

## THE DEATH OF THE POET

By BARRY PAIN

The young man had a glass eye, which was by no means a perfect fit, a position in life as assistant to a grocer in Fulham, which was extremely distasteful to him, and a passion for a girl called Annie, which seemed absolutely hopeless. The young man himself was fully conscious of the tragedy of the situation. He knew that it was from such a furnace as this that the pure gold of poetry was extracted. He took to doing a little poetry in his leisure hours.

It was very much like other poetry; that is to say, it was neither very bad nor very good. The leisure hours were limited, and this limited the supply of the poetry. There was not enough for a volume. Perhaps there never would be. That which was already written did not entirely satisfy the young man's nice and critical taste. He would have recast it again and again if he had the money. Much meditation on the poignancy of this situation led him to the decision that when he was dead, with the green grass growing over him, after his name, carved in a simple headstone, should come the effective words, "Who died unexpressed." It was some regret to him that he could never live to see it.

Most of his poems were addressed to Annie, who was a practical young lady. A girl who is called Annie is almost certain to be practical. He would, without much encouragement read these poems to her. Then she would say "Thank you," and look very doubtful. He did not like the look. He went so far as to ask her if she did not think he was right in using the one talent that heaven had given him.

"Well, I don't know about that," said Annie. "It's nothing to me, and you've got to suit yourself. Of course, it's better that you should spend your time over this writing than if you stopped boozing in the public house all night same as some do. My two brothers make picture frames in the evening and sell them, too. It's not for me to advise, but why don't you try the picture frames? Besides, ought you to go on writing poems about me when you know perfectly well there's nothing in it? I like you well enough so far as you go, but if ever I take a husband it'll be somebody in a far different position than you. Just think about that."

At that moment he was extremely annoyed and had to be pulled up by Annie with a sharp jerk. Afterwards he did go away and think about it, and all the while he was thinking about it a respectable soap-boiler of moderate fortune passed peacefully away.

By the death of the soap boiler, who was uncle of his uncle, the young man was placed in a very different position. Annie received the news from him in a brief and extremely business like note. Her mother agreed that it was clearly her duty to go round and see about it. She would be able to catch him at the shop in Fulham on her way to work. He was not at the shop, and she was surprised that he had resigned his post. She had just time to go on to his lodgings. But he was not there either. He was at the moment engaged in the purchase of one of the very best glass eyes that money could buy. It was a triumph. He himself could only tell the difference between the real eye and the artificial by shutting first one lid and then the other. His self-respect grew tremendously.

Annie, who, as I have said, was quite practical, did not forget that August 9 was his birthday and sent him a pair of slippers which she had worked with her own hands. She thought the acknowledgment which she received of her gift was a little too formal. She was driven so far toward desperation that in a perfectly needless letter of reply she asked him to send her any poetry that he had been doing lately. A post card reached her from Margate bearing the simple statement that he had not been doing any lately.

Annie's charm had been the charm of the unattainable. That was gone now, and his eye showed him that there were other prettier girls. The other eye, the glass article, was so complete that he no longer suffered from any feeling of physical deformity. He was free from the long hours of work at a business which had never pleased him. He had heaps of time to write poetry and to recast what he had already written, and he never wrote a single line.

Just once, as he enjoyed his afternoon cigarette, he did recall the simple headstone and the proposed inscription. "Who died with nothing to express" occurred to him. But he did not worry about it. He had promised to take a girl out on the water that afternoon, a remarkably pretty girl, too. He went in search of her, whistling as he went.

### Profits in Advertising.

The fruit growers who make the most money are usually the men who sell their product by means of "business like" advertising. Several growers of our acquaintance sell their best fruit direct to private customers.

## GAMBLING CRAZE IN ENGLAND.

Every Club's Hall Porter is a Betting Commissioner.

The craze for bridge has by no means monopolized the gambling instinct of London society.

Instances of high play are growing daily more frequent as the nervous tension of the moneyed class seems to be in need of relief by gambling. A man who knows not the slightest thing about racing, but who plays billiards every afternoon, calls the hall porter of his club about half an hour before each race and says: "Two hundred and fifty dollars each way on the favorite." "Very well, sir," replies the porter and the deal is effected. Each Monday as he enters the club he receives his account and settles it.

The hall porters of all the clubs and of the hotels find most of their duties during the racing season to consist of acting as betting commissioners. They know all the bookmakers, and besides getting a commission from the bookmakers if the backers win, they receive a generous slice of the winnings.

### Saloons Closed on Pay Day.

In Norway on pay days saloons are closed and savings banks open until midnight. Servant girls hire for half a year at a time by contract at public registry offices. There is a telegraph box on every street car. One writes the message puts on the right number of stamps and drops it in the box. From it can borrow money from the government at 2 per cent. There are practically no illiterates. The average wage earnings are \$88 a year. There are more reindeer than horses, more sheep than cows.

### Reward For Printers' Errors.

By the recent dinner of the London Association of Composers of the Press, over which Anthony Hoop presided, attention was called to a queer custom of the old time printers used to chain copies of their books outside their offices, and if any passing scholar detected an error he was rewarded according to the magnitude of it. A copy of a book letter, a cap of wine and a plate of beef for a turned letter and the like.

### American Invasion of Canada.

The business and social relations between Canada and the United States are growing closer than ever before. The American "invasion" of the Dominion is an established fact, and the provinces are rapidly becoming Americanized. A large number of the leading American corporations have established plants in the Dominion near the border.

### Ancient Relics Unearthed.

A relic supposed to be a gold tray or server of rare Celtic design, has been found in Ireland during the operation of turf cutting in the bog. A pair of old double pistols was also unearthed, and some distance away, at a depth of eighteen feet, was found a coffin containing a skeleton. Emblems in the coffin indicate that the remains may be those of a French officer of high rank.

### Japanese School System.

A boy and girl must attend school as soon as they attain the age of six, and remain there until the age of fourteen. The first four years they teach them the Japanese and Chinese languages, and the latter four years they add English, when a boy and girl are graduated from the Japanese common schools they can read and speak English. Exchange.

### A Town Without Births.

With a population of 200, New Salem borough has not had a birth for over a year, and but few children reside in the town.

There are 58 families and 17 widows in the town, and one-fourth of the population has passed the age of 50 years. Nine persons have passed fourscore years, and 19 three score and ten.

### When Battleships Are Sold.

Condemned battleships rarely bring more than five per cent. of their original cost when broken up. In many instances not even this is saved, some ships being sacrificed for as little as three per cent. of their valuation.

### The Cost of a Title.

It is not generally known that the British government pays an annual pension of \$25,000 a year to the successor to the title of Lord Nelson because of the victory at Trafalgar. Twenty thousand dollars was paid yearly to each Duke of Wellington until the title became extinct.

### British Infantry Drill.

The new British foot drill discourages fixed forms of command, so that "Line that hedge!" would be quite proper in skirmishing. All unnecessary commands are discarded. The men "stand at ease" on completion of a movement and come to a "slope arms" on beginning one, without an order and so forth.

### Profane Pictures Suppressed.

An exhibition of cinematograph pictures representing life in the infernal regions has been stopped by the Munich police at the instance of the bishop, who protested against the "profanation of hell."

### Eucalyptus Tree For Swamps.

The Austrian eucalyptus tree is being grown on a large scale in Southern Europe and Northern Africa, because of its tendency to drain swamps.

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REPRODUCTION OF JANUARY 1903 COVER.

### DECADENCE OF CHEWING.

Dealer Attributes the Falling Off to War on Spitters.

"The crusade against expectorating in public places has cut into the tobacco business," said a dealer to a customer. "Some years ago I kept a tobacco cutter on my counter and a boy was so engaged in cutting plugs for the customers that he had little time for anything else.

"Now we cut up a few plugs in the regulation size and put them in a canister. Twenty-five cuts will last several days where we used to sell that many in a half day. However, what we have lost in that way is more than offset by sales of cigars and cigarettes and smoking tobacco.

"The war on spitters has stopped all that."

### Largest Map in the World.

The largest map in the world is the Ordnance Survey map of England containing 108,000 streets, and costing \$1,000,000 a year for twenty years. The scale varies from ten feet to one-eighth of an inch to the mile. The details are so minute that maps having a scale of twenty-five inches show every hedge, fence, wall, building and even every isolated tree in the country.

### Curing Facial Defects.

Professor Lassar, a famous Berlin skin specialist, has found means to restore red noses to their normal color and uses an instrument, shaped like a large tooth brush, with forty platinum wires instead of bristles is used, and this is connected with an electrical machine. The treatment consists of hammering the lurid nose till it bleeds, when the treatment is stopped for a day.

### Wives Bought by the Foot.

The Chinese purchase wives by the foot, but the smaller the measurement the greater the cost. When a Chinaman of the wealthier class desires to marry he sends around for samples, and finally selects a "foot" that suits him and is within the reach of his purse. A difference of an inch or so in the length may make a difference of several thousand dollars.

### Post Cards in Battle.

Before going into action each Japanese soldier fastens to his coat a special post card provided by the government announcing the fact of his death and addressed to the person he desires notified.

After a battle these post cards are gathered from the bodies of the slain and are taken to regimental headquarters, where they are stamped with the seal of the regiment, which officially certifies to the fact of death.

### Shoddy British Lords.

The noblemen of England have queer ways of changing their names. The original cognomen of the Duke of Northumberland was Smithson.

the assumed name of the family Percy, the Marquis of Emsworne was Peter, and Edward Fitzmaurice, the Marquis of Emsworne, as Bayly, then Percy, Marquis of Emsworne, was a Boston Lord Verity, was a "Mojave" Marquis of Emsworne, was a Marquis.

A Menace to Navigation—Many Exploded by Shots.

Floating mines from Port Arthur continue a menace to navigation. The Hsinch, from Tien-Tsin reports, sighting one of these drifting dangers. The engines were stopped for upward of an hour; the captain and officers endeavored to explode it by means of rifle shots. The firing proved ineffectual, a boat was lowered in charge of Mr. Miller, the chief officer who placed the mine in tow, but after towing for two hours it exploded with a terrific report. Capt. Pratt of the steamer Yushun reports a floating mine which was exploded at 100 yards range. This is thought a safe distance. The only thing to be careful of is to have sufficient overhead covering as a protection against falling fragments. The steamer Kungfai reports sighting a large mine twenty-three miles from Hsank Island. Rifle shots were fired at it, and the mine exploded, several fragments of it falling upon the deck of the vessel.—Pekin Times.

An Island of 100 Inhabitants.

Pleiku Island is a lonely little spot of land in the southern Pacific. It has 100 inhabitants. Their only link with the outside world is a cutter of fourteen tons, which, with luck, gets to a neighboring island now and then, when a boat or four times a year communication may be established with Tahiti.

Revival of an Old Custom.

Shows of rose leaves figured in a recent English wedding instead of the usual rice and confetti. The old Romans made considerable use of rose leaves both at feasts and dramatic performances. They used them also as perfumers to saturate and refresh the air.

Chinese Temples for Schools.

The imperial decree regarding the appropriation of temples for schools, says the Shanghai North China Herald, is being carried out in Anhui. At Luchoufu, four very large images, servants to the god of Literature, have been torn down to make room for little Chinese boys to study English.

Value of One Fir Tree.

A fir tree has been cut in Oregon recently, which made nine sawlogs averaging 14 feet in length, scaling 21,432 feet board measure. The product of this one tree will bring more than \$1,000.

Rojestvensky's Salary.

"You cannot always judge a man's brains by his salary," said Arnold White, lecturing to workmen in London recently. "Togo gets \$648 a year, while Admiral Rojestvensky's salary is \$11,000."

Sunday Sport in Hawaii.

The Hawaiian legislature has passed over the governor's veto a law allowing baseball and similar amusements on Sunday and permitting cigar and many other stores to remain open on that day.

Small Towns Decreasing.

Returns from the Massachusetts State census show a decrease in the population of the small towns since the census of 1895. Returns have been received from ninety-one small towns, showing a decrease of nearly 3 per cent.

Hypnotism and Crime.

A Boston scientist says that the best hypnotist in the world cannot make a really moral person do wrong. From experiments he has made he believes that 75 per cent. of the human race, if unrestrained by family pride and other like considerations, would steal.

PT. ARTHUR'S FLOATING MINES.

A Menace to Navigation—Many Exploded by Shots.

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The Pope's Income.

It is impossible to fix the exact income of the pope, because the sources by which his settled income is largely augmented are subject to great fluctuation. Such is the annual subsidy called "Peter's Pence," and the innumerable thank-offerings which he receives every year from all parts of the world. It is thought probable by authorities who have the best means of judging that, taking one year with another the average annual income of the pope cannot fall short of \$600,000.—Exchange.

Radium for Snake Bite.

It is worth noting that the recently reported "cure for rattlesnake venom" was based on a communication to the French Academy, announcing that snake venom exposed to the action of radium rays for fifty or sixty hours, loses its virulence. As snake bite produces its poisonous effects on man in from five minutes to an hour, the practical application of the fifty or sixty hour radium treatment is somewhat remote.

Chinese and Electricity.

As the completion of the electric tramway draws near the rumors among ignorant natives grow apace. The latest is that 500 Chinese heads must be procured and buried under the power house before the "kreta hantu" can start running. In consequence of this "kiksha coolies" refuse to take fares into the country districts at night. Free Press, Singapore.

Social Make Believe.

There is an element of the nursery in the diversions of society. They go to Cowes and play at being sailors, having never been at sea except on a Channel steamer. They go to Acos and play at being turkeys, they go to the Opera and play at being musical

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critics, they go to saloons and play at being politicians. The London World.

Diamonds and Lead Poisoning. In order to reduce the danger of lead poisoning, to which diamond-cutters are now subjected because of the alloy of lead and tin used for holding the diamonds during the cutting process, the Dutch government has offered a prize of 6,000 florins for a satisfactory substitute to be used instead of this alloy.

The Latest Submarine.

The latest style of submarine boat with which experiments are being made is a little English midget thirty-four feet long, armed with two torpedo tubes and carrying a crew of three men. It can be transported on a railroad truck, or hoisted over the side of a battleship with the greatest ease.

A Costly Uniform.

The most costly uniform in England is worn by the Earl Marshal, whose dress represents an outlay of \$1,250, not including jewels or ornaments. Seventeen thousand yards of embroidery are worked upon the coat in gold lace until but little of the original cloth may be seen.

An Electric Sprinkler.

The city of Hartford, Conn., has the distinction of being the first to use an electric street sprinkler. The water tank resembles that of an ordinary horse drawn street sprinkler, but the vehicle is driven by a storage battery, and is able to cover in a day twice the ground covered by a sprinkler drawn by a team of horses.—Exchange.

No Listeners.

One of the chief causes of the dullness of life is the inability to listen which you find in nine people out of ten. The extraordinary selfishness at the root of this defect is a shock to the optimist who is anxious to think well of human nature.—The Lady.

In the House of Commons.

In the British House of Commons is a red line between the benches and the matting on the floor, which no member may overstep in speaking. This line is a relic of the days when members wore swords and could not be trusted within lunging distance of the other side.

Weight of the World.

The present weight of the world is estimated at 6,666,250,000,000,000,000,000 tons. If the weight of the atmosphere is added to this we have a grand total of 6,666,255,819,600,000,000,000 tons.

Russians Not Cruel.

A Moscow writer, J. Novcov, says that Russians are among the least cruel peoples of Europe, instancing in proof that no popular sports of a brutal character, such as cock fights, even boxing or pugilism, are ever observed among them, much less is lynch law to be met with.