MUSIC IN NATURE.

Far, far away, in fields of waving gold,
I hear the tassels' rustling symphonies,
While myriad insect orchestras unfold
Their rasping medleys in the apple trees.

In seas of creamy clover, white and pink,
Hum tippling bees, all drowsy with perfume;
And, in the orchard, one wilu bobolink
Breaks the repose of twilight's dreamy gloom.

The wind wakes solos in the somber pine,
Upon the hillside desolate and lone;
And in the wood, through labyrinths of vine,
Is heard the brooklet's lisping monotone—

Which mossy caverns, echoing, repeat;
While o'er my soul, in tender changes, flows—
Murmur ne, melodious, and strangely sweet—
The subtle music no musician knows.
—R. K. Munkittrick in Century for August.

Chinese Gordon.

The most celebrated feat of Chinese Gordon was the suppression of the Taeping rebellion, which in the spring of 1863 had reached its apogee. In thirteen years Hung-sew-tsuen, the visionary school teacher of Canton, had mustered a following of 500,000 men. Most of the principal cities on both banks of the Yang-tse-Kiang were in his hands. His professions of Christianity and his control of the tea district had at first enlisted many foreign nations in his favor. The resistance of Mankin to his arms turned the current of feeling against him. For days the inhabitants and the imperial garrison had lived on the bark of trees, and roots of grass. Leather, boiled in narrow slips, was eagerly swallowed. Human flesh was openly hawked in the streets. The surrounding country was devastated. Water courses were filled with broken furniture, rotten boats and ruin. Once flourishing marts were entirely deserted and thousands of houses were burned to the ground. Here and there a solitary old man might be seen moving with trembling limbs among the ruins, sadly musing over the desolation that reigned around. In the midst of these events the Taeping leader put forth a proclamation. "The Father and the Elder Brother," he said, "have descended up on earth and established the heavenly kingdom, and have taken me and Junior Lord to regulate affairs appertaining to the world."

The foreign nations at once withdrew their support and waived their ardor for Christianity in favor their interest in tea.

The first to take advantage of the change was an American named Ward. He had been a mate on a Boston ship, and had landed at Shanghai with a suit of clothes upon his back and six Mexican dollars in his pocket. He went to Prince Kung and offered to crush the rebellion for $10,000,000. The prince accepted and paid a considerable sum in advance. Ward's life was full of adventure. He had been with Walker in his earlier expeditions, and had a taste of civil warfare in South America. He first set to work to recruit his menand then to drill them. Dozens applied every day. Marines, sailors from men-of-war, tea planters, members of the police force, all the European adventurers whom chance had brought to China, were enrolled under Ward's banners. They were a mutinous and rapacious mob. They plundered all who came in their way. They broke into pagodas and despoiled them of their rare contents. They tore out diamonds from the idols' eyes dug up treasures which priests had concealed, and scattered precious manuscripts of Buddhist classics to the wind. Ward was soon disgusted with them. He had been created a Mandarin of the Blue Button, he had married a Chinese wife, and he was preparing to enjoy the immense fortune he had won when a Teaping rebel shot him through the heart before the walls of Ningpo.

That was Gordon's opportunity. Burgevine, who succeeded to Ward's commands, was disposed to sell his men to the highest bidder. The young British engineer forestalled him. Fortified with counsels from Calcutta and promises of unlimited pay from Pekin, he called the remuant of Ward's force around him and offered them terms of service. There was to be no looting so long as their pay was regularly distributed. He then went to work to mature his sceme of attack. Heretofore the plan for defending the city of Shanghai was to guard a radius of thirty miles around it and remain wholly on the defensive. This policy he at once reversed. Having raised most of the Europeans to posts of command and drilled an army of some four thousand Chinese he moved boldly against the enemy. He did not direct his attack on their front, where their numbers must have overwhelmed him, but determined to throw himself upon their communication, seize them, point after point, with the aid of a small flotilla, and so clear the whole country down to the gates of Nankin.

A study of the operations by which he cut off the great city of Soochow proves him a master of strategy in its highest sense, as his extraordinary control over his native contingent and the wild spirits that officered it had marked him a true leader of men. His difficulties were unprecedented. The Yang-tse-Kiang had so long been closed to foreign commerce that the villagers had never seen Europeans. They mistook the army of succor for Tartar robbers. The whistle of Gordon's steamer, the sparks that issued from its funnel, added to their terrors. Whole villages fled from the "fiery dragon ship." Women threw themselves down from great heights. They saw that at Taitsan a faithful subject of the emperor rushed into the rebel lines and fought desperately on the side of the detested Taepings. Dimly through the smoke he saw the black and yellow banner and hesitated. Then the firing ceased and he was surrounded by his countrymen rushing through the breach. In his amazement he still was able to cry "Good Chinaman!"

"Show your gun," was the reply. The barrel was still warm.

"Your hands." His hands were black with powder.

They pushed him back against the wall and fired. He died in ignorance of his offense.

With the arrival of winter Colonel Gordon was before Soochow, and opened the siege with which his name is inseparably connected. Soochow is the Venice of the east. When the city of the Foscari was a marshy waste poets were singing the glories of Soochow, the splendor of its temples, the beauty of its women. Its canals traced their way through arches of osier and weeping willow. Its shops and streets wore an air of Parisian gayety. In the Morning Palace the Mowang or commandant of the city wandered among exquisite grottos and summer houses. Girls fanned him as he reclined in his divan; musical boxes tinkled in his halls. Despite his luxuriousness he was a man of character and ability. He was the favorite disciple of the chief revolutionist, and differed in every respect from the other wangs, whose banners were at all times flaunting through the city and whose soldiers quarrelled and fought in the tea houses. Meanwhile the cannon of the common enemy was making itself heard. The Low-mun stockade, one of the keys to the town, had been captured. From the great stone wall and the water gate the rebels had poured a fire of grape, canister and musketry. Finding his native troops too cowardly to fight at night—for after twilight they feared their own shadows—Gordon had dashed into the moat with his European followers, had swum across in the face of a murderous volley, had snatched the snake flag of the commandant from the breastwork and had planted his own within a hundred yards of the city.

When the Narwang, who was second in command, heard of this bold advance he held a secret conference with the other subordinate wangs, and was rowed down the Grand Canal into Gordon's camp. He offered to throw open the gates of the city if he and his followers were granted an unconditional pardon. Gordon communicated this order to General Ching, who commanded the imperial troops, and it was speedily accepted. Narwang then called the conspirators together, and they repaired to the palace of the Mowang.

Here, in the hall of the heavenly Father, surrounded by representatives of the passion of Christ, prayers were offered and the Mowang ascended the throne in his robe and crown. He made a short address to the captains, saying that Soochow should never yield to infidels. At the last word the Congwang rose in the hall, took off his robe, walked to the steps of the throne and deliberately stabbed the speaker to the heart. The Mowang fell over the table in front of the throne, and the other wangs seized him and decapitated him. Then they mounted their horses, rode each to his palace, and the head was sent to Gordon as a peace offering.

The colonel was not a man to waste time in fruitless threats. He had promised these wretches immunity and he meant to keep his word. The entry having been affected peacefully enough, he walked up alone to the neighboring heights, feeling for the first time discouraged and sick at heart. In the plain below he suddenly noticed a great commotion. The imperial troops were rushing in wild confusion through the gates. Yells and shouts filled the air. Not without misgivings he made his way to the Morning Palace and found it in ruins, half molten bronzes choking up the passage and only a solitary drum standing as sentinel at the gate. Entering one of the chambers and calling for his servant he learned that the imperialist had beheaded him. The courtyard round the palace was filled with an angry mob; swords were being drawn and pistols fired. In the midst of the hubbub Gordon appeared on the threshold. The crowd fell back as though lightning had stricken them. Calmly the colonel raised his hand and the noise ceased.

A passage was cleared for him, and, touching his pith helmet in ironical salute, he walked at an easy pace to General Ching's stockade. There, in a ghastly row, were the heads of all the Wangs. The bodies had been slashed down the chest; the wounds on the head were most terrible. Gordon said not a word. me knew that a great clamor of treachery would be raised against him; but he silently turned away, went back to the palace, scrawled four words on paper—"Thou prince of liars"—sent them to General Ching, and, bidding those of his soldiers follow him who would, rode hastily from the city. He wrote to Sir Frederick Bruce, the Ambassador, taking upon himself all responsibility for Ching's baseness. He allowed the British missionaries to carry home maudlin stories of his atrocities. He suffered the philanthropists of Exeter Hall to prate of the wrongs which the Taepings had suffered at his hands. He merely said that he would not sheathe his sword until the rebellion had been crushed and he kept his word. His men clung to him with the devotion of the Tenth Legion to Cæsar. With his gunboats he cut off so completely the communications of Nankin that not a sound could be heard from the beleagured city but the bamboo signals of the sentinels around the forts and the drums of the guards in the lookout houses on walk.

Before the spring was past the capital had fallen, the leader of the Taepings had poisoned himself with gold leaf and his fugitive was suing for peace in the southern provinces. Colonel Gordon was offered a fortune by the grateful country which he had saved. He replied that he had not served for money and would accept nothing. He left China as poor as he came.

He was to visit the country once more. In the spring of 1580 he went to Pekin on a mission of peace. He had been elected to mediate between Russia and China. Strange emotions filled his mind as he sailed toward the capital. Passing the mouth of the Yang-tse-Kiang, under a sapphire sky and bright eastern sun, he thought of the desolation he had left upon its shores. Once more the richest land in China, he remembered when its horizon was unbroken except by graves, commemorative arches and heaps of ruins. Over its ravaged hills, now clothed with wild tea, he followed in memory the peasants in their flight, the men staggering under heavy loads of goods and chattels, the women hobbling along on their small feet, their arms filled with babies. The paddy fields which the husbandmen were now irrigating had been white with dead men's bones. The reed hut of the fisherman and the many storied pagoda had been choked with corpses. The boatmen with their hooks drew shoals of mangled bodies to the sea, where the priest to-day sat drumming by the waterside to soothe the great fish that carries the world upon its back. It was Gordon who had restored peace to the nation, and as he saved it from ruin in 1864 so he saved it from war in 1880.

The Bunko Swindle.

The care and skill with which the bunko swindle is conducted is illustrated by the experience of a visitor who said he allowed himself roped in for fun. A sweat-board was introduced in the usual manner, and a stool-pigeon lost a few dollars. He wished the visitor to play for him with his money, and the latter firs twon, but afterwards lost. At length he was told that he was indebted on his account to the extent of $300. "I have not the money with me," he replied. "Then give me a check," was the fellow's suggestion; "I suppose you have a bank account; or won't that be convenient?" It occurred to the visitor that to sign a check would cost nothing, as I could go immediately around to the bank and stop payment. A blank check was produced and he filled it out. The gambler scrutizized it and then dried the ink with a newspaper in lieu of a blotter. The stool-pigeon had bee quiet for a while. Now he suddenly broke out: "This is a friend of mine," he exclaimed, savagely, "and I won't see him swindled; he shan't let you have his check for a cent." He grabbed the check, tore it into bits, and threw them on the floor. "Come," and he seized the visitor by the arm; "let's get out of this den." There was an excited protest by the other chap, says the narrator, but we went out unhindered, and I parted with Dan on the corner, receiving his congratulation on having escaped unscathed. On returning to the hotel I gave to the detective there an account of what had happened, explaining that I intended to stop payment on the check, but that no such precaution was now necessary. "Don't you lose a minute in going to the bank," he said, "or they'll get there with the check before you. It was destroyed? Not a bit of it. A newspaper lay on the desk, didn't it? and he put the check between its folds, face downward, as if to blot it. Then the stool pigeon snatched out, not the check itself, but a blank one that had been previously placed there. This dummy was what Dan tore up, and the real check was left safe and sound. That's the way they prevent their victims from stopping payments."

Capital Punishment in England.

William the Conqueror, notwithstanding the ruthless, savage nature of the man, disliked the punishment of death in cold blood, and substituted mutilation for it. Mutilation is a punishment mentioned in the assizes of Clarendon and Northampton in the time of Henry II. In the reigns of Richard I., Henry III., and Edward I., death was the penalty inflicted. In the two last mentioned reigns it was the common punishment for felony. It continued to be so, as to treason and nearly all felonies, down to the year 1827, until public opinion revolted, and an era set in of mercy. But ages before public sentiment rose in rebellion against the system of barbarous severity, the English people had, in their own practical, unsystematic way, managed to a great extent to elude it. First of all the clergy successfully asserted a claim to be free from the jurisdiction of secular courts, to be subject to the ecclesiastical courts only, which merely enjoined a clerk to purge himself of his offense, probably by some mode of fasting and penace.

In early times a clerk was delivered up to the ordinary as soon as he was imprisoned on suspicion of any crime whatever. The Norman kings, especially Henry II., might struggle against this claim as much as they pleased. They failed, and the clerk in holy orders possessed immunity from civil punishment. Later on, in Edward I's time, this immunity began to be disputed, and a clerk was not allowed to claim his clergy until after he was convicted. The next step was that the courts might deliver him up obsque purgatione, in which case he was to be imprisoned in the bishop's prison for life. But restriction on privilege, which originally was confined to the tonsured clergy, was followed by a wide extension of its application. In 1350 it was enacted that all manner of clerks, as well secular as religious, should thenceforth enjoy the privileges of Holy Church. In construing this statute the courts, ever, except in the time of the Stuarts, on the alert in favor of liberty and against tyranny, extended the privilege to every one who could read whether he had the clerical dress and tonsure or not. All women, however, except professional nuns, were for centuries excluded from the benefit of clergy, as it was called. Another grotesque exception was that bigamus—not a bigamist in our sense of the word, but a man who "hath married two wives or one widow"—was also excluded.

In 1547 a statute was passed which gave every peer realm, although he could not read, a privilege of a similar kind. It thus happened that, though all felonies were capital offenses, a large proportion of offenders escaped scot free. They were entitled to the benefit of clergy and could not be punished at all. At the beginning of the eighteenth century, women and those who could not read were admitted to benefit of clergy, and then every one charged with a clergyable felony became liable to a slight punishment in lieu of death. The benefit had always consisted in being excused from capital punishment, and at one time a man who could read could commit as many murders as he pleased with impunity. Later, a man who claimed it was branded on the thumb, unless he was a peer or clerk in orders, and was not allowed to claim his privilege a second time. The effects of such a clumsy system—barbarous severity on the one side, hand in hand with capricious exemption from all punishment whatever—was as bad as possible. Yet benefit of clergy was a recognized privilege until 1727.

Boys and Girls.

"If I had a dozen children I should want them all boys," said Mrs. Thrifty, Boys can take care of themselves, they are energetic, enjoyable, and it doesn't take half as much sewing to keep a family of boys along."

"Now, if I should have any choice," said Mrs. Workhard, "I should rather have my children all girls. Girls are so gentle, so hopeful, and have so much more refinement than boys; and then it is such a pleasure to sew for them, they look so prettily in the garments made for them."

"Very well, ladies," said Mrs. Sensible, "you are both right and wrong. I believe in a mixed family—part boys, part girls. The boys influence the girls to self-reliance, the girls refine the boys by their gentleness. A boy who is brought up with his sisters makes the most manly man, and the girl who is brought up with brothers makes the most womanly woman."—New Haven Register.

The bell rung by the San Francisco Vigilance Committee in 1856 hangs in the belfry of the Baptist church at Petaluma, California, which purchased it in 1858. During the war the Unionists of the town rang it after every Union victory, much to the annoyance of those who sympathized with the south. One night the latter took the bell from the belfry and carried it off to a public store. It was recaptured and rung with renewed vigor. Next morning it was found broken.

Ruskin says no couple should marry until they have courted seven years. This would lead one to think that Ruskin runs a soda fountain.—Boston Post

INCREASED FACILITIES.

Among the successful business enterprises in Portland, that of Jas. Halberstadt is an example. Commencing only a few years ago with comparatively no capital, he has reared up his present business through his native energy, enterprise and perseverence, characteristics without which no commercial enterprise can succeed. Finding his quarters on First street too small to accommodate his rapidly increasing business, he sought a more desirable location. His present store is in the Ainsworth block on Third street Portland, and is one of the most spacious stores of its kind to be found north of San Francisco. Mr. Halberstadt has made some very desirable connections with the well known wholesale San Francisco house S. & G. Gump & Co., and the firm will hereafter be known under that title, with Mr. Halberstadt as resident partner. An invitation is extended to patrons of the establishment to call and examine the very finest assortment of statuary, frames, paintings, water-colors, engravings, mirrors, etc. The stock embraces some new and unique household fixings together with a hundred and one artistic decorations used about the house.

A PERSONAL VISIT.

Dr. Moody, of Portland, Oregon, who has in a little over two years' practice in that city won much deserved fame as a skillful physician, will soon visit this section of this country in order to comply with many urgent requests in order to give the afflicted a chance for a personal interview. Dr. Moody uses a new method of cure with which he has been very successful. The treatment is simple, and the most feasible of all. There is no unpleasant sensation whatever attending the treatment. The doctor invites all persons afflicted to visit and freely convince themselves, leaving him to verify the assertion that there has never existed a remedy so startling and immediate in its effects. These noted curative aids, as handled by Dr. Moody, are endorsed and approved by the facultics of both Europe and America. The beneficial effects are perceptible almost from the start. Cases regarded as incurable and of many years' standing yield readily to its mild but wonderful influence. In no case can the treatment be attended with the least danger, thereby testifying it to be the most harmless agent in therapeutics. Those who wish to apply for advice or treatment may confidently do so without hesitation or diffidence, as the most timid may rely on that invaluable secrecy which has already proved the basis of an extensive professional reputation abroad. Dr. Moody treats large numbers of cases by correspondence, but claims that a personal interview will more than pay both patient and physician. The doctor therefore takes this trip in order that he may become better acquainted with the country and to meet those who desire the services of one that has had many years experience in practice. He will make the date of his coming known by local publication in this paper as soon as the exact time for his visit is decided upon. Dr. Moody gives free consultation and desires those who are afflicted from whatever cause, to call and ascertain the extent of their maladies. He makes no charge where the patient does not take treatment.

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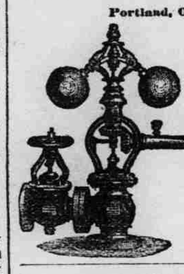
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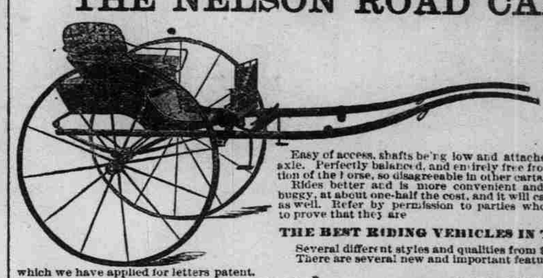
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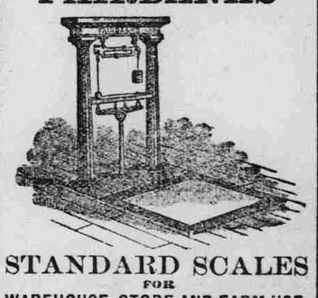
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