WAITING.

The sun has slipped his tether
And galloped down the west.
(Oh, it's weary, weary waiting, love.)
The little bird is sleeping
In the softness of its nest.
Night follows day, day follows dawn—
And so the time has come and gone;
And it's weary, weary waiting, love.

The cruel wind is rising
With a whistle and a wail,
(And it's weary, weary waiting, love.)
My eyes are seaward straining
For the coming of a sail;
But void the sea, and void the beach
Far and beyond where gaze can reach!
And it's weary, weary waiting, love.

I heard the bell buoy ringing—
How long ago it seems!
(And it's weary, weary waiting, love.)
And ever still, its knelling
Crashes in upon my dreams.
The banns were read, my frock was sewn,
Since then two seasons' winds have blown—
And it's weary, weary waiting, love.

The stretches of the ocean
Are bare and bleak to-day.
(Oh, it's weary, weary waiting love.)
My eyes are growing dimmer—
As if tears or age, or spray?
But I will stay till you come home.
Strange ships come in across the foam!
And it's weary, weary waiting, love.
—Cosmopolitan.

THE BURGLAR AND THE BRIDEGROOM.

THE colonial express was just drawing out of New Haven late in the afternoon, when a young man with a dark mustache and glasses, who had evidently just boarded the train, walked down the car aisle and paused inquiringly at the vacant seat by my side. The train was well filled, and after pausing for an instant as if to see whether I objected to sharing my seat with him the stranger planted himself at my side.

Finally he leaned over to me, and, touching my arm, said:

"I trust, sir, the arrangements will be satisfactory."

"I beg your pardon, sir," I replied.

"I am Miss Celeste's man. I was sent to meet you."

I never neglected an opportunity to take advantage of circumstances, and I merely replied:

"Indeed."

"We are due at Providence at 7:22. The ceremony will take place at 8," he went on, ignoring my non-committal replies.

"If you will please to give me your baggage checks," he continued, "I will have the servants attend to it when we arrive."

"I have nothing with me but this satchel," I replied.

"Ah, you have sent it on ahead. That is good. But," he said, "you are perhaps wondering how I recognized you?"

"I am not remarkably well known," I replied, "and my pictures——"

"Ah, you look just like them. Miss Celeste allowed me to look at one. I am gratified that you did not forget a suggestion I made to Miss Celeste that you wear a fedora and a pink rose."

"So that was your idea, was it?" I said.

The train commenced to slow up for Providence. My companion arose, and I followed him when he leaped upon the platform.

A carriage attended by two footmen was in waiting, and my companion guided me to it. I was in such a strange position that I would have preferred doing without the footmen at this particular time.

In a few moments the carriage drew up at the door of a large, well-lighted house with a broad veranda. From the parlor laughter and conversation indicated that a large company was present. As we alighted another carriage, which had been just ahead of us, turned from the curb and a solitary gentleman walked up to the house.

"We are just in time. That is the minister," said my guide. "I will show you to your room, if you please, and you can join the company in the parlor as soon as you are ready. If you need me you can ring." The broad staircase was at hand, and I was saved the embarrassment of meeting any of the guests whom I might be expected to know. Celeste, also, I escaped.

My room was large, and upon the bed a number of packages were spread out. I opened one of them. It was a dozen silver spoons. A small card read: "To Mr. and Mrs. George Mopart: Congratulations." Evidently the package was intended for me. I opened several others. One was a handsome diamond pin. Just as I took it up I heard the knob of my door turn, and unconsciously I slipped it into my pocket.

My companion of the train entered.

"Miss Celeste desires me to say that she will meet you at the head of the stairs in ten minutes, and will descend with you for the ceremony."

"O, thank you, William. Is your name William? I forget."

"James, sir."

"All right, James; that will do."

I retied my cravat and then took another look at the presents. I remembered afterward that I failed to return that pin. Several other remarkably costly presents of small size were also missing afterward, though I remember perfectly seeing them on the bed while I was in the room.

I had just about six minutes in which to keep my appointment with Celeste. Had it not been for the ceremony which was scheduled to take place immediately afterward I believe I should have allowed my love of adventure to lead me to the head of the stairs. Celeste! Nice name! I wondered what she was like, as I softly opened the door and looked out into the hallway. She was not there yet. Neither were the servants. I left the room, closing the door tightly behind me.

The hall was deserted. At the head of the stairs I could hear laughter and conversation. I had my hat in my hand, but in order not to excite comment I had left my small satchel behind. I strolled out on to the veranda. Just at that moment down the street I heard the rumble of a cab. In another moment a four-wheeler, driven furiously, hauled up and a young man leaped out. He dashed up the path, taking the steps three at a time. I drew back into the shadow. He passed so quickly that I could not see his face.

I sauntered down the path. The driver was just turning his cab around.

"Hi, cabby!" I shouted to the John. "A dollar if I get to New Haven depot in five minutes."

* * * * * * * *

I bought a copy of the Providence Journal next day at Boston to see how the ceremony had been performed.

For a provincial paper the Journal really did well on that story.

I enjoyed reading the humorous account of how the bridegroom missed his train, and how the butler had mistaken another gentleman on the train for Mr. Mopart.

I disliked, however, to have the Journal make such open insinuations against the honesty of the person thus introduced in Mr. Mopart's stead.

It stated that in all probability the butler had stumbled upon a clever rascal and crook in his search for the bridegroom, for a number of costly wedding presents which had been left in the room with the supposed Mr. Mopart had mysteriously disappeared, as he himself had done but a few minutes before the real Mr. Mopart had arrived.

He had left behin dhim a small hand satchel in which were found a number of jimmies, skeleton keys, and other articles used only by a certain class of gentlemen. It was the discovery of these articles that first aroused suspicion.

As for the wedding, that had taken place in spite of the excitement.—Exchange.

QUEER STORIES

There are more than six thousand known languages and dialects.

There are always 1,200,000 people afloat on the seas of the world.

The gun of largest calibre in the world is the British 17.72 inch one hundred ton gun.

A map of Jerusalem in mosaic, over fifteen hundred years old, has been found in Palestine.

London has a population of 4,250,000, equaling the combined populations of Paris, Berlin, St. Petersburg and Rome.

The highest point of land in New York (Manhattan) is at Eleventh avenue and 190th street, 225 feet. In Brooklyn the highest point is Lookout Hill, in Prospect Park, 186 feet.

False teeth for horses, which were suggested by the president of a French humane society a few years ago, have actually been invented, and are gaining favor with owners of large stables.

In Ecuador they sweeten coffee with crushed beetles; in Japan they give you gooseberry pie with roast duck; in Ceylon the richest people beg, and in London a man who refuses to tip a waiter runs a fair chance of getting arrested.

To "dance attendance" is an expression borrowed from the medieval custom, which compelled the bride at a wedding to dance with whomsoever asked her. No matter how low the condition or how objectionable the person, the bride could not refuse.

Growth of the Language.

"It seems to me, Henry," remarked the wife of a professor of English literature, after the guests who had attended one of their "evenings" had gone, "that you treated Mr. Scollops with marked discourtesy."

"Oh, I did, did I?"

"Yes. You turned your back on him while he was talking to you, and walked deliberately out of the room, muttering to yourself."

"I listened to him patiently enough," said the professor, "while he was telling me where he had 'Sundayed' the week before last. I stood it, even when he observed that it always 'enthused' him to talk over old times, but when he asked me to come around some evening and 'reminisce' awhile"—and the professor walked to the window and cleared his throat vigorously—"it was all I could do, Hester, to keep from throwing him out of the house!"

Swiss Humor.

The Pall Mall Gazette, having had access to the official archives of the custom house at Les Verrieres, publishes the following example of duly scheduled imports:

A missionary was returning to Basel from Patagonia, bringing with him, not as the fruits of his labors, but merely for the purposes of science, a collection of Patagonian skulls.

The custom house officers opened the chest, inspected the contents and informed the owner that the consignment must be classed as animal bones, and taxed at so much the pound.

The missionary was justly indignant; therefore the officials agreed to reconsider the question. When the way-bill had been revised, it appeared in the following form:

"Chest of native skulls. Personal effects, already worn."

Simplicity of a Novelist's Life.

Jokai, the Hungarian novelist, lives in extreme simplicity. He is seldom seen away from home, and begins work at his desk in the early morning, sometimes remaining there the whole day. A small room adjoining his library contains the books of reference he consults, a narrow bed like a soldier's, and a few window plants. The room is so destitute of what is generally looked upon as necessary comforts that it might be the dormitory of a monk. Dr. Jokai, now in his seventy-fourth year, is constantly attended by a devoted man-servant, who has grown aged in his beloved master's service.

The Shape of the Earth.

Owing to the action of certain well-known laws, the earth is not a perfect sphere. Careful measurements show that it is slightly bulging at the equator. It is a simple matter to show proof that the earth is round. When a ship is approaching the shore, the first parts to be seen are the top sails; as she nears the land the lower sails and rigging come into view, and lastly the hull appears. If the earth's surface were flat the hull, being the largest part, would be seen first."—Philadelphia Inquirer.

Japanese Books.

The Japanese now publish three times as many books as the Italians. Out of 25,000 volumes published last year in the Land of Flowers no less than 5,000 were law books, and 1,300 treated of religion.

Clubs drive some men to matrimony and matrimony drives others to clubs.

Easily Gotten Over.

A cripple from a sprain is one who neglects to use St. Jacobs Oil to cure it. Prompt use of it brings prompt cure, and the trouble is gotten over easily.

Woman's Weapon and Tool Box.

Keeper—Then she picked the catch on her handcuffs, dug through a two-foot wall of stone, took out a pane of plate glass by removing the putty, and then opened the big lock on the gate. What tools had she?

Matron — None whatever. Stay. Good gracious, I forgot to take away her hairpins!

Keeper—Then pursuit is useless. She still has them.—Stray Stories.

No Mystery to Him.

"Have you paid any attention to the race problem?" asked the thoughtful man, as he laid down his paper.

"Have I?" answered the very small man with the massive diamond. "I'm the fellow who taught Tod Sloan how to ride."—Washington Star.

Bamboo pens still retain their hold in India, where they have been in use for more than 1,000 years.

A New Invention—Flying Top.

The latest invention of considerable merit is the "Flying Top," invented by a Western boy. It is so easy to operate, that a boy six years of age can manage it without any difficulty. The top is constructed on the principle of a flying machine and by simply pulling a cord, ascends from 50 to 300 feet, or, until its momentum ceases, when it gradually descends like a parachute, still spinning when it strikes the ground.

Venice Will Be Drained.

Venice without its waters would be a far less picturesque place than it actually is, says the London Chronicle. And such a state of affairs, we are led to believe, may eventually come about. The regular increase in the delta of the Po has been studied by Prof. Marinelli. Comparison of the Austrian map of about 1823 with the records of surveys made in 1893 shows that the mean annual increase during those years has been about three-tenths of a square mile; and from all known data it appears that the total increase during six centuries has been about 198 square miles. The incease is continuing and the Gulf of Venice is doomed in time to disappear. No immediate alarm need, however, be excited, for Prof. Marinelli calculates that between 100 and 120 centuries will elapse before the entire Northern Adriatic will have become dry land.

Effect of Coffee Drinking on Eyes.

Snaitkin, according to the Medical Review, says that the Moors are inveterate coffee drinkers, especially the merchants, who sit at their bazars and drink continually during the day. It has been noticed that almost invariably when these coffee drinkers reach the age of 40 or 45 their eyesight begins to fail them, and by the time they get to be 50 years old they become blind. One is forcibly impressed by the number of blind men seen about the streets of Fez, the capital of Morocco. It is invariably attributed to the excessive use of coffee.—N. Y. Medical Times.

A Colonia Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico, correspondent of the New York World thus describes the model town in which he lives: "Ours is a town of about 1,000 inhabitants. Eleven years have passed since the first tent was pitched by the first settler. Now we have hundreds of dwellings owned by the dwellers—no millionaires, no beggars. We are in a chamber of the mountains 5,000 feet high. Fifteen miles of hills and hollows part us from the nearest railroad station. We have no saloons, no gambling, no smoking, no profanity, no round dancing at our socials. We have one police officer. Nearly every man owns a gun. Our academy building has 5,000 square feet of floors and 250 students. If you can beat this, please put in waste basket."

Ownership of Wedding Presents.

A recent decision in Springfield, Mass., as to the ownership of wedding presents is that where such presents are sent to the bride before marriage, as is the custom, the presents are her property, and remain so even if a separation takes place after marriage.

View of a Layman.

Bill—What do you reckon that doctor tumps me all over de chest fer?

Jake—Tryin' to see how much dough you had in your inside pocket, of course.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

He Knew Not All.

He—You think you know it all, don't you?

Him—No I have never been able to figure out any reason for you being alive.—Indianapolis Journal.

Samples of merchandise carried by a traveling salesman are held, in Kansas City, P. & G. R. company vs. state (Ark.), 41 L. R. A. 333, not to be baggage within a statute regulating charges on excess baggage.

Weasels and skunks are enemies of the careless poultry keeper. All poultry should be kept in quarters made secure at night from these depredators. Openings for ventilation should be covered with wire screens.

The Tibetans have a week of five days, named after iron, wood, water, feathers and earth.

No fewer than 2,401 patents have been taken out on processes for making sugar and salt.

Hogs are fattened on oranges in Paraguay, and orange-fed pork is said to be very good.

Among the industrial novelties are aluminum carpets and steel billiard balls.

Mrs. Richard King, of Texas, owns 2,000 square miles of land in that state.

In 1850 the highest house in New York city had only five stories.

Taxes on beards are leived in Japanese cities.

The rivers in Northern Russia were frozen this year before the end of October.

NEWS OF NORTHWEST

Items of General Interest Gleaned From the Thriving Pacific States.

A Wheat Producer.

Uniontown, Wash., claims for the southeastern corner of the Palouse country the distinction of being the greatest wheat-producing section of the world. Within a radius of six miles of that thriving town there were raised this year upwards of 1,500,000 bushels of wheat, with good crops of barley, oats, hay, vegetables, etc. Fall wheat averaged from 42 to 52 bushels to the acre and spring wheat 23 to 30 bushels. If any other ambitious corner of the world desires to contest honors for supremacy in grain-raising the opportunity is offered.

Telephone Extension.

The Rocky Mountain Bell Telephone Company will soon connect Hailey, Idaho, with all prominent places by long distance telephone. A line will be constructed from Boise to Camas Prairie, thence to Hailey by the Gold Belt, and then to Blackfoot. Hailey will be the headquarters of the 300-mile line between the Utah & Northern and Boise. Telephone lines are being extended over the principal parts of Burns, Or., and the Prineville Telephone Company is making extensive improvements.

Hops.

A contract to sell 12,000 pounds of the 1899 hops at 10 cents per pound has been made by Daniel Cavanaugh to Faber & Nels, of Albany. Prospects for fair prices for this year's crop are very flattering. Hop men in Oregon who held their crops and thus obtained better prices are now out of debt for the first time in several years. Horst Bros. bought several lots at North Yakima within 10 days at 12½ and 13 cents.

Advance in Eggs.

Eggs are worth 50 cents a dozen at Colfax, Whitman county. It would seem policy for the Whitman farmers to raise a million or two bushels less wheat and put in a few acres of hens. It is much cheaper to raise a dozen eggs than a bushel of wheat, yet Whitman and other Eastern Washington counties, which produced nearly 15,000,000 bushels of wheat last year, import thousands of dollars' worth of dairy and hog products and eggs every year.

Canyonville Industries.

The growing and shipping of fruit in the vicinity of Canyonville is now so far advanced as to bring in considerable of a revenue. Prunes to the amount of 1,500,000 pounds have been sold at the average rate of over three cents per pound, bringing in over $48,000. Shippers are now getting ready large consignments of winter apples, and the prevailing price for turkeys is from 9 to 10½ cents gross. Lime, sulphur and salt for spraying purposes are now in demand.

Bromine-Chlorine Plant.

An innovation in mining that will be of the greatest value to the people of Eastern Oregon is the establishment at Baker City of a bromine chlorine plant, for the working of refactory ores, which have hitherto been considered as worthless. The Golconda plant, being erected by J. G. English and others, and which is expected to be in operation very soon, will increase to a great extent the business of the Baker City merchants.

Lime Shipments.

The Tacoma & Roche Harbor Lime Company, which is the chief lime works in the Northwest, shipped 100,000 barrels last year, against 90,000 in 1897. The increase was both foreign and local, and the president, J. S. McMillin, says he expects an increase this year of at least 50 per cent, basing his estimates on trade conditions and orders now on hand. This business is a fair indicator of the demand for building material.

Big Cargo to the Orient.

The N. Y. K. steamship Riojun Maru sailed from Seattle last week for the Orient, with one of the heaviest cargoes ever taken from that port. The freight included 4,000 bales of cotton, 13 carloads of pig lead, 14 cars of wood pulp, besides a great quantity of flour and miscellaneous goods. Another cargo soon to be shipped to the same port will contain 700 tons of salted salmon, brought over from the Fraser river.

Bids for County Bonds.

The county commissioners of Gallatin county, Mont., received bids last Monday for the purchase of funding bonds to the amount of $137,000. These bonds are made payable in 20 years, and are to bear interest at the rate of 5 per cent per annum, payable semi-annually in the city of Bozeman. The county reserves the right to redeem any of the bonds after 10 years, by giving 60 days' notice.

Flax Industry Growing.

A result of recent agitation throughout Oregon for the cultivation of flax, as a commercial commodity, is the sowing of a considerable acreage this fall to flaxseed. The Portland Linseed Oil works is furnishing seed to farmers on application, agreeing to take their pay from proceeds of crops raised, for which crop they will contract at prices that mean handsome returns.

New Bank Proposed.

A new bank, the second in the town, is a new project now being planned for Lewiston, Mont. The capital is expected to be $100,000, of which amount Fergus county people have already subscribed for $60,000 worth. George Bach, formerly of Utica, will be cashier, and the principal promoters are H. Hodgson, David Hilger, Herman Otten and Louis Landt. The bank will open its doors in perhaps a week or two.

During the season the Northern Pacific has shipped from the ranges to Eastern terminals for Northwestern and Chicago markets 10,000 head of cattle, an increase of 5,000 over the previous season; 515,000 head of sheep, an increase of 15,000, and 3,000 horses, an increase of over 50 per cent. The present season has not yet closed.

According to the correspondent in the Spokane Review, the mining town of Republic in Eastern Washington, offers exceptionally fine opportunities to capital to erect waterworks. It appears water is now selling at 50 cents a barrel.

Metals.

Four hundred years ago only seven metals were known. Now there are 51, 30 of which have been discovered within the present century—Chicago Inter Ocean.

Water Power Abandoned.

The famous incline railway at Prospect Park, Niagara Falls, is to be operated electrically according to a recent decision of the New York State Park Commissioners. Heretofore this railway has always been operated by water power, but in view of the fact that during the great ice bridges, when tourists flock to see this marvelous sight, from all over the state, the railway is usually inoperative. This has been due to the choking of the intake with ice and very often too low water. As there is no other means of access without a tedious descent and ascent, the tourists have been greatly inconvenienced, and the management have lost considerable money. With abundant electric power available from the Niagara Falls Power Company the electric operation of the road appears to be most apropos.

One of Many.

Mrs. Weeks—What business is your husband engaged in?

Mrs. Meeks—He operates in stocks.

"Is he a 'bull' or a 'bear'?"

"Both. He's a bull at the stock exchange and a bear at home."—Chicago Evening News.

Perfectly Harmless.

Dix—I once knew a young man who smoked 50 cigarettes daily without any particular harm resulting therefrom.

Hix—Is it possible?

Dix—Yes; and the only noticeable effect was the death of the smoker.—Chicago Evening News.