

MIRAGE.

With milk-white dome and minaret Most fair my Promised City abroad Beside a purple river set The waving palm trees beckoned on.

A LAST RESORT.

A dark night, and the sky hidden by a mass of hurrying clouds. A raw, chilly wind, the ground all mud, the tall grass and trees dripping from heavy rains.

helpless, when there came a break in the clear voice within. The girl had ceased reading. He looked in and saw her pick up a pitcher and come toward the door.

But another glance at the pure, pale face relieved him. She was listening anxiously, and said with hurried kindness, 'There is an old bed there. Look, while I hold the light down. There! Even half an hour's rest will help you.

The clanking of the pump ceased. The girl looked around with a startled air. 'Who spoke?' she demanded. 'A fugitive, utterly exhausted with flight from a bloodthirsty mob. They are close at heels. I can't go farther, and I am doomed unless you have pity and give me help, or concealment.'

Very hurriedly Mrs. Westford passed the well-filled dish and pitcher to him, reporting the mob almost before the house. 'Cover up, quickly, Ernestine, I am going to wake Harry.'

She uttered a sharp cry and looked away where the distant lanterns were gleaming through the cornfield—the pursuers on his track. 'I must ask mother,' she said, and snatching up her pitcher swept past him into the house.

The tramp that murdered your brother is at large, and we are hunting for him. We have looked all up and down the road, for we know he came this way, and it looks mighty as if he had slipped into your premises and hidden somewhere.

Gilbert fell into a chair too exhausted to stand. 'You will know when it is too late if you refuse me aid. Madam will you risk it?—risk feeling that you have saved an innocent man, but instead let him go to his death.'

The head of each stick, to be thoroughly dipped or covered, must be separated from the others, that no danger shall ensue from ignition, as would be done if they came in contact with the inflammable material used in the coating.

The old lady hesitated, then, opening a corner cupboard, took out a pair of handkerchiefs—relics of the days when David had been deputy sheriff and earned the enmity of tramps and evildoers—and held them towards Gilbert.

The first dipping covers the head of the match sticks with the paraffin preparation; by the second operation it is covered with the igniting composition, different devices being used for this purpose.

The window was but a step away. He crept to it and looked through the curtains. A plain, neat farmhouse kitchen, and two women, evidently mother and daughter, sitting by the table before the fire, the mother sewing, the daughter reading aloud. No one else in sight, yet Gilbert gave a smothered gasp and fell back in despair.

The nests of an extraordinary tree ant are cunningly wrought with leaves, united together with web. One was observed in New South Wales in the expedition under Capt. Cook.

Ernestine said blushing. 'I know we were not over-polite to you, mother and I; but come again, and you will find that we can be civil.'

HOW MATCHES ARE MADE.

The wood used in the manufacture of matches is principally white poplar, aspen and yellow pine. In the United States white pine is used almost exclusively. It burns freely, steadily, slowly, constantly and with a good volume of flame.

THE JOKER'S BUDGET.

Maudie—You'd better be on the lookout for a proposal from Charley Doodle. Ellen—Why? Has he expressed his affection for me? Maudie—No, but he proposed to me last night and I refused him.—[Chicago Record.]

THE INCREASE OF WISDOM.

It is not until a man reaches thirty that he begins to wrap the small bills on the outside of his roll.—[Texas Sittings.]

CONSCIENTIOUS.

The Victim—How many times am I going to marry? The Sibyl—Only eight times, madam. I would like to make it more but I must go by the cards.—[Truth.]

WHY HE STOLE A KISS FROM HER.

She (shyly)—Do you believe that stolen kisses are sweetest? He—I don't know; I never stole one.

HE LASTED A LONG TIME.

Willis—When my wife makes me a present it is sure to be something that will last. Wallace—My wife is just like her. Five years ago she made me a present of one hundred cigars, and I have ninety-nine of them yet.—[Life.]

LEATHER THEN.

Dealer—'You say you used to be in the shoe business. What do you think of these?' Customer (looking at the sample)—'I can't say. You see, they only made shoes out of leather in my time.—[Boot and Shoe Recorder.]

HONORED AND SLIGHTED.

She wore his flowers, did the maiden say, That had cost him dollars ten; She wore his flowers, but, alackaday, She danced with other men.—[New York Press.]

INTENTIONS.

'Dora,' said her mother to the summer girl, 'isn't that young Mr. Smithers getting very pronounced in his attentions?' 'Oh, that's all right, mamma,' said Dora. 'He doesn't mean anything. We're engaged.'—[Chicago Record.]

BOTH IN THE CAT FAMILY.

'What kind of vessel is that?' asked the young lady, pointing to a passing craft. 'That is a catboat,' replied the person interrogated. 'How funny!' exclaimed the artless maiden. 'And I suppose,' she added, 'the little one behind it is a kitten boat.'

HE BECAME UNEASY.

Prof. Stone—to the geologist a thousand years or so are not counted as anything at all. Man in the Audience—Great Scott! And to think that I made a temporary loan of \$10 to a man who holds such views!—[Indianapolis Journal.]

DISSEMINATION--Kitchen Mystery Solved

Mrs. Nuwed—Bridget, why do my dishes disappear so rapidly? Bridget—Shure, ma'am, its becase they're breakfast dishes, I'm ather thinkin'.—[Truth.]

THE WORM HAD TURNED.

'Have you been reading about the storm on the face of the sun?' asked the landlady of the meek boarder as she put the cream out of his reach. 'No'm. I've all I can do to watch the storms on the face of the daughter,' he responded sadly.—[Detroit Free Press.]

CONSCIENTIOUS.

Clearance—No, mamma; wear them home again.

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A HAPPY.

Henpeck (looking up from his newspaper, to his wife)—Here's a man who escaped a pitiful fate. (Reading) 'While on his way to Geeville last evening, Hiram Green's horse ran away, throwing Green from the wagon and breaking his neck.' Mrs. Henpeck—And you call that escaping a pitiful fate? Henpeck—Yes. (Reading) 'Green was on his way to Geeville to be married.'—[Browning's Monthly.]

THE FATE HE ESCAPED.

Judge (sternly)—Your face is very familiar. Have you been in this court before? Prisoner—No, sir; but I'm a bartender at the Farndon Hotel.—[Life]

BRIGHT BOY.

'Johnny,' said a teacher in one of the up-town public schools, 'have you seen the skeleton of the mammoth in the Museum of Natural History?'

WASN'T AS STOUT AS BEFORE.

Meandering Moses—Are them the same clothes you had on last week? Itinerant Ike—Yes.

A LITTLE MISUNDERSTANDING.

Teacher—What is the difference between a long ton and a short ton? Observing Boy—The weight of the driver.—[Good News.]

A RUBE THAT FAILED.

He—Do dreams go by contraries? She—They do.

HIS HAPPY MOMENT.

New arrival (to Subdued Looking Man in the hotel office)—You are the clerk of this hotel, I suppose, sir?

NOT NOTICEABLE.

Miss Summit—I don't think I ever saw you looking so well.

NOT ALWAYS A DRAWBACK.

'Isn't it a nuisance to have a treacherous memory?'

ABSENT-MINDED.

Miss Wouldbe—By the way, have you seen Mr. Dropoff of late? Arthur Duncan—About two days ago.

NOT LOADED.

'Krupp's is the biggest cannon ever made, isn't it?'

AN ASTUTE SALESMAN.

'Got any cow bells?' asked a Texas farmer, stepping into a hardware store in Dallas.

GOOD TEETH DIET.

Oatmeal is excellent as nourishment for the teeth, because it makes the enamel strong, flint-like and decay-resisting.

Punished After Thirty-Eight Years.

Here is a story of the merciless severity of the Russian law, which has gained currency in London. More than thirty-eight years ago Ivan Rykoff, an eighteen-year-old boy, got drunk, and, entering a church, stole the wax candles from the altar and sold them to continue his spree.

THE LABOR WORLD.

NEW YORK has 600 unions. LONDON police get \$6 a week. IRON moulders now use a label. FRANCE has female farm laborers.

FIFTY-THIRD CONGRESS.

152d Day.—The Senate adjourned for lack of a quorum, will act on the Legislative Appropriation bill.

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THE HOUSE.

147th Day.—The House spent the day considering the Revenue Cutter Service bill without acting upon it.

THE SENATE.

153d Day.—The Legislative, Executive and Judicial and District of Columbia Appropriation bill.

THE HOUSE.

153d Day.—The House discussed the Bailey Bankruptcy bill. The House adopted a strong resolution approving the President's course in the strike.

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