

An "It" Which Saved a Life.

I was sauntering down Regent street one evening, as twilight came on, when I suddenly ran up against my old friend, James Rayton, whom I was as glad to see as he to give me a hearty greeting.

"Where's the best of you, old fellow?" he asked, "and how are you getting on?" "Well, I'm as usual, thank you," I replied, "and you?"

"A thousand pardons, Rayton," said I. "You were the very last man to come into my thoughts, and I am grieved at the idea of your dress boots and such weather as this."

"You were talking just now," said Rayton, at last, "of that queer dream in the Nile boat. I can tell you a much queerer story than that, and one, I assure you, not so many years ago, in this very Babylon, if you care to hear it."

"Care to hear it?" said I. "Of course I do. But first give me chapter and verse, witness and authority—most sage of necromancers!"

"Well," replied Rayton, "all I can give you, by way of chapter and verse, is briefly this: The dream, if it was one, has been told over and over again, for years past, at our club, the Megatherium, and it is firmly believed in by the men who know Osborne, what a hard-headed skeptic he is, how slow to talk of himself, and utterly intolerant of all dream lore and stories of dreamers."

"What! the gray-haired, very little barrister," said I, "who had rooms in Dixie's court?" "The very same man, well, one evening in September, about 7 p. m., Osborne came out of the club, and slowly descended the broad steps into the well-lighted street."

The Fatal Draught.

The surgeon of our expedition tried his hand at story telling while the party was encamped at Norris geyser basin. The story was of a professional crocheter who had given up his trade and was now engaged in the mercantile business in St. Louis, and is a gentleman of reputation.

Geologist Brayton was speaking of pebbles of agate, chalcedony, wood opal and quartz found about the Yellowstone region, and more particularly in the pocket which is known as Paradise valley.

"Very wonderful are those same geodes," said the surgeon, "and with a knowledge of them it is not very difficult to account for the chalcedony and the wood petrifications hereabout."

The model town of Pullman, Ill., only a few miles distant from Chicago, is trying certain experiments in its sewerage system, which are of interest to the whole country. The town is so situated as to be very difficult to properly drain, far more difficult than even New Orleans.

Arizona's Petrified Forest. Holbrook appears likely to be the largest cache of petrified wood. It is some note also as being the nearest town to the petrified forest, which is twenty miles to the north.

The Children Named the Town. A pioneer who once owned the land on which the town of Mio stands, tells how the place received its peculiar name. "I had a wife once," says the pioneer, "and I loved her dearly."

Who Was Shylock? (Dramatic Personae—Paterfamilias and his "Only Hope," aged 12. The latter is busy at his lessons.) Only Hope (suddenly looking up from his books)—"Pa, who was Shylock?"

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