

Reunited by Quicksands

By WILLIAM FALL.

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"I wouldn't go out tonight, Elizabeth, if I were you," spoke querulous, rheumatic old Grandma Denby.

"Dear child," crooned the old woman, as Elizabeth threw a cape across her shoulders and fitted from the room.

Just a year this very night, not chill and sore, although September-like now, but a star-spangled evening of sweet sounds, a stroll along the whispering sands, and troth pledged under the great, stately elm that had shaded the old brook for over a century.

"It was all my fault," moaned Elizabeth, as slowly, sadly she started down the edge of the sand bench, a watery moon casting dim, weird shadows across her path.

She recalled the May day festival at the village where she had been so proud of her lover, Randall Gray, and then so irrationally jealous of him.

In a fit of pique, induced by a false friend, a scheming girl companion, she had tried to punish her lover, entirely innocent of any real purpose to pain him, and she had lost him.

"And I can never forget," she wailed to the sighing night winds, and pursued her lonely path on a pilgrimage of sorrow and penitence.

"I thought it would comfort me to come," she moaned, "but it is breaking my heart!"

At last she reached the old trysting place. She sank like a wearied child to the moss-covered trunk and cried her heart out.

TALES OF ANCIENT VOYAGERS

Make as Pleasant Reading Today as They Did When They Were First Written.

Many of the tales of voyagers that were collected by Richard Hakluyt in the time of Shakespeare are fully as pleasant to read now as "Robinson Crusoe" or "Gulliver's Travels," and they have the advantage of being shorter.

Mooring the barque in good order, the captain and his company went on shore on a small island, where they found people who showed them a "thing made like a timber," which they "did beat upon with a stick, making a noise like a small drum."

IF THAT NAIL HAD BUT HELD!

Good Story Explains Why His Satanist Majesty Can Not Endure Sight of Horseshoe.

Tradition has not designated the manner of hanging the horseshoe; it has no such influence in this respect as the crescent moon is supposed to have upon rainfall, by pouring out or retaining luck.

The story runs that the devil, driven out of the fertile country into the rocky hills by the good people, found one hoof worn to the quick by the sharp stones.

Leaving the raging devil a prisoner, he goes to summon the villagers to dispatch him. This strategy did not succeed, for the terror-stricken devil in his struggles wrenched off the shoe and with bleeding hoof in great pain essayed to continue his evil practices.

The vast black mass, 20,000,000 times larger than the sun, demonstrated to exist in the heavens by the Dutch scientist, Dr. Pannekoek, seems to upset all earlier astronomical calculations.

"I am glad," she said simply, and shrunk back away very contentedly and with a sense of unworthiness.

"If you had not been near," he began, and then asked: "How came you to be?"

Her eyes drooped and she rose to her feet. He caught sight of her poor, bleeding hands, and grasped them and kissed them.

"It was just a year ago—the old elm—do you remember?"

She bent her head, and she guessed the truth.

EMPLOYED ART OF FLATTERY

How Disraeli Succeeded in Securing the Full Confidence of His Royal Mistress, Victoria.

It was after the untimely death of her husband at the age of 42 that Queen Victoria became the victim of a settled melancholy. For 20 years after that event she continued to wear mourning, took little or no interest in the social life of her subjects, and made a slave of herself in her correspondence and in her interviews with her ministers on public questions and the details of government.

It was not until Disraeli became premier that the queen emerged from the shadow of bereavement. He fascinated her by his rhetoric and poetic style of address. Gladstone, she said, used to speak to her as if she was a public meeting, but Disraeli remembered that she was a lonely woman with a hungry heart.

PHRASE IN USE BY ROMANS

Writers of Ancient Empire First Referred to the Game of "Ducks and Drakes."

"Ducks and drakes," an expression used commonly in connection with a person who is heedless in money or business matters, has gained wide circulation since it was first used among the Romans.

Minucius Felix and other ancient writers allude to a game of sealing oyster shells or stones on the water. If the stone emerged once it was said to be a "duck."

England adopted the game and gave the phrase its present-day meaning. Just when it was first applied is not known. But it is well used in Henry Peacham's book, "The Worth of a Penny," published in London in 1647.

"I remember in Queen Elizabeth's time a wealthy citizen of London left his son a mighty estate in money, who, imagining he should never be able to spend it, would usually make ducks and drakes in the Thames river, with shilling pieces as boys are wont to do with tiles and oyster shells. And in the end he grew to such extreme want that he was fain to beg or borrow a sixpence, having many times no more shoes than feet and some times having more feet than shoes."

Chant of the Motor Boat.

My motor boat, tis of thee, short road to poverty—of thee I chant, I blew a pile of dough on you three years ago; now you refuse to go—or won't or can't.

As civilization advanced sheep and cattle came to be regarded as the most negotiable form of wealth, and many of our words in common use are historic reminders of the fact.

For example, "pecuniary" reminds us of the Latin "pecunia," meaning money, and "pecus," signifying cattle; whereas the word "fee," a sum of money paid as wages, is derived from the Saxon "feoh," a word used to express both cattle and money.

By an old German code of laws sheep and cattle were counted by the head, and were called "capitale," showing the source of our commercial word "capital," for wealth, the law term "chattel" (in "goods and chattels"), for effects, and our common name for oxen—"cattle."

Did you know that according to the law of England swearing is an offense for which you may be convicted by a justice of the peace according to a scale of penalties? And the higher up you are in the social scale the higher the fine imposed. A day laborer, common soldier or seaman forfeits one shilling for every oath; every other person under the degree of gentleman two shillings and above the degree of gentleman five shillings. For a second offense it is double the sum, for a third, triple, etc.

Laws Against Profanity.

The relation of the colors of flowers to the seasons has attracted the attention of a Canadian professor, who finds that of 530 flowering plants in the provinces of Quebec and Ontario, about one-third have white flowers.

She (pointing)—You don't value my kisses as you used to.

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CONCEIT A MASCULINE TRAIT

Woman Writer So Asserts, and Says It Usually Crops Out After His Marriage.

All feminine creatures, from the cradle to the grave, proceed on the basis that all men are conceited. This is perhaps particularly true of the man who is no longer lover, but husband. As lover he had a wide streak of humility in his composition; a husband mostly regards humility as a waste product, writes a Woman of Forty in Harper's.

More than once I have seen some dull woman flattering my husband, and have had him tell me afterward what a fine, keen, warm-hearted little person she is. I have yet to meet the man who fails to feel that the woman who admires him has something sound and right about her.

Indeed, it is a stupid or inexperienced woman who has not done this, and usually because she wanted to get something out of him. In his dealing with a woman it is quite easy to sell a man a gold brick. Doubtless, the well-known law of compensation works here; if men get plenty of self-satisfaction out of their self-conceit, it is something for which they have to pay the piper.

A woman of my age knows that a certain amount of self-satisfaction has been necessary to keep the race going, and that the self-satisfied type that appreciates itself most highly has been the most successful type. The trait has been very valuable to the race, at any rate in the rough-and-tumble conditions through which men have lived and struggled in evolving from the days of Pithecanthropus.

MANY THINGS USED AS MONEY

Cattle, Shells and Whales' Teeth Among a Few That Are Reckoned as Currency.

When hunting was the chief occupation of man the skins of animals were the earliest means of currency, and this medium of exchange is still used by the North American Indians.

Leather money was the natural successor to skins, and was used freely in Rome and Carthage, as well as being circulated in Russia as late as the reign of Peter the Great.

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FIND RELIC OF OLD LONDON

Arch of Bridge Which Must Have Been Built Centuries Ago Just Brought to Life.

A very interesting relic of old London has come to light, according to the London Times, an arch of old London bridge, which was demolished during the construction of the new London bridge, which began in 1825.

The first stone bridge over the Thames was built in 1176, but the bridge was constantly repaired and restored, so that there is no evidence of the exact date of this particular arch. It was apparently medieval, and is built of Reigate stone with a very flat trajectory. At the beginning of the eighteenth century, however, three flat wrought-iron supporting ribs were put in, and the middle one of these is dated 1708.

The year 1816 was the year without a summer. In that year the sun spots were at a maximum.

When is the best time to think, to have truth enter our minds? Thought along a particular line can best come when the mind is unwearied and unoccupied with other thought—the time of day has nothing to do with it.

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