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The scent of the violets in the fragrant wood,
The sound of joyous birds that sing
A wondrous song, the awakening motherhood
Of cosmic nature—this is Spring!
—Frank Leo Pinet in Kansas City Star.

ATROCITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES

The report of General Miles upon the atrocities of American soldiers in the Philippines will doubtless be glossed over and belittled by the Republican administration and the Republican press, as has been done in the past with similar revelations. The report was presented to the War Department more than two months ago, but it was carefully kept from the public until insistent demands finally compelled the Secretary of War to allow portions of it to be published.

General Miles found evidence that in a number of instances the Filipinos had been subjected to the "water cure," that barbarous torture which American soldiers have been so frequently charged with inflicting. The United States shares with Spain the unenviable distinction of having practised this inhuman cruelty upon helpless prisoners. General Miles found furthermore that one victim of this form of torture, whose sufferings had rendered him insensible, was burned to death.

In another instance which was reported to him it is said that 600 native prisoners were crowded into a one-story building "18 or 20 feet wide and possibly 60 or 70 feet long" and a physician testifies that several of the unfortunate prisoners died from suffocation. The crowning horror of the Sepoy rebellion in India was the Black Hole of Calcutta. Has it been duplicated by American troops in the Philippines?

As to the testimony of the witnesses who related these outrages to General Miles, he says: "I have no reason to disbelieve their statements; in fact the instances of torture, especially in the case of the man Luna, who was tortured and burned to death, are confirmed by other reports."

Other instances of cold-blooded cruelty are mentioned in the report, among them the killing of helpless prisoners who had been bound together and then shot or bayonetted. The names of the officers and men responsible for some of these outrages are given in the report.

General Miles also devotes some space to the discussion of the sale of rice by the military authorities to the prisoners in the reconcentration camps, a proceeding utterly at variance with all the rules of civilized warfare which require that prisoners of war shall be maintained at the expense of their captors.

As might have been expected, the report has met with a prompt response from the military apologists for the excesses of soldiers in the Philippines. Judge-Advocate-General Davis and General Adna R. Chaffee hasten to assert that there is nothing new in General Miles' charges and the former calls attention to the fact that in many instances the investigation of cruelties practised by our troops has not yet been completed by the authorities. If this be true, the question may well be asked When will the authorities be ready to report? Are they waiting until the Presidential election is over?

General Miles is a veteran soldier, schooled to all the barbarities of Indian warfare, and experienced enough to appreciate all the peculiar conditions which American soldiers had to face in the islands. His report and his conclusions are, therefore, deserving of the most serious consideration by the American public and cannot safely be ignored by the administration.

A PARADISE FOR GRAFTERS.

The Colombian Congress has not yet ratified the Panama canal treaty, and the explanation is given that as soon as the United States pays over the $10,000,000 provided for in the treaty, Germany proposes to step in with a claim against Colombia for a big part of the money. The Colombian patriots do not relish the idea of being merely a clearing house for so much good American money, and would much prefer to divide the ten millions among themselves, rather than turn it over to foreign creditors.

The members of some of our state legislatures are pretty well posted in the game of graft and grab, but they are tyros compared with the statesmen of the Central and South American republics. The stockholders in the French Panama Canal Company are expected to contribute handsomely to secure the ratification of the treaty, and then comes the division of the ten millions. Some of those Missouri legislators who have recently been obliged to leave their state for parts unknown, would do well to turn their steps toward Colombia. They should find an excellent field there for their peculiar talents.

TWO NOTABLE ADDRESSES.

The dedicatory exercises of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition will take place tomorrow at St. Louis. The feature of the day will be the addresses which are to be delivered by President Roosevelt and by Ex-President Grover Cleveland. The utterances of both will command the deepest attention, for they are men of strong convictions, and wont to express their views in no uncertain terms.

Even more than usual interest will attach to their words, for Mr. Roosevelt is an avowed candidate for reelection to the Presidency and will in all probability be the nominee of his party. Mr. Cleveland has twice filled that high office, and in the opinion of a very large and influential element of the Democracy he is the only man under whose leadership that party can win in the coming national campaign.

Theodore Roosevelt and Grover Cleveland stand forth today as the chief exponents of radically different policies upon one of the greatest issues which has been presented to the American people since the Civil War. Upon the momentous question of the restraint of the vast, overshadowing combinations of capital, the two men occupy positions that are diametrically opposed. Cleveland is a believer in tariff revision as the only effective remedy, while Roosevelt maintains that the duties which have fostered the trusts must be maintained, and that "publicity" will prove the great preventive of the dangers which threaten.

It is not to be expected that the addresses of the President and the ex-President will be in the nature of a discussion of this issue, yet in view of the positions which they respectively occupy and the powerful influences which each wields with a very large body of his fellow citizens, the ideas which they present tomorrow will be of far more than ordinary interest.

A COMMERCIAL TRANSACTION.

It was an appropriate conclusion to the Earl of Yarmouth's sordid courtship when the titled bridegroom was served, while the wedding march was being played, with a summons to answer suit of one of his London creditors. It is a significant circumstance that the debt was contracted last September, while the noble Earl was paying assiduous attentions to the American heiress who has now become his bride, but the money lenders who accommodated the needy borrower were so skeptical of his matrimonial success that the interest charge was fixed at the usurious rate of 20 per cent per annum, with an added penalty equivalent to the original amount of the loan.

According to some of the dispatches the Earl had the grace to appear "embarrassed" when the two constables, unbidden guests at the wedding function, appeared to serve the writ.

It would be difficult to imagine a courtship so mercenary and so utterly devoid of romance as that of the Earl of Yarmouth appears to have been. He was known, even before he met Miss Thaw, as a fortune hunter whose rank was expected to purchase a wealthy wife. In the Pittsburg heiress he found a girl endowed with the requisite millions, yet scarcely had the engagement been announced when the news was made public that the match had been broken off because the dowry her mother proposed to give was inadequate to meet the Earl's necessities. In accordance with the English custom, so repugnant to American ideas, another conference of the lawyers was held and a bargain was finally reached.

Comment is idle. Reports of the affair might better find a place in the commercial than in the social columns of the newspapers.

MORGAN THE BUCCANEER.

The great Shipping Trust organized by J. Pierpont Morgan and his associates was the theme of vigorous discussion in the British Parliament last week, and some unamiable comments were made during the debate. One outspoken member declared that the vessels of the trust should not be permitted to fly the British flag, as they are, to all intents and purposes, pirates.

This view of the case is an interesting one. There are some points of strong similarity between the methods of the trust and those of the old time buccaneer. It would be hard to say which is the more to be dreaded by the modest merchantman. True, he is no longer compelled to walk the plank, but he must get off the earth, which is worse. The Shipping Trust, with the Jolly Roger at the masthead and Captain Morgan in command (not the first of the name to rove the seas) may well strike terror into the hearts of our British cousins.

Russia is preparing to bite off another big chunk of Chinese territory, as soon as Manchuria has been thoroughly digested. Mongolia is to be the next mouthful, according to Oriental dispatches.

For the information of the editorial writer on an evening contemporary, it should be stated that Sir Thomas Lipton's yacht, Shamrock III, in the disaster which recently befell her, lost only one mast, not several, possibly for the reason that she had but one to lose. Most people are aware that it is many years since any yachts save "single stickers" were entered in competition for the America cup.

The proposed visit of Illinois legislators to the opening of the St. Louis Fair is a good idea. The lawmakers of the two states should be able to give one another some valuable pointers upon the best and safest methods of grafting and accepting bribes.

A good many lambs had to be sheared to build Wall street's new four million dollar stock exchange.

SENSE AND NONSENSE

In the East there is complaint because winter seems to linger in the lap of spring. Out here in Oregon winter never has that blessed privilege.

Mark Twain says he never eats strawberries because to do so would spoil his taste for prunes.

Germany appears to be looking for an opportunity to be insulted by Uncle Sam. Uncle Sam's good nature can stand a great deal. The bigger the man and the bigger the nation, the freer they are from irritation and ill will.

A Republican worker who lost his glass eye while "running with the machine," is most vociferous for reward for his services in behalf of the "grand old party."

Even the passenger agents of Eastern railroads are loud in their praise of Oregon's climate, and they only "got a taste."

The Missouri Legislature is proving to be a modern school for scandal. There is one regret about it—that the honored name of Lee should be involved.

Some one has discovered that sharks are fond of limberger cheese. Gott 'e himmel! (?)

An Oregon editor is showing traces of mental derangement over worrying if he will be able to get his clothes over his wings when he takes his departure from this sphere.

Of late the battleship Iowa is being "rushed" about as if she were a member of a football team.

If Sir Thomas Lipton succeeds in "lifting the cup," we will "lift" our hat to him. His persistency is admirable, but his fine temper is beyond comparison.

Senator Hanna is beginning to discover there is something to Tom Johnsonism after all. Sincerity and performance, coupled with a spirit of fairness, and Tom Johnson has these, make a great card with the people.

It is said President Roosevelt does not believe in "war talk." We do not believe this report. The President's own tendency in this direction gives the lie to it. However, it is possible he wishes to do all the "rough talking."

Mr. Bryan calls Mr. Cleveland a "has-been." If Mr. Cleveland should respond in kind he would say Bryan is "a never was."

In these days it is barely possible to see a baseball game without thinking in sulphurous language.

Anybody is at perfect liberty to believe the story that George Barr McCutcheon has been paid $20,000 in advance for a new novel by Dodd, Mead & Co. But we'll bet Dodd, Mead & Co. do not believe it.—Chicago Journal.

The Missouri Legislature owes its fall to too much baking powder, which is noted for its self-rising influence. Some things do go by contrary.

Hon. Binger Hermann was "fired" out of a government office at Washington and now he wants to be "fired" back by the people of Oregon. The people's voice should not be used as a cat's paw.

SUBALTERN WAS TOO GAY.

Conferred Titles With Reckless Disregard of the Truth.

In one of the northwest provinces of India a small garrison of English troops was besieged. A compact force was sent to relieve it. After struggling through mountain passes knee deep in snow it succeeded, but was compelled to remain in occupation of the relieved garrison town for months and communication was difficult. When summer came the officer in charge of the relieving force was anxious to know what honors had been conferred on himself and his men. He wore out the patience of the field and hello staff with his queries. At last a sapper subaltern at the base determined to stop the demands. He drew up a bogus list of honors and signaled it to the relief force, little thinking he was dealing with the chief of the expedition. He raised the chief to the peerage and distributed the other honors so judiciously and naturally that the message was published in the orders of the day by the chief, who took on himself the title and style of baron. He also sent the news by wire to Simla, where his wife took on the style and title of a wife of a peer. This lasted 10 days, after which things happened to the facetious sapper subaltern.

The Butcher Man's Moan.

With garb uncouth and grim face marked
By many a furrowed line;
With tear and sigh and moan he said,
"My name is Christian Klein.

"I was an East Side butcher, sir,
For many happy years;
A false love slaughtered my fond hopes—
So pray excuse these steers!

"Oh, fickle Katie Dinkelspiel!
Why for you did I yearn?
Why give to you my fresh heart, and
Ask shewers in return?

"I said I'd carve my way to wealth;
She vowed she'd marry me.
Infatuated! the time
How brisket seemed to flee!

"But she proved false. One day she wrote—
It was no tenderline.
"I love the banker, and I am
Frankfurter own it, Klein!

"I liver lone for him, and oh!
He finds his knead in me.
I never sausage love as his!
He suets me to a T!"

"I read, then cried, 'She's tongue me deep!
A viper have I nursed!"
Oh, sir, of all bad cuts I've had,
That was the very wurst.

"One thought is branded in my brain—
Your pity, pray, allow—
Where my poor head she fondled once,
His head cheese pressing now!"

Then paused the uncouth butcher man,
And fierce his eyes did glare;
And, closing tight his brawny fist,
Right furiously he sware:

"False Katie Kinkelspiel!" he cried,
"I'll haunch ye till I die!
But saddle be my lonely lot!"
"Pork Christian Klein!" quoth I.

The good man dried his tearful eyes,
And said, "It's bock beer time;
Oh, sir! Oh, could you favor me
Bologna me a dime?"
—New York Sun.

"The first thing to be done," said the committeeman in an important tone, "is to organize. Therefore—"

"I beg your pardon," said an older member; "we have not been photographed yet."—Judge.

EARLY FLYING MACHINES

"Some day in the very near future an American inventor will produce a perfect flying machine, and when that day comes all danger of war will pass, because every improvement in the line of defense tends to increase the power of arbitration, and no country would want to war against the country that owned a covey of armed flying machines," said an old employe of the patent office. "Our Government, I am sorry to say, has never done anything in the way of encouraging the ambition of flying machine inventors, and the records will bear me out in making this assertion. Among my papers I have the record of the first appeal to Congress by an American who, in his petition to the Congress, claimed to have solved the problem of aerial navigation. But Congress turned a deaf ear to the petitioner.

"This happened during the first session of the Seventeenth Congress. On Monday, March 25, 1822, Representative Milnor, of Pennsylvania, presented to the House the following petition, which was read for information: 'James Bennett, a mathematician of the city of Philadelphia, to the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, most respectfully showeth:

"'That your petitioner having invented a machine by which a man can fly through the air—can soar to any height—steer in any direction—can start from any place, and alight without risk of injury; and whereas a like machine has never been invented in any country or age of the world, so as to be applied to purposes of practical utility, and as it is more than probable that artificial flying would not, for a thousand years to come, be brought to the same degree of perfection had not your petitioner under Providence accomplished it, and, as it must be evident to all that letters patent would be of little use to the inventor in consequence of various modifications or improvements which might be made, and which never would have been opened by your petitioner: He therefore solicits a special act of the Congress of the United States to secure to him and his heirs for the term of forty years, or for such other term as in their wisdom may be deemed just, the right of steering flying machines through that portion of earth's atmosphere which presses on the United States, or so far as their jurisdiction may extend.

"'By granting your petitioner's request the honor of the invention shall be conferred on the United States.

"'J. BENNETT, A. and M.

"'Philadelphia, Feb. 13, 1822.'

"After the petition had been read Mr. Milnor moved to refer it to the committee on judiciary, but this motion was opposed by Mr. Sargent on the ground that his committee did not undertake to soar into regions so high; that the duties of the judiciary committee were nearer the earth. Mr. Walworth thought the petition should be referred to the committee on roads and canals. But the House refused to do this. The petition was finally laid on the table.

"About a week later, to be accurate, the first of April, Representative Keyes presented a petition from David B. Lee, of Philadelphia, in which the petitioner claimed to be the original inventor of the flying machine mentioned in a petition from James Bennett. Lee in his petition 'prayed that no right or privilege may be granted to said Bennett on account of said invention, but that Congress grant him (Lee) exclusive right and privilege of navigating the atmosphere either with flying machines or with navigable balloons throughout the United States.'

"The two petitions were referred to a special committee but there is no record that the committee ever made a report on the merits of flying machines. If Congress had taken the matter up at that time there is no telling but that we would have by this time been flying through the air instead of making speed with automobiles."

Light-Weight Paper for Books.

Let the weary-handed novel reader cheer up and let the frowning book worm smooth the kinks out of his back and brow. The inventive American has at last discovered a process for making lightweight book paper, and some of our publishers have begun to use it. If the public shows a proper preference for the lightweight books the old and ponderous style of volume is doomed. The reader will no longer be driven to the Hobson's choice of suffering with aching wrists and ruffled temper if he holds the book in a natural position or taxing his eyesight and his health by leaning over the book as it lies on a table.

To be sure, the English are years ahead of us on this reform. Both in thin paper and in light-weight books they have long excelled. The English esparto paper, made from a rushlike grass, makes a volume that is a delight both to the eye and to the hand. This paper is made in limited qualities, even in England, because of the scarcity of the grass. Five years ago several American publishers began agitating for a light paper of this kind. It has taken a long time to get it, but at last the manufacturers are producing something satisfactory. It is not smooth, like the old clay-weighted paper, hence it cannot be used for halftone illustrations; but as a rule one would rather go without the pictures and get a book that weighs 30 or 40 per cent less, so that it can be read without physical weariness. It is to be hoped that this long-desired reform will be adopted by all the publishers. We are weary of "light" summer novels that weigh several pounds apiece. Let us be optimists and hope soon to see the time when we can take a whole half-dozen novels in our vacation satchels without paying excess baggage rates.—Chicago Record-Herald.

The Tallest People.

In a comparative table of stature, arranged according to nationalities, the United States Indian stands higher than any other race of the world, though the Patagonian runs him very close. The white citizen comes next. The United States negro ranks 14th in the scale, and of all the countries of the world considered the Portuguese are found to be the shortest. It has always been proverbial among anatomists that blond nations are greater than their darker neighbors. This is due to the geological positions of the blond races. They are characteristic of the north, and on account of the lower degree of temperature are induced to take more exercise, which throws them more in the open air. At the top of the list of countries, arranged in order of stature, the first seven, after the United States, white men, are Norway, Scotland, British America, Sweden, Ireland, Denmark and Holland, all northern nations.—Detroit Tribune.

Mayor a Baker.

Mayor Fleischmann, who has just been re-elected in Cincinnati, is the proprietor of a large bakery, one branch of which is in New York. It has been his practice for many years to give away 500 loaves of bread daily to the poor. These benefactions, amounting to 183,000 loaves annually, have made his name widely known among the more unfortunate.

GOOD BISHOP HAS MADE MANY FRIENDS

BISHOP QUIGLEY.

Bishop Quigley, recently appointed to the Chicago diocese, is earning great popularity in the latest field of his work. In Buffalo, which city he left to accept the present call, his personality made him greatly loved. He is one of the most popular bishops of the Catholic Church.

TRINIDAD'S PROSPERITY.

Cultivation of the Cocoa Plant Has Increased Island's Wealth.

At a time when the majority of the West India Islands are groaning under the consequences of depression in the sugar trade and are looking with lingering hope to the operation of the abolition of foreign bounties, Trinidad may be described as in a state of booming prosperity. Sweet are the uses of adversity. A quarter of a century ago, when the pinching of the shoe of the cane planter was first felt, Trinidad, like her sister islands, was chiefly dependent on the sugar market. This failing them, the inhabitants did not fold their hands and lament their evil lot. Endowed with the inheritance of a fertile country, they resolved to cultivate some product other than that which had enriched their fathers. They found it at hand in the cocoa plant, the yield from which, in addition to other sources of revenue exceeds the most sanguine expectations of 30 years ago.

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Most southern of the islands, Trinidad lies close to the Spanish Main of which, according to geological testimony, it once formed an integral part. In times of peace it derives considerable trade from Venezuela, which, with a more enlightened fiscal policy on the part of Venezuelan governments, might easily be quadrupled. President Castro made constant effort to strangle the trade. On all goods imported from Trinidad he clapped an impost of 30 per cent. Just before the blockade was declared he prohibited all communication between the island and the mainland. The consequence was that the warehouses in Port of Spain were choked with goods meant for Venezuela. Some relief has been afforded by the action of the British ships now in these waters. Approaching Caracas, they have given convoy to merchant ships loaded with cargo. Through the same kindly offices a number of Venezuelans were safely escorted. I am told that when the emigrants reached the wharves of Port of Spain they fell on their knees and kissed the soil over which waved the flag of free England.

Trinidad, approximating to the size of Lancashire, has an area of 1,120,000 acres, of which 800,000 are cultivable. According to the census taken two years ago, the population is 253,000, the odd 53,000 representing the increase during the last decade. It is mainly Christian, the Roman Catholic Church claiming the largest proportion. There are 78,000 East Indians, who remain faithful to their native creed. In the northern parts of the island the vulgar language is a strange French patois. In other parts early parentage is testified to by the use of the Spanish tongue. The ubiquitous Chinese is not unknown, being generally met with behind the counter of the miscellaneous store.

* * * *

When the slave trade was abolished, planters were at their wits' ends to obtain field hands. The manumitted slave came to the conclusion that he and his forbears had worked hard enough for one family. With abundance yielded as the fruits of the earth and the capacity of living on very little, he found that he could in three days earn enough to sustain himself for a week. Why, then, labor through the remaining four days? He did not, and the planters were faced by the prospect of their cane remaining uncut. Thereupon was established a system of immigration. The East Indies were called upon to redress the balance created by the new state of affairs in the West. The coolies come here under indenture to serve at a fair wage for five years. At the end of 10 years they may, if they please, demand a free return passage home. I am told there is not more than one in five who avails himself of this privilege.—London Correspondence London Times.

His Time for Disappearing.

When Mr. Alles, assistant secretary of the treasury, was returning from Cuba a few days ago a young man whom he had seen on the Key West steamer came up to him on the train and began a conversation with easy familiarity.

"Get any cigars through?" asked the affable young man.

"Oh, yes," replied Mr. Alles. "A couple of boxes."

"Didn't pay any duty on 'em, I hope?"

"Yes, I paid duty," said Mr. Alles, sadly.

"Oh, pshaw!" said the young man. "You're dead slow. I got 250 through and they didn't pay duty."

"You see," said Mr. Alles, "the difference between us is that I am an assistant secretary of the treasury."

The young man vanished and Mr. Alles did not see him again during the trip to Washington.—New York Herald.

TROUBLE IN GERMAN EMBASSY.

Baron Von Sternburg's Promotion Aroused Jealousy.

WASHINGTON, April 23.—A brief cable dispatch from Berlin the other day, quoting the Taegliche Rundschau as saying that the military and forestry attaches of the German Embassy in Washington had returned to Germany, owing to the failure of Minister von Sternburg to leave cards upon their wives, attracted a great deal of attention in diplomatic circles here.

That much of the story which indicates that friction caused the return of the two attaches is correct, but it is not understood that any action of Baron von Sternburg's was responsible for the trouble. In fact, from all accounts, the shoe is on the other foot, and there is more to the story than the Berlin newspaper tells.

The trouble at the German Embassy is attributed primarily to the promotion of Baron Sternburg from the rank of Consul-General to that of Minister and Envoy on extraordinary mission. He was thus advanced through every subordinate grade of the German diplomatic service.

* * * *

When Baron and Baroness Sternburg arrived in Washington only one member of the embassy staff, the chief clerk, met them at the railroad station. It soon began to appear that there was a studied attempt on the part of the attaches of the embassy to show as little courtesy as possible to the new Minister and to his wife, who was Miss Langham, an American.

The Countess Quadt, wife of the Counsellor of the embassy, failed to call on Baroness Sternburg. It was said that this was due to resentment on Count Quadt's part over the promotion of Baron Sternburg, the Count having been of higher rank in the diplomatic service than the new Minister, and to the claim of Countess Quadt that she was of higher rank in the nobility than Baroness Sternburg, and it was, therefore, the duty of the Minister's wife to pay the first call. Ultimately, however, Countess Quadt called on Baroness Sternburg, but it is said that the latter, having heard of statements made by Countess Quadt, deemed it her duty not to return the visit.

According to current gossip, Count Quadt was not alone in resenting Baron Sternburg's promotion, the other members of the embassy staff, with the exception of Count von Montgelas, Third Secretary, sharing his feelings. Baron von Ritter zu Grunstein, Second Secretary, did not pay a visit of courtesy to the new Minister, and is reported to have failed to attend to his official duties. Major Otto von Etzel, the military attache, and Herr A. Scheck, the expert in agriculture and forestry of the embassy, are said to have also shown no desire to assist the Minister or to perform the social courtesies due to his position as their chief.

* * * *

It was inevitable from the beginning that Baron Sternburg would be obliged to make sweeping changes in the embassy staff or ask to be recalled. As soon as the serious aspect of the Venezuelan trouble had disappeared, Count Quadt obtained leave of absence, Baron Ritter resigned his post in Washington, Major Etzell went back to Germany also, and Herr Scheck obtained a transfer to another post.

The general opinion among members of the diplomatic corps appears to be that Baron Sternburg pursued a conservative and patient course. His resentment of the alleged attempt to slight his wife is widely commended. It is proper to say that the statements made in this dispatch concerning the trouble at the embassy were not obtained there. They have been known in the diplomatic circle for several weeks.

The Future of Niagara.

It is not difficult to understand the uneasiness which is felt at Niagara Falls over the possible effects of future power developments. So unique is the majestic spectacle there that it may truly be said that it belongs not alone to New York and to Ontario, but to the whole world. It is a treasure held in trust. Despite the universal veneration in which Lord Kelvin is held as an authority in science, few people would agree with him in wishing to see this wonderful cataract given up entirely to industrial service. Were it feasible to hold a plebiscite among the enlightened classes of America and Europe the proposition would probably meet with an overwhelming negative.

Softening the Expression.

"I have no doubt you have heard some stories to my discredit," he said.

"I don't like to put it in that way," she quickly replied.

"How, then?" he hopefully asked.

"I have never heard any stories to your credit," she said.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

THE TELEGRAPH POLE

Between Chicago and Denver, a distance of 1,050 miles, along one line of railway, there are 31,500 telegraph poles. They are set 176 feet apart, or 30 to the mile. As there are considerably more than 200,000 miles of steam railway in the United States, increasing in mileage each year, and many roads have double lines of poles to accommodate the great number of wires required to transact the telegraphic business of the country, there are 8,000,000 poles in use on railway lines. When to this is added the poles used by trolley lines and by telegraph and telephone companies we find an aggregate of 15,000,000 poles in use. If these should be replaced at once it would require 250,000 flat cars to transport them, 8,000 locomotives necessary to haul the trains, which if continuous would reach 1,750 miles. If the poles were placed end to end they would reach more than three times around the earth at the equator.

A large majority of the poles in use are of white cedar, Thuya occidentalis, which grows in the swamps of Northern Michigan, Wisconsin and in Canada. Some are of Oregon pine, a smaller number are of red cedar, Juniperus Virginiana, while a limited number are sawed from Washington cedar, Thuya gigantea. If the trees to replace the poles now in use were growing and forty could be obtained from each acre, it would require 370,000 acres to supply the poles for one renewal. Were the seed already sown and started into growth, it would be A. D. 2050, when the trees would be of sufficient size to use for first-class telegraph poles.

* * * *

There are few American forest trees which combine the qualities necessary to make good poles: Durability in the ground; great length of trunk, freedom from large side branches which form knots; straight trunk with a regular taper, holding the size to great height. The Northern swamp white cedar has long been considered the ideal tree for telegraph poles, but so scarce are these becoming that during the past year or two many carloads of pine from Idaho and Washington have been shipped East to rebuild telegraph lines in both Michigan and Wisconsin, where the cedar was formerly so abundant. The long time required for cedar to grow into a size suitable for this purpose, 100 to 150 years, is discouraging to investors who might wish to plant trees or hold forest property for the world's markets. The Tennessee and Southern red cedar is more durable, but is now very scarce, besides it is too valuable for lead pencil timber, and is of very slow growth. The Juniper found in the dismal swamp also possesses the qualities of a good pole tree, but is quite scarce.

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The specifications for telegraph poles demand timbers of unusual length, varying from twenty-four to fifty feet, having a diameter of eight to ten inches at top. They are set in the ground four and one-half to six feet. Transportation is a great item of expense on poles. One car at Salt Lake City, from Michigan to Oregon Short Line Railway, contained sixty-six poles weighing 33,000 pounds, the freight being $4 per pole. Upon any good farm land in the Middle States the Catalpa Speciosa may be grown in sixteen years to a size suitable for telegraph poles, and for the largest size in twenty years. Four or five times as many can be grown on an acre, systematically planted, as are secured in the Northern swamps.

They may be grown near the points where they are to be used, and thus avoid excessive transportation, and when once placed in position on the line require to be renewed but twice in a century. It will cost to produce such poles of Catalpa less than $1 each, an investment which should attract the attention of business men as safe and profitable.—Arboriculture.

BIG POWER PLANT.

Work has been resumed on the new power plant to be installed by the Northern California Power Company on Cow Creek, Shasta County, says the Redding Free Press. It will be remembered that all work on this big enterprise was suspended as a result of the strike at Iron Mountain and Keswick. This is the company which supplies electric power to various towns between Willows and Redding. Now that the strike is practically ended the power company sees its way clear to proceed and install the plant.

This new plant of the Northern California Power Company will develop 4,000 horse power and will enable the company to branch out in new fields and send the electrical fluid through the counties from Redding to San Francisco. The company may eventually enter the field farther south and become a competitor of the Bay Counties Power Company.

The installation of the new plant at Cow Creek will afford employment for several hundred men during the spring and summer.

The Disappointed.

There are songs enough for the hero
Who dwells on the height of fame;
I sing for the disappointment—
For those who missed their aim.

I sing with a tearful cadence
For one who stands in the dark,
And knows that his last, best arrow
Has bounded back from the mark.

I sing for the breathless runner,
The eager, anxious soul,
Who falls with his strength exhausted
Almost in sight of the goal.

For the hearts that break in silence
With a sorrow all unknown;
For those who need companions,
Yet walk their way alone.

There are songs enough for the lovers,
Who share love's tender pain;
I sing for the one whose passion
Is given all in vain.

For those whose spirit comrades
Have missed them on the way,
I sing with a heart o'erflowing,
This minor strain today.

And I know the solar system
Must somewhere keep in space
A prize for that spent runner
Who barely lost the race.

For the plan would be imperfect
Unless it held some sphere
That paid the toil and talent
And love that are wasted here.
—Ella Wheeler Wilcox

The Footpath to Peace.

To be glad of life because it gives you the chance to love and to work and to play and to look up at the stars; to be satisfied with your possessions, but not contented with yourself until you have made the best of them; to despise nothing in the world except falsehood and meanness, and to fear nothing except cowardice; to be governed by your admirations rather than by your disgusts; to covet nothing that is your neighbor's except his kindness of heart and gentleness of manners; to think seldom of your enemies, often of your friends, and every day of Christ; and to spend as much time as you can, with body and with spirit, in God's out-of-doors—these are little guideposts on the footpath to peace.—Henry Van Dyke.

What is the difference between a wealthy toper and a skilled miner? One turns his gold into quarts, the other turns his quartz into gold.