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### FROM A FIRE OF APPLE WOODS

Through what rough sheets of driven pine  
The radiant orchard shows before,  
Like leaves old soldier's hand slain,  
With gaps to tell the same bone,  
And fragments of the fallen trees  
Burn on the hearth before me brightly  
The fire their captive spirit frees,  
Musing, I watch it take its flight.  
How soft the flames of gold and blue  
Up from the glowing logs appear,  
These yellow birds and bluebird feet  
And stiles, each with wings of fire.  
Now in the hearth light, on the trees,  
Shine something they and I have heard,  
Ah, is it not the summer breeze  
Come back to us with sun and bird?  
Four summers, born again—do I feel  
Quickly as they leave come they go,  
See, where the ashes smoldering lie,  
The orchard floor is white with snow.  
—M. A. DeWolfe Snow in Atlantic

### CARDLAND

The Games That Were Played in the Eighteenth Century.  
After the advent of the house of Hanover the favorite games at court were "quadrille," an improvement of "ombre," and "commerce." The gains and losses of the kings and queens were, as a rule, restricted to 100 guineas, but on Twelfth Night it was customary for thousands to change hands. On one occasion Lady Cowper, a lady in waiting, refused for the sake of her children to take part in the game, as none sat down to the table with less than £200.

About the year 1740 a rage for "whisk," or whist, set in, but at first it was considered too wise a game for ladies to join in. Hence, the historian never went to bed without his whist, and even the great Johnson regretted that he had not learned to play cards. In 1742 "Horry" Walpole finds it absolutely necessary to learn "whisk," "having waited in vain for its being left off." We find him in another letter threatening to build an altar to "Fam" to commemorate the escape of his charming Enchanted of Craftsman, who, though he had been playing cards in Rome when she ought to have been at a cardinal's reception, where the floor fell in and all the monsignors were precipitated into the cellar!

Cards were so very much in evidence in his time that even invitations were frequently issued and notes written up on the backs of playing cards, plain on that account were usually plain, without any design. The chevalier's famous order to retreat at Culloden was written on the back of the nine of hearts.

A fresh attempt was made in 1750 to remedy the state of gambling in England by passing an act which provided that "any person keeping a house or other place to gamble in forfeits £500, half to the prosecutor and half to the poor of the parish," whereupon two ladies of title, Mordington and Cassella, who keep open houses for gambling, claimed their privilege of peerage in order to intimidate the police officers from doing their duty and suppressing the public gaming houses by them—Longman's Magazine.

### A Clever Thief

This is how the presence of mind and astuteness of a Chicago thief saved him from being locked up: A policeman who recognized him and knew he was "wanted" put him under arrest, with the words, "You are wanted at headquarters." "Yes, I know," replied the thief quickly. "I was arrested last night and was bailed out this morning. You are too slow." "It does look that way," said the crafty policeman as he told the thief he could go, of which permission the thief lost no time in availing himself. Later, to his chagrin, the policeman found that the thief had not been previously arrested.

### The Glided Man

At the headquarters of the Orinco Spanish traditions located the land of El Dorado, "the glided man," a potentate whose country was so rich in gold dust that he had his body anointed with oil and sprinkled with gold every morning, so that he shone in the sun as though glided. It is a curious fact that the country in which tradition located this marvelous being has never been explored by a white man.

### A Stander

To say that every man has his price is to deny the existence of the great men who have died for their faith and their country. Nonsense! 'Tis the last plea of a slave and lingers out of the mouth of a fool. The stirring strength of man and woman rebukes it everywhere.—Schoolmaster.

### He Lacked Tact

Neil—He wrote a lovely poem to Mabel.  
Belie—I know, but she got mad and tore it up.  
Neil—The ladies! Why?  
Belie—He ended it "Lines on Mabel's Face"—Philadelphia Record.

### A Domestic Soul

"John is so domestic in his tastes," said the Billville matron.  
"He is?"  
"Yes, he's been all day in the hot sun trying to kill a rattlesnake to get a rattle for the baby!"—Atlanta Constitution.

### Professional Jealousy

The Comedian—I thought you and Miss Power were to be married this week. Is it postponed?  
The Heavy—Gad, sir! She actually wants her name to appear before mine in the wedding announcement.—Exchange.

### Gene Anyhow

Beacon—A man can't take any money with him when he dies.  
Egbert—Oh, I don't know. I had a friend who owed me \$10 die last week. I guess he's taken that with him all right.—Yonkers Statesman.

### ORIGIN OF THE MADSTONE.

Potent Power Popularly Believed to Exist in the Mysterious Substance.

Where did the madstone come from? No one seems to know. It does not belong to the mineral kingdom, nor can it be assigned to a place in geological formations. Its composition is not definite and it may possibly be found upon any beach or in any gravel pit, and the supply is always equal to the demand, says the Chicago Chronicle.

There are even now many of these precious talismans in this country, and "the believers in their efficacy always know where the nearest is kept." One of them has been the property of an Ohio negro and was placed after the death of the owner in the state library at Columbus. There it was recently applied to the wound caused by the bite of a supposedly rabid dog. The dog recovered and the woman to whom it was applied died of blood-poisoning, caused by the unclean contact.

Such a stone was kept in the Virginia state penitentiary for 200 years and was open to all comers for application to the bite of a mad dog or other allied wounds. One such (perhaps the same) was at a later date sold for \$30.

Still more famous was that brought from Russia in 1887 by a physician of that country who settled in Nevada. It had previously been exploited in that country for at least a century and a half, a fact supported by documentary evidence. The document was written in native Russian and as nobody concerned could read it everybody implicitly believed what they were told of it.

The owner offered the stone for sale for \$1,000 and a joint stock company was formed for the purchase. A number of shareholders advanced \$1 each and the balance was made up by a farmer who became its keeper when the purchase was completed. His fame still flourishes and it is said that an offer of \$5,000 has been refused for it.

"He calls it the Brandwinne Stone Wall," and says this wonderful and massive structure or parts of structure of masonry done in stone, which has withstood the ravages of time for perhaps many thousands of years, still stands an enduring relic of a prehistoric civilization and a knowledge of the art of building not inferior in many respects to the present day. These stone buildings lie, for the most part, buried in the earth in the southeastern part of Claiborne county, and lying against the Copiah county line, on the slopes overlooking the valley of the Brandwinne creek from the west side.

"These walls run from northeast to southwest. They are built of white or grayish white stone of immense size, weighing from two to three tons, measuring from six to eight feet in length and three feet wide by two feet thick. These blocks, or slabs, are laid in a very fine quality of cement, and as perfectly as brick work. The joints are perfect and very close.

"At one place the top of the wall is exposed by the earth being washed away to a width of 60 feet and a length of 90 feet; this exposure has the appearance of a brick hearth. At another place the stone has been quarried for domestic use to a depth of three layers of slabs, which is six feet, a width of 24, or eight blocks, and a length of 25 blocks or 150 feet. The length of this wall as indicated by the croppings is about 1,000 feet. At another place about 500 yards away from the place just mentioned is a wall jutting from under a slope for a distance of nearly 2,000 feet. This stone work is exposed in a great many places over an area of four square miles.

### NEW ROUTE TO EUROPE.

Proposed Construction of a Waterway Through Hudson Bay.

It Would Lessen the Distance from St. Paul to Liverpool 870 Miles and Be of Immense Advantage to the Shipping Interests.

The distance of the great wheat fields of the northwest from the Atlantic seaboard, and the consequent expense of putting the agricultural products of that great prairie country on the European market, has long seemed to be an unsurmountable difficulty. While navigation is open on the great lakes the cost of transportation is greatly lessened, but even with the advantage of this inland waterway the outlay of shipping a bushel of wheat to Liverpool has been, during the past few years, equal to the price paid for a bushel at points in Dakota and Manitoba, which means that for every bushel of wheat that the farmer puts on the European market he must have the value of another bushel to get it there.

The cause of this is that, whether by lake or rail, the wheat has to be carried from the west to this city, a distance in some cases of 11,000 miles.

These freight rates, which are not by any means high for the distance, make the difference between profit and loss to the farmer.

This evil is to be overcome by what is called the new idea. It is not new, by any means, for it has been used by the Hudson Bay company for over 200 years; it was the route that the early settlers on the Red river of the north took when they started the Red River colony in 1812, and as it has been, and is still, to a certain extent, used to this day, it is evidently not impracticable. For four months of winter ice prevents navigation, but it freezes up later in the fall and thaws earlier in the spring than Lake Superior.

The route itself is from Port Nelson to the mouth of the Nelson river, through the Hudson straits, via Cape Barrow to the north coast of Ireland, and thence to Liverpool or Glasgow. The Hudson Bay company is to be connected with the wheat fields and cattle ranges by means of railway from Winnipeg, Man., which is less than 400 miles from the bay.

It may be asked: "Why was this not all thought of before?" The answer is simple. Until the year 1870 the value of what is now the Canadian province of Manitoba and British northwest territories was controlled by the Hudson Bay company, and as their sole object was to supply the world with fur, it was distinctly to their interest to exaggerate the dangers of the waters of the bay, and in fact to do anything that would retard immigration to their premises.

But now things have changed. The Hudson Bay company's rights were purchased by the Dominion government in 1870 for about \$2,000,000 worth of land, and in 1880, ten years later, a charter was granted to the Nelson River company, who are to be building a railway which will, in the course of a few years, bring Winnipeg within 36 hours' railway journey to the sea.

By this route St. Paul and Minneapolis would be only 750 miles from the ocean. What does this mean? A saving of nearly 750 miles as compared with the distance to New York. This applies equally, of course, to points northwest of the twin cities. Further, the distance from Port Nelson to Liverpool is 2,526 miles; while it is 3,400 from New York to the same place, showing a difference in favor of the bay route of 114 miles. So that the difference of the two routes from St. Paul to Liverpool via New York, and via the Hudson bay, shows the latter to be shorter by nearly 870 miles.

This great northern waterway is not, however, without some drawbacks; for instance, during four months it cannot be used, but owing to the fact that the bay does not freeze until October the western farmer, with his early harvest, could get most of his grain off his hands and shipped before that time, and such of his produce as he could not get to the seaboard in time would be held in elevators at Port Nelson until spring, when he would catch the inevitable rise in the market in Europe in May.

Grain is by no means the only commodity to be considered. Think of the cattle during the long summer shipping season. Freed from the long transcontinental railway haul, they would arrive in Europe in much better condition than nowdays.

Then there are hay, lumber, logs, wool and a hundred and one things that would be a profit to the westerner with cheap freight to Europe, which are now a glut on the market. Even horses might be raised at a profit.—N. Y. Telegram.

### THE AUTOMOBILE

A motor car service is about to be introduced in Cologne, Germany. Americans have asked the legislature of British America for permission to run automobiles into the far-off and but little known Olmeca region in British America.

During the month of December, according to the Paris edition of the Herald, 708 accidents were caused by horses, resulting in 52 deaths and 450 injuries. In the same period there were only 21 automobile accidents and only one death.

In Paris an automobilist was driving an automobile at an excessive rate of speed, and the driver of a tram car was doing the same thing. They crashed together, and a lady was caught between the two vehicles and her leg was broken. The automobilist was sentenced to two months' imprisonment without the benefit of the first-offense law, and the driver of the tramway sentenced to eight days' imprisonment with the benefit of this law, and the tramway company fined 100 francs.

## IF YOU TOUCH your tongue to ALUM

and look in the glass—you will see the effect—You can't help puckering—it makes you pucker to think of tasting it.

By the use of so called cheap Baking Powders you take this puckering, injurious Alum right into your system—you injure digestion, and ruin your stomach.

### AVOID ALUM

Say plainly—

## ROYAL BAKING POWDER

Royal is made from pure, refined Grape Cream of Tartar—Costs more than Alum but you have the profit of quality, the profit of good health.

### Thousands Have Kidney Trouble and Don't Know It.

How to Find Out.  
Fill a bottle or comm... with 3 or 4 water and let it stand... hours; if it... of... unhealthy condition of the kidneys; if it stains your linen it is evidence of kidney trouble; too frequent desire to pass it or pain in the back is also convincing proof, that the kidneys and bladder are out of order.

What to Do.  
There is comfort in the knowledge so often expressed, that Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, the great kidney remedy, fulfills every wish in curing rheumatism, pain in the back, kidneys, liver, bladder and every part of the urinary passage. It corrects inability to hold water and scalding pain in passing it, or bad effects following use of liquor, wine or beer, and overcomes that unpleasant necessity of being compelled to go often during the day, and to get up many times during the night. The mild and the extraordinary effect of Swamp-Root is soon realized. It stands the highest for its wonderful cures of the most distressing cases. If you need a medicine you should have the best. Sold by druggists at 50c and \$1. sizes. You may have a sample bottle of this wonderful discovery and a book that tells more about it, both sent absolutely free by mail. Address Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y. When writing mention reading this generous offer in this paper.

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Nothing has ever equalled it. Nothing can ever surpass it.

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