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The Old Fireplace.

The fire is dying on the hearth,
This fireplace old and wide,
And as my pipe I smoke I see
Who, in the years gone by,
Sat by the warm bright
And heard the wind mingle
With song and shout outside.

Upon the stone now black with time
Stretches the golden glow,
The dancing flames that early climb
Their jagged kindling throw,
The log's drowsy humming
In monotone croaking
Sounds weirdly soft and low.

Along the vista of the past,
Until it seems scarce true,
The grim shadows fleet and vast
Upon the hearthstone grow,
In dark recesses I capture
Dim scenes by the spent
Where watch the [illegible]
The dreams that [illegible] night
The fire [illegible]
While [illegible] the night
And [illegible] memory's paths weary
Come thoughts of [illegible]
Around it [illegible]

And the magic there falls a spell
Weaved above the flickering blaze,
For fancies past and future dwell
Where [illegible] the middle [illegible]
Still in our dreaming,
As [illegible] glamour
Night's [illegible]

And when the log [illegible]
Near to the [illegible] made,
We sit, while [illegible] fading,
Dreaming hearts [illegible]
Closely the bright [illegible]
And hear the wind mingle
With shout and [illegible]

IN BRUIN'S EMBRACE.

[illegible]

"I have read within the past few weeks, many interesting and thrilling accounts of hunting the grizzly bear, and I, Chesley Lessing of Manitoba, "and they have recalled from exciting incidents I have met with on and per- tempted to during my years' experience as a trapper and hunter in the Manitoba wilderness. Once, in company with a half breed guide named Jacques Sabin, I came suddenly into an open space in a piece of poplar timber, which is among the most abundant of timbers about the lower of the Manitoba Basin. The opening would have held nothing to particular interest [illegible] but because the [illegible] I came [illegible] in and be [illegible] possession of by about as fierce a grizzly bear as I had ever run across. The sunlit the opening among the poplars somewhat interesting.

"Our appearance on the poplar opening had been a surprise to the bear, which was engaged in tearing with its huge claws a decayed log to pieces in search of grubs, a curious paradox in nature, an enormous, fierce, forged- stable beast with power to tear into fragments the largest buffalo bull with a few strokes of its claws, digging in rotten timber for the smallest insect life and feeding upon it. Once recovering from its first surprise the bear poised upon its hind feet, and gave us a sight of its formidable teeth, and showed to anger by savage roars or bellows that were by no means reassuring to our comfort. The big bear threw its fore paws straight above its head, and for a moment stood as if contemplating a furious charge upon us. I have no doubt such was the grizzly's intention, but as we stood there erect, a valuable ally and vital part of which there was every look on a grizzly bear, exposed, Jacques took cool and steady aim and sent a ball into the vitals of the huge brute. The bear gave two or three hoarse bellows with its fore paws on the wounded part, accompanying them with the peculiar roar or howl an enraged grizzly utters, and fell dead without moving out of its tracks.

"The bear had scarcely fallen to the ground, Jacques with being still in rather ready to pour a second charge into the grizzly if the first shot had not proved sufficient, when there came a load crash off to our right, in the timber, and before either of us was prepared for what followed it, I saw my half breed guide lifted clean off the ground, hurled through the air a distance of five yards, and fall in a heap on the ground near the bear, he had just killed. A second grizzly, fully as big as the first, had heard the cries of the latter, and, notwithstanding the allegations made by most writers on the habits of the grizzly bear that it will not voluntarily attack a man, came rushing to the spot, and had not waited to look into the cause of the trouble, but had taken a hand in at once by an attack on Jacques. That was most effective.

"This bear paid no attention whatever to me, but followed up his attack on my companion, who did not need any further intimation to know what he had on hand, and was on his feet again with astonishing quickness. The blow from the bear's paw had torn the flesh from his left cheek and side of his head, and it hung in strips down on his neck. Jacques' gun had been knocked from his hand. The blood poured from his head and face in streams. He quickly drew his short-handled hunting axe, which was in his belt, and awaited the charge of the bear. This charge was so fierce that it would have carried down half a dozen stalwart men, and consequently Jacques was no more than a reed in a gale before it. He went down, and the grizzly stood over him and glared and growled as if enjoying the hunter's peril and gloating over the fate that awaited him.

"These incidents had all occurred with such rapidity that I hadn't had time to think, let alone act, but when I saw Jacques lying at the mercy of the great brute that would crush the life out of him with the next blow of its terrible paw, I knew that my comrade's life depended on my courage. Mechanically I sprang forward, and placing the muzzle of my gun almost in the bear's right ear, as he stood glaring and gloating over his victim, pulled both triggers. No more effective shot was ever fired. Two heavy bullets ploughed through the grizzly bear's brain and forced the tallow of his head off like lifting the lid off a kettle. The bear, although he must have died almost instantly, actually remained standing for nearly a minute, just as he was standing when I fired, one immense paw raised to give what would have been the fatal blow to his prostrate victim. When at last he fell he tumbled at Jacques' side, with one fore leg across the hunter's breast. The big, stalwart half breed was unconscious, and he remained so for several minutes. His left side had been crushed by the bear's second assault, and the poor fellow was bruised and torn shockingly in other places on his body. I got him safely to our quarters and it was a month before he got around again. He was badly disfigured, one side of his face being a ghastly scar, and half of his scalp gone. But he recovered his form and strength, and the last time I heard of him he was still hunting grizzlies, and many had fallen under his deadly aim since that close call in front of the poplar opening." [illegible] New York Sun.

Amid Desolate Grandeur In Norway.

One may travel in Norway six, eight, ten or even twelve miles through most magnificent scenes of nature without sight of a single living thing, writes Edgar L. Wakeman in the Chicago Record. Perhaps the only suggestion of life in the entire distance will be the bubble of the cowbells from the hidden vales among the mountain heights, where the loving Haldre in utter loneliness care for their summer herds. Even this but in the most absolute contrast reaches one hardened with an unutterable sense of dreary remoteness. Suddenly emerging from a shadowy gorge or rounding the base of some precipice towering thousands of feet above your head, or again when beginning the descent from some frozen field, your sharp cherry skydgut or postboy will triumphantly tip a tune of tolerance at good things to come, shout the name of a near station. It will stood huddled upon some dreary moor of rocks, prodded against a patch of behemoth boulders, stretching along a barren level, winding way, or perching upon the edge of some lengthy rock cleft where a torrent thunders below, seem like a mass of gray rock broken from the heights above, pausing before a final plunge into the roaring abyss beneath.

As you approach the place there on your or perhaps half a dozen sat- tered log huts appear, with the grad- ually disclosed. The barren will per- haps be a comparatively large struct- ure set at odd angle against the high- way. It has been built by the bon- der station master, beneath and side of pine, his large hewn timbers, a low roofed roof, square windows, often pro- truding so as to give a wide window seat as a provision for potted plants, and almost invariably boasts a door porch remarkable in appearance to the honest old south porches of the more ancient parish churches of Eng- land. But if this structure is of re- cent origin it is still a gray and an- tique in appearance as all the rest. Behind this, or extending from its rear wall, is the original farmhouse, often 200 or 300 years old, though built in wood; altogether a mass of patch work in pine and thatching, with a cavernous chimney leap towering at one corner; the whole reminding you of the stone built structures of the English lake district, evincing generations of enlarging and patch- ing of additional housroom of all sizes and shapes and at every eccentric possible angle.

Death of General Phil Kearney.

Colonel W. L. Goldsmith of the Mississippi gives the following account of the death of General Kearney, who was killed by soldiers of his regiment in September, 1862:

The battle of Chantilly was fought late in the afternoon amid a severe storm of wind and rain. It was a gloomy, dark, depressing afternoon, and night was fast approaching. Our brigade had not fired a gun but was on the extreme left of our forces and behind a worm rail fence, grown up thick with saplings and bushes, was a excellent place for ambushing. The fighting was all to our right. I had charge of the skirmish line some 200 yards in advance of our line of battle, and in a cornfield which nearly sloped up toward the direction of the Federals. Presently I saw a line of blue cautiously moving toward us, several hundred yards away, and I remember distinctly the powerful impression it made on my mind at the time. As it came forward, steady and proudly, amidst the thickening gloom of that dreary September evening, it reminded me of an incoming blue wave of the great ocean coming toward us. They had no skirmish line, and I withdrew our forces back to the main line, and as far as I could I tried to get the men to hold their fire until the enemy came close up. Some of our men commenced firing before the enemy came close enough, which spoiled the ambush game. The Federals were checked and driven back so easily that we knew something was the matter, and attributed their timidity to the demoralizing influence of defeat at Second Manassas only a few days before; but on reestablishment of our skirmish line we discovered that the gallant General Phil Kearney had been killed, and this was the cause of the Federals' weak attempt. The grief of our entire army was marked and sincere over this sad news, and General Lee sent his body through the lines next day, to the great satisfaction and approval of us all. General Kearney was killed by the forty-ninth Georgia regiment, beloved and mourned by the blue and gray.

How the Earth Was Weighed.

The question of the earth's density and weight has always been one of great interest to scientific men in gen- eral. Newton proved that the density could be ascertained by noting the de- flection of a pendulum by the attraction of a mountain. Bouguer applied the method using an instrument called a zenith sector, in connection with a telescope made to point at a certain star. After taking observations at one station the instrument was moved 100 feet and again turned to the direction of the same star. By so doing it was found that the graduated arc and pointer showed a difference of nearly one second of an angle; this is on a level plane. Carrying the experiment fur- ther, it was found that when one of the stations was at the foot of a moun- tain the change of direction as shown by the zenith pointer was hardly no- ticeable; this on account of the moun- tain's attraction.

In 1854 Professor Maskelyne made experiments at the footed Mount Schi- hallion, Perthshire, Scotland, by which it was determined that the at- traction exerted by that mountain caused the plumb line to deviate nearly six (6) seconds from its normal. Pro- fessors Cavendish, Playfair and Hut- ton, reasoning from the known struct- ural composition of Schihallion, found that the mean density of the mountain was to that of the earth as 5 is to 9. From this the mean density of earth, as compared to water, was found to be as 5 to 1, other more recent experi- ments make the ratio vary from 4 to as much as 7 instead of 5 to 1, as shown by Cavendish's test. Taking 5 as the average, and the diameter of the earth as 7,912.14 miles, and the weight of a cubic foot of water as 62.32 pounds, the weight of the earth is shown to be 5,842 trillions of tons of 2,240 pounds, or in figures to 5,842,000,000,000,000,000,000 tons. St. Louis Republic.

A Swimmer's Feat.

At the London Royal Aquarium, Professor Edward Cusick, a swimmer, accomplished the feat of remaining under water over eleven and a half minutes out of a total of twelve min- utes, ten seconds. On the central stage was a narrow, deep tank, and at the bottom of the water the professor deposited himself, only coming to the surface seven times to take air, the whole period thus spent being thirty seconds. New York Dispatch.

Glad to Oblige.

Footpad (leveling revolver) "I'll trouble you for wot change you've got about you, mister."

Frightened Citizen (handing it over) "It's—it's no trouble at all, I assure you, sir!" —Chicago Inter Ocean.

CHILDREN'S COLUMN.

[illegible]

The coping filled small leaves which had formed itself on each side of the doorway was of the opinion that, if the gentleman in the fur coat was not Santa Claus, he was one of his blood relations, for as Tom climbed cautiously to his post beside Perkins, so as not to hazard the safety of the cupola, for which there was no room, [illegible] into a sharp hurrah. Perhaps they less, at least some of them, knew what they had to expect for Christmas Santa Claus seated himself on the box, he plunged his hands into the side pockets of the fur coat, and then [illegible] them back to the wind, a happy crowd, with gay good will.

"Remarkable man, your little Tops, considerable, and with you merry Christmas."

What Tom thought to the remark was neither his business nor his concern, but a pleasure it caught in mind which he had drawn from the book for the express purpose. As the stalwart shower of treasures from some pocket fell to the top of the cupola, the band of stocking thrust themselves upon it with a shout of transport which drew down from the eyes of the tender-hearted Bridget, who had remained to witness this unlikely occurrence, and ought to have warmed the cockles of the demure heart, if indeed they needed warming. Tom's scarcely unplanged his hand into his pocket and twice again the yell was repeated. Then seating himself beside Perkins, Tom gave the signal for departure, and as the cab rounded the corner a score of little fingers gave him back his merry Christmas with all their might. [Scribner's Magazine.

[illegible]

One of the most [illegible] of little men was Jeffrey Hudson, who figures in Sir Walter Scott's Peveril of the Peak. His history has been so often written as to bear but a brief mention. A whimsical trick was his, he presented by the Duchess of Buckingham to Queen Henrietta Maria, the wife of Charles I. [illegible] the people in the [illegible] pie for amusement, there was a [illegible] of set the banquet, as they were [illegible] to [illegible], saying down to enjoy the "exquisite choice" such a dish of pie, out of the same time, which Buckingham, the cat, at gravely [illegible]. The meal over, the guest offered [illegible] cheese, and was almost paralyzed to have pies speak up and say, "Butter- kin can help himself since he is hun- gry," and then make off as usual, leaving the old cook with uplifted hands, in wild confusion, beating at their hostess, "A witch, a witch" with her fallacious cat! which a caught have gone very hard with the poor woman, had it not soon been found that a wasp, for a joke, had killed and thrown out pie grimalkin, and the [illegible] Jeffrey in its skin.

When knighted by his Kings, Had son assumed arms [illegible] and mockery sure, although he was the nation's well as the amusement of the Court. Sir [illegible] dissented [illegible] of water, and would have [illegible] into the Thames but for a duel that saved him. But Lord Monmouth, who was doubtless really [illegible] in sought adventures, was sent on diplomatic missions; fell into the hands of a Turkish pirate, who [illegible] off as prisoner to Barbary, and thereafter dis- tinguished himself by challenging Mr. Crofts to a duel, that gentleman hav- ing at first come to answer the small man's challenge armed only with a syringe filled with water.

A contemporary of Jeffrey was Richard Gibson an artist. Lilliputian who studied under Sir Peter Lely, painted very creditable historical pieces and sometimes portraits, and taught drawing to the royal Princesses Mary and Elizabeth, who were after wards queens of England. He was apprenticed, as his mouth, page at the back states, and was married to Anne Shepherd, another court dwarf exactly his own height, having a most brilliant wedding, King Charles giving away the bride, while the queen presented her with a diamond ring, and Edmund Waller, the poet, to them Muscatoes, composed a poem on the occasion. The diminutive pair, 3 feet 10 inches high, passed a long and happy life together and had nine children, five of whom grew to maturity and were full stature size. [Harper's Young People.

Base Ingratitude.

"Madam, have you the receipt for this pie?" said the tramp.

"Yes, would you like to have a copy of it?" replied the good woman.

"No, madam, but I should like to destroy the original," said the tramp. —Harper's Bazar.

SHIP STORES.

How Supplies For Uncle Sam's Navy Are Handled.

Servants On Men-of-War Must Perform Military Duties.

[illegible] on a trade on the lead and other supplies of United States war vessels Rear Rade says:

The reader may have been struck by the great number of servants re- quired on a ship of war. It should be explained that these nominal [illegible] are actually a small part of their business. They all have military duty, be sailors, forming a portion of the fighting force of the floating battery. They take part in drills, and bear arms in the infantry battalion. Every man on board of such a vessel is a soldier and has his station for that purpose. He cooks and carries the provisions which are fighting men to drill, which mitate martial actions, the servants usually perform such work as the handling of powder and torpedoes. However, they are not obliged to go aloft to keep watch, or to man boats.

The powder is stored below in a room called the magazine. For the cat guns it is in bags, each of which is a single charge and is packed in a water tight copper cylinder. The cylinders are placed on rack. The cartridges for rifle guns and small arms are in the wooden boxes in the shell room. In the same the empty shell are kept, all ready for loading. The loaded for them with fuses attached are in the magazine, each one in a copper cylinder. If the ship take fire, the magazine can be flooded with water at a moment's notice.

The cylinders in which to keep the powder will not other any spare. The guns are fired with a sixty pound charge instead of the usually. Black charge is used prepared for the purpose in metal cases and without projectiles, are employed. The only men entitled to a salute of twenty one guns, which is the maximum, are President Cleveland. The next night I heard in that way a [illegible] and [illegible] I [illegible] and [illegible] Tecumseh [illegible] the [illegible] Paul Jones [illegible] Paul Jones [illegible] Saints cost about 60 cents a shot.

A log of war always has a thousand 1000 or 500 volumes, comprising books on travels, narratives of adventures by sea, biographies of naval heroes and naval text books. It contains no novels. Washing for the officers is done ashore when practicable; otherwise to the boy, who are glad to make a little extra money in this way. In every respect the housekeeper on board of such a vessel is perfection. Absolute cleanliness and order is insisted on. All the water used on board is distilled from sea water by special apparatus provided for the purpose. Such apparatus is furnished even on sailing vessels in the navy, so that supplies of water from the shore or from streams are longer dependent. Among the hospital stores on the ships for the use of the sick, such luxuries as Lipton tea, [illegible] chicken soup, mutton broth, brandy, whisky, wines, port and sherry.

When a new ship is about to receive commission a book is made up at the Navy Department in Washington, containing lists of all the articles of every kind with which she is to be furnished, even to the last. Stock of those things are have to be supplied turned are ordered from the navy yard where they can be made most economically and are transported to the yard where the vessel lies. Finally, the lists are sent to the commandant of that yard, with orders to have ready everything specified in it. It is handed over to the general store keeper of the yard, who has charge of all stores of every description. Probably there is now $10,000,000 worth of stores and supplies in the hands of the general storekeeper at the Brooklyn navy yard. The storekeeper goes over the book, sets aside such of the goods required as he has in his possession, and orders to purchase from the various departments in the yard for whatever else he requires. It should be understood that every bureau of the Navy Department has a branch at each yard and on board of every ship in the service, so that it may be said to ramify everywhere. The yard departments referred to furnish whatever is wanting in the way of equipments or what not, and on the day that the ship goes into commission, the storekeeper has had everything placed on board of her, except the medicines. These come direct from the naval laboratory at New York.

A Queer Craft.

The odd looking object that has been evolved of late years from the mind of the ship builder is shown in a drawing by M. Bazin, a French engineer, of the craft which he proposes to propel across the Atlantic at the rate of thirty knots an hour. The ship looks like a deck or platform raised a little above the ordinary craft, even means wheels. M. Bazin's theory is that the eight wheels on which his vessel is raised will so far diminish the resistance offered by the waves that a very high speed can be developed—such a speed, in fact, as would make it possible for crossing the distance between continents in [illegible] and New York in [illegible] hours. The rudder enters the water at the deepest of eight midships and another body astern is adjustable [illegible] forward, thus forming a rolling [illegible] of a gigantic body as the [illegible] with its ordinary motion or propel [illegible]. The rudder doesn't actuate the screw propellers which [illegible] the vessel [illegible] mechanism being pre- [illegible] for this purpose. M. Bazin [illegible] fully [illegible] of the stability of his ships, which he says can be built at comparatively small cost of all [illegible] more cheaply than ordinary [illegible]. It is estimated that the rollers will make twenty two revolu- tions per minute, equally [illegible] thirty knots per hour, with a force equal to 10,000 horse power, of which 2,000 horse power is assigned to re- volving the wheel and 8,000 for pro- pelling the vessel. It is proposed to construct a vessel on M. Bazin's plan, and should it be successful the ocean greyhound of the future, rolling along at fifty knots per hour, may bear a far greater resemblance to a large Ferris wheel than the comparatively [illegible] Lucania of today. [Chicago Inter-Ocean.

Talking Canary Birds.

The story of the talking canary, which [illegible] has attracted much attention, has brought out other in- stances of an acquired power of speech in the same bird. In the at- tic of the St. Bernard convent, where the [illegible] appeared, there are one hundred [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]