

"THE FAVORITE"

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THE FAVORITE

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We request intending contributors to take notice that in future Rejected Contributions will not be returned.

Letters requiring a private answer should always contain a stamp for return postage.

No notice will be taken of contributions unaccompanied by the name and address of the writer (not necessarily for publication,) and the Editor will not be responsible for their safe keeping.

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These MSS. will be preserved until the Fourth of January next, and if not applied for by that time will be destroyed. Stamps should be sent for return postage.

THE POWER OF GOLD.

He who possesses gold holds a wand of magic power. Though but so much metal, it means worldly honor and consideration — it means land, houses, luxuries, pleasures, and all the good things of this life. Therefore we wonder not that, to obtain possession of this potent metal, so much toil is devoted, so many dangers are encountered, so many terrible

temptations are risked. For gold, men are found ready to sell themselves body and soul — to cross seas and deserts — to rake mud, riddle dirt, and work with spade, pickaxe, and cradle, among ruffians and desperadoes, in California and Australia. You cannot define the lengths to which men will not go in their eager thirst for gold. Yet every evil has some mixture of good in it. Though ambition and avarice may impel men to seek gold, human progress is, nevertheless, in some mysterious way identified with the search. As the search for gold by the early alchemists led to the first close cultivation of chemistry, and laid the foundations of that science — so the search for gold in modern times has led to a dispersion and admixture of the old races of men, and is destined to issue in the establishment of powerful empires in regions now comparatively desert and unpeopled. The fertile soil of Australia, its abounding flocks and herds, and illimitable agricultural wealth, long invited emigrants in vain; but when once gold was discovered there, emigrants from all the old and overpeopled countries in Europe flowed into the region apace, and straightway a great nation was founded.

As for the gold, it was not wealth. It is, at best, a mere representative of it, — heretofore so regarded, because men have conventionally agreed upon accepting that metal as the article of exchange for food, clothing, and property, in consequence of its supposed scarcity and limited supply. But let gold be found in as great abundance as copper, and it at once ceases to be the representative of wealth. But land ever remains the same; and no matter whether gold be scarce or plentiful, land will always represent food and clothing, which, under all circumstances, must constitute the great foundation-wealth of the human race. Gold has been conventionally agreed upon by civilized nations as the "circulating medium" of value, because it has heretofore been found only in small quantities, and has been obtained with considerable risk and labor. The possibility of gold becoming as abundant as copper or zinc was never dreamt of. Whoever imagined a country, the rocks and earths of which were impregnated with gold? So, then, gold is not a scarce article, after all, and the production of it is not necessarily dangerous or laborious.

What may be the ultimate effects of the sudden increase of gold in our way, it is not for us to discuss in this place. That is a point which we gladly leave to the political philosophers — and a knotty point they will find it. But let us turn towards the more historic aspect of the gold question, and contemplate for a moment the earlier features of the gold-hunting mania. The desire for earthly happiness early impelled men to search for wealth, — especially for gold, which was its equivalent, — and thousands of men, in all countries, early gave themselves up to the pursuit of it. But, in those early times, it was not the laborers, with pick and cradle, who searched for gold, but the wisest and most ambitious men — men armed with all the known science of their day, possessed of unconquerable ardor, and inspired with a passion for knowledge which almost bordered on madness. For nearly fifteen centuries did the hunt for the Philosopher's Stone continue; and though the Universal Solvent, which was to convert all metals into gold, was never found, yet the results of the search for it were of incalculable importance to the human race.

There is a well-known story of an old man, the father of three idle sons, calling them around him when on his death-bed, to impart to them an important secret. "My sons," said he, "a great treasure lies hid in the estate which I am about to leave you." The old man gasped. — "Where is it hid?" exclaimed the sons, in a breath. — "I am about to tell you," said the old man; "you will have to dig for it." But his breath failed him before he could impart the weighty secret; and he died. Forthwith the sons set to work with spade and mattock upon the long-neglected fields, and they turned up every sod and clod upon the estate. They discovered no treasure, but they learnt to work; and when the fields were sown, and the harvest came, lo! the yield was quite prodigious, in consequence of the thorough tillage which they had undergone. Then it was that they discovered the treasure concealed in the estate, of which their wise old father had advised them. Just so has it been with the study of alchemy by the ancient philosophers. In the hope of discovering the "virgin earth," the Philosopher's Stone, they, with indefatigable perseverance and constancy, brought into contact all known substances, organic and inorganic; and though they did not attain the object of their search, they achieved results fraught with vastly greater consequence to man. As Mr. Tupper puts it in his "Proverbial Philosophy": —

"The alchemist labored in folly, but catcheth chance gleams of wisdom,
And findeth out many inventions, though his crucible breed not gold."

The most learned men among the Egyptian philosophers were engaged in searching for the Philosopher's Stone many centuries before

Christ; and from Egypt the Arabians, after the conquest of that country, carried abroad their knowledge of natural and scientific truths over the then civilized world. Whoever has read the "Tales of the Thousand and One Nights" (and who has not) will remember that the geni of the Arabians are always the guardians of immeasurable treasures, of gardens whose trees are of gold, and their fruits of precious gems. Never has the Romance of Wealth been written in a style more fascinating, from Ali Baba and Sinbad the Sailor, to Aladdin and Nouraddin. The Arabs were a people most eager in their pursuit of gain and gold; and these tales merely represent the popular as well as the learned tastes at the time when Bagdad, Bussora, and Damascus were amongst the most wealthy and renowned cities of the East.

HAIRY MEN.

Two remarkable instances of hairy men arrived recently in Berlin. They are Russians, father and son, and have excited so much interest that Professor Virchow has delivered a lecture upon the phenomenon, an abstract of which appears in the *Edinburgh Medical Journal*.

They are peculiarly remarkable in being edentulous. They are not hairy men in the ordinary acceptance of the term, but more resemble some of the monkey tribe (the Diana monkey, cuxio, etc.); while their edentulous condition carries them yet lower in the animal scale. The eldest is a man aged over 55, Andrian by name, said to be the son of a Russian soldier from the district of Kostroma. He was born during the period of service of his reputed father, and has no resemblance to him, to his mother, or to a brother and sister whom he possesses. To escape the unkindness of his fellow villagers, Andrian fled to the woods, where he lived in a cave, and was much given to drunkenness; even yet he is said to live chiefly on sauerkraut and schnapps; but his mental condition, which is truly none of the sharpest, does not seem to have suffered, and he is, on the whole, of a kindly disposition, and affectionate to his son, and to those about him. Andrian was married, and had two children, who died young; one of these was a girl resembling her father; but of the other, a boy, nothing can be ascertained. Fedor, the boy, exhibited with him, is three years old, and comes from the same village; he is said to be Andrian's son, born in concubinage; and it is most probable that this is the case, as it would be singular were two such creatures to originate independently in one small village. The peculiarity of these individuals is that they have an excessive growth of hair upon one particular part of the body, namely, the face and neck; on the body and lower extremities there is also a stronger growth of hair; and particularly on the back and arms of the child, there are sundry patches of 0.15 inch to 0.25 inch in diameter, covered with soft yellowish white hair 0.12 to 0.24 inch long. Andrian himself has on his body isolated patches strewn, but not thickly, with hair 1.5 inches to 2 inches long. But all this is trifling and subordinate compared with the hair growth on the face, to which attention is mainly directed. Andrian has only the left eye tooth in the upper jaw; Virchow has not stated how many teeth are in his lower jaw, but from the context it is improbable that he has more than his son, namely, four incisors. The son has no teeth, hardly any alveolar process, and the upper lip is very narrow, so that the upper jaw appears depressed; the father presents the same appearance. It is somewhat singular that a similar family has long been known to exist at Ava, and was first described by Crawford in 1829, and since then by Belgel. Three generations of this family are now known to exist. The grandfather, Shwe-Maon, had a daughter Map-hoon, and she again a son, all of whom present precisely the same peculiarities as in the family of Andrian, not only as to the growth of hair, but also as to the teeth. The grandfather has in the upper jaw only four incisors, in the lower jaw four incisors and one eye tooth; and these teeth did not appear till he was twenty years of age. Map-hoon has only four incisors in each jaw; the eye teeth and molars are wholly wanting; the first two incisors appeared during her second year. The peculiarity of the hairiness in these individuals is of the same type as in Andrian and his son, in whom every part of the face and neck, usually only covered with lanugo, is covered with long hair, the very eyelids being so covered, the eyelashes being normal, while flowing locks come out of both nostrils, and also out of the *meatus auditorius externus*. At first sight, the occurrence of two such families in two such distinct parts of the world seems to point them out as "Missing links" — as the unreformed descendants of an earlier race of man. And our thoughts are carried back to the Ainos or hairy Kuriles, who are believed to be the remains of the aborigines of Japan, and who now inhabit the northern parts of the Island of Yesso and the southern part of the Island of Saghalien. At first these aborigines were stated to be as hairy as our wild men; but from more accurate information, obtained by the Berlin Anthropological Society through the German resident Herr Von Brandt, accompanied by numerous photographs and Japanese pictures of these Ainos, and from an examination of a skull recently obtained through Privy Councillor Von Pelican, Virchow is able to state with positiveness that, neither in respect of the formation of hair nor

in regard to the teeth, have the Ainos any analogy with the Russian or Burmese hairy men. The Ainos are certainly hairier on the chest and extremities than the nations around them, but there is nothing peculiar in the distribution of the hair, and the males have hair only on the typical parts peculiar to man. There is not a shadow of a race connection between the Ainos and the Russian hairy men, and only the most prudent imagination could connect the latter with the Burmese family. No doubt, careful breeding could raise a new race of men from this accidental variety, just as various new races of domestic animals, dogs, for instance, have been propagated from accidental varieties. Virchow, however, believes that the peculiarities, belonging to the Russian as well as to the Burmese families, depend upon idiosyncrasies of innervation, and these upon accidental congenital abnormalities in the *trigemini*, within whose domain all these features present themselves, only to be ascertained by careful dissection.

AN ARTFUL KNAVE.

At Highgate, Vt., lately, while Deacon Jeremy Record and his son were in the woods at work, leaving the son's wife, a young woman of eighteen, the sole occupant of the house, a man, disguised with a black veil, noiselessly entered the house and, coming unperceived upon the young woman, seized her arms from behind and bound them. He then put a rope around her neck and secured her to a kettle of boiling water on the stove, so that she could not move without pulling it upon herself. Then, after threatening to take her life if she made any outcry or attempted to escape, the robber ransacked the house, securing a pocket-book containing \$75 and a lot of household goods. He then released Mrs. Record, and again threatening her life if she raised an alarm made good his escape.

A FLOWERY LAND.

If Mexico is the land of revolutions it is also the land of flowers. According to a contemporary Indians sit at the street corners all the year round in the early morning, making and selling for a real (6d.) bouquets which in London or New York could not be got for a guinea. Roses, verbenas, heliotropes, and carnations grow like weeds; and besides the made-up bouquets, the Indians bring down from the mountains packs of the Flor de San Juan (*Bouvardia*), a flower like a white jessamine, and for a quartilla (1½d.) one can buy an armful of it, which will scent a whole house for a week.

NEWS NOTES.

News has been received from San Domingo that General Ignacio Gonzalez has been elected President of the Republic.

PRESIDENT Grant's message to Congress concerning the Island of Cuba has been most severely criticised by the Cuban papers.

THE Emperor William of Germany is so prostrated by throat disease that the greatest caution is necessary to prevent serious results.

A PRIZE fight came off lately at the back of Long Island, between James Turner, of New Orleans, and Edward McDuff. After 29 rounds Turner was declared the winner.

THREE packages addressed to the wife of the French Ambassador at Washington have been seized by the Custom House authorities. The packages contained costly silks, laces, &c., &c.

PRESIDENT Castelar has instructed the Minister of the Colonies that the Spanish Republic is virtually pledged to abolish slavery, and that he is to do all in his power to forward this mission.

THE Charleston and Brooklyn navy yards have resumed their usual hours of labor, and the emergency being now over, a number of the hands have been discharged from the latter yard.

SOME serious complications seem to have arisen between the English and Spanish Governments with regard to Cuba. Their nature is not stated, but the West India fleet is to be largely increased.

THERE seems to have been some trouble in San Domingo, as President Nissage Saget refuses to vacate his office except in favor of General Dominique, whom the House of Representatives are determined not to have as President.

A MEETING of the ladies of Ottawa was held yesterday for the purpose of forming a Ladies' Immigration Aid Society. Numbers signed their names, and signified their intention of applying to the Ontario Legislature for an Act of Incorporation.

THE New York *Tribune* publishes a letter from one of the survivors of the "Ville de Havre" disaster, in which the writer expresses his firm opinion that the accident occurred through an inexcusable blunder on the part of those in charge of the steamer, and bears witness to the cowardly behavior of the officers and crew.

THE investigation into the character of the "Virginus" is to take place in New York. The Government are powerless to proceed against Paterson, who obtained the registry of the vessel, on account of the limitations statute; neither can Paterson be proceeded against in any way, two years having elapsed since he obtained the papers.