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CLEAR THE WAY.

Men of thought! Be up and stirring,
Night and day;
Sow the seed—withdraw the curtain—
Clear the way!

Men of action! Aid and cheer them,
As ye may;
There's a fount about to stream,
There's a light about to gleam,
There's a warmth about to glow,
There's a midnight blackness changing
Into gray;

Men of thought, and men of action,
Clear the way!

Once the welcome light has broken,
Who shall say,
What the unimagined glories
Of the day?

What the evil that shall perish
In its ray?

Aid the dawning, tongue and pen;
Aid it, hopes of honest men;
Aid it, paper; aid it, type;
Aid it, for the hour is ripe;
And our earnest must not slacken
Into play:

Men of thought, and men of action,
Clear the way!

Lo! a cloud 's about to vanish
From the day;
And a brazen wrong to crumble
Into clay.

Lo! the right's about to conquer:
Clear the way!

With that right shall many more
Enter smiling at the door:
With the giant wrong shall fall
Many others, great and small,
That for ages long have held us
For their prey.

Men of thought, and men of action,
Clear the way!

KEEP AT WORK.

Does a mountain on you frown?
Keep at work:
You may undermine it yet,
If you stand and thump its base,
Sorry bruises you may get.
Keep at work.

Does Miss Fortune's face look sour?
Keep at work:
She may smile again some day;
If you pull your hair and fret,
Rest assured she'll have her way.
Keep at work.

Are you censured by your friends?
Keep at work:
Whether they are wrong or right,
May be you must bide your time.
If for victory you fight,
Keep at work.

If the devil growls at you,
Keep at work:
That's the best way to resist:
If you hold an argument,
You may feel his iron fist.
Keep at work.

Are your talents villified?
Keep at work:
Greater men than you are hated;
If you're right, then go ahead—
Grit will be appreciated.
Keep at work.

Everything is done by labour:
Keep at work,
If you would improve your station;
They have help from Providence
Who work out their own salvation.
Keep at work.

—Chronotype.

THE GUM-ELASTIC,—ITS INGENIOUS USES.

Among the wonders of the day may be justly classed the recent adaptation of the "gum caoutchouc," or India rubber, to the very many purposes, to which, within the last few years, it has been applied with success.

The gum itself is the coagulated juice of a class of tropical trees, of which the "havea guianensis, the jatropha elastica, and the urceola elastica," are the principal, and which are found in India and South America, though the chief supplies come to Europe and the United States from the latter quarter. It has been called India rubber, from its rubbing out the marks of the lead pencil upon paper. In South America, the Indians who procure it for exportation, do so by making an incision in the bark of the tree, smaller, but after the fashion of the "box," cut in the turpentine tree of North Carolina, from which the fluid exudes. It is first of the colour of milk, and quickly hardens, or rather becomes tough and elastic on exposure to the action of the sun. They endeavour as far as possible to keep their method of preparing it a secret, and give it the black colour characterising most of the importations, by smoking it over a fire made of a peculiar kind of wood—that which has the light colour, and which is considered best to be worked up, being sun-dried. They, however, fancy that their manner of smoking it, which really injures the material for factory uses, gives it well nigh all its commercial value. They also smear it in thin layers over balls of clay, to make the bottle which they use for household purposes, and overlay shoe moulds, &c. It first found its way into Europe, in quantities, in 1736; but, we believe, no attempts to work it up upon an extensive scale were made earlier than some fourteen or fifteen years ago. This was undertaken in this country, and on the other side of the Atlantic, at about the same time.

In 1834-5, New England was the scene of an India rubber stock speculation mania, hardly second for the rage for speculation in the "eastern lands" of Maine, which prevailed about the same time, and which was scarcely more disastrous in its consequences. It is said that perhaps a million and a half of dollars were sunk in fruitless experiments in preparing and applying the gum. It was at that time dissolved in spirits of turpentine, and being mixed with lampblack, was spread between two cloths, by way of making a water-proof article. It was, however, found that when the thermometer was at sixty in the shade, the temperature of the atmosphere alone was well nigh as perfect a solvent for the manufactured article, as turpen-