POETRY.

HIS OLD YELLOW ALMANAC.

From the November Century. I left the farm when mother died, and changed my place of dwellin' To daughter Susie's stylish house, right in the city street, And there was them, before I came, that sort of scared me, tellin' stations. How I would find the town folks ways so difficult to meet. They said I'd have no comfort in the rustlin', had pleasant rooms in a quiet street. fixed-up throng, Old Signor Paulo never recovered give him my own message." And I'd have to wear stiff collars every weekenough to leave his bed; but as he felt day right along. the pangs of approaching dissolution he I find I take to city ways just like a duck to did not feel the depth of anguish at leavwater. tire of shows sion of my daughter, money freely flows. And hired help is all about, just listenin' to his weary couch of pain. for my call, But I miss the yellow almanac off my old kitchen wall. rounded curves of womanhood. She was I know all." The house is full of calendars, from attic to beautiful, with the dark, clear skin of her the cellar. Italian parentage, and the masses of raven cy-like to see; But just in this particular I'm not a modern feller, And the yellow-covered almanac is good enough for me; plainly their inmost thoughts. I'm used to it, I've seen it round from boy-At least so thought Percy Montrose. Rehood to old age, served to others, to him Ailia was particu-And I rather like the jokin' at the bottom of the page. I like the way the "S" stood out to show the week's beginnin', (In these new-fangled calendars the days seemed sort of mixed), And the man upon the cover, though he wa' n't exactly winnin'. and so she resolutely hid her love. With lungs and liver all exposed, still At last the end came. It was morning, showed how we were fixed : And the letters and credentials that were Ailia had been playing. Wrapt in thoughts which were sweet, yet sad as the strain writ to Mr. Ayer whose cadence yet lingered upon the air, I've often, on a rainy day, found readin' very fair. Percy found her. It was an unguarded I tried to find one recently; there wa'n't longer. And when he had once won one in the city. They toted out great calendars in every sort of style; disdain, and an-and as her lover clasped his arms around a counter action for alimony. I looked at 'em in cold her, with a burst of tears and an inarticuswered 'em in pity. "I'd rather have my almanac than all that costly pile.' And, though I take to city life, I'm lonesome, after all. he had coveted so earnestly. For that old yellow almanac upon my kitchen wall. SELECT STORY. took matters into her own hands. What she said Ailia knew not. All unheeded the storm of anger passed over her head, France, A CHILD OF MUSIC. BY CARL BRICK FTTE.

fortune.

father when he reproved her for what she "But, Ailia, listen. I have not told had done, when she told him of her good you all. When I took back to Percy the ring, I made him think that you yourself From beguiling the hours for the fash- had broken the engagement; that you ionable throng which assembled in the had been mistaken, and the feeling you Montrose drawing-rooms, Ailia was finally had for him was not love." engaged to teach music to the young "You told him that? He believed that wrecked ship Hilda. daughter of the house. A great affection I did not love him! Then that was why sprang up between the two girls, both of he let me go-as I thought-so willingly, her widowed aunt, had taken passage "And he had a note tied under his wing the same age, though in such different and never sought me !" Ailia and her grand-father did not live pallor of Ailia's face, and her glorious eyes warm place for her in all hearts. in the crowded tenement any longer, but | lit up with a radiant light. "Take me to him," she said. "I will

"Will she come mother?" ing Ailia that he must have suffered if attendants moved noiselessly, for though tongue unfamiliar to those who perused "Don't do anything of the kind. You've I like the racket and the noise, and never she had not proved heiself so well able he realized it not himself, Percy seemed it, and it would have been thrown careless- got an undoubted right to the bird. That to care for her own future. At first his very near the invisible line which lies be- ly away had it not been saved by Lilla. would be an excess of honesty." And there's no end of comfort in the man- grandchild sorrowed bitterly; but as time tween this world and the shadow-land be- She had nursed the bird back to health, Lilla smiled at the captain's views rewent on, she felt that it was better as it yond. There was no reply. And everything is right at hand and was, and that not for worlds would she, if He looked up. In the place of the put the billet in its place under its pinion she could, recall her dear grandfather back stately, gray-haired lady he expected to and send it forth into the realms of space, but I don't quite think it does with my Four years had passed, and from a slight | couch. Soft lips met his.

Mrs. Montrose is a wiser woman. She partial prisoner. They're painted in all colors, and are fan- black hair which waved back from a low, realizes the truth of the saying: "True

are poor and needy.

recognized his manly, frank nature, and lowed to gently touch the strings, and vessel needed it more than an idler like that Lilla at first thought him very uninknew well that to none other did her soul baby eyes (which resist nurse's blandish- herself. go out as it did to the handsome, impul- ments to their utmost) ne'er close so sive young man — the son of her patro- quickly as when mamma lays her soft age. They felt that no craft would go German with her like a native, and, once ness : but she knew the pride of birth and cheek on its polished surface and weaves down with such a freight on board. family which filled his mother's heart, delicious melodies for little Percy's special

benefit. A FRENCH CONSUL'S PLIGHT.

The following interesting suit came before the civil tribunal to-day : The plaintiff, M. Verbye, formerly French Consul at moment. She could hide her heart no Chicago, asked the court to invalidate his marriage contract in the United States on from her the assurance of her love, her the ground that the lady was the lawful passionate Italian nature asserted itself, wife of another man. The lady brought and said: In 1871, Mrs. Adele Seymour, nee late expression of tenderness she laid her Young, a widow, was married in London head against his heart, and then and not to M. Borgella, who was obliged to leave till then, did Percy feel sure of the prize France on account of his connection with the Commune. Soon after the marriage But Ailia was not suffered to live long the Borgellas crossed the Atlantic and in her dream of bliss. The proud lady settled in Chicago, where three children who had constituted herself her patroness were born to them. In 1881, after the

amnesty of political offenders, M. Borgella a little of their natural color in the elevaabandoned his family and returned to until a sentence, bitterly expressed and Mme. Borgella tried to trace his where-

scornfully spoken, arrested her attention. And while so engaged she became prehensive one in the whole world—and "Like a thief you stole into my house- acquainted with M. Verbye. In 1886 the without one exception, the other voices

LILLA'S WHITE PIGEON.

BY MARY E. MOFFAT. trip. "How long ago was it?" asked Lilla. Terrible, indeed, was the fate which "It was about two years since." menaced the passengers and crew of the "I found my pigeon almost wounded to

Lilla Brente, an orphan maiden, with death just about that time," said Lilla. upon the Hilda for America, and her with the oddest looking writing on it I A vivid red glowed through the clear pretty face and winning ways had won a ever saw. I shouldn't wonder if it came from the East Indies; I will get the note

She had brought on board a white and show you. I saved it, meaning to be carrier pigeon, which had fluttered help- honorable and let the pigeon take it to its lessly down at her feet the year before, proper owner when I could make up my maimed by a shot from some unskilful mind to part with the pretty creature. sportsman. A billet had been fastened And Lilla put her bright lips to her pet's The room was only faintly lighted - the under its wing, but its contents were in a white breast with a loving gesture.

heard from him, or hadn't when I was

home last time. He says most probable

some accident happened on his homing

and, although eventually meaning to again garding her intended restoration. "Your advice agrees with my wishes.

see, a beautiful dark face bent over his she had not yet schooled herself into conscience," she said. "But I will get parting with it. An indulgent relative the billet." child Ailia had developed rapidly into the "Do not speak, darling. It is I, Ailia. had procured for Lilla a delicate chain of It proved to be as much of a puzzle to silver so that she could fasten it about one the captain as to Lilla. So they had to slender leg, and thus keep the bird a wait for its solution until land was reach-

ed. Lilla's courage and fortitude had been | That time soon arrived, and Lilla was broad forehead. Her great, lustrous, love cannot be bound by chains." Percy the one bright spot on board during the soon domiciled with her relatives, who almond-lidded eyes had in them a strange and Ailia are married, and through her terrible hours of suspense which followed had almost given up all hope of welcomcharm, and few could look into their wealth and high station Ailia is enabled the fury of the storm which had wrecked ing her, thinking that the ship Hilda depths without a longing to read yet more to help the votaries of the divine art she the staunch ship. No murmur came must have shared the fate of others loves so well, and who, like herself once, from her lips, and she refused to take which had been given up for lost.

One evening the captain called to see In its silver-clasped, velvet-lined case is life, saying that those who had the work her, accompanied by his learned son, who larly cold and shy, notwithstanding she a violin. Little fingers are sometimes al- of pumping and managing the maimed was so shy and constrained in his manner teresting; but she found out her mistake The sight of her gave the sailors cour- before the call was over, as he could talk warmed to his subject, lost the coldness

But weary days passed without sign of which had at first seemed to chill Lilla. succor; and, hungry and cold, their cour-. The pet pigeon came in for his full share of interest, although he did not prove Lilla's cheeks were no longer like a to be the old friend the captain had

rose. They revealed her name. But her spoken of. The professor was able to translate the contents of the billet, which was written with each passing day. in one of the abstruse tongues which he One morning, with only a piece of one pilot biscuit between each man and star- had mastered. I will copy the translation, vation, Lilla threw off the shyness which | which had been undoubtedly penned in a had thus far kept her silent on the subject | spirit of sportful romance, by some young scholar in a foreign university, and fast-

"Let us all kneel down and pray to- ened to a homing pigeon. The writer Celebrated gether. There is a promise that where little thought how like a prophecy the two or three are gathered in God's name ensuing events would make it seem. their requests shall be granted. We can | "Go forth, white bird, to one whose maiden surely say the Lord's prayer, every one of soul

Is like thy gleaming plumage - white ! Tell her that o'er the billows' thunderou Then Lilla knelt down, her white dove roll upon her shoulder, and her cheeks gaining

One waits her coming-her true knight!" It has proved a true prophecy. Lilla and the professor are to be married in the that prayer-the most eloquent and com- spring.

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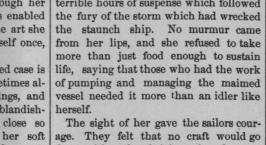
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age sank at last.

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lessly back from his high, pale forehead. own. As Ailia approached, with her dear violin "Your son wishes to be released from his client's marriage was bigamous and his eyes opened and one could not help true?"

but notice the fire of genius which shone in their dark, luminous depths.

vou have, little one," he said, fondly, as tween your stations in society." he stroked lovingly back the long dark curls.

as he was called. Some said he was a known, and she felt that she must never france per annum. miser and hoarded old for the child, look upon his face again. whose playing, though she was so young, For a long time it was a source of wonder was marvellous. But these surmises did as to where the talented, beautiful young not trouble the old man, as he went out music teacher had vanished, so suddenly and came in among them.

had she gone. land he had never been successful, but at impulsive Percy of old; but his face was accompaniment of a flute. take charge of her musical soirces.

to his grand-daughter. But the next day treachery to the son she idolized. he was stricken down by a fever.

the company of Ailia. What was to be ess of a noble family. done?

teen - Ailia had a woman's mind. All gether in Signora Lisboni's saloon, and at One of the most noted methods of heart.

Kept as she had been, from early childhood, from aught that might be hurtful leaned upon her son's arm. to her sweet innocence, Ailia was still as trustful and unfearing of harm as an grace which high birth gives to its chil- resemble the highland fling. infant. So when the pressing thought dren." came, what should be done to obtain daily food for her sick grandfather and herself, nounced: she remembered with a glad thrill his words in praise of her playing.

That afternoon, while the old man slept, a little figure, wrapped in a long scarlet mantle, glided down the steep stairs. It was a bright sunny afternoon, and

Ailia made her way to a fashionable street, and before a stately brown stone blow she had long dreaded had fallen; he mansion she paused. was dangerously ill. Glancing upward, she saw in a lace-

draped window some ladies and a gentle-They were not noticing her. Carefully

taking the violin from its case, she laid her dark cheek softly down, and with trembling fingers drew the bow across the vibrating strings.

and the window gently opened. "Why, mamma," exclaimed a young and she rose with a resolution to confess voice. "it's only a poor little girl, and she's all to her son. playing that air of Cherubini's I've been trying to learn for a month."

"Don't talk amid such music."

am not able to attend as I should. Come eyes. He himself sent me here to demand divorce from him on the ground of dehis release from this foolish engagement." sertion and married the Consul. This It was a low, dark room in one of the With baited breath Ailia waited until union was unfortunate, and within six tenements with which the street was she had finished, and, then rising, she months M. Verbye bolted and was apcrowded, and upon a narrow bed lay an drew her superb form to its full height old man. His eyes were listlessly closed, and met the angry light of the cold, Eng-the voyage he wrote to his wife, informand his long white hair was flung care- lish blue eyes with the Italian dusk of her ing her that he would never return to her.

The plaintiff's counsel contended that grasped tightly in both her small hands, his troth! Is what you have just said invalid, as a divorce procured in Chicago

"Most certainly. I am sure you need not be surprised, Miss Paulo, when you in French law. The Court decided that Mme. Verbye "No one could render that better than think of the great disparity there is bebecame a French subject by her marriage

with M. Borgella; therefore the American It was over. Ailia had given back the court had no jurisdiction and her divorce ring, the symbol of their attachment, to from him was accordingly invalid and her "I am glad you were pleased, grand- Mrs. Montrose. Alone in her room she marriage with Mr. Verbye was according father," she said, simply. They were battled with her heart — with its intense ly bigamous and void, but as the lady act-Italians, the old man and his grandchild. longing to see Percy once more and hear ed in good faith it must be considered a That they had not always been poor from his own lips that what his mother putative marriage, and therefore M. Verwas whispered around among the few who had said was untrue. But to her spirit bye, although released, from his wife, had become acquainted with Signor Paulo, falsehood was unsuspected as it was un-must make her an allowance of 6,000

DANCING IN YE OLDEN TIME.

The Greeks of the olden time indulged in war dances, chief among which was There was really no mystery whatever A few years passed. Mrs. Montrose and one that became famous under the name about his frequent departures, for Signor her son and daughter were travelling of the Pyrrhric dance. In this the Paulo was a music teacher, and, though abroad. Anxiety for Percy had engraved dancers depicted the actions of a warrior scholars. Since he had left his native smooth brow. He was not the merry, agile movements being made to the in the sky, and coming nearer, soon of the cold.

last good fortune seemed to be coming to grave and pale, and his friends as they The Hungarians, Russians and Spanhim. A wealthy Italian lady became in- passed him, shook their heads. Long iards have characteristic dances, most of terested in him, and learning that he was ago, Mrs. Montrose had repented what which are performed by gypses. The of her own country, she engaged him to she had done - for the cruel falsehood polka and redowa of the Hungarians, which had wrecked her son's happiness, and the Spanish balero, fandango and "Little Ailia, you shall have a new and driven the orphan girl away from her cachuca have become famous all over the dress and that fine book of Handel you home. But no trace of Ailia had she ever world. The popular quadrille is said to have wanted so long," he said, gleefully, found, and she feared to disclose her have originated among the Belgians,

The waltz had its beginning in Ger-While in Rome, cards came to their many, and from thence was taken to For four weeks he had lain on his sick hotel, inviting them to a grand fete, which France, shortly after which it was introbed, old and poor and all alone, save for was to celebrate the birthday of the heir- duced into England. Hungary was the birthplace of the galopade, or galop, and

All there was in that ancient city of from Poland came the stately polonaise, Though still a mere child - only thir- rank and loveliness were gathered to- or polacca, and mazourka.

unconsciously, the thoughts and feelings the end of the long room the hostess and "tripping the light fantastic" among the which prompted the masterly strains of her daughter awaited their guests. The Scotch is the sword dance, which was the composers she so loved had woven young lady was turned slightly away from originated by the Scandinavians and old The suspense was sickening, but at last themselves into every fibre of her own an approaching group, among which Saxons, and at one time was indulged in Mrs. Montrose, dignified and stately as by the Spaniards.

ever in her black velvet and diamonds, The Irish reel and jig are two dances "Mark, Percy," she murmured, "the brethren, and in many respects greatly

In the majority of instances therefore. The presentation began. An usher an- our latter day dances were known and story. enjoyed by our ancestors hundreds of

"Mrs. Montrose - Mr. Percy Montrose." | years ago, and with slight modifications | an entirely opposite direction from the one The young lady turned, and there, in have been handed down for the edifi- which would have brought his vessel to that regally beautiful face, Percy recog- cation of the present generation. nized his lost Ailia.

A day after, with a heavy heart, Mrs. A BLUNDER SAVES HIS LIFE. Montrose bent over the bed where her

son and heir raved in delirium. The It was some time before the physicians

gave any hope, and then he said, seriously: does not have a relapse; but I can see fered a reward for the capture or killing that his mind is troubled; it is not bodily weakness alone which ails him."

In her room the haughty woman fell

With as much calm as he could control, Percy listened; then he turned his face

and the second second second

wound your toils around my boy - he lady, who had by that time given up all added their quota of sound. Those who "Ailia, that will do for this morning. I sees it, too, since I have opened his eyes. He himself sent me here to demand divorce from him on the ground of de It was a solemn and touching scene,

the billet."

never to be forgotten by those who were After they had risen from their knees years when your wife has some special pointed to some post in China. During

She commenced with the first words of

again, a sudden cry broke from Lilla's lips purpose in inflicting upon you the severest punishment known to a married man. and looking towards her, to the surprise Go home at a reasonable hour in the of all the cause was seen. The pet pigeon had broken a link of its detaining chain, evening.

and had fluttered off into the blue sky between two French subjects was not good which arched above, in a seeming sunny mockery of their desolate state. "My bird has deserted me !" was Lilla's

beginning of the game. pathetic cry. And tears, which suffering If, on the occasion of your first call, the had failed to call to her eyes, filled them

girl upon whom you have set your young affections looks like an iceberg and acts "Don't cry, little one. You've kept up so far, and if you give way, there's not a like a cold wave, take your leave early and man of us but what will blubber too. stay away. Woman in her hour of freeze is uncertain, coy and hard to please. Don't set us a bad example now."

In cold weather finish saying good night With a brave effort Lilla controlled herself. But she could not put the sorrow in the house. Don't stretch it all the for her bird out of her heart. She kept way to the front gate, and thus lay the foundation for future asthma. bronchitis. thinking to herself:

neuralgia and chronic catarrh to help you "Now I can never do my duty and send to worry the girl to death after she married

Strange, that at such a time she could Don't lie about your financial condition. bear anything in mind but her own suffering! But so it was, and it added a It is very annoying to a bride who has pictured a life of ease in her ancestral halls keener pang to the loss of her pet. But, marvellous to relate, when the to learn, too late, that you expect her to noonday sun was glaring down upon the ask a baldheaded old parent who has been not well paid, he had a small class of deep wrinkles upon his mother's once engaged in doing battle, the quick and famished group, a white speck appeared uniformly kind to her to take you in out

> MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP has been attracked attention. Then, in a few seconds, it came fluttering down, with a used by millions of mothers for their coo of content, and alighted upon Lilla's children while teething. If disturbed at night and broken of rest by a sick shoulder It seemed to their wondering eyes like child crying with pain of Cutting Teeth

> send at once and get a bottle of "Mrs. a spirit. Winslow's Soothing Syrup" for Children around among them. "God has not for- Teething. It will relieve the poor little "It is a good omen!" was whispered sufferer immediately. Depend upon it

gotten us!" mothers, there is no mstake about it. It And inspired by this thought the sailors cures Diarrhœa, regulates the Stomach and

again turned their dim eyes across the Bowels, cures Wind, Colic, softens the Gums broad expanse of waters to see if any sign and reduces Inflammation. Is pleasant to of life should appear in sight. the taste. The prescription of one of the Several hours went by, and then a dim oldest and best female physicians and nurses nore distinct, and at last proved to be a per bottle by all druggists throughout the

brig bearing down towards them. Oh, that the man on the lookout should Low's SootHING SYRUP. see the signal raised by the distressed crew. to a certainty, they were observed, for the brig paused and lowered her boats, which, manned by a competent crew, were soon parents?" reached, after a time, and were taken on

Now comes the wonderful part of my

The man at the wheel was steering in the relief of the shipwrecked crew, when a white bird flew against his face, and fluttered its wings in such a way that the astonished sailor did not dare to open his CREAN

wholly by plunder and greatly retarding and, being like all sea-faring men-super-

"Your son may recover, madam, if he Yan Yun. and the government finally of- in this. We must change our course," Owing to this the course of the brig of the bold outlaw. The country became | was changed, and by means of it many

ficer of the government asking how he After this Lilla's pet pigeon was, as is upon her knees and prayed for her son's would be treated if he surrendered. The natural, considered a most wonderful bird. The group above suddenly separated, life. Before the stern messenger who strips off all disguises, her pride melted, that your life will be spared, owing to the after the rescue, while Lilla herself lay clemency of the government." Yan Yun, prostrated upon a bed of sickness. The upon the strength of this letter, marched reaction from despair to hope had done into camp and gave himself up. what her distress had not been able to do



inseparably connected with our Milesian propelled toward them. They were board.

For several years the dacoits of upper eyes while the assault continued. The Burmah have overrun the country, living captain witnessed the singular occurance,

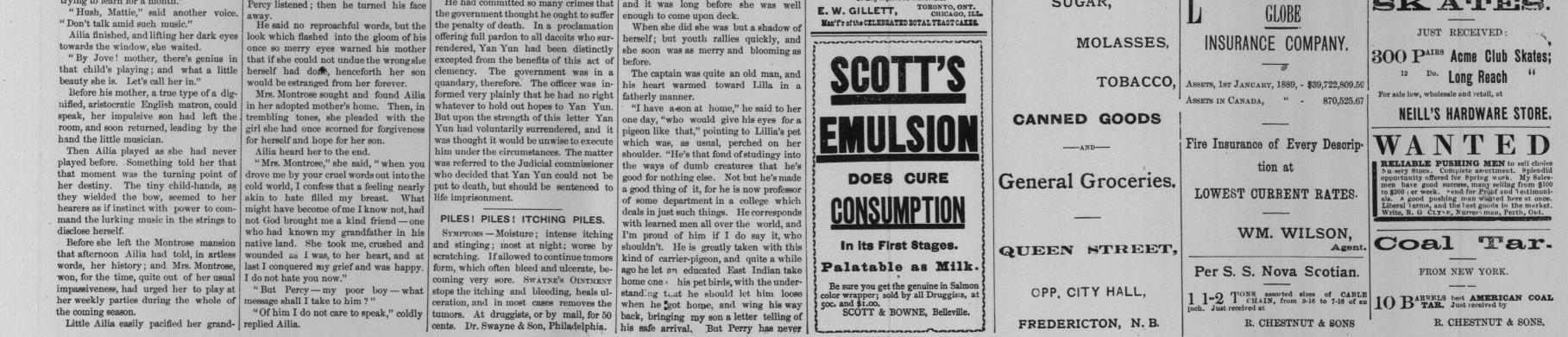
progress under the British regime. A no- stitious-he said : torious leader of these robber bands was "It strikes me that there is a meaning

too hot for him, and he wrote to an of- lives were saved, as we have seen.

He had committed so many crimes that and it was long before she was well

E. W. GILLETT, TORONTO, ONT. CHICAGO, ILL

world. Be sure and ask for "MRS. WINS-DID NOT FOLLOW. turn out almost the exact opposite of their "Oh, yes." was a most talented man."



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