

**THE MYSTERY OF THE MOON;  
Or the Laws and Logic of the Lunatics.  
A SATIRE.**

BY G. G. WHITTAKER.

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(Continued from page 100, Vol. I.)

From various references to passing events, our scientific friend obtained a very clear insight into the general financial, social and industrial condition of the Lunatics, of which but a summarized sketch can be given here.

So low has their moral code fallen in some respects that a divorce court lawyer would starve, if confined to his profession, as there is not even mention of such an adjunct of modern social advancement as a divorce court. It is even commonly held that a man and woman may with propriety make any contract they please without the interference of a third party, the theory being that the only tie that should bind a man and woman conubially, should be mutual attachment. Their moral standard is loose and low in many respects. They will kill a dog or bull that is inclined to do bodily harm to its kind or to other animals, much more readily and with less compunction than in the case of a fellow lunatic with like proclivities. In the case of a sane man or woman who is so ferocious and blood-thirsty as to kill his fellows repeatedly without provocation, they destroy such a monster without warning or delay and without the opportunity for a dying speech or benefit of clergy, curiously holding to the idea that the delay that we mercifully grant to condemned criminals is a greater torture than the closing festivities. In the event of such execution being necessary, instead of calling in the aid of a clergyman they stick up a notice in the death-room which is the nearest equivalent of the old Hebrew saying "Jehovah Jireh."

Socially they are a poor lot. Nothing like a social function, as it is called among our better classes and diplomatic circles, is known. Their tastes are so low that a lunatic would not see the advantage of getting his wife described as having "looked charming in a fawn-coloured fan tail, with over-tucked toe corks, a wine-coloured waist of wampum, with polonaise overdraft shirred on the bias, a silver slide-rest, ball bearings throughout,

coupon coat-linings, and a diadem of diamonds on the neck." Or, "Mrs. Dividends was the centre of a host of admirers; the native charm of manner that always accompanies her was enhanced by a pea-green peruke, cut decollete fore and aft, with mullioned sleeves; the skirt was of real old Irish point lace, costing £100 a point, a train of gold thread gauze with fog signals complete, real imitation antique filagree tiara abaft the hock; and for ornaments, a peck of pearls."

There is a lack of push and enterprise on the part of the lunatics that is almost impossible of belief. Public spirit is a thing unknown. The aged and infirm, the fatherless and the widow, have alike a hard time of it, unless friends will support them, as there isn't a stock, bond, share, or mortgage in the whole country.

This state of things has not always existed, as at one time they had all the accessories of an age of progress, such as ours; but these have gradually died away and without any legal enactment of abolition.

The Stock Exchange and the Board of Trade were among the first to go, and then followed the House of Industry; they were allowed to fall into decay except where utilized as warehouses. A few attempts were made recently by certain parties to revive the work of the Stock Exchange, but an unforeseen contingency which could not have arisen with our social, industrial and commercial adjustments, blasted their efforts for the promotion of trade and commerce, and brought them to such straits that they had to take to day labour to procure a livelihood. The work they were then engaged in was of carrying large quantities of grain on margin; the grain had just been sown, and was to be carried by them till it was grown, or until some one else was patriotic enough to take the load. How grain that was then growing could be carried in large quantities, and carried on a margin at that, will be difficult to understand by the ignorant humans who may read this history, but that it had been done and done voluntarily by the elite of Luna is an irrefutable fact. Naturally these public spirited gentlemen concluded that the feat could again be accomplished, and with commendable enterprise they made the attempt. They