

Pray the fine cord of Love until it break; Launch thy progress before the storm abate; Kiss the prone, sleeping Peril till it wake; Then fall at Fate. —Danke Danbridge

ALMOST PERSUADED.

A sultry evening had closed over the great city. Overhead, the stars shone faintly along the close, narrow streets; the gaslights flickered; every doorway, every open casement in this densely populated quarter of the city was packed full of humanity, striving to get a breath of air.

Nothing can be prettier than that, And John does so want you to go. He's got a friend coming—such a genteel young man! Do come, Lilly! Think how much nicer it will be than sitting here in this stuffy hole, with Mrs. Booker's baby crying next door, and old Mr. Farren playing the fute overhead.

"It was your good advice that saved the seal. Thank you so much. How much I should have loved to go to the ball!" "She's a nice girl," said Uncle Mark to his wife that night, when Lilly was asleep in the lavender-scented bedroom that looked out upon the river, "and I don't wonder Mary's proud of her. But I did feel sort of queer, just for a minute when I thought she was a-larking round at balls with Mary knowing nothing about it."

HIGHBINDERS.

A Chinese Organization for Murder and Blackmail.

The Highbinders, whose atrocious murders and continual blackmailing operations have puzzled the police of San Francisco, St. Louis and Pittsburg, and whose operations in New York have so far been carried on with great skill and secrecy are an organization of Chinamen dating back to the Tai Ping or long-haired rebellion, which was entirely subdued, it was thought, some thirty years ago in the Flowery Kingdom. The Highbinders belong to the Triad Society, which has been compared in China to the Nihilists in Russia.

Crimes of the Hatchet Society in America.

Troy, N. Y. The leader went there and circulated pretty freely, giving the name of a Chinaman known as a missionary, who was then in Ohio. He called on Sing Lee, on the day and at the hour Sing Lee was paying his rent. When the landlord left he attacked Sing Lee, killed him, stole all his money (\$700), and then wrote on a piece of paper and pasted on the door outside a placard: "Go to New York. Back soon. Sing Lee."

Apples.

Scotland and in England the apple is a very popular divining medium in love matters. Part of this popularity is probably due to the common notion that the tree of knowledge of good and evil was an apple tree. Horace mentions the use of apple pips in love affairs. A lover would take a pip between the finger and thumb and shoot it up to the ceiling, and if it struck it, his or her wish would be accomplished.

Humorous.

Smiles Instead of Tears. When shadows hide the sun away, What can be sigh about it? Keep up a cheerful heart, and say, If sunshine can't be ours today, We'll get along without it.

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