

THE BETROTHAL.

Oh, for one hour of such enchanted light
As made a father's daytime in the sky,
When on the willow bank we sat that night,
My old-time love and I!

As while we talked so low and tenderly,
We felt the lightning trees above us lean;
And louder far the silence seemed to me,
That cropt at last between.

Her heart lay floating on its quiet thought,
Like water lilies on a tranquil lake;
And love within, unknown, because unthought,
Lay dreaming half awake.

Ah, love is the lightest sleeper ever known!
A whisper, and he started plain to view,
Old as the heavens seemed our story grown,
While yet the moon was new.

And when she spoke, her answer seemed the
Sweetest for sweetness of the lips that told,
Singing a precious word within a smile—
A diamond ringed with gold.

Then blushed for us the perfect century flower,
Then filled the cup and overran the brim,
And all the stars, profuse as that hour,
Chanted a bridal hymn.

Ah, Time, all a fiercer day may say,
Such joy as that thou hast but once to give;
And Love is royal from his crowning day,
Through kingdoms he will live.

—Boston Transcript.

THE SOUTHERN "GATOR."

Six thousand baby alligators are sold in Florida every year, and the amount of ivory, number of skins, and quantity of oil obtained from the older members of the Saurian family are sufficient to entitle them to a high place among the products of the state.

The hunters sell young "gators" at twenty-five dollars per hundred, and the dealer from seventy-five cents to one dollar each. Live alligators two years old represent to the captor fifty cents each; and to the dealer from two to five dollars, as the season of travel is at its height or far advanced. A ten-foot alligator is worth ten dollars, and one fourteen feet long twenty-five dollars to the hunter, while the dealer charges twice or three times that price. The eggs are worth to the hunter fifty cents per dozen, and to the dealer twenty-five cents each.

The dead alligator is quite as valuable as the live one, for a specimen nine feet long and reasonably fat will net both branches of the trade as follows:

THE HUNTER.		THE DEALER.	
Oil.....	\$ 5.00	Oil.....	\$ 7.50
Skin.....	1.00	Skin.....	4.00
Head.....	10.00	Head.....	25.00
	\$16.00		\$36.50

The value of the head is ascertained by the number and size of the teeth. Dealers mount especially fine specimens of the skull, but the greater number have no other value than that of the ivory they contain.

The wages of the hunter depend, of course, upon his good fortune in finding the game. One of the most expert of these gives as instances of successful hunts the items of three days' work which yielded thirty-nine dollars and seventy-five cents; of six days with a yield of twenty dollars and ten cents, and of eight days' hunting which netted forty dollars and twenty-five cents.

Without speaking of those enemies of the "gator" who hunt him for sport, there are about two hundred men in the state of Florida who make a business and try to make a living by capturing or killing him. Very many have enticed alligator-steaks from simple curiosity to learn its flavor; but many more eat it because it is the cheapest and, oftentimes, the only meat they can afford. The flavor when it is fried or boiled is that of beefsteak plentifully supplied with fish gravy, while the forelegs roasted taste like a mixture of chicken and fish, and have a delicate fibre.

Very methodical in his habits is the alligator, and very suspicious of anything new around his home. When he starts out in search of food it is invariably an hour after the tide has begun to ebb, and he returns about four hours after low water. If he has a land journey to perform, he goes and comes by the same route, never deviating from it until he sees evidence that strangers have trespassed upon his domain. He lives on the banks of some stream, for he has decided objections to stagnant water, and to make his home he digs a hole at least twelve inches below the lowest level of the water. This hole is perfectly straight, although on an incline, and from twenty to thirty feet in length, terminating in a chamber sufficiently large to admit of his turning in it. There he or she dwells alone, save when the female is caring for a very young brood, in which case the room is converted into a nursery. Full-grown alligators not only do not occupy the same hole, but they will not live near each other.

The alligator usually lays her eggs about the first of July, and during the month of June she is busily engaged in preparing a cradle for her young. Selecting a place on the bank of some stream or creek, she begins work by beating hard and level with her tail an earth platform about six feet square. She scrapes together with her fore-feet, oftentimes from a distance of fifty yards from the proposed nest, dried grass, sticks and mud until fifteen or twenty cubic feet of the material is in a place convenient for her purpose. On the day following the completion of these preparations she lays from thirty to fifty eggs on the prepared ground, and piles over them dried grass and mud deftly worked in with sticks until a mound six feet in diameter and three feet high has been raised. The surface of this is quickly hardened by the sun, and in order that it may be as nearly air-tight as possible, the female visits it each day, covering with mud every crevice that may have appeared, as well as remodeling such portions as do not satisfy her sense of beauty.

The ordinary time of incubation is about three months, and then the newly-hatched brood may be heard yelping and snarling for their mother to continue her work by releasing them from their prison nest. On the second or third day after the first noise has been heard, the female bites a hole in the side of the mound, out of which the young ones, barely more than eleven inches long, come tumbling in most vigorous manner, crawling directly toward the water. Until the young are three years old the mother exercises a parental care over them, always remaining within sound of their voices, not so much to protect them from their natural enemy, man, as from their unnatural enemy their father, who has an especial fondness for his own children in the way of food.

When the hunter finds a nest, he carries the eggs home to hatch them, where he can easily catch the entire brood if

the eggs are fresh, or if the young in them are not more than five inches long; at any other stage they will not hatch if removed, and are of no value except for the shell. The captured eggs are then packed in straw as nearly as possible in the natural way, and the young may thus be hatched out very successfully. One farmer reared sixteen hundred and another a thousand last season. The young will eat immediately on coming out of the shell, but they thrive best if given no food for at least fifteen days.

The cry of a full grown "gator" is not unlike the bellowing of a bull, except that it is of more volume, since the voice of a male can be heard, on a calm day, a distance of five miles; and they may be said to be "sun worshippers," since they seldom "resolve themselves into song," save at the rising of the sun; in fact the only exception to this morning melody is when a storm is approaching. The average Florida "cracker" needs no other barometer than the alligator in the neighboring creek or swamp.

One ceases to be astonished at the volume of sound which comes from these monsters when he sees a full grown one put forth all his strength to produce the effect. He stretches his body to its full length, inhaling sufficient air to puff him up nearly twice his natural size; then, holding his breath, as it were for an instant, he raises both head and tail until he forms the segment of a circle. When all is thus complete, the roar comes with sufficient force to startle one, even though he be prepared for it.

Since, in order to guard his head, the alligator is obliged to turn his body somewhat, and since, when his jaws are once closed he is unable to open them if only a moderate amount of strength on the part of man is used, the hunter selects this point for attack when it is possible for him to steel upon his game un-awares.

If the intending captor gets a firm hold upon the jaws of his game in this way, the monster becomes reasonably easy prey; one rope soon secures his jaws, another is tied around his neck and fastened to a tree, while a third secures his tail in the same way, thus stretching the captive in a straight line; his fore-paws are tied over his back; a stout pole is lashed from the end of his snout to the tip of his tail, and the alligator is helpless.

It is seldom, however, that the hunter gets his game at a disadvantage, and to secure him alive he must set about the work much as boys do when they snare rabbits. A tall, stout sapling near the water's edge is the first requisite, and directly in front of that, in the water, a narrow lane or pen is made with stakes, the two outer ones being noticed, as is the spindle of a box-trap. At the end of this pen, and nearer the shore, a stake is driven into the mud, and on the top of it is fastened a piece of tainted beef. A stout rope, at one end of which is a large noose, is fastened to the top of the sapling, and to the upper part of the noose is attached a cross-bar, or trigger, which, when the tree is bent, catches in the notches on the outer stakes just below the surface of the water, the noose hanging around the entire opening. To get at the meat the alligator attempts to swim under the bar, but his back displaces the trigger, and he is a captive, with the rope fastened just back of his forelegs.

It is necessary to bind the captive while he is in the water, and then to carry him to the shore in a boat; for, ambitious as he is, he can be drowned if dragged even a short distance through the water. When once properly secured and on land, the alligator can do nothing in the hope of effecting a release, save to roll over, and this he does by a mighty effort with his shoulders, frequently working himself over a quarter of a mile in distance in a single night.

Those who are most familiar with the habits of the alligator, as seen in the southern states, believe his partiality for decayed food does not arise from any particular flavor it may possess, but simply because in a putrid state any large amount of flesh is more easily torn apart and masticated than when fresh. Although the possessor of so much ivory in the shape of teeth, and able to use his jaws with so much power, it is an extremely difficult matter for an alligator to disembow a pig, even after the flesh is decayed.

While the meat is yet firm and the muscles intact, it is an impossibility for him to do other than swallow it nearly whole, as he sometimes does when interrupted shortly after he has killed his prey. That alligators do like fresh food when it is possible for them to eat it is shown by the fact that fresh fish and small turtles are their favorite diet. In the stomach of a twelve-foot alligator there have been found six catfish, none of them mutilated, weighing altogether thirty-four pounds.

If one believes implicitly the positive assertion of the alligator hunters, he must perforce say no man knows the span of life allotted these saurians. The native Floridian, as well as the hunter, will insist that the largest of the "gators" are more than a hundred years old, pointing to the fact of his slow growth in proof of the assertion. A newly-hatched alligator is eleven inches long; at the age of six years he is very slim and but three feet in length; at ten years of age he has gained considerably in breadth and but twelve inches in length, while during the next two years he has grown hardly more than one inch longer. An alligator fifteen feet in length, caught near the mouth of the St. John's river, was so covered with barnacles and other marine growth as to make it almost certain that he must have been in existence seventy-five years.—Our Continent.

Ornaments for Tombs.

Greek antiquity had evaded death and neglected the dead; a garland of menadans and faunds among ivy leaves, a battle of Amazons or centaurs; in the late semi-Christian, Platonic days, some Orphic emblem or genius; at most, as in the exquisite tombs of the Keramikos of Athens, a figure, a youth on a prancing steed, like the Phidian monument of Dexileus; a maiden draped and bearing an urn; but neither the maiden or youth is the inmate of the tomb; they are only types, living types, not portraits. Nay, even where antiquity shows us Death or Hermes, gently leading away the beloved, the spirit, the manes, the dead one, is individual. "Sarkophagen u. Urnen bekrante der Heide mitt Loben," said Goethe; but it was the life everlasting because it was typical, the life not which

had been relinquished by the one buried there, but the life which danced on, forgetful, round his ashes. The Romans, on the contrary, graver and more retentive folk than the Greek, as well as more domestic, less coffee-house living, appear to have inherited from the Etruscans a desire to preserve the effigy of the dead, a desire unknown to the Greeks. But the Etrusco-Roman monuments, where husband and wife stare forth togged and stoled, half reduced to a conventional crooked-headedness, grim and stiff as if sitting unwillingly for their portrait, or reclining on their sarcophagus lid, neither dead nor asleep, nor yet alive and awake, but with hieratic mummy stare, have little of aesthetic or sympathetic value. The early Renaissance, then, first thought of it of representing the real individual in the real death slumber. And I question whether anything more fitting to be placed on a tomb than an effigy of the dead as we saw them when the coffin lid is closed down, as we would have given our all to see them but for one little moment longer, as they continue to exist for our fancy with the grave; for to any but morbid feelings the loved one can never suffer decay. Whereas a portrait of the man in life, as the throning popes in St. Peter's, seems heartless and derivative; such monuments striking us as conceived and ordered by the inmates when alive, like Michel Angelo's Pope Julius, and Browning's Bishop, who was so preoccupied about his tomb in St. Praxed's Church. The Renaissance, the late Middle Ages, felt better than this. On the extreme pinnacle, high on the roof, they might indeed place against the russet brick or the blue sky, amid the hum of life and the movement of the air, the living man, like the Scaligers, the mailed knight on his charger, lance in rest; but in the church below, under the funereal fall, they could place only the body such as it may have lain on the bier.—Cornhill Magazine.

Too Much Study.

Between half-past eight and nine every morning our streets are dotted with children on their way to school. In some parts of the city almost all these children belong to the public schools, but in many districts the majority are on their way to the many private schools for which Boston is famous. They come in groups, in flocks, in long streams, some by horse cars, others by railroads from neighboring towns, others from their city homes; here children just old enough to be trusted in the trains alone; there young men and maidens of fifteen or sixteen years—all moving to their morning's work, and all with books. Books often two or three apiece—sometimes a strap full; not a child without at least one volume.

From these books the children have been learning their "home lessons." These lessons are recited in school, but have to be prepared at home, where also my extra work has to be done for which—for one reason or another—there is no time in school. If one would know what this work amounts to, let him inquire of some of these be-booked children what they had for their last night's lessons, and how long they had to work. The answer will probably be, "Oh, only a little French exercise—that took an hour; with the writing out of some notes—about half an hour more." Or, "Last night I had algebra, but I didn't get through, though I worked over an hour, because I had some Latin grammar to make up, and that took me nearly an hour." This, perhaps, from girls of fourteen or fifteen. "And does it ever tire you to study so long out of school?" "Yes, sometimes; but we have to get the lessons, you know."

It is to be hoped that the stories that one sometimes hears of overworked boys and girls are exaggerated, and that there are not many teachers, "successful" or not, who put excessive pressure on their pupils. Yet it must be admitted that cramming, both in our private and public schools is far too common. So much is required of the scholars, there is so much emulation among the scholars, there is so much rivalry among the schools, that it is difficult even for the most discreet teachers to resist the demand for a system of high pressure. And not all teachers are discreet. Too many of them think little of the physical, or indeed of the mental welfare of their pupils. They regard them as little receptacles, into which a great deal has to be forced in a certain limited time; and they devote themselves to their task with immense energy, skill and perseverance, too often ignoring the danger to which these frail vessels are exposed by the process of cramming.

To make children—boys or girls—between the ages of twelve and sixteen study more than an hour out of school, is, unless in exceptional cases, to impose upon these growing bodies and brains more than they ought to. Children are tough, and they are ambitious, and so are able to do more work than they ought to do. Some may work hard all the morning and all evening, and keep this up for years before any evil effects appear. Others need constant watching in school hours, and should never have work to do out of school. The evil of the forcing system lies not only in giving children, on the average, too much to do at home, but in requiring the same amount of work of all the children in a class regardless of their health, their temperament, and their quickness and capacity for work.

The forcing system is not only dangerous, but it is short sighted; it tends to defeat the very object for which it is employed. Of what avail is there to carry children along at high pressure for half a dozen years if at the end of that time they have to give up study. A thorough education may be valuable, but not at the expense of a weakened brain, a disordered stomach, impaired eyesight, general loss of vigor and exhaustion of vital power. It is better that children should devote their years of growth to securing strength and toughness of body, even at the expense of some mental discipline, than that they should try to master all wisdom and all knowledge, and run the risk of not being able to use these dearly bought acquisitions.

It is the work out of school, rather than the work in school, that is objectionable. Most children under twelve should have no tasks at home. A little easy memorizing, that may take twenty or thirty minutes; a bit of interesting investigation or an experiment; something that shall seem like play rather

than work—this is as much as ought to be put on any child of this age as extra work. From twelve to fifteen, light home tasks may well be given to all but the least vigorous, but the tasks should be such that only the slowest students will have to study on more than an hour, and this limit of time should be set for all. At sixteen children of settled vigor may begin doing harder work out of school—work that may require an hour and a half and even more. But children of this age should be watched with special care; that they are ambitious; that they feel that their school days are nearly over, and that they are becoming so mature that they see more and more clearly the meaning and value of their studies, and so are prone to spend too much time over the studies themselves and the reading the studies suggest.

It is to be remembered, too, that study under pressure, except for a limited time, is almost useless—in some cases is worse than useless. Study prolonged after a child begins to grow tired of it, is time wasted. Some children tire more quickly than others; but to most children the work given them at home, even if interesting, is a task, an intrusion upon leisure time; and study prolonged under such conditions does not amount to much. Again, if study in school is carefully conducted, the four and a half hours in school ought to give a child about all he can digest a day; and if he has any work at home it ought to be not only light and entertaining, but different in character from what he is busy with during the morning. More attention to this matter on the part of teachers would take away much of the reproach that attaches to the practice of giving home lessons.—Boston Advertiser.

Ornithological Intelligence.

But perhaps the most remarkable bird performance was shown near Pall Mall, London, in 1789. A number of little birds, writes Strutt, to the amount of 12 or 14, being taken from different cages, were placed on the table in the presence of the spectators; small cones of paper bearing some resemblance to grenadiers' caps were put on their heads, diminishing imitations of muskets made of wood secured under their left wings. Thus equipped, they marched to and fro several times, when a single bird was then brought forward, supposed to be a deserter, and set between six of the musketeers, three in a row, who conducted him from the top to the bottom of the table, on the middle of which a small brass cannon charged with a little gunpowder had been previously placed, and the bird was placed in the front part of the cannon; his guards then divided, three on one side and three on the other, and he was left standing by himself. Another bird was produced, and a lighted match being put into his claws, he hopped boldly on the other end to the tail of the cannon, and applying the match to the priming, discharged the piece without the least appearance of fear or agitation. The moment the explosion took place the deserter fell down and lay, apparently motionless, like a dead bird; but at the command of his tutor he rose again, and the cages being brought, the feathered soldiers were stripped of their ornaments and returned into their perfect order. This performance is now attempted, but never carried out to such perfection, the bird merely hopping upon a perch its weight alone firing the cannon.

Accompanying the shows of trained animal were persons quite remarkable for their power of imitating their cries. An old advertisement of the time of Queen Anne, details the powers of a man named Clench. It states that he "imitated the horses, the huntsmen, an old woman, a drunken man, the bells, the flute, the double curtell and the organ, with three voices, by his own natural voice, to the greatest perfection." He then professes himself "to be the only man that could ever attain to so great an art."—N. Y. Post.

Wasted Politeness.

A man came into the office the other day with a black eye, a strip of court plaster across his cheek, one arm in a sling, and, as he leaned on a crutch and wiped the perspiration away from around a lump on his forehead with a red cotton handkerchief, he asked if the editor was in. Being answered in the affirmative, he said:

"Well, I want to stop my paper," and he sat down on the edge of a chair as though it might hurt him. "Scratch my name off. You are responsible for my condition."

"Can it be possible?" we inquired. "Yes," said he. "I'm a farmer, and keep cows. I recently read an article in your paper about a dairyman's convention, where one of the mottoes over the door was, 'Treat your cow as you would a lady,' and the article said it was contended by our best dairymen that a cow treated in a polite, gentlemanly manner, as though she was a companion, would give twice as much milk. The plan seemed feasible to me. I had been a hard man with my stock, and thought maybe that was one reason my cows always dried up when butter was forty cents a pound, and gave plenty of milk when butter was only fifteen cents a pound. I decided to adopt your plan, and treat a cow as you would a lady. I had a cow that never had been very much milked on me, and I decided to commence on her, and the next morning after I had read your awful paper I put on my Sunday suit, and a white pig hat I bought the year Greeley ran for president, and went to the barn to milk. I noticed the old cow seemed to be bashful and frightened, but taking off my hat and bowing politely, I said, 'Madam, excuse the seeming impropriety of the request, but will you do me the favor to hoist?' At the same time I tapped her gently on the flank with my pig hat; putting the tin pail under her, I sat down on the milking stool.

"Did she hoist?" said we, rather anxious to know how the advice of President Smith, of Sheboygan, the great dairyman, worked.

"Did she hoist?" Well, look at me, and see if you think she hoisted. The cow raised and kicked me with all four feet, switched me with her tail, and hooked me with both horns at once; and when I got up out of the bedding in the stall and dug my hat out of the manger, and the milking stool from under me, and began to mail that cow, I forgot all

about the treatment of horned cattle. Why, she fairly galloped over me, and I never want to read your paper again."

We tried to explain to him that the advice did not apply to the brindle cows at all, but he hobbled out the maddest man that ever asked a cow to hoist.—Exchange.

An Arkansas Dialogue.

"I do not see any peculiarity about your people," said an eastern judge, addressing his traveling companion, a well-known Arkansas lawyer. "I have traveled quite extensively in this state and I have not as yet found that eccentricity of action and prevarication of reply that have often amused me in the newspapers."

"You have done most of your traveling by rail," the lawyer replied. "This is your first trip away from the main roads, is it not?"

"Yes."

"Well, I'll show you some of our genuine natives. Yonder is a house. Call the landlord and hold a conversation with him."

"Hallo!" called the judge.

"Comin'!" the man replied, depositing a child in the door and advancing.

"How's all the folks?"

"Children's hearty; wife's not well. Aint' that you might call bed-sick, but jest sorter stretchy."

"Got anything to eat in the house?"

"If I had it anywhar, I'd have it in the hoase."

"How many children have you?"

"Many as I want."

"How many did you want?"

"Wa'n't banker's arter a powerful chance, but I'm satisfied."

"How long have you been living here?"

"Too long."

"How many years?"

"Been here ever since my oldest boy was born."

"What year was he born?"

"The year I come here."

"How old is your boy?"

"Ef he had lived he would have been the oldest until yit; but, as he died, Jim's the oldest."

"How old is Jim?"

"He ain't as old as the one what died."

"Well, how old was the one that died?"

"He was older than Jim."

"What do you do here for a living?"

"Eat."

"How do you get anything to eat?"

"The best we kin."

"How do you spend your Sundays?"

"Like the week days."

"How do you spend them?"

"Like Sundays."

"Is that your daughter, yonder?"

"No, sir; she ain't my daughter yonder, nor nowhar else."

"Is she a relative of yours?"

"No, sir; no kin."

"Kin to your w'fe, I suppose?"

"No kin to my w'fe, but she's kin to my children."

"How do you make that out?"

"She's my wife."

"How far is it to the next house?"

"It's called three miles, but the man what calls it that is a liar."

"I've got enough," said the judge, turning to the lawyer. "Drive on. I pity the man that depends on this man for information."—Arkansas Traveler.

Truisms.

Folly is like matter, and cannot be annihilated.

In all superstitions, wise men follow fools.—Bacon.

The Army of Northern Virginia is going to hold a grand reunion on the field of second Bull Run this summer, and invite the Yankee veterans to pay them a visit.

To know how to say what other people only think, is what makes men poets and sages; and to dare to say what others only dare to think, makes men martyrs or reformers, or both.—Mrs. Charles.

The way to wealth is as plain as the way to market. It depends chiefly on two words—industry and frugality; that is, waste neither time or money, but make the best of both.—Franklin.

A troubled mind is often relieved by maintaining a cheerful demeanor. The effort withdraws its attention from the cause of pain, and the cheerfulness which it promotes in others extends by sympathy to itself.

"You, who despise your neighbor, are a snob," says Thackeray. "You, who are ashamed of your poverty, and blush for your calling, are a snob; as you are who boast of your pedigree, or are proud of your wealth."

Things being investigated, knowledge became complete; knowledge being completed, thoughts were sincere; thoughts being sincere, hearts were rectified; hearts being rectified, persons were cultivated; persons being cultivated, families were regulated; families being regulated, states were rightly governed; states being rightly governed, the whole nation was made tranquil and happy.—Confucius.

Our true knowledge is to know our own ignorance. Our true strength is to know our own weakness. Our true dignity is to confess that we have no dignity, and are nobody and nothing in ourselves, and to cast ourselves down before the dignity of God, under the shadow of whose wings, and in the smile of whose countenance, alone is any created being safe. Let us cling to our Father in heaven, as a child, walking in the night, clings to his father's hand.—Charles Kingsley.

"The Sneer Shows the Animal."

The teeth of animals forms a series of structures, subject, as even the tyro in zoology knows, to literally immense variations, which bear, as a rule, relation to the habits of life of their possessors. Man's teeth are undoubtedly peculiar in that they form a continuous series, and are not separated throughout their extent in either jaw by an interval, such as we see very familiarly in the month of a horse or rat. It is true that man shares this peculiarity with a little lemur called Tarsius, and with an extinct quadruped called Anoplotherium; this fact serving naturally to diminish somewhat the special character of the human teeth array. The "eye-teeth," or "canines," of humanity, although not specially prominent, are yet sufficiently developed to prove that they have assumed their present place in the jaw

only by protest, as it were, and that at no very remote period they were much more obtrusive than now. In the apes we see these teeth highly developed, and reminding us of their prominence in the carnivorous tribes. So also when man sneers he uncovers his upper canine of one side, after the fashion of the enraged dog, and employs similar muscles for the display of the tooth. Mr. Darwin is, therefore, speaking within the bounds of a scientific physiology when we find him saying that a sneer reveals the descent of man; "for no one," he continues, "even if rolling on the ground in a deadly grapple with an enemy, and attempting to bite him, would try to use his canine teeth more than his other teeth. We may readily believe from our affinity to the anthropomorphic (or manlike) apes that our male semi-human progenitors possessed great canine teeth, and men are now occasionally born having them of unusually large size, with interspaces in the opposite jaw for their reception. We may further suspect," concludes Mr. Darwin, "notwithstanding that we have no support from analogy, that our semi-human progenitors uncovered their canine teeth when prepared for battle, as we still do when feeling ferocious, or when merely sneering or defying some one, without any intention of making a real attack with our teeth." In other words, the mere gesture, once probably pursuing a very definite use in the battle of attack, has, like the tooth concerned in its exhibition, become a mere shadow of former realities. Other teeth besides the canines in man, appear to afford means of tracing his kinship with lower forms. That the last molar, or "wisdom" teeth, are probably smaller in the men of to-day than in the races of the past, appears to be a credible assertion. They appear to be of larger size in those races of men in whom we justly esteem of lower nature than ourselves; and if this observation be correct it would appear to show that our dental belongings, like our muscles, are not beyond the reach of those modifications to which we owe, in part at least, our ascent from lower ancestry to the crown and acme of life's development.—Longman's Magazine.

He Had No Home.

The idea that John Howard Payne was a victim of nature's retributive justice will probably be a new one to a majority of readers. Yet it appears to be sincerely entertained by the Rev. E. H. Shepherd, of Septon Mallet, England, the clergyman at whose suggestion and through whose efforts, while he was acting as British chaplain at Tunis, the stained glass window in memory of Payne was placed in the English church there.

In a sermon preached by him recently in his parish church at Slephton Mallet, he referred as follows to the dead poet: "Poor man, it was from the aching void of his heart that he sang, 'There's no place like home.' Though he lived in a 'palace' he was homeless. Though he 'roamed amid pleasures' he was an unhappy man. Those who know him well have told me that in spite of his fine poetic instincts it was a pain to converse with him, he was so misanthropic. And why? In his youth he disregarded the voice of God and nature. 'It is not good for man to be alone,' and in his old age he found that, left alone, the garden of Eden is but a barren wilderness to dwell in. Having failed to make a home for another, by just retributive nature he was deprived of home himself."

Test for Nitro-Glycerine.

It is desirable to obtain a ready means of ascertaining if a suspected fluid be nitro glycerine or not. There are many oily-looking, yellowish colored, inodorous fluids with which it might be confounded, but nitro-glycerine alone produces the effect on the system I am about to describe. If we put one-tenth of a drop on our tongue we observe after one minute more or less throbbing in the head, especially in the temple, aggravated to pain on shaking the head, a feeling of constriction in the neck, as though a band were tied tightly round it, the pulse rising to 100 and even 120 per minute. These effects soon go off and leave no bad results. We may apply the nitro-glycerine to the tongue by moistening the top of the finger with it; and so conveying a small quantity to the mouth, or if we desire greater accuracy we may mix together ten drops of nitro-glycerine with ninety drops of spirits of wine, brandy, or whisky (it is soluble in water or nearly so). One drop of this applied to the tongue gives us the dose of one-tenth of a drop of nitro-glycerine. No other substance produces the same effect.—Dr. Dudgeon in London Post.

"They're Swearing Yet."

An eminent diving from one of our inland districts, having a very lively horror of the dangers of the sea, took passage on board of an ocean steamer, with a particular recommendation to the care of the captain. On the first day out, the wind being fresh and the sea lively, the parson became quite alarmed, and spoke to the captain, who smilingly taking him by the arm, led him to the forecastle scuttle, and told him to look down. When he heard the men talking very roughly to each other, and swearing and damning one another's eyes and limbs, he was struck with horror, and the captain said to him: "Do you suppose those men would use that kind of language if they thought there was any danger?" A few days after a severe and dangerous storm was encountered, and the parson was observed by the captain making his way with great difficulty to the forecastle scuttle. He immediately came back, muttering to himself, "Thank God, they're swearing yet."

A traveler reports having found a coin in circulation among the Malays, which is the smallest in the world. It is a minute water made of the gum exuded from a certain kind of tree. It represents a value equal to about the millionth part of a dollar.

The virulent "buffalo goat" followed the Mississippi flood this year as it did last year, and stock is being stung to death in many places. In one neighborhood in Mississippi 47 mules were killed in two days.

True friendship between man and man is infinite and immortal.—Plato.