luck (if there is such a thing) any more than the breaking of a window? Who is responsible for the law, "Any person who shall accidentally or otherwise break a looking-glass shall be liable to a penalty of not exceeding seven years of bad luck for each and every offence." Such laws have their origin in the blighting superstition of past ages, yet how many bow down to their edicts at the present time. How many there are like Mrs. Jones, whose lives are made miserable by the many superstitious whims and fancies which they have allowed to become part of themselves. Indeed it would be safe to say that there are very few people even at this enlightened time who are entirely free from all taint of superstition. Educated and uneducated alike, all are superstitious more or less. For example, look at that gentleman hurrying down the street. He is a business man and is now off on a business trip. He does not wish to miss the train. Suddenly he stops and begins to fumble furiously in his pockets. He has forgotten his spectacles. Has he time to return? He glances at his watch "yes, plenty of time to return but I dare not, I would have bad luck." So he goes on his journey, consoling himself with the thought that it is better to undergo a little discomfort than to endanger the success of his business undertaking by turning back. We have all noticed the busy housewife preparing for the reception of strangers because the "herald of the morn" has had the audacity to hop up on the door-step to crow. Who has not heard of the numberless charms for tooth-ache, rheumatic and several other stubborn diseases, which, though they may puzzle the doctor, are bound to succumb to the magical power of some dark incantation. Then we have the many signs of approaching death or disaster, the evil effects resulting from spilling the salt, or crossing the knives at the dining table, the superstitious horror with which the number thirteen is regarded, and a thousand