

INSECURITY.
Every prop on which I lean,
Every earthly prop, I mean,
Of whose power I chance to boast,
Falls as when I need it most.

Lover, brother, sister, friend,
On whose goodness I depend,
Whom whom very presence gives
Strength by which my spirit lives,
Fall away by some mischance,
Death or other circumstance,
And I find myself indeed
Leaving on a broken reed.

When these earthly fetters part,
All these things around my heart
Fall away, and I am left
Of life's sweetest joys bereft.

To what depths of woe I drop,
Seeking vainly for some prop
All sufficient to sustain
One in loneliness and pain.

Like a drowning man I reach
Upward and for aid I plead,
"Help me, I cry," I cry and stand
Well supported by my hand.

Through the desert, through the tide,
He has promised to abide
Ever near; where'er I be,
Whispering gently, "Lean on me."

Earthly ties, how insecure!
Heavenly help, how true!
And my idols all were slain
That I might this knowledge gain.
—New York Ledger.

THEY GAVE THE BOLLAS.
And the People Danced to Pay the Debts of Louis XIV.

In 1712 Louis XIV favored the Opera, then established in the first salle of the Palais Royal (there have been several with a special mansion for the better accommodation of its administration, archives and rehearsals. This hotel is situated in the Rue Nicaise. The building was generally designated under the name of "Maganis," whence the term "Filles du Magasin" (not "de magasin") subsequently not only to the female choristers and supers, but the female dancers themselves. It so happened that the king forgot to pay his architects and workmen. In order to satisfy them the Chevalier de Bouillon conceived the idea of giving balls in the opera house, for which idea he received an annual pension of 6,000 francs. He was paid, but the king's debtors were not, for, although the letters patent were granted somewhere about the beginning of 1713, not a single ball had been given when the most magnificent of the Bourbon sovereigns descended to his grave. One day, shortly after his death, d'Argenson, then the Lieutenant of police, was talking to Louis' nephew, Philippe d'Orleans, the regent. "Monsieur," he said, "there are people who go about telling that his majesty of blessed memory was a miser and a thief. I'll have them arrested and have them flung into some dark underground dungeon. You don't know what you are talking about," was the answer. "Those people must be paid, and then they'll cease to bellow." "But how, monsieur?" "Let's give the balls that were projected by Bouillon." So said, so done, and the people danced to pay Louis XIV's debts, as, according to Shadwell, people drank to fill Charles II's coffers:

The king's most faithful subjects we
In service are not dull,
We drink to show our loyalty
And make his coffers full.
—London Saturday Review.

Chesterfield's Superiority.
Chesterfield's idea of excellence was essentially superficial for his praise of solid acquirement and genuine principle is always coupled with the assertion of their entire inutility if unaccompanied by grace, external polish, and an agreeable manifestation. He omits all consideration of their intrinsic worth and absolute dignity; their value to the individual, according to him, is wholly proportioned to his skill in using them in a social form.

In one of his earlier letters to Philip Stanhope he writes: "What an advantage has a graceful speaker with genteel motions, a handsome figure, over one who shall speak full as much good sense, but who is destitute of these ornaments. In business how prevalent are the graces, how detrimental is the want of them! If you should not acquire manners, all the rest will be of little use to you. By manners I mean engaging, insinuating, shining manners, a distinguished politeness, an almost irresistible address, a superior gracefulness in all you say and do." He would have manners overlay individuality and goes so far as to declare that a soldier is a brute, a scholar, a pedant and a philosopher, a cynic without good breeding.—Gentleman's Magazine.

There is an American hotel at Limon, Porto Rico. It is called the Grand. It rests on piers set in the coral reef, where ceaseless spray from the nearby surf reflects rainbow tints in the sunlight.

A HUSBAND SAYS:
"Before my wife began using Mother's Friend she could hardly get around. I do not think she could get along without it now. She has used it for two months and it is a great help to her. She does her housework without trouble."

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A GREAT BOAT RACE.
THE BENNINGTON'S CRACK CREW GOT A COSTLY SURPRISE.

The story of a Fourth of July Rowing Contest at Honolulu which emptied the Pockets and Lacerated the Feelings of Uncle Sam's Jackies.

"About as dismal a Fourth of July as ever I experienced on board a man-of-war," said an ex-sailor of the navy now living in Washington to a reporter, "was Independence day not many years ago down in the harbor of Honolulu. The Bennington had an all star racing boat's crew. The eight had just happened to be assigned to the Bennington in a bunch before she left for her Pacific cruise, and several of the crew had been members of the Columbia's crack boat's crew that walloped all of the British navy's boats' crews in English waters a few years before. The Bennington's cutter was one of the best in the navy, and she had been built for a race. Before we left the Mare Island yard for south Pacific waters the ship's racing crew had easily beaten all of the other crews of the ships lying at the yard, including the tip-top crew of the Olympia and the Boston's fine crew. We thought that we were about as warm as they make 'em after our crew put it on so many other man-o'-war crews, giving them a couple of minutes the start of us, too, on numerous occasions and still beating them disgracefully.

"The people of Honolulu arranged an aquatic festival for the Fourth of July—the Americans down there celebrated the Fourth just as enthusiastically as we do up here—and the Bennington's crew figured in it largely. Our ship's colors were at the front with two races that were run with picked Kanaka crews, and the third and last race of the day was one in which our crackjack eight was to figure, the other races having been won by sub crews practically picked at random from among the strongest seamen.

"We thought this race was at our mercy. It was to be a four sided affair—one crew of Kanaka sugar field workers, a crew of Kanaka policemen and the racing crew of the yacht Eleanor, belonging to Mr. Slater of Providence, that had pulled into Honolulu harbor from Japan a few days before. Our crew didn't pay much attention to the yacht's racing crew and were only figuring on the distance they could beat the crew of Kanaka policemen, which seemed the most formidable.

"The race was over the four mile course carefully blocked out in the harbor—which was very smooth—by the Honolulu aquatic sportsmen, and the start was first rate. There wasn't a man, fore or aft, on the Bennington that didn't stand to go broke to the extent of at least a month's pay on the success of the Bennington's crew, and we had to give 3 to 1, too, for it was generally conceded that we had the race at our mercy.

"The start, as I said, was good, and the Bennington's crew showed in front first and started out apparently to make a runaway race of it. The Kanaka policemen's crew trailed after them, pulling steadily, then the Kanaka sugar workers and a good ten lengths to the rear, the Eleanor's crew. This was the way it looked for the finish when the Bennington's crew rounded the stakeboat and saw the return trip.

"Some of the Honolulu men who had their money up on the two Kanaka crews actually began to square accounts, and the cry, 'It's all over—Bennington!' was heard all over the bay. When the stakeboat was rounded, it was noticed that the Eleanor's boat was sort of getting a move on itself, and the men were working like machines at a long, steady stroke that certainly looked as if it was cutting down the Bennington's lead and the lead of the two Kanaka boats.

"Two minutes after the stakeboat was rounded the Eleanor's gang were right abreast of the Kanaka cutters and gaining on them with every stroke, and the cox'wain of the Bennington's cutter, hearing the yells of warning from the behind him blue-jackets ashore, looked behind him and saw the Eleanor cutter only two lengths behind him and coming like an electric flash. Our crew was tired, and that's all there was about it.

"The Eleanor's crew had held themselves in for the finish, and they certainly did make a Garrison finish of it. The yacht's cutter shot ahead of our cutter a good mile from home, and then, to make the thing more galling, the crew actually stopped rowing until the Bennington's crew was alongside again. Then they took to the oars again, and from then on it was a howling farce. The Eleanor's crew just romped their cutter in ten lengths ahead of our cutter and the Kanakas a quarter of a mile in the rear.

"You never saw such a disgusted lot of men in your life as the men and officers on the Bennington. The Eleanor's ship company had taken all of the \$1 to money they could get on board our ship, for they knew they had a good thing up their sleeve. The Eleanor's crew on the whole trip around the world that was wound up at San Francisco had not been beaten once in a cutter race, and the yacht's sailors had made all kinds of money in betting on their crew. It was a minor sort of consolation for us when we found out that five of the Eleanor's racing crew were ex-American man-o'-war's men."—Washington Star.

The allowance of the lord mayor of London, up to the majority of Sir Sidney Waterlow in 1873, was \$40,000 annually, but it was increased in that year to \$50,000, at which sum it has ever since remained.

Opals.
An exquisite gem is the opal, its beautiful creamy surface lit with red, blue and yellow rays scintillating in the light and giving it a place in the front rank of precious stones. Unfortunately the opal has a bad name, and we know the proverb about the dog with the unlucky cognomen. Superstition credits this beautiful stone with bringing misfortune to its owner, and superstition will win its way so long as the world lasts. The opal is peculiarly brittle and sometimes crumbles away without any apparent cause, therefore it has been branded "unlucky." But let those who value opals for their worth and beauty and who can afford to make merry at the superstitions. The opal is the type of hope.—Chicago News.

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NORTH CAROLINA Superior Gates county. Court. Caroline Blanchard, widow of Richard Blanchard, vs. David Blanchard, Thomas Blanchard, Dempsy Blanchard, Martin Blanchard, Maggie Blanchard, John H. Hollowell and wife Mary Hollowell, Dorsey Ward and wife Arizona Ward, Thomas Chappel and wife Jane Chappel, Annie Blanchard, Mary Blanchard, Vashiti Blanchard, Verre Blanchard, Joanna Blanchard, Jennie Blanchard, Laura Blanchard, Walter Blanchard and Andrew Blanchard.

The defendants, Annie Blanchard, Mary Blanchard, Vashiti Blanchard, Verre Blanchard and Joanna Blanchard, above named, will take notice that an action entitled as above has been commenced in the Superior Court of Gates county, for the purpose of having dower allotted to the petitioner Caroline Blanchard in the lands of her late husband Richard Blanchard, situated in Mintonsville township, said county; and the said defendants will further take notice, that they are required to appear at the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Gates county on the 8th day of October, 1898, and answer or demur to the complaint in said action, or the plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief demanded in said complaint. This 23d day of August, 1898.

W. T. CROSS,
Clerk Superior Court.
L. L. Smith, attorney for plaintiff.

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