

THE FLOWERY ALCHEMIST.

First, oh, first! My pretty pale young violet, My money check unnumbered, Lett that book of fallen clay, And my lips were more than wet Against the droll of dainty clay.

FOLLOWING THE SEA.

At the time of "the great earthquake of '08," said Mr. Swiddler—William Swiddler, of Calaveras—I was at Arica, Peru. I have not a map by me, and am not certain that Arica is not in Chili, but it can't make much difference; there was earthquake all along there.

Sam Baxter was with us; I think he had gone from San Francisco to make a railway or something. On the morning of the quake, Sam and I had gone down to the beach to bathe.

For the first four or five miles the walking was very difficult, although the ground was tolerably steep. The ground was soft; there were tangled forests of seaweed, old rotten ships, rusty anchors, human skeletons and a multitude of things to impede the pedestrian.

The same was true of Sam, but he did not appear to think of it in that way. He stood quite still a moment with his eyes fixed on the advancing line of water; then turned to me, saying very earnestly:

"Tell you what, William, I never wanted a ship so bad from the cradle to the grave! I would give more for a ship—more than for all the railroads and turnpikes you could scare up! I'd give more than a hundred, thousand, million dollars! I would—I'd give all I'm worth for—just—one—little—ship!"

To show how lightly he could part with his wealth, he lifted his shirt out of his trousers, unbuttoning himself of his doublets, which tumbled about his feet, a golden storm. By this time the tidal wave was close upon us. "Call that a wave! It was one solid green wall of water, higher than Niagara Falls, stretching as far as we could see to right and left, without a break in its towering front!"

Looking despairingly upward, I made a tolerably good beginning at thinking of all the mean actions I had wrought in the flesh, when I saw projecting beyond the crest of the wave a ship's bowsprit, with a man sitting on it reading a newspaper! That fortune, we were saved!

I shouted to the man on the bowsprit to drop us a line. He merely replied that his correspondence was already veryonerous, and he hadn't any pen and ink.

Then I told him I wanted to get aboard. He said I would find one on the beach, about three leagues to the southward, where the Nancy Tucker went ashore.

All these replies I was disheartened. It was not so much that the man withheld assistance as that he made puns. Presently, however, he folded his newspaper, but it carefully away in his pocket,

and went and got a line and let it down to us just as we were about to give up the race. Sam made a lunge at it and got it.

I laid hold of his legs, the end of the rope was passed about the capstan, and as soon as the men on board had had a little grog we were hauled up. I can assure you that it was no fine experience to go up in that way, close to the smooth, vertical front of water, with the whales tumbling out all round and above us, and the sword fishes noising us pointedly with vulgar curiosity.

We had no sooner set foot on deck, and got Sam disengaged from the hook, than the purser stepped up with book and pencil—"Tickets, gentlemen."

We told him he hadn't any tickets, and he ordered us to be set ashore in a boat. It was represented to him that this was quite impossible under the circumstances; but he replied that he had nothing to do with circumstances—did not know anything about circumstances. Nothing would move him till the captain, who was really a kind-hearted man, came on deck and knocked him overboard. We were now stripped of our clothing, chafed all over with stiff brushes, rolled on our stomachs, wrapped in flannels, laid before a hot stove in the saloon and strangled with scalding brandy. We had not been wet, nor had we swallowed any sea water, but the surgeon said this was the proper treatment. It is uncertain what he might have done to us if the tender-hearted captain had not thrashed him into his cabin and told us to go on deck.

By this time the ship was passing the town of Arica, and we were about to go astern and fish a little, when she grounded on a hill top. The captain hove out all the anchors he had about him, and when the water went swirling back to its legal level, taking the town along for company, there we were, in the midst of a charming agricultural country, but at some distance from any seaport. At sunrise next morning we were all on deck. Sam sauntered aft to the binnacle, cast his eye carefully upon the compass and uttered an ejaculation of astonishment.

"Tell you, captain," he called out, "this has been a direr convulsion of nature than you have any idea. Everything's been screwed right round. Needle points due south!"

"Why, you lubber!" growled the skipper, taking a look, "it points directly to leeward, an' there's the sun dead ahead!" Sam turned and confronted him with a steady gaze of ineffable contempt.

"Now who said it wasn't dead ahead?"—told me that. Shows how much you know about earthquakes. "Course I didn't mean just this continent, nor just this earth. I tell you, the whole thing's turned!"—From Collected Whateas.

A Saved Man Cries for His Hat. "Yes," said an old lake captain, "a drowning man will catch at a straw. I have seen many illustrations thereof. Most people think the old proverb is merely a figure of speech, but it is a living truth."

"As if true, captain," was asked, "that the first thing a rescued man thinks of is his hat?"

"Yes, sir," replied the captain, his face lighting up, "that is a fact, too. I have seen it emphasized many times in the course of my experience. Over and over again I have been called to the assistance of a drowning man. I would plunge in and rescue him just, let us say, at the last instant. Dragged on the dock, gasping for breath, his voice choked with water, the man, if he follows his instincts, will, as soon as he regains the least degree of strength, suddenly rise from his prostrate posture and stretch his arms toward his head, then, missing his hat (usually lost in the struggle), he will cry out desperately, pointing to his hat floating down the river, 'Oh, save my hat! save my hat!'"

"And he will never think of himself, captain?"

"But seldom, sir," was the reply. "A rescued man is the most obstinate and headlong being imaginable. He wants to do all sorts of foolish things. He generally wants to rush up and be away before he has had time to recover his strength. He means well enough, no doubt, but he nearly always forgets to present his obligations in tangible form."

Old Shoes of Loyalty. In Dresden there is said to be on view a number of boots, shoes and slippers once worn by emperors, kings, queens and princes, which should be of much interest to relic hunters and shoe collectors. A citizen of New York is said to have in his possession a shoe and a sandal which were worn by Queen Elizabeth more than 300 years ago. The shoe is in a wonderful state of preservation. Americans who show such a weakness for royalty may be interested to learn that from the latest accounts one of our princesses has in her wardrobe a couple of pair of shoes to match every dress, and a lot of colored Russia leather, morocco and black shoes.—Chambers Journal.

Filling a Want. A Chicago man is building an express car with reference to train robbers. It will be provided with forty-two port holes through which the messengers can shoot, iron bottom to prevent burning him out, and torpedoes and hand grenades which can be thrown all about by a system of springs and levers.—Detroit Free Press.

The act of Congress authorizing the examination of the baking powders has resulted in a most unprecedented compliment to the Royal Baking Powder. The tests were made in the government laboratory at Washington, and the official report shows that the Royal is superior to all others in leavening strength—being over 30 per cent. above the average. The report also shows the purity of the Royal Powder and the wholesomeness of its ingredients.

Pure Food in Congress.

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This is probably the highest compliment of an official character ever paid to a proprietary article, though no more than the great army of baking powder consumers would expect in behalf of their friend and favorite.

The result of the official examination, as thus determined, will, of course, make the "Royal" the standard for government purchases.

An Obsolete Fashion.

Coming over on the Brooklyn Bridge cars I saw an aged gentleman wearing a comfortable gray shawl wrapped around his drooping shoulders. The sight was unusual, though it was quite common a dozen or more years ago.

Turning to a well known dry goods man who sat next to me I asked him, "Do you have many calls for gentlemen's shawls now?" "No," he answered. "Our firm has not sold a gentleman's shawl in three years. We do not keep them in stock any longer. Scarcely anybody wears them now."

I subsequently asked several other dry goods men and gentlemen's furnishers the same question, and from all I received the same answer. The custom of shawl wearing by aged gentlemen has become almost entirely obsolete.—New York Continent.

IMITATORS AND IMPOSTORS.

The unequalled success of ALCOCK'S POROUS PLASTER as an external remedy has induced unscrupulous parties to offer imitations, which they endeavor to sell on the reputation of ALCOCK'S. It is an absurdity to speak of them in the same category as the genuine porous plaster. Their pretensions are unfounded, their vaunted merits unsupported by facts, their alleged superiority to or equality with ALCOCK'S a false pretense.

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