

I MUSED LAST NIGHT IN PENSIVE MOOD.

"Oh there's noth'g half so sweet in life
A love's young dream!"

I mused last night in pensive mood,—
Albeit not often sentimental,—
My heart was heavy and my frame
Was racked with aches—both head and dental.
I say, as once I've said before,
My mood was somewhat sad and pensive,
I cast upon the Past a glance
Fond, lingering, and comprehensive.

I saw once more that mossy bank,
By which the river ripples slowly,
O'ershadowed by the silvery veil
Of willow branches drooping lowly,
Bestrewn with wildspring flowerets dyed
In every colour of the prism:
Where oft we sat, May Brown and I,—
Nor ever dreamed of rheumatism.

We loved. Ah, yes! Some might have loved
Before us, in their humdrum fashion;
But never yet the world had known
So wild, so deep, so pure a passion!
We recked not of the heartless crowd,
Nor heeded cruel parents' frowning;
But lived in one long blissful dream,
And spouted Tennyson and Browning.

And when the cruel fates decreed
That for a season I must leave her,
It wrung my very heart to see
How much our parting seemed to grieve her.
One happy moment, too, her head
Reposed, so lightly, on my shoulder!
In dreams I live that scene again,
And in my arms again enfold her.

She gave me one long auburn curl,
She wore my picture in a locket,
Her letters, with blue ribbon tied,
I carried in my left coat-pocket.
(Those notes, rose-scented and pink-hued,
Displayed more sentiment than knowledge.)
I wrote about four times a week.
That year I was away at College.

But oh, at length "a change came o'er
The spirit of my dream!" One morning
I got a chilly line from May
In which, without the slightest warning,
She said she shortly meant to wed
Tom Barnes (a parson, fat and jolly);
She sent my notes and ruby ring,
And hoped I would "forget my folly."

I sent her all her letters back,
I called her false and fickle-hearted,
And swore I hated with joy the hour
That saw me free. And so we parted.
I quoted Byron by the page,
I smoked Havanas by the dozens,
And then I went out West and fell
In love with all my pretty cousins.

Scribner's Monthly.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

The *Morning Post* says that the pension granted to the father of Don Carlos by the Emperor Nicholas of Russia was stopped by the Emperor Alexander directly the present Don Carlos entered Spain as a Pretender.

The *Herald of Health*, in speaking of colours, says: "Yellow on the walls of rooms has a very depressing effect on the mind. Violet is worse. A man would go mad in a little while in a violet papered or painted room. Black rooms or rooms heavily draped in mourning produce gloom and foreboding."

The frequent journeys which Prince Leopold of Bavaria has of late made to Berlin are accounted for in a Vienna telegram, which states that the King of Bavaria intends next year to visit India for the purpose of perfecting his artistic studies, and that during his absence Prince Leopold will be Regent. To obtain the assent of the German Emperor to this arrangement was probably the object of Prince Leopold's visits to the Prussian capital.

From a return recently made to the French War Office it appears that of the four Marshals now on the Army List, one came from the Polytechnic School, two from the School of St. Cyr, and one has risen from the ranks. Of the 314 generals now in active service, 24 generals of division and 38 brigadiers came from the Polytechnic School, 74 generals of division and 129 brigadiers from the School of St. Cyr, and 18 generals of division and 32 brigadiers have risen from the ranks.

A writer in the London *Athenæum* says:—"Birds have a great fear of death. A hen canary belonging to the author died while nesting and was buried. The surviving mate was removed to another cage, the breeding-cage itself was thoroughly purified, cleansed, and put aside till the following spring. Never afterwards, however, could any bird endure to be in that cage, and, if obliged to remain, they huddled close together and moped and were thoroughly unhappy, refusing to be comforted by any amount of sunshine or dainty food. The experiment was tried of introducing foreign birds, who were not even in the house when the canary died, nor could, by any possibility, have heard of her through other canaries. The result was the same—no bird would live in that cage. The cage was haunted, and the author was obliged to desist from all further attempts to coax or force a bird to stay in it."

An inquest has been held on a shoemaker named Donovan, who was an inmate of the Prestwich Lunatic Asylum, and worked at his trade there. He had a great taste for eating iron, and died suddenly. The post mortem examination showed that the stomach contained one pound ten ounces of nails, some an inch and a half long. Several pieces of iron, half an inch square, and an awl without handle. The jury returned a

verdict of death from peritonitis, in accordance with the medical evidence. The following is a list of the articles discovered in the stomach and intestines of the deceased:—1639 shoe-makers' sparsables, six 4-inch cut nails, 19 3 inch cut nails, eight 2½-inch cut nails, 18 2-inch cut nails, 40 1½-inch cut nails, seven three-quarter-inch cut nails, 39 tacks, five brass nails, nine brass brace-buttons, 20 pieces of buckles, one pin, 14 bits of glass, 10 small pebbles, three pieces of string, one piece of leather three inches long, one piece of lead four inches long, one American pegging-awl two inches long—total number, 1841; total weight, 11 lb. 10 oz.

In the will of the late Baron A. Rothschild occurs the following paragraph, which, in its inculcation of forbearance to each other among his children, and never to loosen family bonds, may be followed with a high degree of advantage by the professing Christian: "I exhort all my beloved children always to live in harmony, never to loosen family bonds, to avoid all differences, dissensions, and litigations, to use forbearance toward each other, and not to allow temper to get the better of them, and to be friendly in their disposition. My children possess a good example in their excellent grand-parent. Friendliness was always the sure condition to the happiness and success of the whole Rothschild family. May my children now and never lose sight of this family tradition, and may they follow the exhortation of my late father, their grandfather, contained in paragraph fifteen of his last will and testament, always to remain true and faithful, and without changing, to the paternal faith of Israel."

A writer in *Tinsley's Magazine* says: "Perhaps it was because of Thackeray's keen-sightedness to detect and his readiness to expose and pillory the snob that he could the more genially describe a gentleman. There are many passages in his writings which bespeak his appreciation of the character. The reader will remember his famous prospectus of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, which being conducted by gentlemen, was to be addressed to gentlemen. 'Perhaps,' he says, 'a gentleman is a rarer personage than some of us think for. Which of us can point out many such in his circle, men whose aims are generous, whose truth is constant, whose want of meanness makes them simple, who can look the world honestly in the face, with an equal manly sympathy for the great and the small? We all know a hundred whose coats are well made, and a score who have excellent manners, and one or two happy beings who are what they call in the inner circles, and have stepped into the very centre and bull's-eye of fashion; but of gentlemen, how many?' Let us take a scrap of paper, and each make out his list."

A correspondent of the New York *Tribune* asks the following question: "If a man were to start from New York Monday noon and travel with the sun around the world, reaching New York again at the end of twenty-four hours, it would then be Tuesday noon. Where did it change from Monday to Tuesday?" To this the editor replies as follows:—"We commend to this querist Jules Verne's 'Tour of Eighty Days Round the World,' and in direct reply to her question remark that as the sun travels over 15° in one hour, in twelve hours he would be 180° from New York, at which point his Tuesday might begin. This would bring the traveller somewhere in Chinese Tartary. Practically this is effected by vessels crossing the Pacific Ocean, making a change in their reckoning according to the way they are going, by either dropping or duplicating a day. The change is made while crossing a parallel of longitude no part of which goes over land. Twenty-five years ago the question arose in our astronomy class, 'Where does New Year's Day begin?' and the answer given, 'Somewhere in Central Asia.'"

Eugene Lawrence, writing from Paris on the French nation says that "its chief want seems to be an intelligent and rational press. The French thinkers are so impulsive as to lose all trace of consistency. At one moment M. Victor Hugo is the advocate of universal peace, the next he insists upon another war with Germany. The Parisian editors expend their rare intellectual gifts in brilliant sallies and quick rejoinders, in amusing where they ought to instruct, in following the popular impulse of the hour where they ought to guide. One looks almost in vain in the best French journals for any calm review of the resources of the nation, or any new project for their full development; for the improvement of the means of internal communication, in which the country is still singularly deficient; for the advancement of education, and the spread of popular reform. Even *La République Française*, which has paid some attention to these topics, has scarcely leisure to discuss them fully. Yet it is not improbable that a paper that would give its chief attention to the real wants of the nation might command an audience that none other can reach. The people are already tired of frivolity and impurity, and are glad to be instructed even by Messrs. Erckmann-Chatrian."

Many persons, says the *Medical Times and Gazette*, eat far too much flesh, and would be the better for a more copious admixture of vegetables. Others have too much vegetable, and especially farinaceous food, and not enough flesh, regard being had in either case to the work which the individual has to do, and the power of digestion. Too exclusive a flesh diet is the vice of many rich people, who even allow their children at school to indulge in game pies and other articles of the highest class, such as unfit boys for plain fare, and deprive them of the help which a higher diet might afford them hereafter in case of illness. Too much animal food is unduly stimulant, renders children restless and quarrelsome, young men sensual and Philistine, and elderly men gouty and dyspeptic. Too exclusively vegetable or farinaceous a diet, especially if tried too suddenly by persons unused to it, has for its first effect to constipate the bowels, which become loaded with masses of undigested bread, potato, or rice. We believe it may be laid down as an axiom, that, other things being equal, the more the brain is worked, the greater need is there for animal food. Town people must have more meat, as a rule, than country folks; the children of professional men more than the children of agricultural labourers. Still, rich townspeople on the whole should use less flesh, and poor ones more.

A curious custom is the "locking-up" which takes place nightly at the Tower of London. As the clock strikes the hour the yeoman porter, clothed in a long red cloak, bearing a huge bunch of keys, and accompanied by a warder carrying a lantern, stands at the front of the main guard-house, and calls out, "Escort Keys." The sergeant of the guard and five or six men then turn out and follow him to the outer gate, each sentry challenging as they pass with "Who goes there?" the answer being, "Keys." The gates being carefully locked and barred, the procession returns, the sentries exacting the same explanation and receiving the same answer as before. Arrived once more at the front of the main guard-house, the sentry gives a loud stamp with his foot and asks, "Who goes there?" "Keys," "Whose Keys?" "Queen Victoria's Keys." "Advance Queen Victoria's Keys, and all's well." The yeoman porter then calls out, "God Bless Queen Victoria," to which the guard responds "Amen." The officer on duty gives the word "Present Arms," and kisses the hilt of his sword, and the yeoman porter then marches alone across the parade and deposits the keys in the Lieutenant's lodgings. The ceremony over, not only is all egress and ingress totally precluded, but even within the walls no one can stir without being furnished with the countersign.

A correspondent of the Chicago *Post and Mail* writes: "The air cures of the Alps are an important element among the attractions of Switzerland. You find them scattered through the country at different altitudes to accommodate all invalids. The healing virtues seem to reside between the elevations of two to six thousand feet for the majority. Some constitutions gain benefit at still higher altitudes, even up to 9,000 feet. After a lengthened sojourn 'on the heights,' the return to the ordinary level must be made by degrees. The hotel here at Frohn Alp, which is an air, milk, and whey cure combined, is full of Swiss Germans. Their capacity for eating, or rather drinking, is quite marvellous. They begin the day at six o'clock with from one to three large glasses of milk warm from the cow or goat. At eight comes the usual Swiss breakfast of bread, butter, coffee, and honey; dinner at noon, coffee and bread at four, warm milk again at six, a hearty supper at half-past seven, and between nine and ten you see many finishing off with a night-cap of wine or beer. Oh, for their livers and digestive organs! The life in the open air, which is the important cure, may account for this constant imbibing. The Swiss and many German doctors have great faith in the curative powers of this mountain air so near the glaciers. It is particularly beneficial for nervous diseases, worn-out brain workers, weakened constitutions, and for those who are suffering from poverty of blood and pulmonary difficulties. The more climbing the patient can do, according to his strength the more rapid is his improvement."

According to a discovery made by Professor Shief, of Florence—a discovery which has been pushed beyond him by many others—it was found that it was quite enough to touch the nostrils of a horse, simply passing the fingers along the sides of the nose, to stop the activity of his heart and respiration, and to stop consciousness in a measure. He did not find, but left another to find it, that interchange between the tissues and the blood is also stopped. It is well known now that most of these men who succeeded in quieting violent horses put their fingers to that part, and sometimes inside the nares. Merely touching these parts may produce the same effect; pressing hard has more effect. It is not essential that the application be made there, as a pressure of the lip may do the same thing. In some animals—rabbits and guinea pigs—if we pass needles into their chest and heart, so as to judge of respiration and circulation, we find that we stop the circulation as we press the lips or part of the cheek. It is not that the poor creature is frightened as when we deprive them partially of their consciousness, as almost altogether, by the use of chloroform, the same phenomena occur. There is a very curious fact mentioned by Catlin, who travelled in the west, and wrote two volumes on the Indians. He states that the calves of the buffalo, if they are caught, and the air from the lungs of a man is strongly breathed into their nostrils, will become so fascinated by that peculiar influence, that they will run after the horse of the hunter, and follow him five or six miles. It is said, and Mr. Catlin affirms it, that in Texas, or in other parts of the country where there are wild horses taken by the lasso, if the hunter, in taking hold of their nostrils, forcibly breathes into the nostrils of the horse, he will follow him and become perfectly tame.

We find in the *Revue Scientifique* a notice on Dr. Ewald Hecker's *Physiology and Psychology of Laughter and the Ludicrous*, which is not without general interest. The author begins by examining laughter caused by tickling, and explains it by a contraction of the mesenteric vessels, the lungs, and the interdigital membranes, an effect which may be equally produced by a mustard plaster or by a sudden application of hot water. Dr. Hecker thinks, likewise, that the motions of the diaphragm in laughing are intended to remedy the disturbance caused in the brain by the contraction of the vessels of circulation, the thoracic cavity being thereby enlarged. Dr. Dumont, the author of the article before us, does not accept this explanation and is of opinion that it is applicable to anguish rather than to laughter. A threat to tickle often causes cachinnation more than the act itself, and that cannot be a consequence of mere association of the idea of laughter with that of tickling, for in that case the person would laugh with less intensity, yet the contrary is the case. Tell an irritable person you are going to pinch him at a given place and moment; he will not laugh if he feels the sensation at the time, and in the way predicted, but if you merely perform the pantomime of pinching without giving effect to the act, the person will immediately laugh. Dr. Dumont has made some experiments on the subject. Thus:—(1) When we draw a finger uniformly and in the same direction along the skin of another person, there will be no laughter, nor is there any tickling sensation; (2) if we touch repeatedly on the same place the person will not laugh, provided the intervals of time be equal, but he will if they be unequal; (3) the same will occur if, the intervals of the time being equal, the direction of the touches be unexpectedly changed; (4) if there be no interruption in the contact, laughter may be produced either by varying the quickness of the motion or by changing its direction repeatedly; (5) when one tickles one's self, one never laughs. In short, there is something more than the mere touch in this excitement; both direction and rapidity appear to play a part in it. To this must be added, in many cases, a deception or an expectation deceived and the phenomenon then pertains to psychology.