

toward whatever awaited us. When but a sharp headland lay between us and the spot I had seen in my vision, I halted.

"He is lying just beyond there. If the ice is broken we shall know."

We rounded the point in line. The ice was broken and thrown up in pieces and the water still bubbling.

I have not much more to tell. It was afterwards discovered that he had struck one of the shallow springs on a sandy bottom which never freeze solidly. The water would not have covered him standing, but the numbing influence of the intense cold and the frailness of the surrounding ice had prevented his saving himself. I offer no explanation of what I have said that I saw and heard, but six men can testify that, when miles away from him, I saw the dying face and heard the dying words of my friend Fitzgerald, and that led them to the spot where they found him.

He had left a letter for me in his private room. He said that he was going to take legal advice, and find the quickest means of rendering void the marriage ceremony I had witnessed. He asked me to look after his traps, and assured me that as soon as he felt equal to take up old associations he would let me know. As I read his letter I cried like a girl.

In his pocket-book I found his marriage certificate and the last letter she had written him. I carefully dried both, and as carefully read the letter. What a weak, miserable, cringing effusion, characteristic of the writer! Pages of alternate whining and bullying, ending with this paragraph.

"If you force any claim it would make a scandal, and I have never been talked about, and I should be very nervous under disagreeable talk. It would be very unmanly and underbroad in you to give me so much trouble, and at least I have always considered you a gentleman."

I swore that she should have cause to be nervous. I knew that such a woman could not be wounded mentally or spiritually, and that the blow must be struck at material comforts.

I left the station immediately. From the first telegraph station I reached I sent a message to Miss Emily Gordon to her Roman address: "Fear nothing. I will arrange as you desire." I signed Fitzgerald's name.

A month afterward I was in Venice in the hotel with the Count and Countess Mondella.

On the night of my arrival I made a package of letters beginning "My husband," with a variety of tender qualifications, and signed "Emily Fitzgerald." With these I placed the marriage certificate and the last letter. I addressed the package to the Count Mondella, intending that the next morning it should be put in his hands.

I went to bed feeling comparatively cheerful. My sleep was but a repetition of the sleep in which I saw Fitzgerald die. When I came to my senses I knew that I must spare her. I did not doubt then, and have never doubted since, that the repetition of the vision was the work of an excited brain, but the impression was so vivid that I felt myself bound by an oath to the dead to spare her. I re-addressed the package to the Countess Modella, and ordered my messenger to deliver it into no hands but her own. So with my own hands I deprived myself of the means of avenging my friend's death, in obedience to his generous and noble spirit, in contradiction to my own insignificant rage and vindictive desire.

I saw her once in the corridor leaning on the arm of her

husband, beautiful and triumphant, with her false eyes flickering still. I wondered then why such a woman should have showered on her the gifts that the world holds best, and why a man who, by the mere fact of living in it, made the world better, should be lying dead in a wilderness, heart-broken and murdered by her.

Halloween.

ANY were the curious ceremonies once widely observed throughout Great Britain on the night of the 31st of October, or All Hallow's Eve. While most of them have fallen into disuse, some are practised at the present day, particularly in Scotland, and of the ancient superstition there still lingers enough to invest the night with something of a weird, supernatural character. It is then that fairies of all sorts, and especially the elves and goblins bent on mischief are unusually active, and hold, as it were, a yearly jubilee. Even humanity itself is supposed on this night to be capable of assuming a spiritual form, and of appearing as an apparition in places quite remote from its bodily habitation. Children born on Halloween are believed to be endowed with the mysterious power of perceiving and communicating with supernatural beings.

Beside the mystic associations of Halloween, it is a time of great merriment among the young people who meet together to celebrate its rites, the first of which is that of pulling kail-stocks. The merry-makers go blindfolded into the garden and each pulls the first kail-stock with which he or she comes in contact. When all are supplied they return to the fireside to examine their spoils, and as the stalk is large or small, crooked or straight, so will be the future wife or husband of its owner. The quantity of earth adhering to the root indicates the fortune; and the taste of the pitch or *custoe* foreshadows the sweetness or acerbity of the temper.

In the north of England the night is known as *Nut-crack Night*, for great quantities of nuts are cracked and eaten, and they are used as well, as a means of determining love affairs. Brand, in his *Popular Antiquities*, says:

"It is a custom in Ireland when the young women would know if their lovers are faithful, to put three nuts on the bars of the grate, naming the nuts after their lovers. If a nut cracks or jumps the lover will prove unfaithful; if it begins to blaze or burn, he has a regard for the person making the trial. If the nuts named after the girl and her lover burn together, they will be married."

Still another way of deciding one's destiny is with the three dishes or *luggies*. One of these is filled with clean water, one with foul water, and the third is empty. They are placed in a row, and the inquiring party is led up blindfolded and dips his finger into one of the dishes. If he dips into the clean water he will marry a maiden; if into the foul water a widow, and if into the empty dish he is destined to remain a bachelor.

Apples contribute an important part to the Halloween festivities, and ducking in a tub of water makes great sport. The apples are set floating in the water over which each one bends in turn and tries to seize an apple in his teeth. A somewhat comfortable innovation on the old custom is the taking of a fork in the teeth and with that piercing the apple. This is a scarcely less difficult task, but keeps the head a little more out of the water. Another practice is to throw raisins into a large, shallow dish, the bottom of which has