## Gossip of the Backwoods

BY ALVIN HORTON.

If you had been with me a few afnoons ago, you would have stood on tigh hill and overlooked the quaint d of Egypt that began at your very You would have been entranced the view. Egypt rose in all the sauty which goes with deep forests, rge pastures, and a thousand other gestions of the proverbial milk and -Egypt known wherever Yanwhich for almost half a century has on infamous as a lair of criminals and scorched its pastures with bullets hunting always, and finding metimes, the ubiquitous deputy mar- settled down to at the precise moment you looked section began givings that had crowded upon you. were the centre thereof, suggone down, as I did.

to prove that the Egyptian, whose past siderably, has not evolved into a comgives the lie to his history. His home on the mountain itself, and one sees starved, and wolves couldn't travel, ye're sellin' it to everybody." Boys and wee lasses play among the cliffs, while youths and big lasses paddie down the precipitous Cane river wouldn't break er single law fer a bar'l and shoot through roughs that would have staggered the most expert Indian that ever shot a northern rapid. Nor ter moniyus, ef er fellow don't happen ts Egypt just thinly populated with ter look inter yer wagon. Say, air ye tain sides are all covered of course with its seemingly inaccessible homes. pounded by astronomers, the settleery peak is claimed by the thrifty set, that their world is yet unmeasured.

Once upon a time this vast stretch

all of Yancey and part of Tennessee. Shelton Laurel and Egypt being near enemy threatening the prosperity of the two from Tennesser, 'twas awfully easy for the bad fellows to jump out of jo'clock." reach of those penalties overtaking or-They fought too just for the mountains like quall before trained ther measles." hunters. If Kentucky had a worse whereas the skirmishes in these parts nine verses in this songwere known only by relatives who buried their dead and said nothing that the world ever heard. So much, how- forty-eight an' a half?" ever, leaked out that the wary public knew not to meddle in the affairs of to it, but I'll stop considerbul short uv those blood-thirsty section, and in con- that." sequence they fought for years and adjoining had ascertained the full im- to twist port of the tiny war carried on. These beard which had stopped flying only because all the vicinity were either crippled, or had been laid. grandfather struck down over a triffe the Ill-fated Confederacy

Accomplished the remainder gone. That night the ling strong drink traveller heard from his stoppingplace more shots and now and then a woman's scream, but since the people ever, wo not so easily discouraged, for lant about the matter he but damage resulting true; the shirming

damage resuling from the skirmish which he saw and the hattle which he heard. They were lone Nontons Sheltons, and secon, were they who fell, and these who sorvived knew that the and higger storm, with a hundred out. honey of the Bell beside the Nile product to \$250,000,000 ye siders concerned perhaps—a storm never to have flowed half so freely as product to \$250,000,000. From 397,000 tons of which long threatened but has never the up-to-date whiskey which charac-

Pond in time to witness the aftermach as to frighten the place for the first of a battle in which the Egyptians and time in its life that were made farm products to \$1,750,000,000. Laurelites had proved vasily too more stringent and carders more ac-strong for their relatives, who had tive wrong political party. Naturally said traveller was mistaken for a physician because he rode an exceptionally fine horse and mat upon a suggestive sort of eaddle-bags.

"Here's a man that needs yet tention," and the speaker pointed to a bloody form lying near by.

"But I'm no doctor, ventured no upon the fine saddle-bugs. "I really couldn't be of the least service to your

"Keerful now, doc. You cain't work that on me, not by a durn sight." remarked the other, handling his rifle with dangerous carelessness the while; "you're a doctor, you needn't deny it, an' you may be a fr'en to tother gang, but maybe ye can be indewced ter take a peep at Andy Jack's troubles a leetle

The traveller slighting made a careful diagnosis. The man's head having Then with the quantity of brown sugar and counties cloths he bandaged the head properly and started toward abother vicinity.

"Not yit, doc," called he with the strong in frequent; "that's sum more failers in need o' your skill. Maybe ye'd attractive life were too greatly endearull had resumed its customary shape.

The traveller, thus compelled to visit half a dozen wounded desperadoes, put brown sugar into half a hundred cuts and used a darning needle and cotton thread to sew up those unduly large. Satisfied with the work, the lank survivor who carried the hog rifle respon-sible for the expert attention which his fellowmen had received, permitted the cey's name is spoken—this Egypt even | conscripted surgeon to go his way; and strange to say, he never had cause to be gentle regret that his brethren had been hallelujah! who painted its flowers with innocent operated upon in a fashion altogether new to modern surgery.

This sanguinary period over, Egypt enjoy that peace hall. Perhaps you would have shud- which is inseparable from assiduous as I did, at the hundred and one but honest dealing in intoxicants. Evdeeds which, rumor says, were erybody, it seemed, learned to make fone thereabout within a decade; but admirable drinks and to dispense them quietude which prevailed therein at admirable profits. Necessarily the thereon would have dispelled any mis- splendidly as did the other Egypt, that one which pleased the ancient world The mill, the store, the church, the with milk and honey; and in due time chool house, and the noisy creek, there swarmed into the world of ordinary folk so many traders from mogested that Egypt had climbed so far dern Egypt that Yancey soon regarded into respectability as now to be actual- them as unique but highly desirable ly prosaic. Then you would have because they supplied the country with necessaries it couldn't get elsewhere.

Moreover these Egyptians were so ingenious in thwarting an avalanche amination, is scarcely ordinary yet. Its of penalties. You couldn't buy whis-very finger prints alone are sufficient key, but you could get it mighty easily -and at a fair price too-by handling has caused him to be wondered at con- rightly the red tape. The wise jug- it-while the immutable backbone toter followed not the bypaths but the monplace individual whose present public highway, and his business augmented so amazingly that in a forta modest cottage standing, not be- night he was compelled to haul barrels side creeks, mind you, or in the centre of his illicit commodity in order to up since, as well as in the old, who of an orchard at the foot of a moun-supply the demand even where survived the maddest changes of that tain, but in the most devious place up- churches arose in Puritanical tyranny. "Hello, uncle," the red-nosed fel-

lows would say to this bearded piece of future will bring to the front every which he has tended where rabbits audacity: "we want sum licker, of "No, boys," he invariable replied, 'ye caint buy no licker frum me, fer I

o' silver dollars." "O yes, ole hoss, ye're mighty sanc-

The moun- haulin' meriasses in them bar'is?" "No, sonny; they've got in em the best grade o' sweet mash licker; makes and not infrequently does the traveller yer glad ter go ter meetin', my whisdescry a cloud of smoke hovering over key does, an' raily it tastes so good a blue mountain-top and thus giving that I've knowed preachers o' the gosevidence that, like the systems ex- pel to hold on to their spigits till they busted an' walked straight to ther ments of Egypt are never-ending-ev- new Jerusylum with the sweetest breaths ther angels ever seed. But

must be er-goin' "Hold on, sweetheart; what the devil can we do to git about a finger was active only in the manufacture of length in a washing tub o' the holy

"Well, boys, I can sing er little, an' I ginerally charge fifty cents for a song heighbors, their people became friend- and treats my customer ter a quart. reach ly enough to fight together against any But gents, I rally air so hoarse that I 'commydate you tocouldn't hardly either; and, as only the Bald separates day. As I said, I must get down to

"Sing us or verse er two, ye needn't dinary mortals. The Sheltons, Nor- make it very long, and we've got ther tons, and Hensleys of these, fought squiddy ter pay fer a dozen campinectthe Sheltons, Nortons and Hensleys in songs. We'll let you off on a migh-Flag Pond in the other ty few hearse notes. Start in ole hoss. er I'm pow'ful dry, ez Jeems Theidore the love of conflict, so that men fell in Fleesum Hysum said when he had

"All right, fellers, I like ter do folks er good turn allers, though I'm not were known to the reading public; rally fit to sing terday. Than's forty

"O ace o' spades: Wouldn't an extra fifty cents indyuce ye to chaw off "Ez I said, thar's forty-nine verses

Ridding himself of a huge quid of years before people in the settlements tobacco, and taking great pains lay over

outsiders, ordinary mortals of course linguistical engine, the peddler bewere astounded to discover that blood gan in a tone loud enough to disturb those big enough to join the battle "John Darling, he dreamed his daddy wuz dead.

away martyrs to the wishes of a An his daddy, he dreamed John Dariing wuz dead in the days preceding the founding of John Darling, he dreamed his daddy wuz dead.

An' his daddy, he dreamed-Eighteen years ago a traveller rode "O, cues ther dreamin" Here's ther upon the summit of the Bald. There money fer about five songs, which, Phenomenal Increase of Wealth in were perhaps twenty or thirty men at We'll say, we've already heard em. work, peacefully enough it seemed. And thus they prospered. Singers Southern Field. upon the well-nigh impagable road in teased so in Egypt that it became leading thereto from the Tennessee quite as famous for its music as for its side.. Suddenly these divided, and a many other mestimiable assets, Judge volley of revolver shots school across Dick, however, put singing under the grassy acres. Then everything ban that is Egyptian singing so that was quiet, the traveler rode on A Exprescracked voiceware used to-day moment's observation, however, suffic- mostly in arging obstinate mules to ed to apprise him of the deadly work undertake hizardous corn rows, and in Six were dead lots enumerating the notes of "John Darlmore wounded no doubt fatally, and ing" for a pull at anything resemb-

the factor. Fig. (1) and that if the big mouthed fanatics would hash the said Egyptians would ! agree to oil their wares only to Tennessector. The ruse of course proved BIRMUC CONTRIL world cared but little. The only known | the whiskey dealer soon put talking that those adhering to one faction was and even the assaults of couragious almost totally ship that these oppose ratiders at a pacity decent discount ing could boast of no more than three. The establishments were so devided with the countries of the c grown survivors, and that though the primitive that it destroyed one day primitive that it destroyed one day they were easily replaced on the mortise of the bases will it. because of a lack of fighters, still, it row, and still the incorrigible Egypwould take but a trifle to start another than gloried in veying the milk and

tterland their North Carolina namesake Then the world became artful and Another traveller rode bits Fing labored against Egypt so effectively exports abroad to \$555,000,000.

Finally Egypt was betrayed by an onery looking man who came thither produced to 42,495,000, in the guise of a clock-fixer and located all the strongholds as well as all the stills that were not primitive. The omnipresent raiders entered soon "Stop thar, doc," yelled a bewhise and dealt blow after blow right upon mills to 9,205,000. the solar plexus of the fair land, her bad men were exiled forever. Yancey's strong arm held up the strongest anti-liquor legislation in the State, and Egypt, fair Egypt which had stood so long as an unconquerable nook but lovely in its very lawlessness, was owed in grief, the most inconsolable,

Wild eyed men lurked in the shadows, while wild-eyed women suffered privations in the open. Bereft were the laughing waters of the laughing lasses and young gallants who had been wont to paddle up and down the wild, capricious streams! There were ominous mumurings around the scutbeen crushed horribly with a stone, the tered and suffering men who lingered sinwilling doctor, separated from his to ascertain if any new notes of dis-scruples, seized the matted hair and tress might be heard among their pulled with all his might until the homes; and those who knew Egypt

that Egypt must go to farming! Quietly and gracefully the eratwhile incorrigibles accepted the terms of surrender; and the host who came out then and dropped arms soon had cause to banish dolor from their coun-tenances, for Ebypt, they discovered, was saved to prosper and to be wondered at by all who see or hear thereeof—saved with strength enough to tyrannize but goodness enough to be gentle even in its strength alway,

Those who have made Egypt thus strong in a surrender to the right are among the most interesting people in Western North Carolina; but-happily for you who have read these paragraphs-I spent so short a while among them that I can't write understandingly very, much more about them. They are highly industrious; for they can feed you well upon the products of their devious plantations; they are likewise highly hospitable for the stranger is almost forced to be a glutton there about, and they are fully awake to the demands of modern life, as is evidenced by the fact that Egypt gives Yancey as capable and trustworthy officers as the county ever had. Her youngsters are all hard after the possibilities of their section. The timber of Egypt looks vast enough to supply the world for many generations, nor is there a dearth of minerals-or suggestions of that upholds the population, the patriotism that gave heroic soldiers for the Confederacy and that still burns in the young who have grown

dreamer. Tis exceedingly pleasant to be in Egypt as the twilight falls. hears the tinkling of a thousand bells upon the thousand hills whereon cattle feed through the summer and are fed through winter, and anon one catches what is infinitely sweeter, the voice of a pretty maid-for all Egyptian maids are pretty-chasing the notes of a song, the wild, delirious melody of which is strangely compatible with the fields around her. When one has listened thereto long enough for one's peace of mind, one turns to accept a rose apple offered by a little maid, plainly a future belle, or to greet six or more romping fellows, together with a romping father, arriving from the saw-mill which has neither sapped their strength nor dampened their spirits a whit. One hears considerable about wolf tracks seen on the Bald, but one has no desire to enter the chase-here is joyous life a plenty within easy

acquainted with Egypt's past that its

The fiddle and the banjoj are presently brought out and set after more of the wild notes so easily made hereabout; and one sees wine cups glitter and fairles trip lightly the niceties of the dulcet strains until conquered in the speed of hours, one knocks at a palace door in sunny dreamland.

suit is evenly distributed, which is evenly distributed, and establish your remaining five. Holding, Ace. King and five small, lead King.

or a morning nap-fogs are so thick that only here and there a dishevelled head peeps through; but the appeartle begins. The fogs resist Old Sol for quite a while, so that it looks as if in se Egyptians must suffer a day without a Royally wages the conflict. Old Sol is no longer red, he's simply dazslowly the mantle is lifted to leave Egypt under the fairest sky perhaps that ever bade a sluggard arise and strive after diamonds awalting honest toll everywhere in the mountains.

Glorious day and glorious Egypt. When we meet again, you, a fair land of milk and honey and better things, and I, a scribbler seldom read, may we have reason to rejoice that this tribute Queen. was paid at the threshold of your new

## SOUTH GETTING RICH AGAIN.

the Past Twenty-Five Years.

Last year the South, which is less than 15 per cent, of the area of the States proper, contributed H. 9 6 2 more than 25 per cent of the coun- C. 5.2. try's export trade. Cotton was the largest single ttem, but there was not D. A. 10, 8, 5 staple in the long list of exports in which the South did not have fair S 10. 7. 6.2. re-presentation, not only in raw materinis, but in manufactured goods.

The commercial growth of the South in the last 25 years has been little short of phenomenal. The figures for it, given herewith, are taken holdly asserted that their trem a speech delivered in Congress in June 20, 1906, by Representative Joseph T Johnson, of South Carolina, From \$257,000,000 invested in capital for factories in 1880 to \$1,500,-000 in 1905.

From \$457,000,000 yearly value of regularies of factories to \$1,750,000,-

From \$21,000,000 capital invested collen mills to \$225,000,000 From \$313,000,000 annual value of "In crop to \$680,000,000.

From 225,000 bales of cotton used in Southern cotton mills to 2,163,000. From \$19,000,000 yeArly lumber From 397,000 tons of pig iron produced to 3,100,000

From \$261,000,000 yearly value of From \$660,000,000 yearly value of Frof 20,600 miles of railroad

60,000 miles. From 179,000 barrels of petroleum From 45 cotton oil mills to 780. From \$800,000 capital invested in ofton off mills to \$54,600,000. From 667,000 spindles in cotton

From 211,377 tons of mined yearly to 1,087,428. From 397,176 tons of coke produced yearly to 6,244,185. From \$3,051,000,000 assessed proprty valuation to \$6,679,000,000.

the most pitiable even in the eyes of Sca Captain's Home on Ship's Lines. the looker-on that ever afficted any Seattle Correspondence San Francisco Call.

> Capt. D. J. McKenzie, a well-known ea captain, has been granted a permit to build a house at Eleventh avenue and Howel Istreet, in the fashwill be fashioned after a ship. It will be the first structure of its kind built

The house will have a typical bow and regulation stern, with rudder attached, and bowsprit. Smokestacks will be set in place and there will be will be set in place and there will be two stubby masts. The hull or sides of the house will be shingled, with ports in place of windows, and the roof will be like a ship's deck. The hull is to be set on a concrete foun-dation. The plans show it to be a typical ship on shere.

### BRIDGE WHIST CHAT

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No. 5-The Opening Lead Against a "No

cest defense is to lead your longest suit, oping to find that the weak spot in the maker's hand. ker's hand. Any suit of five cards is better than a suit of but four, even though the four suit may be headed by higher cards. Thus with Diamonde, A. K. S. 2.

H. S. S. C. J. 10, 7, 6, 3. The club suit should be opened. If your

partner has one good club to help you. then, with the aid of your Ace and King of diamonds, you may eventually make one or two small clubs. At any rate, you can scarcely lose your Ace and King. To open the hand with dismonds would insure its being returned to you by your partner, should he gain the strated by placing a common dry red lend, and having played the Ace and King, hand is dead-you will never make another trick.

another trick.

The science of the game lies in making tricks with small cards which do not ordinarily win. Aces and Kings generally win tricks without thought or skill. If the opponents have high cards of your long suit, they must make tricks and your suit is good for nothing until those high cards are forced from their hands. The only way to force them to be played is to lead your suit—they surely will not lead it for you.

Holding two suits of equal length, lead to be the best.

Holding two suits of equal length, lead rom the stronger (the one headed by he highest cards), and if equal in sirength, choose to lead a red suit rather than a black—hearts in preference to diamonds. for if the Dealer had a very strong heart hand, he would have declared hearts instead of "No Trump." In leading your longest suit, remember the third trick is the important one to win—for, if you are long, the third trick will usually exhaust every one save yourself, and being in the lead, you can then make your small cards. luckless period, argues to those not

So, if you would be obliged to lose the third trick in your suit, should you open it with a high card, open it fourth best. Thus, when opening from Ace, King and three small cards, should you lead off your King and Ace, you must lose the third trick and unless you have a reentry, you will never make the remaining small cards. Three tricks will exhaust all your partner's cards in your suit and if he later gains the lead he has acthing with which to put you in. If nothing with which to put you in. If you open with a low eard from Ace, King and three small ones, your partner may be able to win the first trick, or, even if he is unable to help you on the first trick, he probably will have at least one more in your suit which he can return to you when he gains the lead, whereupon you have a good chance to make all the rest of your cards.

The worse you are in other suits, the better chance your partner has of win-ning a trick and being able to put you in. It is a rare thing for the Dealer to be able to take enough tricks to make game without any interruption. Usually either a suit must be cleared or a finesse risked which will give your partner the

Should you have the Ace, King and Queen at the head of your suit, you are sure of three tricks, so lead the high cards. Helding Ace, King, Jack and others you may lead the King and Ace. hoping to catch the Queen, thereby making your Jack good for the third trick.

Or, when holding a suit of seven cards, Acc. King and five small ones, you may open it high, for if the remainder of the suit is evenly distributed, two tricks will available appropriate the carried and the suit is evenly distributed, two tricks will

then Ace.
Ace, King and three or four small Sunrise in Egypt; The mountain lead fourth best, unless holding another tops look like tired soldiers mantled Ace, then lead King. Ace, King and two small, lead fourth distinction of being twice honorably hest. King, Queen and five small, lead King.

you hold three honors, two of which are navy yard. "They want me to retire," in sequence (except Ace, King and Ten) lead one of the two touching honors, generally the higher.

With suits containing. o longer red, he's simply daz-Slowly the enemy weakens, King, then Queen, and others, lead Ace, King, Jack and others, lead King, then Ace.
King. Queen. Jack and others, lead

King. King, Queen. Ten and others, lead Ace, Queen Jack and others (with another Ace), lead Ace, then Queen,
Ace, Queen, Jack and others (with no
re-entry), lead Queen, then Ace,
Queen, Jack. Ten and others, lead

Queen, Jack. Nine and Ace, Jack, Ten and others, lead Jack, Jack, Ten, Nine and others, lead Jack, King, Jack, Ten and others, lead Ten.

HAND NO. 4. DEALER. C. 8. 7. 8 B. A. Q. &

	DUMMY.				
North.	East Leader K. H.		South Dummy 2. H.	West Pone 3. H.	Nor Deal 7. 1
Tricks					
2	4	1.1	4. H.	6. H.	J. 1
3	3	1)	K. D.	6. D.	0,
4	8.	D.	9. D.	10. D.	J. 1
5	O.	3	C. 4.	Ct. 2.	Ct I
6	U	7	C. 9.	C. %	C.
7	${\mathfrak C}_{\mathfrak C}$	Ň,	C. A	9. H.	8.
8	Ħ	N.	(1 Q.	8. 2.	8.
9	$t_{\rm c}$	11.	C. J.	8. 6.	B.
10,	10	Н.	C. 10.	8. D.	8. 1
11	8.	$\mathbf{Q}$ .	8. 9.	8. *7.	7. 1
12	8.	A	8. 5,	8. 10.	Q. 1
18	Q	11	4. D.	A. D.	A. 1
North	hnd	Stone	The engine	ton twick	_

South score ten tricks. COMMENT.

Trick 1-Dealer refuses to win King of hearts, wishing the suit led again up to his Ace, Jack. Trick 3-The Dealer must consider that

if he starts the clubs immediately he will have four diseards in his own hand and must either unguard two suits or let an entire suit go. It will be better to establish a trick in diamonds first and then discard all the spades.

Trick 3-Pone refuses to win the dianond, knowing there is nothing to be

mond, knowing there is nothing to be gained by playing his Ace and continuing hearts as Dealer must have the Ace of hearts and he would then make all his diamonds and spades.

Trick 5-Dealer sees there is no use continuing diamonds. Pone is sure to hold over him.

Trick 7-Dealer must keep his diamonds, having second best once guarded and Dummy holding one to lead.

Trick 11-Dummy, seeing East (the Leader) dicard the Ten of hearts, knowshe has but one more heart, the Queen, therefore he must have two spades, probably high ones.

Dummy leads spades, hoping East will win trick and be obliged eventually to lead the Queen of hearts.

The skatng pond at Lakewood will not be Rockefeller's first. Adjoining his Fifty-fourth Street house he has two lots covered with cement which he floods with water and thus makes a 50-foot frontage rink that stands for more than \$500,000 value.

Physicians are often asked wheth but that they would be of more value if there limitations were understo "There is no particular variety of stone or substance which may be designated exclusively as the madstone," he says. "I have seen many of them so called, and no two were of exactly the same composition geologically considered.

considered.

"Madstones act on the same principle that a blotting paper does when absorbing ink, and there is nothing that makes a better one than baleed pipeclay. A new clay pipe, procurable for one cent at nearly an store where tobacco is sold, can not be extended to the control of the co celled by any madstone, no matter

how great its reputation.
"The action can be clearly demon brick in contact with the margin of a puddle of water and noticing what capilary attraction will accomplish. Therefore, ot be efficient, the only necessity is for the stone to be porous

to be the best

"When a person is bitten by a reptile or dog supposed to be med and the porous stone applied to the wound the blotting paper action be-gins, and the blood, saliva from the mouth of the animal and whatever poison these fluids contain will natur ally, by capillary attraction, be ab sorbed by and into the substance applied, no matter what name you may

"The saying that if a stone sticks the wound is poisionous and if it does not take 'nold there is no venom present is untrue. If the stone is clean and dry it will adhere when moisture is within reach till it be-

comes saturated. For instance, a new red brick will absorb one pint of water. After the venom has been taken into the circulation the madstone is worthless; but as the victim is usually filled with whiskey or alcohol at the same time the stone is being used the spirits may counter act the effect of the poison.

"I know of a stone which has wide reputation and makes a good living for the family owning it. never let it go out of their sight, and when the victim cannot be taken to the stone one member of the family can be hired to take the stone to the victim. In addition to traveling ex-penses they charge \$5 for the application and \$2 extra for each hour that the stone sticks.

"This stone is busy a large part of the time. Not long since the stone held to a man's leg for over 100 hours, yet the man died. His life could have been saved if dependence had not been placed entirely in the stone.'

### Twice Retired From Navy. Boston Herald.

To be twice honorably retired from the country's service, either naval or military, comes to few men.

"Capt." George C. Boerum, celebrated his 79th birthday at Melrose only a few days ago, has had the retired from the navy, and even now head peeps through; but the appearance of him with the red face means that the nap is done. A glorious batter, when at the head of your long suit, able he will return to his work at the says the captain, "but I'll be darned If I do."

## NOTES AND NUMBERS

On Residing the Royals of Cooper.

In my heart there is fellowship for he boy who has read the novels o cooper. The boy may be rich or poor,

trail, I know. Theres are enemies about him. They lurk, it may be, in any covert. But their cunning is impotent, and his well-trained faculties (none the less real because they are fanciful or borrowed), are more than a match for all dangers. Sometimes a country lad, with his clothing disordered and soiled, his face transfigured with spirit, and a battered hame on his shoulder serving as a fatal rifle, marches boldly before me like a second Leather Stocking. He is not conscious of my presence, for his bashful nature would wilt if his drama and his dream should be seen of other eyes. But before me in blissful guilelessness is the chivalry of the frontier, and I feel a glad throb in my heart and could call that lad to my boson and bless him and praise him. For the novels of Cooper transform

ing. They bring a fresh breath from the woods, and fresh emotions to the heart. In a blessed hour we read them. Thrice fortunate are we if we read them in boyhood. The world will not be seen again in the same unromantic way. We may stride on a paved street, but our thoughts will be threading dark forests. Friends may laugh at our elbow, but in fancy we are alone, or with one sole and trusty companion, where the denizens of the wild may swoop down upon us or maliciously lure us into hardship and rooms or inhabit dingy shops, but our souls are with nature, hearing her waterfalls, scaling her crags, or mute in the wonder of her wide, silent sky. In short, we are rejoicing in solitude or grappling bare-handed with the foes we respect. We are drinking a vigorous impulse. from the sordidness and the stir, the weariness and the fever, and the pragmatic sternness of our selfish life, which make our spirits distrust-The privilege was mine at an early

ful and our very hearts unglad. period to read those tales of Indian adventure. A youthful wanderer on the vast plain of being-prospects inviting on more sides than one, yet few things at hand (save the people I loved) that my childish fingers could cling to -I knew not whither to turn, but drew on my days in innocence and pleasure that were merging through Then it was that those wonderful narratives infused into me an ardor for struggle, quickened me, made me alert, and set my imagination on fire. Henceforward the poetry of life was to

cest; but, if he is a boy at all, and has read those fictions, the indefinable something within him has been touched and aroused. An elemental horolism of his nature has been called into life. Henceforth there is kinship between him and me.

Sometimes as I walk on the streets I see a bootblack or a newsboy, his body bent curiously forward, his footsteps taken with caution and quiet, and his whole nature immersed in a guarded stealth. He is on the wartrait, I know. There are enemies Bumppo,

That the craftsman might have blundered in the making of his storycritical sticklers and even the genial Mark Twain have so unsparingly indicated—I was credulously unaware. It never occurred to me that an author could be fallible. The conversations were ponderous at times, but this I took as a necessary evil; nay, if the provocation were too great, I committed that horrible sin of skipping to the parts that invited and held. Things dragged and were tedious now and then, but what ample recompense when the warwhoop rang! Rules of grammar were violated recklessly, but I was not studying grammar "females" were unnaturally drawn; but they couldn't fight anyway, and the less I noticed them the better. The stilted passages were set down as things too profound for my limited learning, and the ones that were sprightly and charming were as wellsprings to a blissful mood. If in my inexperience I failed to percieve that Cooper had not begun with the nebular hypothesis or some other hypothesis equally nebulous, and thence evolved through wearlsome stages and intricate processes, a character too deep for analysis which must needs be approached through a multitude of critics, I was the happier for it. I saw only what was good and wholesome and elementally strong. Through admiring an honest man I wanted to be honest. Through loving a brave man I longed to be brave. I had not unveiled a puzzle, it is true, but I had gained a friend. In wandering the other day through the oases-dotted desert of Wordsworth's "Recluse" I stumbled upon

the following: "Yea, to this hour I cannot read a

Tale Of two brave vessels matched in deadly fight,

And fighting to the death, but I am pleased More than a wise man ought to be; I wish.

Fret, burn, and struggle, and in soul am there.' This quality of temperament which

the sapient bard thus realized and disliked is fundamental in human nature. All of us hie away, now and then, from the conventional and ordered, and pay our respects to the rude nude power of old-fashioned men. We recognize there a majesty which we lack in our commonplace lives, and which our souls cry for. haps we should go to Cooper. If we mean to be finical, we had better seek one whose shortcomings are fewer. But boyhood, at least siumber into passiveness and sterility. sinews, and anxious for a peep into the fairyland of prowes-can superior guide, not even in Sir Walter, to the valiant and straightforward novelist of New York.

GARLAND GREEVER.

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