

Sea Song. With a hey and ho, and a fairy boat, And a rollicking summer breeze, With a heave and a roll to the East we go, O'er the dancing shimmering seas.

WHITE MITTENS.

The curtain rises—and there are only two actors on the narrow stage which is set with rustic scenery. There are a road, trees, and in the distance water. This latter looks as if intended for the sea.

As Reuben and Rebecca walk along the road they do not appear to talk much. She seems cold and distant, but in her heart is a fire of love that burns more fiercely the more she represses it.

Reuben is equally perplexed in his simple mind; he is sure of only one thing, that is the state of his own feelings, but he is not yet able to decide whether Rebecca loves him.

Of late he has been unlucky on his fishing trips in the Anna Sheafe, a small vessel which he commands and of which he owns one quarter.

he could not explain. Then it was, however, that he discovered the depth of his attachment. His companions noticed it and rallied him about it, and behind his back expressed themselves in the customary village slang and gossip.

Reuben did not recover his usual spirits; his good old mother insisted that he was not well and needed physic. Reuben took the medicine, being a good deal of a child under his mother's roof, obeying and yielding to her in nearly all of her whimsies, which were leavened with much shrewdness and knowledge of human nature.

"Mother," said he, "it does me no good, but I will take it to please you." "My son, you just wait; you've been behindhand some time, and it will take a while to get you before-hand again.

"Herbs, mother, are good in their place. I like the smell of them, but the taste—"

"That's just it, my son; the smell is sweet, which shows the taste is good medicine. It's just like being in love and marriage; one you like and the other you must take, because it is best for everybody and naturally follows; and sometimes," she added, with a sly look at Reuben, "it cures love."

"I'm not going to marry—never, so you are out of your reckoning there, mother."

"Well, I don't know. Your father before you said that; so did I—until I was asked. Nobody means what they say when in love, or rather they mean just the other way. I think now I know what it is the trouble with you, Reuben," and she poured out the dose and gave it him, saying: "It will keep up your spirits at any rate, until Rebecca gives you some soothing syrup—eh, my boy? So cheer up."

Reuben grew thin and nervous in spite of the medicine, but he went about preparations for the winter cruising. Bad luck continued to follow him, small fares and falling prices discouraged him more and more.

"I have come to see you once more," he said on meeting her; "but perhaps I had better not come again."

"Why?" said Rebecca; "are you not always welcome, Captain Gage?" "Yes, we never quarrel—and we never get any further along from one time to another."

Do you think it is a silly superstition?" "Yes, I do, in the main."

"So do I, when I reason. At other times I half believe in it. There is something at the bottom of all common customs and beliefs, which, when harmless, it is just as well to accept. Our little village would be very dull and uninteresting without them."

"I have no particular objection to white mittens, Reuben replied, "only I did not happen to have any."

"Why, yes, I should."

Rebecca disappeared for a moment, and returned holding out a pair of snow-white mittens. "There, I made them for you. I had to guess at the size, most girls wouldn't, who have—brothers," she said, archly. "Let me try them on," and she pulled one over Reuben's hand, but before she could adjust the other his hands in some manner had become inextricably entwined about her waist.

They fitted, but Reuben never wore them afterward. He hung them up as a sacred trophy over the little mirror in the cabin of his vessel. And he had thereafter good luck enough.—New York Advertiser.

An Up-to-Date Serpent.

John Gadsden, colored, killed a rattle-snake near Poor Robin, Ga., on the Savannah river, last week, that had twenty-nine rattles and a button. And speaking of snakes—the strange looking serpent that was seen by a party of deer hunters over in "the fork" of Brier creek and Savannah river last winter, has been seen again. On account of the description given of it at first it is known as the silver serpent. Its scales were white and glistened in the sun like shining silver. It is said to be anywhere from fifteen to twenty feet long and is generally seen in trees. The two fishermen who last saw it say that its body has grown darker, but they declare that its head was so dazzling as hurt the eye.

A Sunflower Wonder.

The largest sunflower, possibly ever seen in Atlanta is being displayed today by Mr. S. A. Johnson, the grocer, who resides at 112 West Pine street. The flower measures thirteen inches across, and is filled with seed much larger than an ordinary flower. It was raised in Mr. Johnson's garden where he cultivated it with his vegetables. After the flower had matured and the seeds had ripened Mr. Johnson pulled it and is showing it to his friends. He will put it on exhibition at the agricultural department, he says. He thinks that it would pay for people to devote some time to the cultivation of this flower, as the seed make fine feed for fowls and animals. After the seed has been compressed the oil from them makes the best grade of lubricating oil.—Atlanta Journal.

Bad Luck.

Mrs. Gadders—Your daughter was miraculously rescued from drowning yesterday.

Mrs. Matchmaker—Yes Dolly, has awful luck.

Mrs. Gadders—Awful luck!

Mrs. Matchmaker—Why, the man who rescued her is married!—Puck.

The Youngest Grandmother.

A claimant for the honor of being the youngest grandmother in America is Mrs. John W. Pierce, of Boston, whose age is twenty-eight. She was married at the age of fourteen years and her daughter became a wife when only twelve years old.

A German marble cutter, S. Klaber, has given to the New York Society of Ethical Culture, in memory of his son, a bronze tablet beautifully framed in marble, containing Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg address.

THE KANGAROO.

A Nimble Fellow, But He Can't Run Down Hill.

His Skin Has a Wonderful Muscular Fiber.

Leather made from the skin of the kangaroo is one of the new products in the leather line, it is soft, strong, and the light grades are particularly well adapted for light summer shoes and for shoe tops, while the heavier grades will bear more usage than any other leather finished on the grain side. The light skins are made into finest brilliant glazed kid, and in dull finish for ladies' fine shoes; and the heavy ones are finished for men's fine work. Much of it is crimped and sold for tongue boots. Shoe leathers of good qualities are also made of it.

The skin of the kangaroo has a wonderfully muscular fiber, which contributes largely to the strength of the animal, enabling the females to carry their young in their pouches; until old enough to take care of themselves, and aiding the kangaroo in his long leaps when in motion.

The animal is a native of Australia and adjacent islands. It is a distinct species, and has no counterpart in other countries. There are a great number of families, some scarcely larger than a rat, others of almost gigantic size. The giant kangaroo (Macropus major), the family which furnishes the most valuable skins, was discovered by Captain Cook about a century ago, at which time it attracted much attention among naturalists.

The natives of Australia call the old males "booms," and are slow to attack them. The "booms" has paws as large as those of a mastiff, though of different shape, his feet are his weapons, and when attacked he is a dangerous antagonist. When raised to his full height his hind legs and tail form a tripod, upon which his body rests, carrying his head as high as that of a woman on horseback.

The kangaroo lives upon vegetable food and roams over the plains of Australia in large flocks. Its teeth are so constructed that it can feed upon roots and live upon barren plains where other animals would starve, and to its destruction of roots is attributed the sterile plains so common in Australia.

When feeding, a large male stands at his full height, and acts as sentinel, while the balance of the flock lie on their sides and browse. At the slightest approach of danger the sentinel sounds the alarm, and in an instant all are erect upon their hind feet. They leap with their forepaws clasped close to their body, the tail stretched backward, while the powerful thigh muscles are caused suddenly to straighten to the joints, by which act the body flies through the air on a low curve. The ordinary jump is about nine feet, but thirty feet is often made at a leap. When pursued by hunters and on level ground or on an up grade they can outrun the fleetest dog, but down grade they lose their balance and roll over. The flesh of the kangaroo furnishes excellent food, kangaroo venison being considered a dainty dish, while the tail furnishes an excellent and nutritious soup.—Humane Journal.

The Great Firefly.

The great firefly is an inhabitant of the savannahs of most of the warmer parts of America and the West India Islands. It is said to attain a length of an inch and a half. In the gloom of night these flies are extremely luminous and the effect is brilliant. The light chiefly produces from four parts, viz, from two glandular spots behind the eyes and one under each wing. They have the power to cut off the light at will, in which case the glandular spots become perfectly opaque. The light of this wonderful insect by itself is such that if the creature be held in the palm of the hand, print or manuscript is as easily read as by a candle. The aboriginal natives cage these creatures and make use of them as lanterns. Ladies adorn themselves with this electric light luminary.

It is related of Don Domingo Conde of Colombia that he would appear on the evening promenade with a large firefly ornamenting the buckle of his broad hat, while a band of smaller

luminous insects surround it. The same Spaniard lighted his palace with fireflies in silver cages. The display must have been enchanting, for at one time the light is ruddy, at another the tinge is greenish, then there is a change to golden yellow. It is stated that when the Spaniards were about to land one of their expeditions against Mexico a panic was caused by these luminares. The host of fluttering lights on land was supposed to be an indication of the enemy arousing their camp to resist the attack.

When the English were attacking the West India Islands the fireflies were taken to be a Spanish army advancing with burning matches against them, and the uproar was a hasty retreat to the ships.—All the Year Round.

Sources of Color.

An interesting enumeration has been made by somebody, and published in a technical journal, of the sources of color. From this it appears that the cochineal insects furnish the gorgeous carmine, crimson, scarlet carmine, and purple lakes; the cuttlefish gives sepia, that is, the inky fluid which the fish discharges in order to render the water opaque when attacked; the Indian yellow comes from the camel; ivory chips produce the ivory black and bone black; the exquisite Prussian blue comes from fusing horses hoofs and other refuse animal matter with impure potassium carbonate; various lakes are derived from roots, barks and gums; blue black comes from the charcoal of the vine stock; Turkey red is made from the madder plant, which grows in Hindoostan; the yellow ash of the Siam tree produces gamboge; raw sienna is the natural earth from the neighborhood of Sienna, Italy; raw umber is an earth found near Umbria; India ink is made from burned camphor; mastic is made from the gum of the mastic tree, which grows in the Grecian Archipelago; bister is the soot of wood ashes; very little real ultramarine, obtained from the precious lapis lazuli, is found in the market; the Chinese white is zinc, scarlet is iodide of mercury, and vermilion is from the quicksilver ore cinnabar.—Detroit Free Press.

The Cradle.

The cradle is man's first and greatest school-house. There his education begins. The mother's smile and caress give him his first evidences of human love and gentleness and sympathy. Her words are like a revelation from another sphere. Everything about that cradle is educative; and, what is more, this primal education is radical and determinative. It gives shape to the mind; the impressions there made are deep and abiding; they are not easily rubbed out by all the later rough usage of the world. In the nature of the case the mother is the first teacher, whose lessons almost inevitably abide through fair weather and foul. How important, then, that these early teachings be correct! "The most important part of education," says Plato, "is right training in the nursery. The soul of the child in his play should be trained to that sort of excellence in which, when he grows to manhood, he will have to be perfected." He should be elevated by an inclined plane; rather than vertically; the former is usually easy, while the latter is always difficult, sometimes impossible. The cradle song is often the inspiration of the whole life.

Keeps Tab on His Ranch.

The Los Angeles (Cal.) Times says: The owner of a San Diego ranch lives in the East. He has a novel way of keeping track of the condition of his property without visiting it. Periodically he has an elaborate series of photographs taken, which show the fruit trees and buildings. These pictures show exactly the amount of work done, and the growth of the trees from time to time.

Clever Horsemanship.

An interesting illustration of the Indian's clever horsemanship was given by a young buck at Wilbur, Wash., a few days ago. Carrying in his hand an ordinary cup filled to the brim of water, he rode on a cayuse at full gallop the length of the main street and returned without spilling so much as a drop of the water.—New York Sun.

NEWSY CLEANINGS.

The Russian thistle has appeared near Abilene, Kan. Philadelphia's yet unfinished city hall has cost \$15,000,000.

Minnesota judges the other day held court in a railroad car. There will be a big grampaie crop in Southwest Georgia this year. Out of 230,000 farms in Denmark only 1300 are more than 250 acres in extent.

Illinois colored men propose to organize a State league for mutual protection. A yield of 26,000,000 bushels of grain is expected in the Canadian Northwest this year.

Thomas O'Brien, a Philadelphia, was a coffin as a bed and has slept in it for two years. Lemuel H. Andrews, of West Gadsden, Fla., has killed 1275 rattlesnakes during his lifetime.

A colored girl evangelist is making many converts through her exhortations in South Carolina. The United States War Department has adopted for saluting purposes a powder of low explosive power that will make a loud report.

A priest was recently poisoned at the altar at Friedheim, in the Prussian province of Posen, by poison put in the wine in the chalice. "Jack the Ripper," who killed so many unfortunate women in London, was a young medical student, with a homicidal mania, and he is now in an insane asylum.

Nicotine poisoning from eating grapes from vines fumigated with kerosene has made many persons sick recently in Dorchester, England. None of the cases proved fatal.

A full blooded Cherokee Indian, named Wahoochee, is holding Christian revival services at Thomsville, Ga., and drawing immense crowds. He is said to be a successful evangelist. A systematic raid was begun on Chinatown, San Francisco, by Federal authorities. Every Chinese laborer who cannot produce a satisfactory certificate, accompanied by a photograph, will be arrested and held to answer under the deportation law.

Ohio claims to have the biggest man in the National Guard in United States. He is Lieutenant H. H. of the Fourth Ohio National Guard, and lives at Lancaster. The lieutenant measures six feet eight inches in his stockings, and though not fleshy, weighs 230 pounds.

Reports gathered by a State bureau from all parts of Oregon indicate that the big yield in that State this year will be more than that of last year, which averaged 78,000 bales. Hop lice are very numerous this year, but for some reason are not so destructive as usual.

Nearly 2000 forgotten indictments for every crime on the calendar from petty larceny to homicide have been discovered by accident in an old box in a loft in the District Attorney's office at New York recently. They were from 1863 to 1893, and many are outlawed and some of the defendants are dead.

N. H. White, a wealthy farmer living near Beloit, Kan., has a tawny trout of whiskers over five feet long. Mr. White has not shaven in seventy years. He is five feet eight inches high, and when he lets his whiskers out, it fills length for an string he has to stretch as he walks. Usually he winds them around his waist.

Paris, through its Municipal Council, has voted the \$4,000,000 apportioned by the State as the city's share of the cost of the 1900 exhibition. The city will pay the money to the State in five yearly payments, beginning with 1896. Whatever profits are made will be divided between the city and the State. The cost of the exhibition is estimated at \$20,000,000.

PROMINENT PEOPLE.

Ambassador Bayard plays golf. Governor Morton's latest fad is bowling. General Diaz is being boomed for another term as President of Mexico. Ex-Queen Lilian has been pardoned by the Hawaiian Government.

King Humbert of Italy is a vegetarian and seldom eats anything except bread, potatoes and fruit. King Alfonso of Spain, being now nine years old, has been provided with a father confessor to direct his conscience.

Lord Dunsen on his yacht usually wears white flannel trousers (not duck), held with a black waist. In order to look his part he wears a single eyeglass. C. Howard Hill, an Episcopal missionary in Kansas, could own an English title of nobility, left him by a wealthy friend's father, but he prefers to be an American citizen.

Dr. Conan Doyle's financial failure as a lecturer in America has caused a flutter among the English lecturers and writers who have been meditating lecture tours in the United States.

Lord Roberts, of Kandahar, is to have a brass monument at Calcutta, while he is yet alive. Elvira old-fashioned brass muzzle-loading cannon have just been sent to India from London for the statue.

Samuel Sloan, of the Delaware and Lackawanna Railroad, is the oldest active railroad manager in the country. He is eighty years of age and recently celebrated the golden anniversary of his wedding.

Senator William M. Everts, of Vermont, has become almost blind, and spends the most of his time at his home in Windsor, Vt. He can scarcely read or write at all, but he takes a deep interest in the current news.

Wilford Woodruff, who was elected head of the Mormon Church on the death of John Taylor, the sponsor of Brigham Young, is now eighty-eight years of age. As a missionary he has traveled 250,000 miles, lecturing, preaching and proselyting.

The Duke of York is said to "produce his voice well," but to speak with a very noticeable foreign accent when he makes public speeches. This is not surprising, however, as his father, the Prince of Wales, has pronounced German accent and his mother an equally pronounced Danish accent.

Mark W. Harrington, late Chief of the Weather Bureau at Washington, and professor of astronomy at the University of Michigan, has been elected President of the University of Washington, at Seattle, and has been installed in the duties of that office. The university is in a flourishing condition.