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## THE WEAVER.

Carelessly the weaver, Time,  
Sitting at his mystic loom,  
Keeps his arrowy shuttle flying—  
Every thread aneers our dying;  
And with melancholy chime,  
Very low, and sad withal,  
Sings his solemn madrigal  
As he weaves our thread of doom.

"Mortals!" thus he weaving sings,  
Bright or dark the web shall be  
As ye will it; all the tissues  
Blending in harmonious issues,  
Or discordant colorings,  
Time the shuttle drives, but you  
Give to every thread its hue,  
And elect your destiny.

God bestowed the shining warp;  
Fill it with as bright a woof  
And the whole shall glow divinely,  
As if wrought by angels finely  
To the music of the harp;  
And the blended colors be  
Like perfected harmony  
Keeping evil things aloof.

Envy, malice, pride and hate,  
Foulest progeny of Sin,  
Let not these the web entangle,  
With their blind and furious wrangle,  
Marring your diviner fate.  
But with love and deeds of good  
Be the web throughout enshrouded,  
And the perfect ye shall win."

Thus he singeth very low,  
Sitting at his mystic loom,  
And his shuttle still is flying—  
Thread by thread aneers our dying,  
Grows our shroud with every throw,  
And the hues of Hell or Heaven  
To each thread by us are given,  
As he weaves our web of doom.

## Little Foxes.

"Don't be overcome yet. Maybe you'll change your mind before the end miss. I've got a bit of advice for you and a promise to make first. The advice is, to leave off the piano for six months and to take to the kitchen. Men can't live on love and waltzes, much less a man of the Selden tribe. I know 'em. If he don't have good food, he'll be sour first, and then he'll have dyspepsia, and there'll be a sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees; which things are a figure. But that's the advice."

That is the way Grandma Jarvis vented some of her views as to Mabel Lee's approaching marriage.

"O grandma! replied Mabel I can make splendid cake, and ice-putting, too, and Charlottes, just as good as Cross."

"Fiddle-stick! You can't make bread or boil a potato, or broil a steak."

"But anybody can do that."

Mrs. Lee smiled, and grandma turned a withering look on Mabel.

"Don't be a fool! There isn't one in a hundred can do either, and I doubt if you've got brains to; but you might try."

There rose up instantly a mighty resolve in Mabel's feminine soul to show Grandma Jarvis that she could do more than she gave her credit for; that she would learn to cook in spite of this discouraging prophecy. It is just possible grandma knew who she was talking to.

"Then, as to the promise. I'm going to send you over a motto—one of those painted gimcracks everybody hangs up everywhere. I don't know why they call them illuminated I'm sure, except by the rule of contraries, for they need extra spectacles and a calcium light to read them by; but you can read mine; I rubbed off the curlicues: only promise to read it every morning before breakfast, or I can tell you you won't get the tea set."

"O yes, of course I'll read it grandma—the idea!"

"Well, well, if you read it, you'll think about it, I'll warrant. Now I must go home and send John over with the things"; and, with a frosty little caress on Mabel's fair cheek, and a nod to her mother, the old lady went.

"Grandma kisses me just like a clamshell," said Mabel, in half-soliloquy as she sat down again by the window. Her mother could not help laughing for the cool nip of thin lips, that was grandma's substitute for a kiss, certainly did suggest shells and clamshell. John came directly back with the package, and Mabel eagerly untied and unfolded it. The motto was printed in large German text, easy to read though gay with gold and colors, and it ran thus:

"Take up the foxes, the little foxes that spoil the vines; for our vines have tender grapes."

Mabel started.

"Mother, what on earth does it mean?"

Mrs. Lee smiled and sighed, both as she read the legend over the girl's shoulder. "Look here, Mab," said she slipping a flat gold hoop over her third finger, and the girl read inside, "Beware of little foxes!" and looked up, freshly astonished, into her mother's face.

"I suppose grandma means me to tell you a story, Mabel which she told me

when I was first engaged. It hurt her bitterly to tell it, but it did me much good. I think she could not bring herself to tell you. You are not her daughter, and cannot love her as I do, and you never have had reason to pity her as I have. You never saw Grandfather Jarvis, Mabel."

"Why, I thought he died before I was born."

"No, he died ten years ago in Brazil. I never saw him myself Mab; he never knew he had a daughter."

"Mother!"

Mrs. Lee's lovely dark eyes filled with tears as she drew Mabel down beside her on the sofa.

"I have been told that grandma was a very beautiful, high-spirited girl at your age, dear, animated, brilliant, thoroughly satisfied with herself and her surroundings, especially when Jonathan Jarvis fell in love with her. Her father died when she was three years old, and her invalid mother adored the child, and spoiled her even more than I do you."

Mabel kissed the soft hand laid on her shoulder, and gave it a willful little bite.

"Don't be horrid, mamma, or I shall eat you right up. As if I was one bit spoiled!"

"If you were not my child you would not need grandma's lesson. She was spoiled, as I said, and Jonathan Jarvis knew it, but he was bewitched by her spirit and beauty, and thought, as men are apt to think, that he could control and cure all that. She loved him, too, very deeply, after her fashion, and there was nothing to delay their marriage; but the day was scarcely fixed when her mother suddenly sank and died. Grandmother did not mourn so hopelessly that it was thought best to put off her marriage, though out of respect to her mother's memory, there was no wedding party, and the 'happy pair' began their life at once in the old homestead where grandma lives to-day."

"The outlook before those two was very fair; youth, health, competency, what seemed to be devoted love, made them an apparently enviable couple, but no sooner were these unbroken wills brought into daily contact than trouble began."

"You may laugh, Mabel, but their first dispute was about a coffee-pot. Mother preferred the old-fashioned urn her husband the newer style of pitcher. Neither would yield in a mere matter of taste, and this was the beginning of evil."

"Silly? Yes, it looks wonderfully silly to us; but I think I heard a very warm discussion only yesterday on the proper style of riding-hats for a lady."

Mabel colored to the waves of her dark hair and tried to smile.

"They came to a compromise on this matter, agreeing to drink chocolate in place of coffee; but other small disputes followed they all burnt in on grandma's mind, but I forget most of them, so slight and trivial were the matters of discussion, though they grew to active means of torment."

"A child was born, and Jonathan, in his sad and sore heart, thought that would bring peace, and his indignant and grieved wife hoped it also, for each blamed the other, as combatants will but the baby's eyes never saw their strife, it died, and the hope died with it. Little frets are what wear away love and life Mabel. My poor father!—and my poor mother! There was no kindly friend to say a judicious word to either. They showed a smiling front to the world outside, but grew more alienated daily."

"There was no real quarrel, no vital disagreement, but the hourly fret of undisciplined tempers, impatient natures, strong wills and a self consideration that forbade yielding, that cherished pride and petulance, that recognized no duty except as owed to itself."

"The end of these things hastened. Before the nameless baby had slept in its green grave a year father had set out for Brazil in a merchant vessel, leaving this short adieu to his wife."

"You can say I have gone South on business, Mabel, but you must know I shall never come back. I am tired of living in torment, and you will be glad to part with one who could never please you." So farewell. Yours at command.

JONATHAN JARVIS.

"Mother was frantically angry at first. She raved in her own chamber over what she termed a mortal insult, but as day after day came on, and her loneliness and weakness grew over her she began to see things more honestly; and when news came that the ship had foundered at sea; and all hands perished, then she was entirely prostrated. As she told me her past life rose up, looked her in the face, and struck her down."

I was born after my father's departure, and a very long illness carried her to the gates of the grave. She recovered at last, a stern and saddened woman, with only one interest in her life; but she brought me up with strictness and care, tenderly as she loved me; and, when I was about to take my life

up for myself, told me this bitter story, and gave me this ring.

"If I had killed the little foxes," said she, sadly, 'I might to-day have a goodly vineyard of my own. Beware of them Hetty. They have spoiled my life.'

"And after all, Mabel, my father was not lost on the wreck. He was picked up by another vessel, and, under an assumed name, lived on in Brazil. In the grasp of mortal illness, he wrote to his wife, asking and giving pardon. It was from him that all her wealth came, but she has never forgiven herself."

"Poor grandma!" sobbed Mabel, "and I have been so horribly hateful to her!"

"It will console her for all your freaks, my darling, if you profit by her pitiful story."

The next time Grandma Jarvis came over Mabel greeted her with a stringent hug and a heartfelt kiss, not at all of the clamshell order.

"Glorious! exclaimed the old lady withdrawing herself a little to look at Mabel; but she saw the brown eyes fill, and her own grew dim.

"Go along, child, go along!" she growled under her breath. "And now you've got your lesson, don't forget it."

It would have been hard for Mabel to do so, when the exquisitely-wrought tea-set that adorned her table through all her married life bore on every cover the sly and eager head of a tiny fox, and the very cream pitcher had for its handle the slender form of that treacherous animal, its eager head peering over the brim, and its long, bushy tail curving outward at the base. Many and many a time, when some trifling matter irritated her, and a quick or stinging word rose to her lips, a glance at the tea-set shut her pretty mouth closely just in time; and when Grandma Jarvis came into Boston a year after Mabel's marriage, to eat her Christmas dinner at Mr. Selden's she nodded quaintly at the lady of the house as she said: "I congratulate you now Mabel, I can do it with a clear conscience. It's been a good hunting year I see."

Mabel colored and laughed, and her husband stared, but nobody explained the sybillic utterance, only Mrs. Lee gave her mother a loving and grateful look, and Grandma Jarvis wiped her spectacles.

And the moral is—let us all go fox-hunting.

## Wild Turkeys.

In the expressive language of the Indians, the month of September is known as the moon of turkeys. Early in September the males collect together by themselves, and the hens and young ones in another flock, and continue so for some time; all the while, however, moving about in search of food. In their travels they often reach the banks of considerable rivers, where they all join in company. Crossing a river is to them an undertaking of serious magnitude. They first betake themselves to the nearest eminence, and there often remain a whole day, or sometimes two, as if for consultation. During this time the males are heard "gobbling," calling, and making much ado, and are seen strutting about as if to raise their courage to a pitch befitting the emergency—a line of conduct imitated by the female and young. At length, when the weather appears to be settled and all around is quiet, the whole party mounts to the tops of the highest trees, whence, at a signal, consisting of a single cluck, given by a leader, the flock takes flight for the opposite shore. The old and fat birds easily get over, even should the river be a mile in breadth; but the younger and less robust frequently fall into the water—not to be drowned, however, as might be imagined. They bring their wings close to their body, stretch out their tail as a support, stretch forward their neck, and, striking out their legs with great vigor, proceed rapidly toward the shore; on approaching which, should they find it too steep for landing, they cease their exertions for a few moments, float down the river until they come to an accessible part, and by a violent effort generally extricate themselves from the water. The tame turkey is a direct descendant from the wild, and there is little difference in the quality of the flesh.

## Pearl Oysters.

Ordinarily the distinctive pearl-oyster resembles the common sort but is usually about three inches in diameter; and the pearls are most generally contained in the shell, but sometimes they are found in the thickest and most fleshy part of the creature. A single oyster will frequently contain several of these beautiful objects, and it is on record that one has been known to contain as many as 150. On our American coast the species producing the pearl has long been found in the Gulf of California, adjoining both American and Mexican territory. These pearls are of excellent water, or lucidness, but generally irregular in form.

## A Danish Tomb.

The Copenhagen correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, says: "A most interesting discovery of antiquarian remains has just been made close to the town of Storeheddinge in Zealand. About nine feet below the surface of the earth a tumulus was discovered, surrounded as usual with fifteen large stones raised on end and covered with other large stones, which when removed discloses the interior of the tomb, which was about sixteen feet long and three feet wide. On the bottom was laid a broad piece of oaken plank, on which were found the remains of a woman, evidently buried in her clothes, the face turned toward the east, the left arm crossed over her chest and the right arm stretched out by the side of the body. A large number of vessels of various kinds were placed around the head, the most remarkable being a cup of blue glass, surrounded by a richly chased silver rim representing the leaves of the vine, having an inscription in Greek characters, which translated means 'Farewell.' Next may be mentioned another cup of red-colored glass, and a large vase of green glass, besides many pieces of other cups which had been crushed by one of the stones having fallen in. In the blue cup the ribs, and in the red cup other bones, of different kinds of fishes was discovered. To the right of the head lay a gold coin which had evidently been used as an ear-ring, dating from the reign of the Roman Emperor Probus, whose short reign lasted from about the year 276 to 282. The tomb consequently cannot date further back than from A. D. 276. A large and beautifully embossed ring of gold enclosed the neck, and close to the right shoulder lay a thick golden pin, probably used to hold the upper garment together. On two fingers of the right hand were two massive rings of gold, the one spiral-formed, the other plain, while close to the breast one large and several smaller buckles of silver were discovered. A collection of bones of various animals lay close to the feet of the body, as well as a wooden basin ornamented with bronze handles, containing forty-two dice turned from bone, and apparently used for play. In a large Roman basin of bronze, which stood at the extreme end of the tomb, the bones of a small pig were found, other bones of the same animal being discovered in the surrounding earth, as well as the remains of human beings, possibly bones of slaves who had been sacrificed at the funeral. The discovery is here being looked upon as being of the very highest antiquarian importance, while it adds another proof of the relations which so early existed between the north and the south, which were mostly carried on through the present Russian provinces, and which, finally, in the eighth or ninth century, culminated in the creation of a special body-guard of the emperor in Constantinople, consisting of the so-called 'Varangians'—an institution which lasted nearly to the final overthrow of the Byzantine Empire by the Turks. The Government is going to institute further researches round the tomb, as many signs seem to indicate that this place in olden times has been a kind of regal burial place."

The establishment was kept in almost princely style. The sons were sent to England to be educated; for the daughters French and English governesses were procured, and established in separate houses near the mansion; white artisans of various kinds were constantly employed, making quite a large community aside from the hundreds of slaves upon the island. And over all this, in her husband's long and frequent absences, reigned our dusky princess, as absolute in her insular domain as her savage father in his native wilds. She had a strong and powerful mind, and womanly kindness and sympathy as well. One old negro, who died some time since, so old that no one could remember him as other than old, used to tell how he was brought over when young to this island, where he had lived ever since, and how he and others, sick and exhausted, were ministered to by the "missis" own hands, and how they all loved her and always prayed, "Lord bless Ma'am Hannah!" Very morning as she stood upon this very spot, the field hands passed in review before her, each gang with its driver, going to their daily work. She inspected them all, picking out such as were unfit for labor and sending them to the hospital or to lighter tasks; and every night in the same spot she heard a report of the day, examined into all complaints, and with strict justice adjudged each offender's punishment; and without her order not a lash could be given.—*Scribner.*

## The Utility of Odors.

That odorous spices are disinfectant and antiseptic, and that they are used by the Egyptians in mummifying their dead, and thus preserving these useless semblances of human kind for thousands of years after they should have returned into dust, is well known to those who have considered the utility of such things. The cologne water sprinkled in the sick-room by the kindly nurse not only freshens the languished invalid, but really destroys disease germs and preserves the health of watchful friends. The cook does exactly right when in warm weather she peppers the beefsteak in order to preserve it for the next meal. It is said that the pestilential vapors are of an alkaline character, and combine with the acids and the products of slow combustion; so that the reverend gentleman who, at a revival meeting, when the atmosphere was foul, called upon some kind sister to burn a rag, acted intelligently and upon true scientific principles. The burning of brown paper, of apple parings, and of coffee in sick rooms, not only disguises, but to some extent, at least, destroys the poisonous emanations from the patient. Were it not hereby I might almost be tempted to quote similia similibus, etc. As one ocean wave destroys another, as one wave of electric light, if properly directed, by interference extinguishes another, so one odor may so interfere with and alter the character of a similar one that the sense of smell does not perceive it, or else is offended by it. Nearly all the pastilles for fumigating sick rooms contain benzoin, and when this is burned, benzoic acid is formed or set free, and this acid in its free or newly formed state, unites readily, according to the laws of chemistry, with just such products as are found in sick rooms, so that the poison is not merely rendered scentless, but undergoes an actual chemical transformation in which its toxic principles are removed.

## First Inhabitants of England.

Nothing in the earliest historical records of Britain throws any light upon the original occupation of the British islands by man; indeed, nothing tells us that Britain when so occupied was an island at all. The straits of Dover may have existed when the first human being set foot upon what is now the soil of Kent, or an Isthmus may have existed in stead. Whether then it was by land, or whether it was by water, that the population of Europe propagated itself into England, is far beyond the evidence of any historical memorial—far beyond the evidence of tradition. Nothing at present indicates the nature of the primary migration of our earliest ancestors. Neither does any historical record tell us what manner of men first established themselves along the valleys of the Thames and Trent, or cleared the forests along their watersheds. They may have been as much ruder than the rudest of the tribes seen by Paulinus and Agricola, as those tribes were ruder than ourselves. They may, on the other hand, have enjoyed a higher civilization—a civilization which Caesar saw in its later stages only; one which Gallic wars and other evil influences may have impaired.

—A team of sixteen mules, drawing a wagon laden with 40,000 pounds of ore, is a common sight in Reno, Nevada.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

—The other day Boston shipped 300 live sheep to Antwerp on a steamer.

—The oldest copy of a bill of exchange known, is one dated at Milan in 1325.

—Some one has estimated that there are at least fifty thousand tramps in Iowa.

—Boston has 461 public schools, attended by 48,713 pupils, and taught by 1,986 teachers.

—Brooklyn has 2,654 licensed liquor and beer saloons, or one for every 170 persons in that city.

—The Eclectic Medical College of Cincinnati will be thrown open for women students this fall.

—England exported during the first half of this year £401,124 worth of printed books as against £394,374 for 1876.

—The Boston *Transcript* says that there are, but six life insurance companies chartered by the State of Massachusetts.

—The highest salary paid county superintendents in Pennsylvania is \$3,000 the lowest about \$700, the average being \$1,250.

—Last year there were 50,000,000 pounds of wool, valued at \$8,000,000, exported from California, chiefly to the Eastern markets.

—The apple and pear crop is so great in the vicinity of Egg Harbor, N. J., that the trees have to be propped up to keep the branches from breaking.

—The University of Georgia has graduated six Governors, twenty-six United States Senators and Congressmen, forty-nine judges, and 267 legislators.

—The English papers tell of a work-house at Sheffield where 35,424 pints of ale, 400 pints of wine, and 5,000 pints of spirits were consumed in one year, at a cost of about \$2,500.

—The Executive Committee of the New Hampshire State Agricultural Society have made arrangements for a State Fair to be held at Manchester, September 18, 19 and 20.

—A Texas paper claims that its State has now 1,750,000 inhabitants, and predicts that by 1880 it will have more than 2,000,000, and be entitled to twenty representatives in Congress.

—The Masonic Mutual Benefit Association, of Connecticut, has 1,940 members, representing 186 lodges; \$18,731 was paid to the families of deceased members during the year.

—Capt. King, of Santa Gertrude, Texas, is making an addition of sixty-three miles to his pasture fence, which will enclose altogether when completed, 160,000 acres of splendid land.

—The sales of the San Francisco Stock Boards for the last six months of the year foot up to \$63,100,000, a decline of 50 per cent. as compared with the same time in the previous two years.

—A Chicago man has married three sisters, and all are living. He took them in the order of their ages, lived with each about a year, and then obtained a divorce. There are three more sisters left.

—Charles Francis Adams has real estate worth \$1,410,476, personal property worth \$1,384,165, and bank shares worth \$149,904, a total valuation of \$2,844,545, which is a decrease of \$402,695 since last year.

—Fires destroyed \$1,055,776 worth of property in San Francisco during the year ending on the 30th of June last. The number of fires was 304, and number of buildings burned, wholly or in part, 478.

—It is estimated that the total cost of the recent strike in New Jersey, counting military, special police, sheriff's deputies, supplies, etc., was \$15,800 a day, for twelve days, or a total of about \$180,000.

—Forty Scottish kings, two Irish kings, one French king, two Irish princes of the Norwegian race, beside innumerable chieftains and ecclesiastics are said to have been buried in Iona, Scotland.

—Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Thompson of Embden, Maine, have been married for seventy years, and have had thirteen children, and with the exception of one who was drowned after he arrived at maturity, they are all living.

—The estates advertised to be sold in Boston for non-payment of taxes last year were about 3,750, representing about \$391,000. This year the number is about 4,100, and the amount represented \$319,600, being 300 more estates, representing about \$70,000 less than in 1876.

—Tobacco cultivation in Germany occupies about 54,000 acres, according to a recent consular report, two-thirds of which are in the Southern states, and the remainder in Brandenburg and Pomerania. The average crop is worth about \$42,000,000, and the German Empire, in spite of its enormous consumption of the weed exports far more than it receives.

—The Delaware County Institute of Science, having referred to one of its members the conundrum when so many sevens will occur again as on July 7, 1877, which was the 7th day of the 7th month of the 7th year of the 7th decade of the 19th century has been told that the year 2277 will present the same combination. If any one doubts it let them wait and see.

—Colonel B. F. Whitmer, of Florida, sold his 20-acre grove, just coming into bearing, for \$20,000. John Hughes sold his place, less than 100 acres, with 250 bearing trees, 250 just beginning to bear, for \$19,000. Aaron Cloud, sold his young grove and nursery, with 40 acres of land, for \$30,000. These places are all in Orange county, and without expensive improvements in buildings.