

# The Orphans' Friend.

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## THE UNCONSCIOUS ORPHAN.

Mother, I have found a tear  
In your eye! How came it there?  
More are coming—now they chase  
One another down your face.  
How I feel your bosom heave!  
What does make you sob and grieve?  
Let me wipe your tears away,  
Or I cannot go and play.

Why is father sleeping so?  
Put me down and let me go—  
Let me go where I can stand,  
Near enough to reach his hand.  
Why, it feels as stiff and cold  
As a piece of ice to hold!  
Lift me up to kiss his cheek,  
Then, perhaps, he'll wake and speak.

Mother, O it isn't he,  
For he will not look at me!  
Father hadn't cheeks so white—  
See, the lips are fastened tight!  
Father always spoke and smiled,  
Calling me his "darling child;"  
He would give and ask a kiss  
When I came—but who is this?

If 'tis father, has he done  
Speaking to his darling one?  
Will he never, never more  
Know and love me as before!  
Could he hear what we have said?  
Tell me, what is being dead?  
O he doesn't breathe a breath!  
Mother! what's the cause of death?

## OUR BEAUTIFUL SOUTH.

It will not be long before the tourist seeking to enjoy the beauties of nature and the pleasures of travel, will learn that within the limits of the Southern States, he can find all that the most exacting taste can demand, or the most enthusiastic devotee of beauty can desire. All that is necessary is that the increase of traveling facilities should continue for the next few years, as they have during the year, and the entire country will be converted by a complete network of railroads. Should he take pleasure in the grandeur of mountain scenery, in the western parts of Virginia and North Carolina and East Tennessee he can find it as rough and rugged as in the romantic regions of the old world. Should he prefer the pleasing pictures of woods and flowers, of rivers and lakes, the balmy breezes of Florida will woo him to their soft embrace. He can find the jungles of India in the wilds of Arkansas, the pampas of South America on the plains of Texas, the fertility of the Nile in the fields of Alabama and Mississippi and Louisiana, a generous hospitality in the homes of the genial Georgians, the beauty of an English meadow in the blue grass regions of Kentucky, the courtly cultivation of a kingly race in the unconquerable Carolinian, the more mellowing influence of an older civilization upon the quiet farms of Maryland, the mighty movement of modern energy in the magnificent development of Missouri. It embraces every variety of climate from the soft and delicious atmosphere of Florida to the cool and bracing air of Virginia. It affords every species of birds and beast and fish and fowl that can tempt the skill of the sportsmen or whet the appetite of the epicure. Its rivers are running reservoirs of perennial richness, upon whose broad bosom are borne, the bread to bless the distant nation, or carried, the cotton to clothe the continent. From its flowers float a fragrance that fills to fulness the aromatic air, while their gorgeous garbs

give a graceful glory to the green woods. The soft and silken splendors of its summer skies speak to him who is taught by the quiet beauty of nature.

The longings of a heart that knows thee well and loves thee better, beautiful South, that for these weary years have seen but the endless succession of rows of houses along crowded thoroughfares of filthy streets, cannot be suppressed. Once more he feels, amidst the cares and anxiety of the exaction of an active city life, the gentle influences of thy motherly teachings, and yearns to lay his head upon thy loving bosom, and rest.—*South.*

## TIME-KEEPERS.

The word *watch* comes from the Saxon *waccan*, signifying to wake, to excite, and the name is applied to the numerous species of time-markers which have sprung legitimately from that old *stirps*, or "stock," the "clock"—the earliest history of which is lost in the night of the past, but which has played so wondrous a part in the civilization of the world; and who knows but in barbarism too? for the meaning of the term originally was "bell," and is still retained in the French *cloche*. And since it is probable that the first sound, man produced by artificial means, was the resonance of bodies struck together by the hands, somewhat as the tongue of a bell strikes its sides, it is quite likely that the "bell," and consequently the "clock" in embryo, were among the very first conceits and mechanical accomplishments of primitive man.

Yet in the very early ages there could have been but little need of any measurers of time save those which nature affords; as the day and night, the rising and the setting of the sun and the moon, and the numerous phrases of the latter. Then, as human observation became more extended and accurate, the varying constellations marked the wider passages of time. So our aborigines still count time by the moon's passages—"Ten moons have gone;" and, indeed, in the field to-day for the laborer, and wherever in the backwoods men find it inconvenient, or are for other reasons unable, to afford the luxury of a supply of artificial time-keepers, the sun is made to tell the hour; "sun half an hour up," or "an hour before sundown," thus indicating the sun's place in the sky above the western horizon; and, indeed, since "one thought begets another," as we write we reflect that it is no great violence to etymology to find the root of "horizon" and "hour" primarily in the same Greek word, which signifies a bound, a limit; i. e., a measure. But it is useless, perhaps, however gratifying it may be to the imagination, to linger in speculation upon what were the earliest measures of time discovered in "revolving nature" by primitive man.

But one thing is certain—that motion, change, was a necessary "symptom" or index to the measure of time in the past as well as now. Out of positive silence and rest nothing could have been determined in this matter; and

doubtless "Time," by whatever sweet name the Orientals may have blessed him, or by whatever uncouth or sublime sound the guttural Northmen may have told the sense of his presence and power, was among the earliest of the "gods" which man recognized. Little could the men of those rude early days have conjectured of the devotion which we, their far-off children's children, pay to Time, when in every house is erected an altar to his worship, and in every bosom is borne a jewelled monitor of his existence and "passage" along the course of "ever-moving creation."—*Industries of the U. S.*

## CHINESE STUDENTS.

It may not be generally known that the Chinese Governments have at present in this country one hundred and twenty boys, whom it is causing to be educated for positions in its army and in its foreign service. These boys are under the especial care of three Chinese commissioners who reside in this country, two of whom had themselves been educated in American colleges. The policy of sending young men from China to be educated in this country was determined upon, only two or three years ago, and its adoption is due to the exertions of two of the commissioners who are now here, laboring to promote its success. Of course they had at first to overcome very strong national prejudices, but it is understood that the arguments which were most effective with the Chinese authorities were based on the conviction, that in order for the Chinese nation to avail itself of improvements and new inventions in military science, and to compete with Western nations in diplomacy, its army officers and foreign ministers must be educated, as the officers and ministers of other nations are.

It is intended that the young men now in this country shall remain fifteen years, and that they shall be not only trained in science and letters, but shall devote much of their time to technical study. At the same time, they are required to retain their knowledge of the Chinese language, literature, and customs, so that, on their return, they will be able to fill successfully the positions for which they have been prepared. In this respect the Chinese commissioners seem to have pursued a wiser course than the Japanese authorities, for some of the young Japanese women who are now being educated in this country seem to have forgotten to some extent their native language and customs, and one of them, it is said, can no longer understand the Japanese tongue. The college at Peking, presided over by an American, is also doing much for the education of Chinese youth, though, on account of native prejudices, its managers are unable to introduce the teaching of any scientific subjects; with which the young who are educated in this country will become familiar. For instance, it has been found impossible, thus far, to establish in the Peking College a chair of medicine, although a recent letter from the President of

the College to Gen. Eaton, United States Commissioner of Education, reports that a chair of medical chemistry has been established, and the hope is expressed that it will be possible to maintain it.

These signs of advancement on the part of the Chinese, and the fact that they continually turn to the United States to assist them in learning the arts of civilization, suggest the wisdom of such a foreign policy on the part of the United States, as will cherish trade, and unrestricted intercourse with the Great Empire of the East; and certainly ought to be fully considered when any legislation tending to discourage Chinese immigration is proposed.

## THE CATACOMBS OF ROME.

The Catacombs are a cause of much interesting speculation to all who visit the city of Rome. Their origin is one of the still hidden things of history. Their limits are not known, and the first use to which they were put is also beyond the knowledge of the present generation. They consist of passages, galleries, crypts, and chapels excavated in the spongy *tufa* that underlies the city. There are various openings through which the curious descend, and from which they are able with safety to make limited explorations. But long walks through their intricate passages are dangerous.

The Catacombs have been the resort of wild beasts, sorcerers, vagabonds, robbers, and outlaws. Of the last class, during the persecutions of Nero, Domitian, Valerian, Diocletian, and other emperors, were the Christians, who were in them provided with safe, though uncomfortable places of refuge, where even the imperial bloodhounds were baffled in their scent. The Christians appear to have lived and died in these gloomy retreats. Here they had places of worship, and apartments for other uses, and here they buried their dead, sealing the grave, and placing upon it the *lachrymatory*, or bottle for tears.

On the walls are many interesting inscriptions that bespeak the faith of the Christians who were there awaiting a glorious resurrection, through their Savior. Some are spoken of as "not dead," but living "beyond the stars." One is said to have been "condemned with all his family for the faith," and of a certain youth "Marius" it is recorded that "he lived long enough, since he spent his life and blood for Christ."

These memorials of triumphant suffering have a wonderful and thrilling interest for all who can admire devotion to the Savior, patient suffering, and hope to which the glories of heaven were so real, as to illuminate these dark places of earth, and to cause the hunted and worried to bear all, with patient longing, and with no repining.

We pass every day through all the changes of human experience. We are children in the morning, with their fresh young bodies and feelings; we are middle-aged at noon, having seen an end of all perfection; we are old and weary and worn out at night.—*Hugh Macmillan.*

## RAPID DREAMING.

A very remarkable circumstance, and an important point in analogy, is said by Dr. Forbes Winslow to be found in the extreme rapidity with which the material changes, on which the ideas depend, are excited in the hemispherical ganglia. It would appear as if a whole series of acts, that would really occupy a long lapse of time, pass ideally through the mind in one instant. We have in dreams no perception of the lapse of time, a strange property of mind; for if such be also its property when entered into the eternal disembodied state, time will appear to us eternity. The relations of space, as well as of time, are also annihilated; so that while almost an eternity is compressed into a moment, infinity of space is traversed more swiftly than by real thought. There are numerous illustrations of this principle on record. A gentleman dreamed that he had enlisted as a soldier, joined his regiment, deserted, was apprehended, carried back, condemned to be shot, and at last led out for execution. After the usual preparations, a gun was fired; he then awoke with the report, and found that a noise in the adjoining room, at the same moment, produced the dream and awakened him. A friend of Dr. Abercrombie dreamed that he had crossed the Atlantic and spent a fortnight in America. In embarking, on his return, he fell into the sea, and awakened to find that he had not been asleep ten minutes.

## IMMENSITY OF CREATION.

Some astronomers have computed that there are no less than 75,000,000 suns in the universe. The fixed stars are all suns, and have, like our sun, numerous planets revolving around them. The solar system, or that to which we belong, has about thirty planets, primary and secondary, belonging to it. The circular field of space which it occupies is in the diameter 3,600,000 of miles, and that which it controls is much greater. That sun which is nearest neighbor to ours is called Sirius, distant from our sun 22,000,000,000 of miles. Now if all the fixed stars are as distant from each other as Sirius is from our sun, and if the solar system be the average magnitude of all the systems of the 75,000,000 of suns, what imagination can grasp the immensity of creation?

Every sun of the 75,000,000 controls a field of space of about 10,000,000 of miles in diameter. Who can survey a plantation containing 75,000,000 circular fields, each of them 10,000,000 miles in diameter? Such, however, is one of the plantations of Him who has measured the water in the hollow of his hand, and met our heaven with a span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance; Him who, sitting upon the orbit of the earth, stretches out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in!