

The Poet's Corner. Discords. I had some grains of truth at least. That fable of the Sybarite, For whom because one leaf was creased, The rose-straw couch had no delight, I think not even sanguine youth Expects its gold without alloy: But this is still the sober truth— A little pain can mar much joy. 'Tis pity that one thwarting thought, One adverse chance, one sudden fear Or sharp regret, can turn to nought The full content that seemed so near! But this strange life of our's abounds With notes so subtle, they afford A thousand discords and harsh sounds For one harmonious, perfect chord.

Saving the Train. The usual crowd of autumn liars were gathered together in the store, occupying all the grocery seats—the only gross receipts for the proprietor took no pride in—when a little, blue-eyed, weazen-faced individual sneaked in by the back door, and slunk into a dark corner. "That's him," said the ungrammatical bummer with a green patch over his left eye. "Who?" asked several at once. "Why, the chap who saved a train from being wrecked," was the reply. "Come, tell us about it," they demanded as the small man crouched in the darkness as if unwilling that his heroic deed should be brought out under the glare of the blazing kerosene lamp. After much persuasion reinforced by a stiff horn of apple jack, he began: "It was just such a night as this—bright, and clear—and I was going home down the track, when, right before me, across the rails, lay a great beam. There it was. Pale and ghostly as a lifeless body, and light as it appeared, I had not the power to move it. A sudden rumble and roar told me that the night express was thundering down, and soon would reach the fatal spot. Nearer and nearer it approached till, just as the cowcatcher was about lifting me, I sprang aside, placed myself between the obstruction and the track, and the train flew on unharmed." The silence was so dense for a moment that one might have heard a dew drop. Presently somebody said: "What did you do with the beam?" "I didn't touch it," he replied "but it touched me." "Well," persisted the questioner, "if you couldn't lift it, and didn't touch it, how in thunder did the train get over it?" "Why, don't you see," said the sad faced man, as he arose from his seat and slid toward the door. "The obstruction was a moon-beam, and I jumped so as the shadow of my body took its place, and—"

Poisons and Antidotes. The following list contains some of the more common poisons and the remedies likely to be found in households: Acids—These cause great heat and sensation of burning pain from the mouth down to the stomach. Remedies, magnesia, soda, pearl-ash or soap dissolved in water; then use the stomach pump or emetic. Alkalies—The remedy is vinegar. Ammonia—Remedies, lemon juice or vinegar. Alcohol—First clean out the stomach by an emetic, then dash cold water on the head and give ammonia (spirits of hartshorn). Arsenic—In the first place, evacuate the stomach, then give the white of eggs, lime water, or chalk and water, charcoal, and the preparations of iron, particularly hydrate.

White lead and sugar of lead—Remedies, alum, cathartic, such as castor oil and epsom salts especially. Charcoal—In poisons by carbonic acid gas, remove the patient to the open air, dash cold water on the head and body, and stimulate the nostrils and lungs by hartshorn, at the same time rubbing the chest briskly. Corrosive sublimate—Give white of eggs and emetic. Belladonna, night henbane—Give emetics, and then give plenty of water and vinegar, or lemonade. Mushrooms—Emetics, and then plenty of vinegar and water, with doses of either, if handy. Nitrate of silver (lunar caustic)—Give a strong solution of common salt, and then emetics. Snake bites, etc.—Apply immediately strong hartshorn, and then take it internally; also give sweet oil stimulants freely; apply a ligature above the part bitten, and then apply a cupping glass. Tartar emetic—Give large doses of tea made of galls, peruvian bark or white oak bark. Verdigris—Plenty of white eggs and water. White vitrol—Give plenty of milk and water. Opium—Give a strong emetic of mustard and water, then strong coffee and acid drinks; dash cold water on the head of the patient. Nux vomica—First give emetics, then brandy. Oxalic acid (frequently mistaken for epsom salts)—Give chalk, magnesia, or soap and water, and other soothing drinks. Prussic acid—When there is time, administer chlorine in the shape of soda or lime. Hot brandy and water, hartshorn and turpentine are also useful.

Origin of Wedding Cake. There is a custom, says Harper's Bazar, prevailing among the inhabitants of the Sandeman islands which may throw a little light upon the civilized use of wedding cake. When a native girl, whose exceptional beauty has brought her many suitors, is knocked down with a club and carried off by her accepted lover, the wedded pair within 48 hours of the wedding send a cup of poison distilled from the hula-hula tree to each and every one of the bride's former admirers. If any recipient feels that he cannot become reconciled to the marriage, he drinks the poison and dies; but if he decides that he will survive the loss of his intended wife, he throws away the poison, and feels bound in honor never to show the slightest sign of disappointment. By this admirable system the husband is spared the pangs of jealousy, and is able to live on friendly terms with the surviving admirers of his wife. It is strange that the custom of sending wedding poison to unsuccessful suitors has never spread beyond the Sandeman, islands, but it is quite possible that wedding cake was in its origin precisely analogous to the wedding poison of the Sandeman islanders. It may have been more swiftly fatal in prehistoric times than it is at present, and it may have been used solely with the view of securing newly-married people in the possession of undisturbed happiness. At present it fails to accomplish this purpose because no one ever dreams of eating it. Of course an occasional child surreptitiously devours wedding cake and perishes miserably, just as occasional and entirely incomprehensible children lunch on corrosive sublimate, or drink with apparent relief quantities of sulphuric acid. So, too, in rare instances, determined suicides have compassed their nefarious end with the help of wedding cake. Still it is entirely accurate to say that no one to whom wedding cake is sent ever eats it, and it is highly improbable that the senders are ever actuated by a desire to destroy life.

A Good Office. The Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company has just issued an illustrated treatise, "The Heart of the Continent," describing the wonderful growth of the six Great States. The book is beautifully printed, and numerous engravings of high merit adorn its pages. Any one sending their name and address with two three-cent postage stamps will receive a copy by return mail, by applying to Percival Lowell, General Passenger Agent, Chicago, Illinois.

Bad for Beer Drinkers. Hops are unusually scarce and high this season on both sides of the Atlantic, they bring at least 100 per cent more than ordinarily, having risen to \$1.35 a pound for the best quality. The brewers are consequently at their wits' end for substitutes. Quassia chips, which originally are worth 2 cents a pound, have risen to 10 cents, and twenty tons were lately sold at this rate in New York for brewing purposes. Quassia yields a strong, bitter flavor, and is not an unhealthy tonic. Aloes, colombo and nux vomica, which are also in demand by the brewers, are quite as bitter as quassia, but are hardly the substances which one would like to take as a beverage. It was the opinion of the National druggists' convention at Cleveland the other day that for the next 12 months brewers were likely to be among the most profitable customers of the members. Hops cannot be obtained in sufficient quantities at any cost, and so the pharmacopoeia is to be massaged for bitter principles. The beer of the coming season will be medical, if nothing else.—Cincinnati Gazette.

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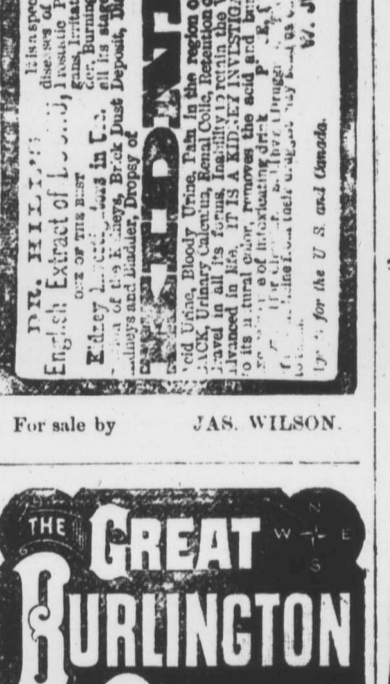
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