THE FLAG, OF DISTRESS.

Over the Ocean of Being. Till the wind fails, Fast on their venturous voyage Speed the white sails!

But from the ships that have foundered, Laboring slow,
Hardly abreast of the billows,
The rough rafts go.

Thereon the stranded from shipwreck Painfully lie. Lead seems the water around them Brazen the sky.

Cruel the ships that in safety Steadfastly speed, Cruelest souls that aboard them Reck not nor heed.

Nayl for across the wan water No appeal fails! Nay! for the tiniest signals Stay the white sails!

Some from the ship will come speeding Eager to save, Heirs to one glory of living, Heirs to one grave

But if the bearers of succor Find not the track? If to the hail of the helpers Nothing come back?

What if the wash of the waters Drown the heart throb? If the wild winds in their courses

Say, shall the true hearts of comrades Vainly be stirred? Thou who so sorrowest, answer? Some one has heard! -L. M. Little in Academy.

The Sacred Books of Ceylon.

There are three books regarded as sacred by Buddhists of Ceylon. The first, called the Mahavanso, is the most highly venerated. It has been very carefully handed down from generation to generation, the most ancient copies not varying in the least from those of modern date. The Mahavanso contains "The Doctrine, Race and Lineage of Buddha," besides the authentic annals of Cevlonese Buddhism.

Next to the Mahavanso in point of veneration is the "Learned Priest's" history of Buddha, called the Rajaratna-This book also contains extracts from other antique works, besides a record of the erection of the various temples and shrines of the island and a history of the kings from the year 540 The third of the Cevlonese sacred books is called the Rajavali or "Light Giver;" it is simply a modern supplement of the other two and brings the records down to date. The main portion is given up to recording events in Ceylonese history since the advent of the the Dutch, especial attention being given to that portion of the work which tells of the expulsion of the Portuguese. -St. Louis Republic.

Silk Weaving by Electricity.

An interesting trial has been made in Germany with silk weavers' looms worked by electricity. By a cable of 100 feet in length, a one horse power electric shunt motor, with 100 volts and four amperes, was put in motion, and the transmission for the weavers' looms was restricted by a communicator to seventy-two revolutions. Two weavers' looms were put in motion, the result being that the working by electricity was more satisfactory than that by means of caloric engines or gas motors, and the swinging masses, otherwise necessary for the working on a small scale, can be dispensed with. The German papers think the results named show that house industry could easily be made to flourish by the transmission of electric power, and this all the more as electricity can be transmitted, equally well under any temperature.-New York Telegram.

Paid the Reporter.

orter in Sherman, Mich., published an item announcing an approaching wedding, and the next day was accosted by the gentleman named as bridegroom, who gravely asked him on whose authority he had made the announce-Before the timid reporter could reply the man groped for his pistol pocket, and the reporter thought his nour of doom had come. Imagine his joy when, instead of a pistol, the man produced a pocketbook, from which he extracted a five dollar bill. This he thankfully gave to the reporter, saying that the marriage announcement had spared him the trouble of popping the question.-Exchange.

"Coat" Means "Dress" in Ireland

"Coat" is a word that has gained in breadth of meaning. It is not simply the outer covering of the upper part of the body of the male creature; women's rights are so far recognized in Ireland that the word applies as well to a feminine article of dress; but, indeed, to the corresponding article to that worn by the men-that is, a jacket-but it is among the working classes (and to this class alone what has been written applies) the usual word for "dress."-Lon-

The Human Voice.

An interesting incident showing at how great a distance a conversation can be carried on is related by Lieutenant Foster, of the third Parry arctic expedition, in which he says that he conversed with a man across the harbor of Port Bowers, a mile and a quarter away, and it has also been asserted on good authority that at Gibraltar the human voice has been disinctly heard at a distance of ten miles. -Harper's Young People.

There was in London a few years ago a lady who had the most intense abhor-rence of white loaf sugar. Did she happen to come into contact with that ocent article, or were even a lump of it brought into her presence, she would be seized with a violent paroxysm of

A sagacious dog, which had been confined for a week in a barn near Gibson. made his escape finally by climbing the weather boarding a distance of fifteen feet and then jumping to the ground.

The revival of the popularity of brass work has created a new industry and set thousands of men at work making beautiful brass goods for domestic utensils, fancy goods and ornamental work.

TRADES IN SKELETONS.

A PHILADELPHIA FRENCHMAN'S GREW-SOME BUSINESS.

A Dealer Who Has Handled Over Five Thousand Skeletons During His Lugubrious Career-Hideous Decorations of a Bedroom-A Being That Loves Bones.

To deal in the bones of human beings would be an occupation repugnant to most men. Yet in the vicinity of Sixth and South streets lives an old Frenchman who finds more pleasure in this occupation than anything else in his life. His store is a veritable den of skeletons. The weather beaten sign swinging over the door, creaking dismally with every gust of wind, bears this simple legend, "M. de Robaire, Parfumerie," from which it is evident monsieur would have the world believe that he deals almost exclusively in those perfumed waters so dear to the feminine heart. Every family has a skeleton in the closet, however, and monsieur's family, which consists only of himself, is no exception to the general rule. He has his skeleton—in fact he has scores of them-in closets and otherwise, the majority otherwise. The truth of the matter is, the old

Frenchman deals in skeletons. The second floor boasts of only two small rooms, the rear one being used as a workshop, while the other, directly over the store and fronting en the street, serves the double purpose of bedcham-

ber and storeroom. Such another bedchamber as the one occupied by the old Frenchman probably does not exist, and how monsieur manages to sleep the sleep of the just among such grewsome surroundings is an insolvable mystery to the few who have been admitted to it.

The walls of the small room are ornamented with skulls and crossbones and real life size skeletons, or rather death size skeletons, in all sorts of grotesque positions. Four hideous skulls grin from their positions on top of the four posts of the bed, and close to the sides of the bed stands a skeleton with arms outstretched doing duty as a clothes rack. The whole is dimly lighted up by a faint glimmer of light emanating from a lamp made of a ghastly skull suspended from the middle of the ceiling with thongs of tanned human hide.

THE SKELETON TRADE. De Rebaire himself is an odd looking man, and the resemblance between him and one of his own skeletons is decidedly striking. He has gaunt, wolflike features, his thin upper lip and bony chin being adorned with an iron gray mous-

tache and imperial. For a score of years he has been carrying on his business in the old place, having emigrated from France in 1855, coming direct to Philadelphia, where he established himself in business. For a time he had a hard struggle to keep body and soul together, owing to the number of competitors in the field, together with the duliness of business. It soon became necessary for him, in addition to his other trade, to set himself up as a druggist, and he still runs his little shop,

though principally as a decoy.

Late in the sixties, when the Knights of Pythias were organized in this state, the demand for skeletons increased, asthey were used to a great extent in the lodgerooms. De Robaire prospered, as a consequence, since most of his competitors had given up the business.

Off and on during the following twenty years business was dull and brisk by why he should longer continue in the business except that he has taken a liking to his work, such as every true artist does. He is an artist in the full sense of the word. There is undoubtedly no one who can articulate a skeleton as neatly as he, and it is no idle boast on his part when he claims that with eyes blindfolded he can take a mass of bonesrepresenting the human frame and build up the skeleton as it was originally, without one bone out of place.

WHAT THE "DOCTOR" SAYS. The "doctor," while standing in his workshop a few days ago with his sleeves rolled up over his skinny arms, thus held forth on the subject nearest his heart: "This skeleton you see me operating on I have imported from France. You will notice the high polish on the bones, due to a method of preparation practiced only by the French. They clean the bones by a process of maceration with muriatic acid, the whole operation requiring two or three months time, while in this country the bones are hastily and carelessly boiled and come out rough and dirty. In all my twenty years' service I have never come across a Chinese skeleton. This is due to the fact that a Chinaman believes he will not reach heaven unless his bones rest in the Flowery Kingdom.

"The different prices of skeletons are based upon their degrees of hardness and whiteness, upon the devolopment of the bones and the amount of absence of fat in their extremities. For this reason the French article is decidedly of more value than the American or German. Up to this year over 2,600 skeletons have been imported into this country, but estal at the corner of Perry and Clinthey have become scarce of late for ton streets in that city.—Detroit Free some reason, and to supply the demand iress. I find it necessary to manufacture them

of paper.
"Of course I have a stock of them in my bedroom, but I would not part with any of these. Mon Dieu! I have come to any of these. Mon Dieu! I have come to look upon them as dear friends and companions. Here you see my artificial skeletons, made of papier mache, with artificial teeth, and the whole covered with a white polish which gives the appearance of the genuine article. I can make three of these each week, and they bring from ten to fifteen dollars, while the imported genuine article costs from thirty to thirty-five dollars and the domestic twenty dollars. But then the imitations

e bought only by secret societies. "Yes, I have grown old in the busi-ness and love it. I have articulated and handled over 5,000 skeletons in my time." -Philadelphia Record.

It was autumn. He was a Boston book agent. The front door bell rang.

The kitchen girl answered the peal. "Good morning, ma'am." "Humph!" "Is the lady of the house in?"

"She is." "Can I see her?"

"You can. Both stand in motionless silence ex-

pectantly. "You said I could see the lady of the

"I did." "Well, why don't I see the lady of the

house then?" "You see her." Girl looks down frigidly.

Agent looks up paralyzed.
"Then I would like to see the personage who owns the property."

"At Lenox." "Then I want to see the man, woman or child, lady, gentleman, dowager, old maid, bachelor or heir at law who rents this property from the Lenox owner."

"Oh, you want to see the woman that assists me with the work! Why didn't you say so in the first place? This vulgar carelessness of the use of the word

'lady' is very aggravating." "Yes. I expect so-is she in?"

"No." "When will she be in?"

"Won't be in."
"Why not? Where is she?" "I gave her a week's vacation to spend with her husband at Marblehead, so's she could rest up ready for the fall house cleaning. You didn't think I was going

His One Foolish Act.

to do it all myself, did you?"-Boston

The young woman had secured permission to speak to the good looking young convict. It was just a feminine fancy-a desire to learn something of his

"You don't look like a criminal," she said abruptly. He smiled at the rather uncertain com-

"I never did but one criminal thing in my life," he said.

"Only one?" she said, in rather a disappointed tone. She had expected to find a man steeped in crime. "Why, your sentence is for ten years, isn't it?"

inal act.' "What was the cause of that one?" she inquired curiously.

"Just a whim, miss-a youthful whim, he replied rather bitterly. "I thought it manly to carry a revolver." "And you were attacked some night?"

she asked quickly. "And you"-He shook his head. "And you're here just for that?" she

"Like others, just for that," he returned quietly. "I quarreled with a friend, lest my temper, and-I'm here, miss. That's

He suddenly turned away and went back to his work .- Cincinnati Commer cial Gazette.

How Cocoanuts Are Harvested. The lasy season on a cocoanut plantation is when the nuts ripen, which they seem to do all at once, and every hand is engaged in gathering and conveying them with carts to the drying ground, which is always in close proximity to the bungalow, so as to be as much a

possible under the eye of the manager. Here they are split in half, longitudinally, with an ax-afeat which is dexterously performed with one blow by the man appointed for this duty-and then turns, but the old man had amassed a spread out to dry. The intense heat of small fortune, and there is no reason the sun rapidly shrivels the kernel. which curls up into a ball the size of your fist and detaches itself from the

This is now what is called "copra and is shipped to the nearest point of landing in sacks, where it is either transported in bulk to Europe or more generally made into oil, the refuse—oil cake or "poonak"—being sold locally for feed for cattle.-Frank Leslie's Monthly.

How They Learned to Make Perfumes What the French know about per fume making is not all the result of their own experience. The traditionary history of the art is that the Hebrews imparted the little they knew to their captors, the Egyptians, who in turn gave their formulas to the Greeks and Romans. The Moors then took a hand at improving these crude efforts, and when they invaded Europe left their art in Spain, whence it soon reached France. There it found its home and resting place, and today no nation can compete with France in the science and art of perfume making.—New York Evening

The Swamp Angel.

The Swamp Angel was an 8-inch, 200-pounder Parrott rifled gun, mounted by the Federal troops in a morass on Morris island, Charleston harbor, in 1863. On Ang. 22 and 23 the city of Charleston, five and a half miles distant, was shelled, the gun bursting at the thirtysixth shot. After the war the Swamp Angel was sold for old metal and conveyed to Trenton, but having been identified, it was set up on a granite ped-

For Honest Men's Rights.

That is a rather fine point of law which holds that a man with burglar's tools on commit burglary, but it is good law for the protection of the community. The steps of a dwelling are private property, and one who trespasses upon them with unlawful purpose has committed an un-lawful deed.—Philadelphia Ledger.

An Unusual Position.

Photographer-If you'll hold your chin a little higher, sir, I can take a better

Mr. Henpeck,—Hold my chin higher? Why, man alive, I've been married twenty years!—Texas Siftings.

STIPATION

Afflicts half the American people yet there is only one preparation of Sarsaparilla that acts on the bowels and reaches this important trouble, and that is Joy's Vegetable Sarsaparilla. It relieves it in 24 hours, and an occasional dose prevents return. We refer by permission to C. E. Elkington, 125 Locust Avenue, San Francisco; J. H. Brown, Petaluma; H. S. Winn, Geary Court, Sen Francisco, and hundreds of others who have used it in constipation. One letter is a sample of hundreds. Elkington, writes: "I have been for years subject to billous headaches and coustipa-Have been so bad for a year back have had to take a physic every other night or else I would have a headache. After taking one bottle of J. V. S., I am in splendid shape. It has done wonderful things for me. People similarly troubled should try it and be convinced."

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A Severe Law.



to the genuineness of these staples than we do. In fact, they have a law under which they make seizures and de stroy adulterated products that are

not what they are represented to be. Under been burned because of their wholesale adul-

Tea, by the way, is one of the most notorionely adulterated articles of commerce. Not alone are the bright, shiny green teas artificially colored, but thousands of pounds of substitutes for tea leaves are used to swell the bulk of cheap tes; ash, sloe, and willow leaves being those most commonly used. Again, sweepings from tea watchous colored and sold as tea. Even exhausted tea leaves gathered from the tea-houses are kept, dried, and made over and find their way into

The Euglish government at empts to stamp this out by confiscation; but no tea is too poor for u, and the result is, that probably the poorest teasused by any nation are those consumed in America.

Beech's Tea is presented with the guar-auty that it is uncolored and unadulterated; in fact, the sun-cured tea leaf pure and sim ple. Its purity insures superior strength, an infusion than of the a tilletal teas, and its fragrance and exquisite flavor is at once apot. It will be a revelation to you. In order that its purity and quality may be guaranteed, it is sold only in pound packages bearing this trade-mark

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