

And thus was the show given awiv and all men understood; for he, the Super-Sober-Sorcerer that hated the evil of Whisk and washed his face in water, was caught by the Hounds of Justice.

For these know the smell of Whisk; tho' the taste thereof is surely not known to them.

So, like Byron, did he become famous overnight, and hath now the extreme honor of exemplifying in his own person the large wisdom of Shakespeare who wrote 'that one may smile, and smile, and be a villain.'

Yea, verily, it is a sin to be found out, likewise it is Damned Inconvenient. Yea, verily!



Tale the Third

Concerning the Men of Medicine and the trials that they had

Now in the City of Van, that lieth in the bosom of the mountains, there raged a Pestilence, and many there were that became sick unto death.

And the Men of Medicine were sore troubled and they held among them a council.

For out of the clash of mighty intellects alone can the radiant spark of truth be generated.

And one, speaking earnestly, said: "Confreres of the noble practice of healing the carnal woes of humanity, hearken unto me, lend me your ears, be attentive I beseech ye, for much of wisdom have I to impart."

And the young men and the old that had dedicated themselves to the service of Asklepios, the god of medicine and of healing, lent him their ears forthwith and contracted their jaws and opened wide their eyes.

For among them were eager men, and men that were learned, that could place after their names big bold letters, such as M.D., M.B., Ch.B., and other mystic signs to show that it had been given unto them to perform wonders in a prosaic world.

So he that would deliver himself of his wisdom, said: "The pestilence rageth and men sicken and die. Ah, it is woeful."

And the Medicine Men that were

gathered together said, as with one voice: "Yea, yea, it is so; verily thou has spoken the ultimate wisdom; but what is it that we must do?"

Whereat he that would blast a way to alleviation said, in emphatic delivery: "Prophylaxis is the sole antidote to the propagation of the insidious and toxic bacteria of this maledy."

On hearing this, the Medicine Men gave heed to him more eagerly, but one or more of the younger and bolder that thirsted after knowledge, asked: "What prophylactic treatment is there categorically to be considered the 'ultima Thule' of preventative endeavor?"

And lo! this did it.

For the young and eager had opened wide the flood gates of talk, and where are the men of learning in this vale of tears that do not love to babble, even as the brook babbleth?

And Moses! they talked; yea verily did they unburden their grey matter of much professional wisdom culled and gathered from the wild forest of experience.

And they spake in a language all their very own and which none other than Medicine Men and the highly intellectualised can comprehend.

So that a stranger, that is an ordinary fellow, chancing among them un-