

The Sumter...
GILBERT...
One year...
Subscription...
DOLLAR...
FIFTY CENTS...
per annum...
in advance...
The Sumter...
is published...
on the first...
of each month...
except in the...
month of June...
when it is published...
on the 15th...
of the month...
The Sumter...
is published...
at the office...
of the printer...
No. 100...
Broadway...
New York...
City.

CHILDHOOD.
We all have a common debt to the best of everything, and we love for the beautiful things of earth—hence, we try the choicest fruits and pluck the fairest flowers. What we come to realize in life we love to carry in its most perfect form—that of childhood. Its ever varying moods are pleasant to contemplate. Children tell their likes and dislikes frankly, also their loves and hates. Under the guise of politeness they hide bitterness, indulge in no deceptions. They do not make at your back only to charm the pain away by flattery.

Mr. Francis Galton, in his recent work on Hereditary Genius, presents some curious calculations as to a man's chance of being struck by lightning in a battle. One man suffers from another in height and in width, therefore the chance of the one as compared with that of the other varies as the sectional area of his body, that is to say as his height multiplied into his average breadth. But this is not the whole truth, and Mr. Galton admits it; for large men are more likely to be hit, not merely on account of the greater area of their bodies, but also on account of their being more conspicuous from their size, and therefore being more likely to be singled out as a mark.

The principle of "natural selection," on the part of the enemy's bullets, here comes into operation, and Mr. Galton endeavors to correct his estimate of chances by taking the weight of the man into account. It is not easy to perceive the force of this mode of reasoning, but the result of it is, that the chance of a man's being accidentally shot in battle is as the square root of the product of his height multiplied into his weight.

Had Nelson been a large man, instead of a mere feather weight, it is probable that he would not have survived so long the extraordinary dangers he encountered. In the course of five years he took part in a hundred and twenty actions at sea, including the battles of Cape St. Vincent and the Nile, and in them lost an arm and an eye. He was ultimately killed at Trafalgar (after a wounding death at Copenhagen) by one of many shots aimed directly at him by a rifleman in the mainmast of the French ship with which his own was closely engaged; but it should be added that on this occasion he greatly increased the chances against him, by passing the officer deck in full uniform, with all his medals and orders fastened on his breast. When the famous Marshal Soult visited England, a story appeared in the newspapers to the effect that some English veteran had declared the hero must bear a charmed life, for that he (the soldier) had covered him with his rifle upon thirty times, and yet never hit him. It is not at all surprising that the uneducated believe some men to bear charmed lives when we remember Napoleon at the bridge of Aroca, and again at Aroca, where it is set down in history that the Austrian artillery swept off everybody by himself within a circle where he was standing, yet he led the way across the bridge unharmed—the grape rattled in a perfect hailstorm around him. The same may be said of Wellington at Waterloo, where it is reported that every man on his side either killed or wounded, and he had for a while to do their work until both sides could be brought up from the other end of the line, he escaping all the time untouched. Many more instances of such exemptions from the law of chance may be found in history, but these are two remarkable cases, familiar to most people. It will be found that the majority of officers of the higher grades survive not only one but many battles. Mr. Galton estimates this mortality at sixty per cent, but his figure does not bear out his theory. He has selected a list of thirty-two of the most eminent commanders of the field of battle, which would make the proportion very high per cent. The most formidable enemies an army has are camp-fever, privation, their fatigues, and very great exposure to heat, cold and damp, and the carelessness of the men. These kill three times as many as the bullet does; and yet the bullet kills it thousands, notwithstanding its large chances in favor of the escape of each individual soldier.

Conscience is God within us: It is man's best friend, or his dreadful enemy. It is a hand which holds the soul, which inwardly purports and constrains itself. It is a voice which whispers itself to the heart, and stings him in the individual moments when it is obeyed, it is a friend indeed—an inward bosom friend. (M. J. B. 283-284)

—A recent New York dispatch thus briefly relates a story: "Eliza Kuhl, a domestic in Newark, used kerosene to light the fire this morning. Her father-in-law takes place to morrow."

CHILDHOOD.
It is unfortunate for the South that at a time when the construction of its State affairs required the control of the public mind, there was a time when it was a sufficient guarantee of a Southern State of indelible bond and conspicuous integrity. At present, there is scarcely a trace of this sort of feeling. For the last five years, the finances of the several States have been controlled by men who have acquired position through the political vicissitudes consequent upon the war.

With no experience in statesmanship or adventure of record, but that of the readjustment of the money market of the States, Mr. McKim's debt, when we affirm that the main object with these raw financiers has been the good credit of the State, but the manipulation of the finances so as to produce the largest possible gain out of the situation. Their schemes have been, in most cases, hatched in Wall street banking houses; and the legislators, governors, and officials have been paid tools for carrying out the plans of shrewd bankers. The main point aimed at was to produce the widest possible fluctuations in the prices of the State bonds, irrespective of the interest of the State, the party to be benefited being the innocent public.

Most of the new issues have been necessary to issue for the redemption of their over-burdened bonds, or their unpaid interest. These new issues have in most cases been put out by secret sale on the market, and in amounts known only to the negotiator and the clique. In anticipation of the issue, the parties of the secret would sell on time large amounts of the State securities, and as soon as the new bonds had been marketed, the result would be announced, with the result of a heavy fall in the market value of the obligations, affording the "ring" speculators an opportunity for covering their previous large sales. In other instances, a legislative "ring" has authorized large issues of bonds to railroad schemes for which there was no necessity arising out of the ordinary needs of the State. These loans had the double advantage of building the roads and of yielding a profit on the manipulation of the bond market, the gains on both operations falling into the hands of the clique.

In other instances, the political speculators have sought illicit gains through fictitious expedients for stimulating the credit of the State. In these cases they would first of all buy through New York capitalists large amounts of the obligations, and then augment the taxes to retire unexpectedly a considerable amount of debt, and as a still further expedient, compel certain corporations doing business within the State to hold a considerable amount of the State obligations, which the corporations there was no necessity arising out of the ordinary needs of the State. These loans had the double advantage of building the roads and of yielding a profit on the manipulation of the bond market, the gains on both operations falling into the hands of the clique.

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CHILDREN NEED TO BE AMUSED ON LONG SISTER EVENINGS. To ping corn they like right well. "It's a hunk of fun when it's dry and pops good," said a bright-eyed boy to me; "it's such fun to dive after the white beauties as they hop out of the popper," and he laughed and whirled on one level until his little head was dizzy with delight.

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