# ARSOLUTELY PURE

IN PRAISE OF DUSK.

me they love the morning hours, The yellow midday some, But give to me the twilight when The cricket voices come.

When bright against the hedgerows burn The earliest fireflies, For then I meet my sweetheart with The dusk light in her eyes.

Belind the western hill the sun Is far upon its way. Though twilight lingering seems to be An afterthought of day.

And when we part at dark I know, Unworthy though I be, That in her eyes' sweet twilight lies An afterthought of me.

# THE STROKE OF RUIN

Boyle Harding leaned back in an easy chair on the iron railed gallery which overhung the sidewalk and smoked slowly, with half closed eyes. He was awaitand expecting the arrival of his mg friend, Francois Rapin, who had young friend, Francois Rapin, and lately interested him to a singular de-

Even at the moment, up the uncarpeted stairway, came the active creole's feet, two steps at a time, along with a lively tune sung almost breathlessly through a curving black mustache. "Well, and what is it?" demanded

the New Yorker. "What have you found

"Maybe she went to the French opera. Go with me. I have a box. Come.

"But haven't you yet seen her?"
"Seen her. How should I know? M.
Harding forgets the conditions." He
laughed in his atrociously frivolous French way.

"I beg pardon," said Harding quick-ly. "I had indeed forgotten that I did not know her name, her place of residence, nor yet even the color of her eyes. Yes, I will go with you to the opera. Everybody goes, ch?" He had come south a fortnight past

with letters of introduction to influential people, but he was not seeking so-A quiet sojourn in New Orleans with his eyes and ears open suited him

What was perhaps just the thing he would have most desired came to him unexpectedly one day. He suddenly met a beautiful young woman face to face at the door of Garcia's old book store. Harding was electrified and impulsively lifted his hat. She passed him with a stroke of M. Duval." lifted his hat. She passed him with a half smile, leaving a breath of violets and the rustle of a gown quietly elegant in the air round about.

A lover is a great fool, but he is the only man who knows what song it was that the stars sang, and to him you must go if you would learn the secret of heavenly happiness and the value of dreams as nutriment for the imagina-A lover's soul will treble its stature by feeding one moment on a

In fact, Boyle Harding had felt this sudden growth within. It had quickened, broadened and sweetened his spirit-ual vision, while affording a fine and richly mysterious increment to his enjoyment of his new surroundings.

This was midway in the fifties, when New Orleans had reached the splendid zenith of her wealth, and when the peculiar color of her social life was most dazzling and romantic.

tling on the subject of fencing, always a great vogue with the jeunesse doree of New Orleans.

"But you must be interested in sword play-in fencing. It is the noblest of all

exercises for gentlemen, and your physique is precisely made up for it. must be a master, or you could be."
"I have had good masters," Harding

replied, in an evasive tone, "but I am losing interest in it." 'Your masters were in New York?" "No; Paris. I had M. Duval for

"Ah, what fortune! He, and he only, teaches the 'stroke of ruin,' the pass which pierces across from shoulder to

shoulder, disabling the victim for life, yet never killing him! 'And you learned his stroke! Oh, but I am overjoyed, and you will teach me to do it. Ah, monsieur, I shall be your lifelong debtor. I have dreamed of that incomparable thrust, I have made two journeys to Paris to learn it; but, you

emy of my father's. I could not go to A great curve of splendor, a flash of faces, throats, bosoms, jewels, laces, eyes, fans—a bewildering horizon of corsages, coiffures, necklaces, bracelets, rings; a foam of airy gowns sinking and swelling gently, like surf froth against a beach of fairyland. Harding gazed in half blinded stupidity, so he felt, and could see no details, could make

must know, M. Duval is an ancient en-

out no individual face distinctly. "We will begin the lessons tomor row," murmured Rapin. "I shall be an

"Yes," said Harding absently. He was gazing along the great sweep of beauty and light.

"But excuse me a moment or two," the creole added after awhile, when the curtain was down. "I am going to call at the box of a friend."

Harding continued his survey, which now that his eyes had somewhat accustomed themselves to the glamour, becan more real and absorbingly interesting.

Presently he saw Rapin in a box, a

agnificent one, near the center, talking with a tall young woman, and it as she. There could be no doubt for a

Harding's eyes were fixed. The trance of that old time love which men used to acknowledge was upon him. And at the very central moment she turned from Rapin and looked straight at him.

The prosy fact was that Rapin in his athusiastic way had been telling Mile. Marie de Montmartin - that was her about his good fortune in finding a master to teach him the "stroke of ruin," and he had directed her attention

to the young man in his box.
But for Mile. Marie de Montmartin. we may as well say that she glanced mechanically, then looked again. Rapin presently returned to the box,

bringing with him, or at least Harding fancied it, a breath of that exquisite violet perfume which had been haunting ng's memory for days and nights

together.
"Who is she—the young lady in the box where you've been?" The abropt inquiry and a certain timbre of Harding's voice betrayed his

emotion to the quick creole. "Oh, she—that is, Mlle. Marie de Montmartin. Lovely, isn't she? You might envy me, M. Harding. She is my betrothed.

"Ah"-Harding hesitated and a palish change passed over his face. Then he coolly added: "I do envy you. Yes, she is the most beautiful girl that I have ever seen. She is the one I met in the old book store door. You are quick to

The next day Rapin came to Harding's room for his initial lesson, but the young man begged a postponement. He was not feeling in good form, he said, and was averse to exercise.

And now Harding's powerful letters of introduction came into play. The only son of General Stanope Harding had the key to open even the exclusive gate of the mansion wherein the ancient family traditions of Montmartin were kept in an atmosphere of their own. We must acquit him. He did not de-

liberately seek to gain her affections. Indeed there was no need to seek. She claimed him at sight, and the way was love's sweetest path. Rapin was forgot-

So, in due course of time, the engagement was announced and the wedding day approached.

Harding had a desire to go again to the old book store of Garcia, on Royal street, and have his first meeting with Marie over once more in his imagina-

At Garcia's door Harding came abruptly face to face with Francois Rapin, whom he had not seen since the announcement of the coming nuptials.

Harding stopped short in his tracks and would have probably put forth his hand in a friendly offer of salutation, but just then his hat was lightly tapped

At first Harding's heat of temper was

great, but reflection led him to consult his friends, who ridicaled the thought of a duel. His northern friends were unanimously opposed to the duel, but now he must be frank and lay the matter before his fiancee's family.

"You must fight him, sir," said "Of course there is but one way open

to a gentleman," sighed Marie, "you must challenge him." They met at sunrise under the "caks" so well known to dueling history. Mer-rily clinked their rapiers for honor's sake and Marie's.

That was but about 40 years ago, and yet what a distance! What a far spin the world has made down the groove of change" since then!

Yesterday a white haired man whose shoulders drooped strangely and whose two arms dangled half paralyzed beside

"That is Francois Rapin," said a creole to some friends. "He got that wound in the celebrated duel with Hard-

"Y-e-e-s," drawled another of the group, with a queer little shrug, "y-e-e-s, Mr. Harding taught him the stroke of ruin,' ha, ha, ha! It is true, is it not?"

Boyle Harding and his wife live in Nice, where, in most comfortable circumstances and well loaded with fame, Harding writes his novels and plays with his grandchildren. His wife is said to be still beautiful and very domestic. -Mauria Thompson in Vanity.

# Seeds of the Mushroom.

The spores (seeds), composed of a two coated cell, are borne on the gills or tubes under the cap. One plant often produces 10,000,000 spores. To see these tiny spores you must cut the top of a toadstool off and lay it right side up on a sheet of black paper. After a few hours remove it carefully, and an exact representation of its shape will remain on the paper, formed by the thousands of spores which have fallen out. If the spores fall on favorable soil, they germinate and send out great numbers of tiny threads. These, becoming intertwined and woven together, cover the ground like the finest web, and this is known as the mycelium, or "spawn." The threads absorb nourishment and carry it to the quickened spore.-Margaret W. Leighton in St. Nicholas.

Polish Versus Moss. The speakers were two brawny Scots who evidently had not met for a long while. Sandy asked Tonald about business, but the reply was either evasive or unsatisfactory, for the rough, uncouth Sandy, perhaps suspicious that his friend had fallen into his old tricks, suddenly broke forth loudly and vehemently. "Hech, mon," he said, "but ye'll ha'e

rollin stane gethers nae moss. thing a rollin stane gethers that ye'll ne'er git, in that's polish, ye puir gow!'

—Boston Budget.

Chinese Dentists. Chinese dentists rub a secret powder on the gum over the affected tooth and after about five minutes the patient is told to sneeze. The tooth then falls out.

Many attempts have been made by Eustarring. ropean dentists to secure this powder, but none has ever succeeded in doing

No Excuse. "Ma, that baby across the street hasn't

any teeth."
"Of course not, Tommy. You didn't have any when you were that small." Life.

"Take him all around, the burglar as as much human nature in him as the average man. It cuts the professional to the quick to be called a sneak thief. here are just three things he will run from-a hysterical woman, a small dog and a revolver. If a burglar gets into your house remember that discretion is the better part of valor. Sometimes di-

plomacy is better than either.
"So far a woman carried the blue ribbon on diplomacy. The lady, hearing some one in the dining room, thought it was her husband, and slipped down to pour a glass for him. She confronted a ourglar, who was making a vigorous search of the sideboard. She stepped to a closet and brought out a heavy basket, saying: 'Here is the silver. Now, do go away, my good man, because I hear my husband at the front door and he

carries a pistol.'
"The burglar fled with the basket, and the lady fainted. When her busband revived her, she told the tale and ex-plained that the basket contained an immense maltese cat that slept in it. She fainted again for the possible fate of pussy. The next morning the cat scratched at the basement door. It looked no worse for the adventure, and it bore a note tied around its neck which conveyed the compliments and admiration of her victim — the burglar,"—Chicago

Sarah Bernhardt's View of Duse. An amazingly clever woman is Sarah Bernhardt. Cornered by an indiscreet interviewer with the question, "What do you think of Signora Duse?" she replied: "That clever Signora Duse! She is a great artist, and will become one of the greatest actresses of the modern stage. She is a true artist in sentiment, and has very largely the faculty of representing the truth without exaggeration. Oh, yes! Signora Duse will be-come great—very great." Could any-thing be more adroit? There is no disparagement, no criticism, only a bland sumption that Eleonora Duse is a romising beginner - a mere novice, whose achievements are all in the future. "I do not know," Sarah went on, "why Signora Duse has never acted in Paris. It is a great baptism." What exquisitely feline courtesy! To the interviewer it meant, "You see, she dares not meet me on my native heath,' while in her soul, no doubt, Sarah was saying: "Bah! No words of mine will bring her to Paris or keep her away! Better play the beau role in seeming to invite her." If the contest were one of diplomacy, Dase would certainly stand a poor chance.-London

## Modern Criticism.

A small but sturdy boy of 5 years was lately entered as a pupil at one of the best fin de siecle suburban kindergartens. Evidently, however, the young man had his own opinion of what a 'school" ought to be, probably based on his observance of the studies of his two older brothers, one of whom is in a preparatory school and the other in colege, as he seemed to feel quite degraded at belonging to a school where no books were used.

His little air of apology when you

drew from him, most unwillingly, accounts of the games and exercises at his kindergarten was something quite too funny. The other day on his way home he met a crowd of public school chil-dren and was hailed with shouts of "Hello, Ted! Do you go to school here?

"No," replied Ted, with a fine coutempt for his alma mater. "I go to school where you don't learn anything." —New York Herald.

The cobwebs will seem to an impressionable visitor the noblest things in the Bordeaux cellars. Some of them look like thick pile curtains, somber in hue warmth. And with even only a moderate imagination one may go to and fro among the barrels fancying the pendent shapes overhead are dusky stalactites instead of the airy next to nothing as they really are. If you hold your candle high enough, you may shrivel a few yards of the fabric. But that were truly a shocking deed of vandalism, for, though no layman can understand why this dismal tapestry is reverenced as it is, his ig-norance will not be held sufficient excase for his crime. - Chambers' Journal.

# Cold Blooded.

"There are several things in this book of mine that I think are particularly

good," said the young writer.
"No doubt, no doubt," replied the
man of many experiences. "Have you submitted it to a publisher?" "Not yet. I wanted to get your ad-

vice. "My candid advice?"

"Certainly." "Well, if I were in your place, I'd go through the book and pick out what

I considered the passages of striking ex-"Yes?"

"And throw them away."-Washing-



First Fair Critic-But he's awfully hard on his heroes and heroines-always tae settle doon, mon Tonald. Ye ken 'a makes them marry each other at the

"Wha's wantin moss, ye auld foggie," Second Fair Critic—Yes, the finishes was the quick retort. "An here's wan are rather unsatisfactory.—Ally Sloper. Ernest Charles Warde, the son of Frederick Warde, is receiving great

praise for his work in character parts. Young Warde may star before long. The new leading lady of Charles Rohlf's company is Madeline Merli, whose work in the serious drama elicit-

The word hoyden, now applied exclusively to a noisy young woman, former-ly denoted a person of like character,

When a washerwoman changes her ave any when you were that small."

"But that baby's pa is a dentist."—

"where she hangs out now" without using slang.

There was a one legged man at the Staten Island ferry house the other day who was asking for alms, and who claimed that his leg had been bitten off by a sbark. One of the men accosted looked him over and said:

"I saw you in Buffalo about a month ago and then you told me that an alli-gator bit your leg off."

"I saw you in Cleveland last week, and you then claimed to have fallen un-der a street car."

Yes. "Do you change your story in every

town?"
"Most always." "Well, now, tell me how you really did lose your leg and I'll give you a "Honest?"

"Well, sir, I jumped in front of a mowing machine to save the lives of five or six little children, and, while I lost my leg, not one of them got a scratch!"—Detroit Free Press.

# A Fireproof Cement.

An important result attended a test made by order of the Reichsbank—the German government's banking estab-lishment—with a safe made of cement with steel wire placed in between. The question to be decided was whether it is practicable to build vaults of this material for safety against fire. A safe was placed upon a pyre of logs drenched with kerosene, which, after being set on fire, kept the safe for half an hour exposed to a heat of about 1,800 degrees F.—that is, a heat in which iron will melt. Two hours after the safe was opened, and the contents-silk, paper, draft blanks and a maximum thermometer-were found to be absolutely uninjured, and the maximum thermometer showed that within the safe the temperature at no time during the test rose

How to Reduce Your Weight. When you are dieting to reduce flesh, you must eat stale bread, and give up potatoes, rice, beets, corn, peas, beans, milk, cream, all sweets, cocoa, indeed anything which even suggests sugar or starch. Dry toast without butter, tea without either milk or sugar, rare meat with no fat; and, as far as possible, no vegetables at all should form your diet. Take all the exercise you can in the way of walking; go twice a week to a Russian bath (where possible) and in variably go to bed hungry. Anybody brave enough to live up to these laws will certainly lose flesh.—Ladies' Home

Fur, after some years' wear, will look much improved if cleaned with new bran previously heated in the oven. Rub the hot bran well into the fur with a piece of flanuel, shake the fur to remove all particles, and then brush thor-oughly. The fur will clean more easily if the lining and wadding are first removed, but such removal is not absolutely needful. The flat, oily look which mars the appearance of the neck portion of furs long in use is mostly if not meaning in this particular instance the

Punishments In Early Days. The following extracts from early rec- per box, or six boxes for \$2.50. ords give us a glimpse of some of the

"In 1639 Dorothy Brown, for beating her husband, is ordered to be bound and

she had a cleft stick put on her tongue for half an hour."

"No," said the linguist, "we have no equivalent in the English language for an revoir. This phrase expresses the hope of meeting you again. Our goodby does not. In my opinion the French is the better phrase, which leaves it to be inferred that there is a prospect of meeting you again"-

"In other words," said a student, "I'll see you later!" The class tittered, and the linguist did his best to frown, but failed.-Boston

# Yawning.

Courier.

"Not only is it very healthy to yawn," says a French physician, "but artificial yawning should be resorted to in cases of sore throat, buzzing of the ears, catarrh and like troubles." It is said to be as efficacions in its way as gargling the throat, with which process it should be combined.

# Funny Definitions.

In a recent examination some boys were asked to define certain words and to give a sentence illustrating the mean-Here are a few: Frantic means wild; I picked some frantic flowers. Athletic, strong; the vinegar was too athletic to use. Tandem, one behind another; the boys sit tandem at school. And then some single words are funnily explained. Dust is mud with the wet squeezed out; fins are fishes' wings; stars are the moon's eggs; circumference is distance around the middle of the outside.—Education Gazette.

# Not Seeing, Not Believing.

There was a man in Nottinghamshire who discontinued the donation he had regularly made for a time to a missionary society. When asked as to his reasons, he replied: "Well, I've traveled a bit in my time. I've been as far as Slea-ford, in Lincolnshire, and I never saw a black man, and I don't believe there are any. "-London Standard.

Poetry has been to me its own exceeding great reward. It has given me the habit of wishing to discover the good and the beautiful in all that meets and surrounds me. - Coleridge.

The Koran forbids true believers to destroy the vines, palm trees, fruit trees, corn and cattle even of their worst enemies.

The shawls of cashmere are made be tween Hindustan and Tibet, from the wool of the camel, while their sheep also produce fine white silky wool. The whole population is engaged in preparing the thread and weaving these articles for commerce.

# AFTER THIRTY YEARS

THE BUCKEYE STATE CONTRIB UTES A STORY.

How Fred Taylor, a Member of the Gallant 189th N. Y., V. I., Finally Found What He Has Sought Since the War Closed.

rom the Ashtabula, Ohio, Beacon.]

Mr. Fred Taylor was born and brought up near Elmira, N. Y., and from there enlisted in the 189th regi-ment, N. Y. V. L., with which he went through the war, and saw much hard service. Owing to exposure and hard-ships during the service, Mr. Taylor contracted chronic diarrhoes from which he has suffered now over thirty years, with absolutely no help from physicians. By nature he was a won-derfully vigorous man. Had he not been, his disease and the experiments of the doctors had killed him long ago. Laudanum was the only thing which afforded him relief. He had terrible headaches, his nerves were shattered, he could not sleep an hour a day on an average, and he was reduced to a skeleton. A year ago he and his wife sought relief in a change of climate and removed to Geneva, O., but the change in health came not. Finally on the recommendation of F. J. Hoffner, the leading druggist of Geneva, who was cognizant of similar cases which Pink Pills had cured, Mr. Taylor was persuaded to try a box. 'As a drowning man grasps a straw so I took the pills, "says Mr. Taylor, "but with no more hope of rescue. But after thirty years of suffering and

after thirty years of suffering and fruitless search for relief I at last found it in Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. The day after I took the first pills I commenced to feel better and when I had taken the first box I was in fact a new man." That was two months new man." That was two months new man." That was two months new man." The was two months new man. " Omaha Building. Mr. Taylor has since taken more of the pills and his progress is steady and he has the utmost confidence in youth. Color is coming back to his parched veins and he is gaining flesh and strength rapidly. He is now able to do considerable outdoor work.

As he concluded narrating his sufferings, experience and cure to a Beacon reporter, Mrs. Taylor, who has been his faithful helpmeet these many years, said she wished to add her testi-mony in favor of Pink Pills. "To the pills alone is due the credit of raising Mr. Taylor from a helpless invalid to the man he is today," said Mrs. Tay-lor. Both Mr. and Mrs. Taylor cannot gnd words to express the gratitude they feel or recommend too highly Pink Pills to suffering humanity. Any inquiries addressed to them at Geneva, O., regarding Mr. Taylor's case they will cheerfully answer as they are anxious that the whole world shall know what Pink Pills have done for them and that suffering humanity may

be benefited thereby.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills contain all wholly removed by the means of hot the elements necessary to give new life bran. Rub the fur the wrong way, this and richness to the blood and restore shattered nerves. They are for sale by all druggists, or may be had by mail from Dr. Williams' Medicine Company, Schnectady, N. Y., for 50 cents

ords give us a glimpse of some of the singular punishments in vogue in old New England:

First oyster (feebly) -Help! Help! I'm in the soup. Second oyster—I feel for you, brother but I can't find you.

"THE MELANCHOLY DAYS HAVE

"In 1643 the assistants order three Stoneham men to sit in the stocks on lecture day for traveling on the Sabbath."

"In 1651 Anna, wife of George Ellis, was sentenced to be publicly whipped for reproaching the magistrates."

"In 1658, for slandering the elders."

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No article ever attained to such unbounded popularity - Salem Observer, An article of great merit and virtue. - Class. An article of great merit and virtue.—Clea. Nonpareli.

We can bear testimony to the efficacy of the Pain-Killer. We have seen its magic effects in soothing the severest pain, and know it to be a good article.—Chechanal Dispatch.

A speedy cure for pain—no family should be without it.—Nontreal Transcript.

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Beware of imitations, buy only the genuine made by "Pransy Davis." Sold sverywhere, large bottles, 25 and 50e.

## TIME AND TIDE.

"Time and tide wait for no man," saith the adage-but there are many other things of the non-waiting kind which will things of the non-waiting kind which will not be put off and ought not to be. Half the misery of the world is caused by delay, and Rheumatism is one of those insidious ills which demands prompt attention, especially in mid-winter, when the cold accelerates its action and intensifies pain. If allowed to have its way, it will wait for no man in its rapid development of the chronic stage. When this is reached, then come troubles, not only in its misery but in many ways where a helpless condition throws the sufferer out of work and money. But whether in its acute, chronic or inflammatory stage, don't wait. The tide of pain will go on and so will loss of time. At the same time we all know that St. Jacobs Oil is made and sold for the express purpose of curing the worst cases in their worst form at any stage. It has coured and will cure in nine cases out of ten.

Dora - Mr. Spooner says he always feels like a fish out of water when he is with me. Cora— Then you've hooked him, have you?

Then you've hooked him, have you?

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Chicago.

and he has the utmost confidence in them. He has regained full control of his nerves and sleeps as well as in his vouth. Color is coming back to his all file to the first house, send to Dr. Kline, and Elor vouth.

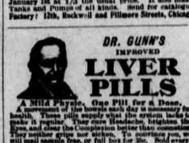
After physicians had given me up, I was saved by f'iso's Cure.—RAIPH ERIEG, Wil-liamsport, Pa., Nov. 22, 1893.

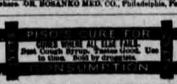
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