MY WISH.

BY FRANK H. NORTON.

I.

If I might have my wish.

I would that this fair earth were thine and mine.

The sunlight thine to gild thy radiant hair:

The moonlight mine to show thy face more fair,

The sun, moon, earth, stars verily thine and mine.

If I might have my wish.

If I might have my wish,
I would that thou wert mine and I were thine—
And all the circling systems were no more,
And time were not, nor detth, nor all before.
Nor all that cometh after—at the sign, If I might have my wish.

111.

If I might have my wish.

I would that what I was and am were not,
That what I might have been were truly me.
And that thou wert what I would have thee be.
And all we now remember were torgot.
If I might have my wish.

IV.

If I might have my wish,
I would that things that ourse and things that bless.
The fortnous ways of living, and the breat h.
That fiffully prevents us from sweet death.
Might faile before my infinite teoderness,
If I might have my wish.

STEPMOTHERS.

How many books do we still take up in which the plot turns on the cruel machinations of a stepmother, and surely writers ought to be wiser now. They make the very name hateful; it seems to ring with unkindness and injustice, and far be it from us to say that the prototype is nowhere to be found. Cold-heartedness and oppression towards the children of one who has preceded her in heart and home are no doubt at times to be met with, but cannot many households tell another tale -- a tale of love and gentleness, and mutual affection and peace! And cannot too, some homes tell a third story, where the sufferer is the one who is looked on as an interloper! Are there not cases where a man, whose hearth has been early desolated, and who is left with little ones whom he cannot look after, and with a heart still yearning for affection, brings home some warm-hearted girl, ready to pour out no stinted measure of love on the motherless ones; and what do he and she find on settling down to their daily life? That foolish relatives or ignorant servants have already poisoned the baby minds against their second mother, and that all her efforts to win their affection and trust are blighted by the unholy influence that has been wielded. And when other little children come, too often, instead of being welcomed with brotherly or sisterly love. they are greeted with feelings of bitterness and jealously. Nor is this only so where the children, naturally perhaps, have a feeling that they may be deprived by a stranger of part of their birthright. Cases there are where hundreds have been added to the income by such a marriage-hundreds not even settled on the woman who brought them to a comparatively poor household; and yet she was set aside as a "nobody," treated with cold insult by stepchildren, and undefended by her husband. We might tell of sick beds watched with all a mother's devotion, of dying hours conted with all a mother's faithful self-forgetfulness; of the young spirit sinking to the grave, clinging with fond affection to the representative of that real parent whom it was soon to greet in the spirit land; and we turn with just anger from pictures laid before us as false as they are ill-judged. Into how many households must the second mother be brought, or they could never hold together. How many families must consist of the children of the one father, but of two mothers; and is it well that young minds should be prejudiced against a state of things in so many cases a necessity! But in the novel or the tale a youthful hero or heroine is the more interesting the more he or she suffers under the domestic roof, and that suffering is supposed to be most easily wrought by the "stepmother." Let us hope that a truer view will be taken of this relationship; that the vulgar feeling with regard to it (a feeling showing itself so plainly in some localities that the name of stepmother is given to that most painful thing on the finger sometimes called a hangnail), may ere long pass away from amongst us; and that, as at last the long-despised "old maid" is meeting with justice and kindly judgment, the same may be meted with no stinting hand to the often long-suffering and much-slandered "stepmother." - Queen.

VARIETIES.

A FRENCH soldier is placed on sentry over a 64-pounder. When, two hours later, the guard comes to relieve him, he is not at his post, and shop. "You scoundrel!" says the officer of the guard. "Is that the way you keep watch over the cannon committed to your care?" "Well, captain," says the soldier, "don't you see, I figured the matter up, and found that it would take at least twenty men to move that gun. Suppose one or two came along, they couldn't do any harm; but, if there were enough of them to carry it away, do you think I could prevent them—beat twenty of them myself?"

THE FOURTEEN WONDERS OF THE WORLD. --

times, were the Pyramids of Egypt, the Pharos of Alexandria, the walls and hanging gardens of Babylon, the Temple of Diana, the statue of the Olympian Jupiter, the Mausoleum of Artemisia, and the Colossus at Rhodes. The seven wonders of the world in modern times are the printing press, the steam engine, the telegraph, the daguerreotype, the telephone, the phonograph, and the electric light. The so called "Seven Wonders" of the Aucients were mere trifles compared with those of the present time. Brooklyn Bridge, for example, would make the hanging gardens of Babylon a mere toy, while the whole seven wonders put together would sink into insignificance could their builders have seen a lightning express train at full speed.

"Gentlemen of the jury," said a Tuscarors lawyer, "What kind of swearing has been done in this case ! Here we have a physician, a man who, from his high and noble calling, should be regarded as one who would scorn to stain his soul with perjury, or be guilty of giving utterance to an untruth. But what did he testify, gentlemen? I put the question to him plainly, as you all heard—Where was this man stabbed And what was his reply! Unblushingly, his features as cool and placid as though cut from marble, he replied that he was stabbed an inch and a half to the left of the medial line, and about an inch above the umbilicus; and yet we have proved, by three unimpeachable witnesses, that he was stabbed just below the railway station.

THE following proposal for a reform in ladies dress has been made by the New Dress Reform Association. A wide trouser, or divided skirt. which is to reach the ankle, and present much the same appearance as an ordinary short shirt, being trimmed round the foot with kiltings or plaitings according to fancy. Over this, and reaching to within an inch or two of the foot, an overskirt, which, being too elaborate, may also be looped up and trimmed to suit the taste of the wearer. This costume admits of all other skirts or petticoats being dispensed with, and thus offers the maximum of comfort and warmth, with the minimum of weight. A few ladies have already adopted the costume, and as in outward appearance it differs but slightly from the prevailing fashion, they have worn it in the most crowded and fashionable parts of London without attracting the least attention.

AN EXACTING ADVERTISER.—Advertisers are often unreasonable in their requirements, but it is not often that they demand all the virtues to be concentrated in one person, as does the au-thor of the following curious advertisement: "To persons of education -A gentleman, aged about thirty, in a weak state of health, purpos-ing wintering abroad, with the probability idepending on state of health) of afterwards remaining abroad for about two years, visiting the various parts of the globe, is desirous of meeting with a person of education of about the same age, and single, to assist and accompany him. One who would conscientiously reply in the affirmative to each of the following queries --Reliable, considerate, willing, temperate, active, obliging, not depending on others for entertainment or occupation, willing to acquiesce and assist in everything within reason, and accustomed to do things in a thorough and finished manner, with a liking for intellectual pursuits, particularly of moral science, especially that of Christianity, both in its practical as well as theoretical light. Is desirous, if possible, of meeting with one who has studied medicine, and a linguist, but would decline Irish or French extraction, or one desirons of obtaining sport."

NOVEL USES OF THE ELECTRIC LIGHT .-Several jockey clubs of the South are discussing the plan of lighting up their race-courses by lines of powerful electric lamps, and having their racing done at night. One great advan-tage will result from this. The spectators, as well as poor horses, will be protected in summer from the broiling rays of the sun. A company is now negotiating with the government for a contract to light the City of Washington, by placing around the dome of the Capitol a series of powerful electric lamps, aggregating several hundred thousand can lies in brilliancy. It is proposed in this way to light the city to the distance of a mile in all directions better than it is usually done by atreet gas-lamps. Pearl-fishing, it is now thought, can be conducted with great success by means of submerged electric lights in place of the old mode of employing divers. Incandescent lamps of the Edison form will be let down to the ocean bed, making it as light as the surface in daylight, while operators with suitable grappling tongs, at the surface, will pick up the pearl oysters and deposit them in crates sunken for the purpose at the depth of a hun-dred feet or more. Look out, now, for a supply of these lovely gems, larger than have yet been seen, since aged oysters can be taken from a depth far beyond the reach of the old-time diver.

It is remark worthy that the two most celebrated men of the period, the two whose achievements will fill the largest place in history in either hemisphere, Grant and Bismarck, the one the European and the other the American "man of blood and iron," are equally famous for their devotion to a good eigar. No caricaturist who drew Grant without a cigar could hope to rise in his profession. Bismarck once told a group of visitors the following story: "The value of a good cigar," said he, "is best understood when it is the last you possess, and there is no chance of getting another. At Koniggratz I had only THE FOURTEEN WONDERS OF THE WORLD. - one cigar left in my pocket, which I carefully The seven wonders of the world, in ancient guarded during the whole of the battle, as a

miser does his treasure. I did not feel justified in using it. I painted in glowing colours, in my mind, the happy hour in which I should enmy mind, the happy found in which miscalculated my chances." "And what," asked one of the company, "was the cause of your miscalculation!" "A poor dragoon," replied Bismarck, "who lay helpless with both arms crushed, murmuring for something to refresh him. I felt in my pocket and found I had only gold, and that would be of no use to him. had still my treasured eigar! I lighted this for him, and placed it between his teeth. You should have seen the poor fellow's grateful smile! I never enjoyed a cigar so much as that one which I did not smoke."

An American lawyer, defending a promissory note case, went to lunch, leaving his books and citations on the table in the court room. The opposing counsel sneaked back into the room and changed the place of all those book-marks. In the afternoon the lawyer taking up his books, referred the court to his authorities. His Honor noted every volume and page carefully, and took the case under advisement. In rendering his opinion he said: "I was inclined, after hearing the argument of counsel for defendant, to nonsuit plaintiff, but I find that, on referring to the authorities quoted by counsel, none of them bear on this case, and I am led to think that the gentleman has wilfully been trying to insult this court. He has referred me to an action of an Irish woman who sued the proprietor of a monkey for damages for biting her, to a case of arson, one of burglary, two of petty largeny, and three divorce cases, besides other matters, none of which bear on an action to recover on a promissory note. Perhaps the grossest insult to the court is in referring it to the case of Duckworth c. Boozyman, an action charging defendant with breach of promise. Judgment for plaintiff with costs." The lawyer never knew what the matter was, and to this day thinks the judge was out of his head

A WONDERFUL LAKE IN lowA .-- The greates wonder in the State of Iowa, and perhaps in any other State, is what is called the Walled Lake, in Wright County, twelve miles north of the Dubaque and Pacific Railway, and 150 miles west of Dubaque City. The lake is two or three feet higher than the earth's surface. In some places the wall is ten feet high, fifteen feet wide at the bottom, and five feet wide on the top. Another fact is the size of the stone used in the construction, the whole of them varying in weight from three tons down to 100 pounds. There is an abundance of stones in Wright County, but surrounding the lake, to the extent of five or ten miles, there are none. can form an idea of the means employed to bring them to the spot, or who constructed it. Around the entire lake is a belt of woodland half a mile in length, composed of oak. this exception, the country is a rolling prairie. The trees must have been planted there at the time of the building of the wall. In the spring of the year 1856 there was a great storm, and the ice on the lake broke the wall in several laces, and the farmers in the vicinity were obliged to repair the damages to prevent inundation. The lake occupies a ground surface of 800 acres; depth of water as great as 25 feet. The water is clear and cold, soil sandy and loamy. It is singular that no one has been able to ascertain where the water comes from nor where it goes, yet it is always clear and fresh.

A LAST GLIMPSE OF STRADICARIUS, "Although Stradiuarius made violins down to the last year of his life, still after 1730, feeling his hand and sight beginning to fail, he seldom signed his work. We can eatch one, and only one, glimpse of him as he lived and moved and had his being at Cremona in 1730. He was high and thin, and looked like one worn with much thought and incessant industry. In summer he wore a white cotton nightcap, and in winter one of some woollen material. He was never seen without his apron of white leather, and every day was to him exactly like every other day. His mind was always riveted upon his one pursuit, and he seemed neither to know nor to desire the least change of occupation. His violins sold for four golden livres aniege, and were considered the best in Italy; and as he never seent anything except upon the necessories of life and his own trade. he saved a good deal of money, and the simple-minded Cremonese used to make jokes about his thriftiness, and the proverb passed, " As rich as Stradiuarius." A traveller who lately visited his house, still standing in the square of Cremona, remarked that it was heated through with the sun like an oven. He said you might sit and sweat there as in a Turkish bath. That was how the Cremona makers dried their wood, and so it was their oils distilled slowly and remained always at a high temperature, their varnish weltered and soaked into the pine bellies and sycamore backs be-neath the tropical heat of those seventeenthcentury summers !

A FRESH-WATER SPRING IN THE ACLANTIC. One of the most remarkable displays of Nature may be seen on the Atlantic coast, eighteen miles south of St. Augustine. Off Matanzas Inlet, and three miles from shore, a mammoth fresh-water spring gurgles up from the depth of the ocean with such force and volume as to attract the attention of all who come in its immediate vicinity. This fountain is large, bold, and turbulent. It is noticeable to fishermen and others passing in small boats along near the shore. For many years this wonderful and mysterious freak of Nature has been known to

the people of St. Augustine and those living along the shore, and some of the superstitions ones have been taught to regard it with a kind of reverential awe, or holy horror, as the abode of supernatural influences. When the waters of the ocean in its vicinity are otherwise calm and tranquil, the upheaving and troubled appearance of the water shows unmistakable evidences of internal commotions. An area of about half an acre shows this troubled appearance, -something similar to the boiling of a washer-woman's kettle. Six or eight years ago Commodore Hitchcock, of the United States Coast Survey, was passing this place, and his attention was directed to the spring by the upheavings of the water, which threw his ship from her course as she entered the spring. His curiosity becoming excited by this circumstance, he set to work to examine its surroundings, and found six fathoms of water overywhere in the vicinity, while the spring was almost fathomless.

THE PERFUMES USED BY THE EGYPTIANS. The consumption of essences must have been normous at the highest tide of Egyptian splendour, for the people were actually enjoined to perfume themselves on Frilays; corpses were anointed with aromatic essences; sherbets and sweetmeats were flavoured with fine vegetable xtracts; perfumes filled the air in every wellto-do house, and saturated the letters and presents which were constantly being exchanged. The ladies bathed in perfumed water, the men used scented oils for the hair, and both made use of ret, yellow, and green soap. During great feativals, incense was burnt in all the streets, so that even the poorest might be re-galed by the mere act of breathing. Nor was there any lack of narcotics. The mode of preparing opium, introduced from Syoot in Upper Egypt, was well known, and the Sultan livy. use of Hasheesh, a stupelying and intoxicating preparation of Indian hemp. In spite of the Prophet's prohibition, the juice of the grape con-tinued to be indulged in; alcohol as its name indicates) is an Arab discovery, and beer the favourite beverage of the ancient Egyptians was also brewed and drunk under the Khalifs. Many a jovial song in praise of wing was sing by Arab posts, and in early times many Araba would by no means admit that the Prophet had forbidden its use. In an old MS, copy of Thabilibi it is said, "The Prophet—may God bless him and accept him—permitted wine, and mercifully allows us to strengthen ourselves with it at our meals, and to lift the veil of our cares and sorrows.

HUMOROUS.

Is wit is badinage what must it be in youth ' WHEN a boy goes off the track it shows that be switch has not been properly applied.

A RUSSIAN labourer works fifteen hours a day for eight cents, and finds himself. Here a labourer gets a dollar a day and lets the foreman of the gang find on

"TOMMY did you hear your mother call you?" Cores I did." "Then why don't you go to ber at once?" "Well, yer see she's nerrous, and did does her awtul it should go too suddent."

"Jist, does your mother ever whip, you " "No; but she clees a precious sight worse though "What's that " "Why, she washes my face ever

It was probably an Irish missionary who, when about to be masticated by the cannibals, original of that beautiful and touching song:

My father was Irish, My mother was Irish, And I am Irish stew.

A little kies. A little ring -it a saded.
A little jaw,
A little law,
A little law,
And lo? the leade are readed.

LITERARY AND ARTISTIC.

A NEW etching club -the Society of Scottish Etchers-has recently been organized in Edinburgh

E. A. FREEMAN, the historian, is expected to deliver his first lecture in Boston on the 17th of thetoner

Miss Grant, the sculptor and niece of the late Dean Stanley, has been commissioned by Queen Victoria to make a bust of her uncle.

THE fourth congress of the International laterary Association will be held at Vienna from the 25th of this mouth to the 25th

THE Paris Gazette mentions the purchase of York gallery out \$120,000. He recently seat home a collection which

JULES LEFEUVER, the French artist, is at work on a pleture for Mr. Vanderbilt, ontitled "The Bride's Tollet." It is intended as a wedding present to Mr. Vanderbilt's daughter, and will be floished early in October. Mr. Lefebvre is also engaged on an important picture for Mr. Schaus, of New York.

THE sculptor Heinrich Walger, of Berlin, the originator of the statues on the Helle-Alliance-Platz, has just flushed a plan on relief of ancient and modern Athens—modelled with extraordinary neatness and of the most perfect technical execution.

A FRENCH scientific expedition will start A FIGNOR Scientific expedition will addition the historical relies of the his dred gates, the anident capital of Upper Egypt, where sixty six sarcophagi of the Kings and Queens of the seventeenth century have recently been discovered by M. Maspéro. These sarcophagi, it is salit, combin papyris documents, talismans, and other historical relies.

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