

In the Sickroom.  
Among the pillows propped in sweet repose  
She lies the weary time ship slow away.  
She wears the blushing crimson rose,  
That seems no longer gay.

She does not hear the bird of melody,  
That sweetly sings within a golden case shut;  
And several brand new novels round her lie,  
Unopened and uncut.

But now a smile flits over her features,  
As if suddenly her dream's with pleasure filled;  
Her soft brown eyes dilate excitedly—  
She's with rare rapture thrilled.

She sees above the mortaring part, bowed,  
The nurse; and then the convalescent pale  
Asks her if she will kindly read aloud  
The latest target's tale.

Her Beautiful Hands.  
God's roses are sweet and his lilies are fair  
As they bend and smile the dew from above;  
They are splendid and fair—but they cannot  
Compare

With the beautiful hands of my love,  
No jewels adorn them—no glittering bands—  
They are just as God made them, these sweet,  
Sweet hands!

And not for earth's gems, or its bright diadems,  
Or the pearls from the depths of the sea,  
Or the queens of the land, with their beautiful  
Hands

Should these dear hands be taken from me,  
What exquisite blisses wait their coming?  
They were made for my kisses, these dear,  
Sweet hands!

—Frank L. Stanton.

The Great War Syndicate.  
By FRANK R. STOCKTON.

Author of "Roderic Grange," "Anno Kilbride," "The Bee Man of Oran," "The Christmas Wreck," "The Lady or the Tiger," "The Late Mrs. Nell," "The Maudslayi," "The Casting Away of Mrs. Locks and Mrs. Alshin," "The Duennies," etc.

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Whether or not these strokes would have been quick enough or hard enough to turn back an armada might be a question, but there could be no question of the suicidal policy of sending seven ships and two cannon to conquer England. It seemed as if the success of the syndicate had so puffed up its members with pride and confidence in their powers that they had come to believe that they had only to show themselves to the enemy and victory might be the conditions of the contest.

Wight there appeared a British fleet composed of fifteen of the finest ironclads, with several gunboats and cruisers, and a number of torpedo boats.

It was a noble sight, for besides the war ships there was another fleet hanging upon the outskirts of the first, and composed of craft, large and small, and from both sides of the channel, filled with those who were anxious to witness from afar the sea fight which was to take place under such novel conditions.

Many of these observers were reporters and special correspondents for great newspapers. On some of the vessels which came up from the French coast were men with marine glasses of extraordinary power, whose business it was to send an early and accurate report of the affair to the office of the war syndicate in New York.

As soon as the British ships came in sight, the four crabs cast off from Repele No. 11. Then with the other two they prepared for action, moving considerably in advance of the repeller, which now steamed forward very slowly. The wind was strong from the north-west, and the sea, high, the shining tops of the crabs frequently disappearing under the waves.

The British fleet came steadily on, headed by the great Llangaron. This vessel was very much in advance of the others, for knowing that when she was really in action and the great cylinder which formed her stern guard was lowered into the water her speed would be much retarded, she had put on all steam, and being the swiftest ship of her class, she had distanced all her consorts. It was highly important that she should begin the fight and engage the attention of as many crabs as possible while certain of the other ships attacked the repeller with their rams. Although it was now generally believed that motor bombs from a repeller might destroy a man-of-war, it was also considered probable that the accurate calculations which appeared to be necessary to precision aim could not be made when the object of the aim was in rapid motion.

But whether or not one or more motor bombs did strike the mark, or whether or not one or more vessels were blown into fine particles, there were a dozen ironclads in that fleet, each of whose commanders and officers were determined to run into that repeller and crush her, if she held together long enough to reach her.

The commanders of the torpedo boats had orders to direct their swift messengers of destruction first against the crabs, for these were the most dangerous to the repeller, and coming on with a rapidity which showed that they were determined upon mischief. If a torpedo shot from a torpedo boat, and speeding swiftly by its own power beneath the waves, should strike the submerged hull of a crab, there would be one crab the less in the English channel.

As has been said, the Llangaron came rushing on, distancing everything, even the torpedo boats. If before she was obliged to lower her cylinder, she could get near enough to the almost stationary repeller to take part in the attack on her, she would then be content to slacken speed and let the crabs nibble at her stern.

Two of the latest constructed and largest crabs, Q and R, headed at full speed to meet the Llangaron, who, as she came on, they were far in advance of the repeller, and coming on with a rapidity which showed that they were determined upon mischief. If a torpedo shot from a torpedo boat, and speeding swiftly by its own power beneath the waves, should strike the submerged hull of a crab, there would be one crab the less in the English channel.

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sel was informed, through the speaking tube, that if he would give his parole to keep out of this fight, he would be allowed to proceed to his anchorage in Portsmouth harbor. The parole was probably no more than to let the Llangaron stem forward. There was, moreover, no time to waste in experiments, for other rams would be coming on, and there were not crabs enough to attend to them all.

No time was wasted. Q signaled to R and it back again, and instantly the two crabs, each still grasping a chain of the cylinder, began to sink. On board the Llangaron an order was shouted to let out the cylinder chains, but as these chains had only been made long enough to allow the top of the cylinder to hang at, or a little below, the surface of the water, a foot or two of length was all that could be gained.

The davits from which the cylinder hung were thick and strong, and the iron windlasses to which the chains were attached were large and ponderous, but these were not strong enough to withstand the weight of two crabs with steel armor, rods, enormous engines and iron hull. In less than a flash, the davit snapped like a pipe stem under the tremendous strain, and immediately afterward the windlass to which the chain was attached was torn from its bolts and went crashing overhead, leaving away a portion of the stern rail in its descent.

Crab Q instantly released the chain it had held, and in a moment the great cylinder hung almost perpendicularly from one chain. But on a moment. The nippers of Crab R still firmly held the chain, and the tremendous leverage exerted by the falling of one end of the cylinder, wrenched it from the rigidly held end of its chain; and in a flash, the enormous stern guard of the Llangaron sank, end foremost, to the bottom of the channel.

When this order had been given, the vice admiral immediately prepared to order the firing of the main battery. He was to be directed entirely against the repeller. It would be useless to devote any further attention to the crabs, especially in their present positions. But if the chief vessel of the syndicate's fleet, with its spring armor, and its terrific earthquake bombs, could be destroyed, it was quite possible that those sea parasites, the crabs, could also be disposed of.

Every torpedo that was now ordered to the front, and in a long line, almost abreast of each other, these swift vessels—the light infantry of the sea—advanced upon the solitary and distant foe. If a torpedo could reach her hull, the vice admiral, in spite of the fact that ironclads and a captured gunboat, might yet gaze proudly at his floating flag, even if his own ship should be drifting broadside to the sea.

The line of torpedoes, slightly curved inward, had advanced about a mile when Repele No. 11 awoke from her seeming sleep, and began to act. The two great guns at her bow were trained seaward, and in a long line, almost abreast of each other, these swift vessels—the light infantry of the sea—advanced upon the solitary and distant foe. If a torpedo could reach her hull, the vice admiral, in spite of the fact that ironclads and a captured gunboat, might yet gaze proudly at his floating flag, even if his own ship should be drifting broadside to the sea.

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Rouge is made of carmine saucers, the common red ink and fine red, and costs about 4 1/2 cents in pretty bottles, and always brings \$1 to \$2 if a very high sounding name is added. Indelible rouge is made by soaking alkali root in alcohol. An ounce bottle of this would cost, all finished, about 4 cents. Sells for \$1.50. Rouge does not seem to do any constitutional injury, but does not look refined on anybody.

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COSTLY COSMETICS.  
"BLOOM OF YOUTH" COMES HIGH,  
BUT WE MUST HAVE IT.

Confessions of a Cosmetic Manufacturer.  
What High Sounding Balms, Eouges and Powders Are Composed Of—Dangerous Hair Dyes—A Lesson in Economics.  
(Copyright, 1902, by American Press Association.)

EVERY woman who buys cosmetics knows how outrageously she is cheated in the value of them, her right- minded indignation would do more to stop the sale of those things than the clearest knowledge of the dangerous drugs they contain and the peculiar injury to health and beauty they inflict.

The writer of this was at one time engaged in the preparation and sale of cosmetics, and therefore knows exactly what each and every one of them costs to prepare and what the women pay for them. And now probably the most interesting part of the story regarding the ingredients used in the most prominent of such articles and the danger attending the use of each.

First come the various "blooms," which are nothing more than starch and imaginary history and high sounding recommendations. These are divided into two classes—the bad and the very bad. The first, an eight ounce bottle of "Eggs and Cream" rose water, and five of distilled water, and half an ounce of light oxide of zinc. This must be shaken and applied to the face, and, while not immediately harmful, dries the skin and causes it to become very red and sore. The second, a bottle for bottle, wrapper, stopper, ribbon and wax cost about the same, so that sixteen bottles of this kind would cost a woman willing to pay two dollars for them, the very bad are made in the same way, only with less rosewater and with common flake white, which is pure lead. This is the same price, two dollars, and costs less than the good ones. The very bad are made in the same way, only with less rosewater and with common flake white, which is pure lead. This is the same price, two dollars, and costs less than the good ones.

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ENT mustache, or at least some coarse hairs on chin or cheek. One is made of corrosive sublimate of mercury, another of the inspissated juice of the Indian turpentine, another of urate of ammonia and quinine, another of corrosive potash, and one is a block of burgundy pitch and sealing wax. This last is to be melted, plastered on the face hot, fanned till cool and pulled off, when the hairs come out. The others are pasted over the skin, and they eat the hairs off, and sometimes the skin too. These cost nothing to nothing and sell from one to ten dollars, according to the fears of punishment after death of the dealer.

There are toothpastes, shampoo soaps and curlines, and a thousand other articles made by the manufacturer sets and lotions, and not one of them costs a tenth of what they sell for.

ANNA DYNE.  
THEY MAKE STRAW HATS.  
An Employment for Young Women That Is Pleasant and Profitable.

Never was there a time when the hats and bonnets of the fair sex were more beautiful or artistic than at the present day. Have you ever stopped to think how the hats of the ancients were following the Bible teachings in so adorning themselves? In olden times the bonnet was conferred as a mark of honor, as in Exodus it says, "And for Aaron's sons thou shalt make coats, and bonnets shall be made for them, for glory and beauty." Again it speaks of "Goody bonnets of fine linen," and yet again, "And put bonnets on them as the Lord commanded." It speaks of the children of Egypt training their hair, so there was evidently a straw hat later. After the linen bonnets of Bible fame were the English bonnets, made of cloth or silk, according to the wearer's means. These were superseded by the hats in the sixteenth century. In Scotland bonnets were made of thick milled wool without seam or lining, and so exceeding durable that with reasonable care a single bonnet would last a lifetime.

In early times the straw was braided in China and Italy, and in Italy today the women braid the fine straw, ten yards being a day's work for which they received five cents.

When the war first began in this country, it was mostly done by farmers' wives in Massachusetts in their own homes. The rye straw was used for the head and the hats were sewed by hand. In those days our ancestors wore a bonnet a couple of years. But as time advanced it was thought necessary to have at least one a year, and finally one a season; factories were formed, and finally machinery was used, until today it has become a fine art, and is one of our most profitable industries.

As the demands of a fashionable wardrobe require as many hats in a season as our grandmothers possessed in a lifetime, the condition of those who make them has also improved. In a bright, sunny room on Hudson street, New York, was recently found about 100 girls or young women busily engaged in making straw hats; so bright and sunny was the room, so merry was the laughter and happy the faces that greeted you on all sides, one could scarcely realize it to be a large factory where persons were toiling for daily bread. The writer was surprised at the refinement and intelligence of the workers, for during a half hour of the buzz of machinery was heard the discussion of all the most interesting topics of the day, music, literature, fashion and even politics, and some of the workers seemed as dainty as the creations upon which they were engaged.

"My guide," said my guide, "we have the most intelligent and independent class of women in our employ. One out of twenty makes a successful straw sewer, but when they do they receive good pay. They make from sixteen to twenty-seven and even thirty-three dollars per week while the season lasts, which is from January to June. Many then come from Massachusetts, and go back and become students during the rest of the year. We have artists, musicians and even literary women among them. They have pleasant homes and dress well. Here in the workshop they wear plain dresses, but when they step into the street none would dream they were toilers for daily bread, as we have a dressing room where they make their street toilets before leaving.

"The process is quite interesting," said my guide, holding in his hand a bunch of braided straw. "This is first given to a reeler, who winds it on a spool the same as cotton. It is then passed to the operator, or straw sewer, who fashions it into a hat, according to a block, which is placed before her. It is then sent to a steam or drying room, after which it is placed on a block or mold. It is then put into a machine with a hydraulic pressure. When it is taken from this it is dry and perfectly shaped; it next goes into the hands of the varnisher, after which it is returned to the workshop to be tickled and lined.

"Some of the fancy lace straws are sewed by hand. These sewers do not average more than ten dollars per week, while the ticketers and liners receive about four dollars and a half. They are then packed and sent to the retailers who sell them for from sixteen to twenty dollars. When it is taken from this it is dry and perfectly shaped; it next goes into the hands of the varnisher, after which it is returned to the workshop to be tickled and lined.

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