

## THE HAPPY ISLES.

The breezes bear the orange scent.  
About their groves the wild doves  
drone.  
The sunshine girds their shores. Content  
Has made them utterly Her own.  
But far they lie—ah, far  
Beyond the tossing bar,  
Beneath the sunset, and alone.

The long lagoons are lapped in calm,  
The shadows are ringed with surfless  
sheen;  
The shadows slant from palm to palm,  
But dim they lie—ah, dim  
Upon the utmost brim  
Of sea and sunset, fairly seen.

Within thine eyes I gaze, and there  
The chart is plain. Ah, Sweetheart, be  
My pilot while the winds are fair.  
Come, then, Beloved, sail with me.  
For near they draw—ah, near,  
And clear they grow—ah, clear,  
Beneath the sunset on the sea.  
—Pall Mall Gazette.

## "DI."

HERE we are at the old willow.  
What do you say to coming to  
anchor for a bit?" he remarked,  
bringing the Canadian close in to the  
bank.

"That is just what one finds so im-  
possible in life—coming to anchor, I  
mean," she said, dabbling her left hand  
in the water.

"Look here, Di," he jerked out pres-  
ently, "what is the good of beating  
about the bush? There's something  
wrong, and you are worrying yourself  
about it, and I am going to make you  
tell me everything. You used to tell me  
everything once, Di, without invita-  
tion," he added, with an attempt at  
rallies that was chiefly pathetic.

"Don't be a duffer, Hugh," she ob-  
served. "May I not be sentimental now  
and then without being forced to ex-  
plain that I mean nothing at all? Now,  
will you please amuse me? It is a  
shame to waste an afternoon like this."

"Of course it is," he echoed. "You  
see, dear, all the gods and the fairest  
of mortals—meaning your delightful  
self—seem to be conspiring for my hap-  
piness; when the gods behave in this  
odd kind of way we are told to distrust  
them. First of all, I have you—have  
had you quite fast, since the days when  
I robbed orchards, and you, like a sec-



"I AM GOING TO TELL YOU A STORY."

ond Eve, ate the apples; then I have  
secured two firsts and a reasonable  
chance of a fellowship; lastly, a most  
commendable maiden aunt sees fit to  
die and endow me with the wealth that  
perishes. It is too much, you know, Di,  
not a doubt of it; the stagey thing to  
happen is for me to lose you, and there-  
by make dust and ashes of all my other  
possessions."

"Do you know," he recommenced  
presently, "I can't, for the life of me,  
help feeling sentimental, and gray, and  
awfully sorry for myself, when I think  
that Cambridge is over and done with.  
Look at that bit of Clare there, gazing  
out upon King's with such a genial  
eye; then there is the willow above us,  
and the bridge from which one used to  
listen to the nightingales, and—and the  
Fen sunsets one has seen, and the  
cheery life. All gone, Di, forever and  
forever."

"All gone," she echoed in a voice that  
was almost tragic by comparison with  
the half-flippancy of his.

"Staying up here indefinitely as a don  
is not the same thing," he went on.  
"The glamour wears thin, and one slips  
into formula in place of feelings, and  
acquires uncanny views of women. You  
have met Roberts often lately, haven't  
you? He is only just 30, and yet he  
has settled into his groove as if he  
were 110. As a coach he is marvelous,  
and I have every admiration for the  
way in which he has pulled me through,  
but—but I should have liked to ex-  
hibit the genuine Roberts to you, Di;  
you would have been edified, I think.  
I never met a man who could so effec-  
tually turn his blind eye to the good  
qualities of women."

"Ah!" murmured the girl. "Let us  
go down the river again," she said after  
a pause. "I have something to say to  
you, Hugh, and it will be easier if we  
are in motion."

"I have often wondered what would  
happen to Roberts if he met his destiny  
written large," he mused audibly. "It  
would knock him clean out of time, I  
fancy, should he lose. That is the  
worst of these men who go on in smil-  
ing indifference to amatory dangers;  
they are pulled up with a horrid jerk.  
Don't you think infant vaccination with  
love lymph is to be advocated? You  
don't take it half as badly as that is."

"Oh, Hugh, why will you be so—so  
frivolous?" pleaded the girl, something  
between amusement and desperation in  
her voice.

"Can't help it, Di, for the life of me;  
I was born so, you know."

"I am going to tell you a story,  
Hugh," she went on with more com-  
posure, "and you shall give me your  
verdict on it. Don't stop; I can't bear  
to remain still. The story is about a

woman and a man of whom the woman  
was very fond—so fond that she had  
promised, almost before she grew up,  
that she would marry him. She did not  
know that love meant something else,  
until—until she came up to Cambridge  
one May week. Hugh, please don't  
look at me in that way; it is only a  
story. Well, she met some one very  
often, more often than she had a right  
to do, during that week; she did not  
realize the end to which they were  
drifting—she was merely interested in  
drawing a grave, book-hardened man  
out of his shell; being rather willful,  
she could not be confronted with a solid  
wall of ice and not wish to thaw it."

The man's face was the color of damp  
parchment. "Go on," he said as she  
halted in the telling.

"She succeeded, Hugh. It all came  
about on the night of a certain college  
ball, beneath an old willow—the same  
under which we anchored not long ago.  
The wall of ice melted suddenly en  
masse, and the rush of water carried  
both of them away. It was then that  
the woman learned the added element  
which converted fondness into love; it  
was then that she lost sight of honor  
and allowed the man to kiss her."

"Good God!"

She had not dreamed that Hugh  
would take it like this. Sorry, very  
sorry, she expected him to be, but not  
anguished. She had grown up with  
him, and tragedy always seems out of  
place with people who have become  
dovetailed into our lives by common-  
places.

"Hugh, you must not think I—gave  
you up," she said, with the silly strug-  
gle of a sheep that sees the slaughter-  
house door before it. "I told him al-  
most at once that I was bound to you,  
and I shall not break my promise. Only  
I had to confess, because it would not  
have been right to conceal it from you."

They were close in to the left bank  
of the river, and a step was audible on  
the pathway. Both looked up. Both  
turned their eyes from the bank to each  
other, and a light broke in on Hugh.

"That's Roberts, the man who pulled  
me through so well," he observed, cha-  
otically. "Would you like to land, Di?"

"No, no!" she cried.

But the canoe was already brought  
to, and he had leaped on shore. Me-  
chanically she took the hand he held  
out to her; mechanically she responded  
to the confused greeting of Eustace  
Roberts, classical coach and father of  
unnumbered firsts. One among the  
last-born of his offspring seemed to be  
somewhat intoxicated this afternoon—  
perhaps the heat had been too much  
for him.

"You're a decent old sort, Roberts,"  
he remarked, hilariously slapping his  
preceptor on the back, "and I—congrat-  
ulate you. Should never have expected  
it. Sly dogs, you cynical beggars. Don't  
mind me—enjoy this kind of thing, you  
know. Good-by, good-by; I must be  
off. No good missing Hall, you see,  
for the sake of being de trop."

Before they could stop him he was  
well out in the middle of the river and  
paddling hard in the direction of  
King's.

"Poor chap!" muttered Roberts.  
"Poor chap!" said the girl. "Is that  
all you can find to say appropriate to  
the occasion?"

"Yes; the rest is away behind, shut  
up beyond the reach of words," he re-  
sponded, gravely.

**Had His Share.**

Recently a medical man told this tale  
at a professional banquet.

"Not long since," said the doctor, "a  
member of the medical profession died,  
and in due time approached the gates  
of the beautiful land. He was, of  
course, accosted by St. Peter.

"What is your name?" asked the  
aged doorkeeper.

"Sam Jones," was the reply.

"What was your business while on  
earth?"

"I was a doctor."

"Oh, a physician, eh?"

"Yes, sir."

"Made out your own bills, I sup-  
pose?"

"Yes, sir."

"Collected 'em yourself?"

"Why—why—yes, sir," stammered  
the wondering shade of the physician.

"And then St. Peter threw wide the  
portals and said: 'Go right in, my  
friend; if you've done that you've  
had punishment enough.'"—Colorado  
Springs Facts.

**The Highest Tower.**

The highest tower in the world is  
presently to be built as one of the  
great attractions of Buffalo during the  
Pan-American Exhibition. It is to be  
held in that city in 1901. It is to be  
1,152 feet high and 400 feet square at  
the base, and will be a much more or-  
namental building than the Eiffel  
Tower. It will be served by no fewer  
than thirty-three electric elevators,  
sixteen of which will run only to the  
first landing, 225 feet above the level of  
the ground. The whole journey from  
the bottom to the top will necessitate  
four changes of elevators, and will take  
about six minutes, while the elevators  
will have a carrying capacity of 10,000  
an hour. The estimated cost of this  
tower, which will be built of steel, is  
\$800,000, or about twice as much as  
that of the Eiffel Tower.

**Eating and Weighing.**

It has been seriously asserted by  
many people that we are naturally  
lighter after a meal, and they have even  
gone the length of explaining this by  
the amount of gas that is developed  
from the food. Average observations,  
however, show that we lose three  
pounds and six ounces between night  
and morning; that we gain one pound  
and twelve ounces by breakfast; that  
we again lose about fourteen ounces  
before lunch; that lunch puts on an  
average of one pound; that we again  
lose during the afternoon an average  
of ten ounces; but that an ordinary  
dinner to healthy persons adds two  
pounds and two ounces to their weight.

## CHILDREN'S COLUMN.

### A DEPARTMENT FOR LITTLE BOYS AND GIRLS.

Something that Will Interest the Ju-  
venile Members of Every Household—  
Quaint Actions and Bright Sayings  
of Many Cate and Cunning Children.

Bessie, Bessie, come quickly, and  
bring kitty with you," called Aunt Ella  
up the stairs.

"What for, Auntie?" was the answer.  
As Bessie came running down. She  
held a pretty little tabby kitten of three  
months old in her baby arms.

"Cook says there is a mouse back of  
the kitchen, dear," replied Auntie, as  
she lifted the little girl off the last step  
of the stairs.

"A live mouse!" cried Bessie, trot-  
ting down the passage after her Auntie.  
"Why, hasn't it run away? It  
will be kitty's first mouse, won't it,  
Auntie?"

"Yes, and I think it will be mouse's  
first kitty, too. Cook says it is a very  
little one," said Auntie.

Opening a door at the end of the pas-  
sage, Bessie ran into the kitchen.  
"Where is the mouse, cook?" she  
asked. "I've brought kitty."

"Be very quiet, Bessie," said cook as  
she led the way to the little yard back  
of the kitchen. "He'll come out again  
in a minute if you wait."

Bessie put down the kitten, who,  
never having seen a mouse before, sat  
down on the steps wondering why he



"WHAT A FUNNY LITTLE THING!"

was awakened from his cozy nap on  
Bessie's soft bed. Very soon the dearest,  
tiniest, timidest gray mouse Bes-  
sie had ever seen ran out from under  
the gate, and looked round with his  
bright black eyes. He did not seem a  
bit afraid of kitty, but ran up to him  
and held up his little nose for a kiss.  
As kitty was not very big, no doubt  
mouse thought it was his mother.

"Kitty thinks, 'What a funny little  
thing,'" said Bessie in a whisper, as  
he bent down and smelt it. Mouse  
gave a little jump, and ran away as  
fast as he could go. Then kitty sprang  
after him.

"Oh! he will kill the poor little  
mouse," cried Bessie, jumping up from  
her chair.

"No, he won't. Look, dear! He's  
gone!" said Auntie. And sure enough,  
at that moment Master Mouse reached  
his hole under the fence, and ran into  
it with a squeak of joy.

Bessie picked up the kitten. "Poor  
kitty! don't be disappointed! Never  
mind if you have lost him. I'll give  
you a nice dinner instead."

Then she added, as she ran upstairs,  
"You're a very good little kitty to let  
mouse run home and not kill him."

**Just a Little Boy.**

There is a boy in our town,  
(And he is wondrous wise),  
Who, when the rain comes pouring down  
And clouds o'erspread the skies,  
Says, "I'll just smile the best I can,  
No matter how it pours;  
And we'll have sunshine in the house  
If it does rain out of doors."

When naughty words swarm through his  
brain,  
And clamor to be said,  
He shuts his teeth together tight  
And says, "I'll kill you dead,  
Unless you will be sweet and kind,  
And good and full of fun;  
You can't come out until you are—  
No, not a single one!"

He thinks when he's a grown-up man,  
With wisdom and sober face,  
He'll do some wondrous deed to make  
This earth a brighter place;  
But nothing in this whole wide world  
Can give more lasting joy,  
Or make more little sunshine,  
Than just a little boy.  
—Philadelphia Times.

**Punch and Judy Are Great Favorites.**

Paris' old-fashioned theaters still  
have Punch and Judy shows. The au-  
dience are models of attention. The  
children sit serious or lightly laughing,  
following with delighted eyes the evo-  
lutions of the notary, the gendarme,  
Pierrot, Mother Berlingu, and the oth-  
ers that take the places of the charac-  
ters our own young people know.

The theaters are in the open air. All  
through the fall into early winter the  
bare-legged little folk come to them,  
rosy-faced and hardy. Under the bare  
branches of the horse chestnut trees of  
the Champs Elysees they spin their  
tops when it is all but freezing. The  
play is a much longer one than is given  
here, and there is always a wheezy old  
accordion to furnish the music, but Mr.  
Punch fights his way through it all and  
meets with the same end at last.

**A Baby Sandwich.**

There is a nine-months-old baby in  
Chicago which is a wonder. For the  
first four weeks after it came to this  
world it was like any other baby, just  
a soft little kicking bundle of hunger.  
Then his papa, who is Mr. A. A. Stagg,  
the teacher of athletics in the Chicago  
University, took the little Stagg in hand  
and started in to make a baby sand-  
wich out of him. First he exercised the tiny  
arms and legs every day, and the baby  
cooed and laughed and thought it great  
fun. And he was hungrier than ever.  
The baby's papa would roll him and  
tumble him, pull him and wool him and  
haul him and maul him till the friends  
of Mr. Stagg were afraid he would hurt  
the little fellow. But Mr. Stagg knew  
just how to handle a bundle of human

muscles, be they ever so tiny, and now  
that the baby is 9 months old it can do  
things that very few little ones a year  
and a half old can do, and it is better  
and stronger in every way than most  
babies. It has never had a sick day.

This baby athlete will raise his body  
straight up from a lying position with-  
out using his arms, will raise his body,  
by the leg muscles alone, from a crouch-  
ing position to an upright one several  
times in succession, will arch his back  
like a wrestler, and will stand up on  
his papa's hands and balance himself  
like a bareback rider. His papa has  
made him a little trapeze, to which  
Baby Stagg hangs while he is swung  
roughly about, and draws himself up  
by the strong muscles in his little arms  
like an old performer. Every baby in  
the block is being trained in athletics  
now—and they are all hungry all the  
time.

**Why It Was Bedtime.**

"Bobby, you must go to bed now."  
"But, ma, it isn't time!"  
"Yes, it is; your Uncle Robert and  
your father are going to tell what bad  
boys they used to be at school."

**Nellie's Motto.**

Auntie—What is it you are embroid-  
ing on the tidy for grandma?  
Little Nellie—The good die young.

**BOOK AGENT IN HARD LUCK.**

**His Recipe for the Benefit of Drowning  
Men Did Not Work.**

"I'm through," said the book agent  
wearily. "I've notified the house that  
they may no longer expect me to risk  
my life handling their goods. For the  
last thirty days I have been touring  
the State with a universal compendium  
of knowledge, containing first aids for  
the wounded, treatment for snake  
bites, how to bring a drowned man to,  
and a thousand and one other things  
that every man should know, bound in  
calf and sold at a price within the  
reach of all. I traveled on my wheel,  
and that enabled me not only to work  
the small towns, but the surrounding  
country as well. One day I chanced  
to call upon an old farmer. I tried to  
get him interested in the great work  
that I was handling, but without suc-  
cess until I showed him the chapter on  
drowning; then I saw that I had him.  
There was a small lake near where the  
boys went swimming and the old man  
lived in fear that some one would get  
drowned.

"Well, when I showed him how fully  
the book treated the subject I made a  
sale. It was a hot day, so I accepted  
an invitation from the old man's sons  
to go in swimming with them. I was  
hardly in the water when I was seized  
with a cramp. I shipped a good deal  
of water, but I managed to reach the  
shore without much trouble, although  
I was greatly exhausted. While I was  
gasping for breath the old man came  
running up with the book that I had  
sold him. Finding the chapter on  
drowning he read the directions to his  
sons and told them to go ahead. Be-  
fore I knew what was going to happen  
I was seized by two of his husky sons  
and hung up by the heels and pounded  
on the back until all the breath was  
knocked out of me. Then I was rolled  
over a barrel and pounded again; then  
a bellows was jammed down my throat  
and I was pumped so full of wind that  
I thought I would burst. They tried  
every fool idea that was in the book,  
and it was only owing to a sound con-  
stitution that I lived through it. I'm  
through! I can't afford to take the  
chances that are in the business,"—  
New York Telegraph.

**Great French Disasters.**

Twenty-five thousand French pris-  
oners were taken by the German troops at  
the battle of Sedan, in the Franco-Ger-  
man war, on the 31st of August, 1870,  
while on the following day, as the re-  
sult of the German victory, over 83,000  
French soldiers surrendered, together  
with 70 mitrailleuses, 400 field pieces,  
and 150 fortress guns. About 14,000  
French wounded were found lying on  
the battlefield, and about 3,000 escaped  
into Belgium and laid down their arms.  
On the 27th of October, in the same  
year, Marshal Bazaine, after fighting  
and suffering several defeats in the  
neighborhood of Metz, surrendered  
with his army, including Marshals  
Canrobert and Le Boeuf, 66 generals,  
about 6,000 officers, and 173,000 men,  
including the Imperial Guard; 400  
pieces of artillery, and 53 eagles or  
standards.

**Strange Money.**

Chocolate is still used as money in  
certain parts of the interior of South  
America, as also are cocoanuts and  
eggs. According to Prescott the money  
of the Aztecs consisted of quills full  
of gold dust and bags of chocolate grains.  
Before the introduction of coined  
money into Greece, skewers or spikes  
of iron and copper were used, six being  
a drachm or halfdollar. The small, hard  
shell known as the cowrie is still used  
in parts of India and Africa in place  
of coin. Whales' teeth are used by the  
Fijians, red feathers by some of the  
South Sea Islanders and salt in parts  
of Abyssinia. In parts of India pieces  
of tea and in China pieces of silk pass  
as currency. Oxen still form the cir-  
culating medium among many of the  
Zulus and Kaffirs.

**Bridle Burned with Electricity.**

A novel method of destroying a wood-  
en bridge has recently been tried with  
complete success. Weighted wires are  
placed across certain beams and heated  
by means of electricity; the wires burn  
their way through the wood, aided by  
the weights, and the bridge falls.

**Latest in Roses.**

The latest thing in roses is in the pos-  
session of an East Anglian rose-grower,  
who, in his catalogue, says that its  
name is Kruger, and that it requires a  
warm position and much disabbling.

If an honest man is the noblest work  
of God it might be policy to keep an eye  
on the self-made man.

## TALKS ON ADVERTISING

A wholesaler in this city had one of  
the brightest and most impressive lec-  
tures on advertising read to him by a  
country merchant last week that he has  
ever heard in his life. This country  
merchant is not one of the ordinary  
merchants. He is a character in his  
way, a Hibernian, and with his full  
share of the proverbial wit. This mer-  
chant lives in a small city of the State,  
and buys the better part of his goods  
in this city. He was on a buying trip,  
and, passing a wholesale house, he ob-  
served paper napkins in the windows.  
He went in to look at them, for he had  
sold for such things in his store.

"An' do ye have paper napkins to  
sell?" he asked of the wholesaler. He  
did have them, he said. "An' how the  
devil do I be knowin' that ye have pa-  
per napkins to sell, if I don't come  
down here and happen to see them in  
the windy? Why don't ye till a man  
ye have paper napkins? Why don't ye  
advertise in the Commercial Bulletin?  
Thin we'd know what ye had to sell."

The merchant told him that he did ad-  
vertise in the Bulletin, which was true.  
"Ah, yis," said the merchant. "An'  
how do ye advertise? Ye put a cut of  
yer buildin' in the paper. Now, what  
the devil do I be wantin' to see the cut  
of yer buildin' for? I don't care for  
yer old buildin'. It's what's in yer  
buildin' that interests me. If ye have  
paper napkins, say ye have paper na-  
pkins, and don't be a showin' us a pic-  
ture of your big store. That's the way  
I'm goin' to sell these paper napkins  
I am buyin' of ye. I put an advertise-  
ment in me paper at home to tell the  
people of me town that I have paper  
napkins to sell and the price they have  
to pay for them, and be the powers  
they come and buy them." This whole-  
saler told me that he had more good  
advertising sense rubbed into him in  
ten minutes by this merchant than he  
had found in books in the past ten  
years.—Hardware Trade.

**Cost of Living in Paris.**

"To prove that we are economical  
young women shall I tell you how much  
we pay at the pension?" writes a girl  
in the Ladies' Home Journal, who, with  
a girl companion, is traveling in France  
and giving the benefit of her experience  
to girls who may go to the Paris Ex-  
position this year. "The tariff card, tacked  
on the wall of my rose-twined Marie  
Antoinette room, says the price is nine  
francs. Then how do I come to be pay-  
ing only seven? One learns over here  
to marchander—to haggle, to bargain.  
If madame's prices read 'from seven  
francs,' and you write to her asking if  
she can let you have a room and at that  
price, she will probably reply that the  
only rooms she has are rented cost ten  
francs. But if you are wise enough to  
ask her if she has a room for seven  
francs the answer will be 'yes.' We  
are, of course, beyond the pale of the  
bath, electric lights and big tips; the  
maid who cares for our room is satis-  
fied to receive a modest fee, and it is  
with a thrill of delight that we pick up  
our candlesticks and say 'good-night'  
just as they do in novels. We are com-  
fortable and happy on two dollars per  
day. The fact that we are alone does  
not bring us a moment's annoyance, nor  
subject us to any unreasonable re-  
straints."

**Passing of the Lily.**

Bermuda lilies are becoming scarce.  
If means are not soon adopted on be-  
half of this branch of the lily family  
it will soon, like the buffalo, practically  
disappear. Although a native of Japan,  
the Easter lily is best known to Ameri-  
cans as being common in Bermuda. The  
soil of the island is of peculiar composi-  
tion, coral dust being an important con-  
stituent. It was at one time very rich,  
but the production of the bulbs of the  
Bermuda lily has exhausted it to a  
great extent, hence the danger that the  
flower will disappear. But the exhaus-  
tion of the soil is not the only thing  
that threatens the lily. The flower it-  
self is suffering from exhaustion. Flori-  
cultivists have not yet been able to hit  
upon a name for the disease. The bulbs  
are getting smaller year by year.

**Using Unemployed Land.**

For two years and more Columbus,  
Ohio, has tried the Pingree plan of  
using unemployed land as gardens for  
the poor, and has found it practical and  
eagerly adopted by those who are in  
need of help. Last year the number  
of families who tried it was more than  
double that of the year before. Sixty  
widows were among those who prefer-  
red the potato patch to the washboard.  
Every city would be the better for al-  
lowing its waste and unemployed land  
to furnish food for those who are poor,  
and who are glad to work in the fields  
for their support.

**A Beggars' Trust.**

According to the New York police  
most of the successful beggars in that  
city belong to a trust. The beggars'  
trust is said to own a large house in  
Brooklyn, which provides every de-  
scription of beggars' supplies, including  
bogens wooden arms, legs, humpbacks,  
pitiful placards for alleged blind men  
and cripples, etc. The beggars pay the  
trust a certain percentage of their earn-  
ings, and the trust regulates the hours  
of their labor, selects the districts, fur-  
nishes a list of charitably disposed peo-  
ple and looks after members when ill.

Good fortune seldom travels around  
in an automobile looking for you.

Charity is religion with its coat off.

## ON THE MISSISSIPPI.

Qualat Incidents of Travel Along the  
Great River.

Passenger service on the Mississippi  
River is in a fairly satisfactory condi-  
tion. Between St. Paul and St. Louis,  
and from there to New Orleans, there  
are large and well-built craft, with  
comfortable state-rooms equipped with  
running water and spring mattresses.  
Each steamer has a long cabin extend-  
ing from stem to stern, where the ta-  
bles are set for meals, and where the  
passengers dance in the evening. There  
are a piano and sundry easy chairs. It  
costs about as much on the boat per  
day as it does at a good lake-side hotel,  
so that a passenger virtually has the  
pleasure of travel for nothing. The  
chief difference between the life on a  
boat and that at a summer hotel is that,  
instead of viewing the same prospect  
day after day from a piazza, you have  
a new view from the boat every mo-  
ment. The boat stops at every town,  
so that the passenger may become fa-  
miliar with the urban as well as the  
country life of the valley. The freight  
of the river is always taken to and  
from the boat on the backs of negro  
roustabouts. There has been no ad-  
vance in the manner of handling it  
since the steamboats first plowed the  
river. As soon as the boat's nose touch-  
es the shore the gangplank is lowered,  
and a seemingly endless procession of  
negroes begins to move back and forth,  
carrying on board the bags of flour,  
which, on the northern portion of the  
river, often makes the bulk of the car-  
go. Plows, boxes, lumber and mer-  
chandise are the other products. River  
levees are much the same everywhere.  
The cargoes, however, are varied. They  
all present a picture of a hundred years  
ago. At Memphis, from the bluffs to  
the water's edge, is an immense in-  
clined plane of granite paving stones.  
In the center, about two hundred feet  
from the bluffs, runs a wide road the  
entire length of the levee, and disap-  
pears among the compress factories  
and oil mills, whose great bulks and  
tall chimneys appear in the distance.  
Between this road and the bluffs the  
levee is nearly level; from here to the  
river there is a steep descent. Above  
the road come and go continually a swift  
stream of cotton loads and empty drays,  
and great piles of small cargoes to and  
from local jobbing houses; below it  
there are, during busy hours, a con-  
glomerate mass of drays, mules, cotton  
bales, sacks of cottonseed, darkies, and  
all sorts of freight. Beyond is the long  
row of steamers that line the shore, and  
in the background sweep the waters  
of the Mississippi. The center of activity  
may be one boat, such as the Big  
Sandy of the Memphis and Cincinnati  
line, just arrived, bringing a cargo of  
2,000 cotton bales that have been picked  
up along the river mouth. The huge  
pile of boxes and furniture, and bags  
of cottonseed are being carried, one  
piece at a time, by a long stream of  
lazy darkies, over the gangplank into  
the bowels of the big boat. There some  
laborers, returning by way of the stage  
plank at the prow, roll out