Though I always meant to be true, But time is too short for all the things.
That a body intends to do.

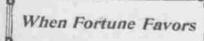
I will answer a letter, or read a book,
I will write a bit of rhyme;
I will do the things that I ought to do-Some day when I have the time

So I took beyond, as I hope and plan For the days that are just ahead, While the day that is here goes into the grave

With its opportunities dead,

To-day is the only day we have, Of to-morrow we can't be sure; To seize the chance as it comes along Is the way to make it secure.

For every year is a shorter year, And this is a truth sublime: From the treasury of time.



was a big, awkward fellow working with some patient skill in an old-fashioned saw-mill, and living on the far outskirts of a pretty village.

His home was a gray old farmhouse, where he dwelt with two maiden aunts, one of whom was a weak, fragile invalid, quick-tempered and querulous; the other was stout and strong in body, but idiotic and silent. Often he was tempted to go away-to rush out into the world and leave the old place to go to the dogs and the old women to the workhouse, but a dogged sense of duty held him, so he stayed and worked on.

One of the handsomest farms in Scott County had stretched its green fields about the old house twenty years ago, but when Ralph Mydack's young wife dled and left her baby boy, the husband, always reticent, had grown positively gloomy. His two sisters seldom heard him speak, but one day, when the little Ralph was 5 years old, his moody father said, in a strange, stern

"I'm going to sell the farm. You two girls can live here in the old house, and will deposit enough in the bank to keep you and the boy until I can send you some more, I shall go to Australia." Huldah, the invalid, cried out piteously, but her brother paid no heed;



idiot, stared stonii and spoke not.

That day the farm and the mill priv-

flege on the little river were sold to a large corporation that had been trying for some time to buy it, in order to erect a cotton mill there. Ralph Mydack came home and pack-

ed his trunk, but his motions were unsteady, his face pale, and before night he was sick, very sick.

There was little that two helpless hands were dismissed, all but Jared. who was to take care of the cow; so they sent him off for the doctor, but when he returned Ralph Mydack was dead.

Ten bitter years dragged slowly by. The little money in the bank was soon exhausted, and partly on charity, partly by the few vegetables neighbors helped them raise in the garden patch, the two old women and the awkward, sullen boy lived on.

It was well known that a large sum of money had been paid to Mr. Mydack for his farm, but the corporation had failed immediately after, so nothing was done about the cotton mills, and from the hour of payment, when the legal papers were signed, all trace of the money disappeared as effectually as though it had been dropped into the

sea of oblivion. Lawyers searched the old house, looked over the few papers that Mr. Mydack had evidently intended to take with him, searched his wearing apparel, and gave up in despair.

Little Ralph grew up a stout, healthy lad, and when he was 15 he asked some of the neighbors to help him rig the old saw-mill anew, that he might saw logs, and thus eke out his scanty support.

Everybody felt kindly toward him, and season after season, when the wa ter was high, he would work night and day among the fragrant pine and hemlock logs, earning quite an indepenonce.

It was here that Gertrude Kendennis found him one day early in June.

He had seen her bright face about there the year before, but had turned away from her pleasant words with a moodiness that was almost rude. For what had his weary, tollsome life to do

with beauty or kind words? What, indeed? And yet she would

# THE BRONZE BUTTON

Each day as I walk the busy street and meet the gray-haired men. Who wear the button made of bronze, that tells where they have been. Their eyes meet mine in glad response to the welcome of my own, And at once our hearts are warmed by the loye that was born in sixty one

Their step is not so firm and quick as I was long years ago,
when, gun in hand they marched along with loyal hearts aglow.
Bat their eyes today have the glint office of though years have come and gone. And the same old love to tells their hearts, that was born in sixty one.

no one but we who shared the strike of battle camp and field. (Can ever feel the love we bear for those who fought to shield The nations life its very seal the grandest under the san.
A loyal leve for the stars and stripes that was born in sixty one.

The sight of that button on his breast like when the and true.

Shows me a compare dear to a fawire eventures the following with a way and the fields with about that run.

To tree the union of a curse that was born in staty one.

The emblem of early strength of the hope she leaned upon the breast.

In the animal strength of the hope she leaned upon the laned upon any the hope she leaned upon any the hope she leaned upon any the hope she leaned upon.

IT his bade we wear means much to us an emblem we love well. A token of sweet comradeship that shall forever dwell In every heart that loved the flag and its duty nobly done For the nation's life and union in the strife of sixty one



not let him be. She went every day and loose bundle of rags, in which was stywatched, as by a resistless fascination. In hidden rolls of strong parchment. that pitiless, great saw tearing its slow way through the logs making them useful while seeming only to destroy them. He was 20 years old at last and she

house, making gruel for Aunt Huldah, and trying to coax a smile on Aunt Hannah's stolid face, but really only folks.-New York News, waiting for Ralph to return from the

He came in soon, and seeing her standing alone in the clean, poorly furalshed room he went straight to her. and, taking both her hands in his, he

"Now, Gertrude-Miss Kendennisyou must not come here in this manner. People are talking of it down in the village, and if your uncle should hear of it he would send you to a numery and kill me outright."

"Oh, you do not want me here," she said, trying to speak playfully, but with a little mosn in her voice.

"I do-I do," he answered, putting his arm about her, holding her close, and touching her hair with a quick, caressing motion. "God knows it is worse than death to send you away, but, my darling, see the long, weary life stretching before me. See the work to bedone here and you hovering like some bright-bird just out of reach. Could I drag you down to share this poor old nest? No, no, it would not be right. I have served duty too long to dare desert her now."

"But you are so young," she murmured, leaning her face on his shoulder; he could feel her breath against his The milk venders of Italy and India

would strangle him, and that moment trick,-Woman's Home Companion. of rapture paid him for the suffering of

"So young and so ambitious-and there is the invention down at the mill I am sure that is going to work well."

"Yes; but I have been to the village to-day for the last time trying to raise even \$50 to pay for the patent, and I can not do it. Nobody has any faith in women could do for him; the farm it; they think it is a boy's scheme, and I'm quite discouraged."

"Oh, if I only had my money-"Yes, but you have not, my darling: nor would I touch one penny of it if you had. No, you must go back to your relatives. I shall never marry, dear, but I shall cherish your memory as my one blessedest gift. Now, don't feel badly-don't."

They were both sobbing together by this time; she put her arm up around his neck, and their two tear-wet faces nestled against each other like two grieved children.

Aunt Hannah put her white, flabby face in at the door to say that dinner was ready, and, seeing the young people standing together there, she started nervously and exclaimed:

"Laws sakes! that's courtin' now, ain't it?" And as they neither moved nor spoke she went softly across the floor and whispered: "Ralphie, boy, are

you goin' to be married?" "Yes, auntie," answered Gertrude, 'and we want your blessing." "But you want your money, too, don't

"Yes, certainly; the marriage portion," said Raiph, bitterly, brushing the tears from his eyes and trying to face his lonely life once more.

"Then come upstairs," she laughed out, in her queer, wild fashion.

"What does she mean?" asked Gertrude, wonderingly.

"I do not know," Ralph answered. "I have not heard her speak so many words at a time in ten years." Beckoning them to follow her, she

climbed the worn old stairs up to the dusty garret, where broken chairs and long-idle spinning wheels made up the furniture.

Down behind the big chimney crept

They opened them there in the changeful light that flitted through the time-stained window There was \$4,000 in gold-the price of

the farm lands. Not a great fortune. She had been fussing about the old it is true, but a fabulous sum for the young people, who were married ere long, to the great wonder of the village

#### A Cuban M Ikman.

"How many cows there are about the streets!" somebody exclaims, and then he is calmly informed that the morning's milk is simply being delivered. A bunch of cattle and their driver stop before a house, and the porters comes out with a cup for the morning's supply. It is seen then that the cows are being milked from door to door by the dalrymen, for this is the way the acute Cuban housewives have taken to assure for their tables a lacteal supply which is entirely fresh and absolutely pure. Otherwise the guileloving vender might dilute the milk before delivering it to his customers, and craftily stir into the watery fluid the juice of the sweet potato to color It up to a duly rich and creamy cast. Even with the cows milked before the door one must continue to watch the milkman, for I have even heard of their having a rubber bag of water concealed under their loose frocks and connected with a rubber tube running down the inside of the sleeve, its tip being concealed in the bollow of the milking hand. Only a gentle pressure upon the bag of water within is needed to thus cause both milk and water to flow into the cup at the same time, have also learned their trade to perfec-His heart beat so fast he thought it tion, for they practice this identical

### Gold-Beating.

Gold, beaters, by hammering, can reduce gold leaves so thin that 282,000 must be laid upon each other to produce the thickness of an inch, yet each leaf is so perfect and free from holes that one of them laid upon any surface, as in gilding, gives the appearance of solid gold. They are so thin that if formed into a book 1,500 would only occupy the space of a single leaf of common paper; and an octano volume of an inch thick would have as many pages as the books of a well-stocked library of 1,500 volumes, with 400 pages

Opposed to Walking,

Most Chinese mandarins pass the whole of their lives without taking a single yard of exercise. The late Nanking Viceroy (father of the Marquis Tseng) was considered a remarkable character because he always walked 1,000 steps a day in his private garden. Under no circumstances whatever is a mandarin ever seen on foot in his own jurisdiction.

### Eyes of the House Fly.

The common housefly is said to be provided with 16,000 eyes; that is to say, his two compound eyes have each 8,000 facets. By this singular arrangement he is enabled to see in every direction, and to elude with great skill and success the many dangers that threaten his daily exercise.

### Famines of Mod rn Times.

The worst famines of modern times were the famine in Ireland in 1846-47, in which 1,000,000 people perished; the Indian famine of 1866, which claimed 1,450,000 victims; the Indian famine of 1877, in which 500,000 people perished; and the great famine in China in 1878, in which 9,500,000 died,

### The Czar's Estates.

The Czar has one estate, which covrs over 100,000,000 acres, more than three times as large as England; and he has another estate which is more than twice the size of Scotland.

Wise is the man who acts as if he expected to live a hundred years, but is the daft woman and drew out a large. prepared to shuffle off to-morrow.



usurper and the establishment of the present liberal government in control. Corea's first treaty was with the United States, as was that of the king of the Loo Choo Isles. The United States in 1894 made the first treaty with Japan that treated the Mikado's empire as a civilized nation. Within the last year this country secured the adoption of an agreement for the open door in China by the powers. Some of the most influential generals, admirals and diplomats in the service of the Asiatic pow-

ers have been Americans. It is on account of these facts that when the present trouble arose the suggestion was made in many foreign countries that the United States should settle the crisis in China and also because of the known disinterestedness of the United States, which has allowed other powers

to reap the territorial advantages that have followed its action. So, too, the Chinese minister was not without rea-

son for his suggestion that the Monroe doctrine be applied to China.

## First Lesson.

The first experience of the Chinese with Americans grew out of a somewhat similar state of affairs to that In the Mediterranean, where the United States suppressed the Barbary pirates, who had been levying tribute on the ships of the great nations without hindrance. Chinese waters were also infested with pirates, against whom the Europeans had made no determined resistance. The United States ship Athualpa, under the command of Capt. Bacon, happened along in 1809. The ship entered the river at Macao and sent a boat crew in command of the chief officer ashore to get a pilot. The pirate junks stole quietly up and suddenly rounded the boat, intending to leap on board and kill the crew. When the Americans realized what had happened they turned their loaded cannon on the Chinese and fought off the boarders with their Brown Bess muskets and boarding pikes. The Chinese gave hard battle, throwing hand grenades on board. The pirates were beaten off, and the defeat of the leader was such a blow to his prestige that he was afterwards betrayed by some of his men. The mandarins put him to death by the means known as the "thousand cuts," a slow and prolonged process of hacking into little bits. Capt. Bacon's lesson, however, taught the Chinese pirates to respect the American flag, and

American trade grew and prospered. The opium war, which was declared against China by Great Britain in 1840, was responsible for the opening of that nation to the world's commerce by means of the treaty ports which were afterwards established. That war grew out of the attempt of China to suppress the smuggling of oplum carried on by the British to the depletion of the imperial revenues. To suppress the trade the Chinese had recourse to force.

But after the short, sharp struggle in 1857, which resulted in the capture of Canton by the allied British and French, the United States was one of the powers that joined with England, France and Russia in securing treaties for freedom of trade.

The first foreigner employed by the Chinese for the reorganization of their army was an American, Frederick Townsend Ward, a soldler of fortune, born in Massachusetts. He adopted the Chinese nationality under the name of Hwa, married the daughter of a wealthy mandarin, and was made a mandarin of the highest grade and Admiral General in the service of the Emperor. Gen. Ward turned his attention to the reorganization of the empire's army, but found it a difficult task. He died as the result of a wound received in directing an assault on Tackle. The Chinese paid him the highest possible honors after his death by burying him in the Confucian cemetery at Ningpo. Ward's successor in command of the Chinese forces was Major Charles G. Gordon - "Chinese"

tween the nations, gave China the right to appoint consuls to the United States, provided for the recognition of free dom of religion in China, and permitted Chinese to embrace Christianity, per mitted the Chinese to attend schools in America and to have free right of travel here, and for all the mutual priv-Heges which are allowed to the most favored nation. The Chinese exclusion act later excluded the Chinese, and in this again the United States was first and was followed by Australia, the only other nation where the coolie competition was felt.

When the war with Japan ended disastrously for China Li Hung Chang turned immediately to America to secure a disinterested adviser to aid in the peace negotiations and watch the interests of the imperial government. The man upon whom his choice fell was John W. Foster, who had succeeded James G. Blaine as Secretary of State. Mr. Foster went to Shimonoski and conducted his negotiations to the satisfaction of the Chinese government. In the case of Japan the United States was actually the godfather of

the new nation. Japan had been a closed nation from 1638, when the Portuguese had been expelled, until 1854, when Commodore M. C. Perry, a brother of the victor on Lake Erie, opened the country to foreign trade. The Japanese government did not permit any foreign vessel to touch at a Japanese port under any pretense. In 1849 the United States had its first trouble with the Japanese government. Commodore Gisinger, learning that some American sailors were Imprisoned at Nagasaki, sent Commodore Glynn to demand their liberation. He succeeded in doing so, and the report he then made of the resources of the island was partly responsible for the determination of Daniel Webster, then Secretary of State, to open the islands to American trade.

The acquisition of a Pacific coast line by the United States suggested to Millard Fillmore and Daniel Webster that the United States should be the chief trading power in the East, and that the commerce of Japan would be profitable. Commodore Perry was, therefore, given a letter to the Mikado, signed by the President and written by Daniel Webster, soliciting a treaty of friendship and commerce between the two nations by which the Mikado's ports should be thrown open to American vessels for purpose of trale.

Commodore Perry sailed in November, 1852, with a fleet, and he carried with him many useful implements and inventions as presents to the Japanese government, including a small railway and equipments, and a telegraph linethings which were unknown to the Japanese. Commodore Perry's instructions, which he received from Webster before the Secretary's death, were to approach the Emperor of Japan in the most friendly manner, and to use no violence unless attacked, but if attacked to let the Japanese feel the full weight of his

Perry's Diplomacy.

Perry carried out his instructions by sailing to Yeddo and delivering his letter to the authorities with the request that it be presented to the Emperor. The Japanese, in accordance with their custom, refused to permit him to land, and Perry waited for his answer for several months, during which he surveyed the Loo Choo Islands. While in these islands he made the first trenty negotiated by them with a Caucasian power. After waiting several months Commodore Perry returned to the Bay of Yeddo, and finally by a triumph of [ diplomacy, aided by the sight of his seven ships, effected a landing and obtained a treaty permitting the Americans to trade. This treaty permitted citizens of the United States to trade with Japan through the ports of Simoda and Hakodade and the United States was authorized to appoint Con-Gordon - who suls to represent its interest at these

ers from California to China should furnished with supplies of cut a that American sailors shipsne upon the Japanese coast should treated humanely and not killedge prisoned, as had been the Japanes. tom in their attempt to secure issist sion, entered into the family of mis The other powers were quick to file the United States' example and cured similar treaties, and three of ports were soon added to which We ern people might trade.

Perry's visit was the cause of a overthrow of the dynasty then have in Japan. From the twelfth on the authority of the Mikados had be nominal. They had been releps among the gods and their power exercised through a Shogun, when the real sovereign. When the Shap yielded to the American demands created a profound sensation in lag The nobles were indignant at the parture from the traditional policy the empire. They gained the up hand, and in 1863 ordered the Shape to abrogate treatles of commerce. tacks on the foreigners followed a foreign vessel attempting to us treaty ports were fired upon. One these vessels was the Pembrak small American steamer loaded w

merchandise. Japa Learn a Lesson. The insult was reported to Commit er MacDougal, who was with the ! oming at Shanghai. The Wyoning tacked and destroyed the Japa fleet. McDougal sailed away to Five of his men were killed and wounded. The American mis made a claim of \$10,000 for the lost time and freight sustained by the?

broke, which was paid promptly. Perry opened Japan to trade 1 United States in 1878 and again in 18 led the way for the admittage Japan into full fellowship with the tions and to permit trade of And cans in every part of the empire. After 1868, when the Shogun

finally overthrown and the Mikadill self began to rule under a confi tional government, the Japaness is ed constant progress in peace. To became restive of being treated at barians and wished the removal of stigma. The first effort was rece with favor by the United States, will by the treaty of 1887, placed Japann exacty the same footing as Germ France, or any other country in 8 tion with the United States, es that the consular courts were col ued. The treaty of 1894 was the to give Japan standing among man Until then the empire was close foreign residence and travel.

Core 4 was the last of the Easters atic countries to be opened the w "The Hermit Kingdom," as called, excluded all foreigners 1882, when Commodore Shufeldt d United tSates navy opened it by the same methods that had been ployed by Commodore Perry 12 case of Japan.

The first communication the U States and Corea had was one of lit and in a punitive expedition 2,000 0 ans were killed. This expedition sent because of the treatment of crew of an American school General Sherman, which had been

tered by a British trader. Their defeat in this battle tage Coreans a wholesome respect for ericans, who were unmolested to that time forward. The United Sa was determined, however, to trade with the peninsula, which mained closed to all nations China and Japan. The negoliwere put in charge of Com Shufeldt, who had served in one is expedition against the Coreans matter was accomplished by diplate when China became jealous # growing influence of the Japan the kingdom.

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