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Poetry. THUS AND SO. Ye who know the reason, tell me... Why should smiles sometimes repel us? Bright eyes turn our feelings cold? What is that which comes to tell us... Like a single glance? Like prevention of danger, Though the sky no shadow flings, Or that inner sense, still stranger, Of unseen, suffering things...

ROMANCE OF A LIFE. My father died when I was closing my twenty-first year, leaving me the full charge of a delicate sister, and an affectionate but much afflicted mother. He was taken ill suddenly, and before we realized the truth of our situation, he was gathered to the home of his forefathers. For some twenty years previous to his death, he had held the position of paying teller in the Bank, discharging his duties to the ultimate satisfaction of his employers, and the pleasure of his fellow employees. He had, out of a liberal salary, besides keeping us always in moderate 'style,' purchased a neat little home in Harlem, and thither we moved from the more fashionable thoroughfare of the city. So on this home and my rather scant salary depended our whole subsistence.

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I took a liking to at first sight. That was Frank Lesling, the cashier. He was a young man of about five and twenty, possessing nut-brown hair, full blue eyes, almost womanish in their expression, a clear complexion, and commanding stature. A mutual good feeling sprang up between us at first sight, which gradually developed into a warm friendship. He boarded at the Clifford House, and consequently I boarded there. All our spare hours were spent together, in quiet rambles about the city, through the parks, and frequently out among the suburbs.

Mr. Lesling was a middle-aged man, of a genial turn of mind, pleasant, jovial and talkative. He welcomed me as the particular friend of his son. "I have longed to see you," said he, "from the warm way in which Frank spoke of you in his letters." In a few minutes his daughter entered, and somehow I never afterwards could remember how I found myself shaking hands with her. Fannie Lesling was to my eyes beautiful—yes, more than beautiful—a complexion clear as alabaster, set in a profusion of the blackest, glossiest hair imaginable, which seemed to vie in color with her large eyes; a graceful form and sweet voice—this is all I can remember of how she looked then.

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"Yes, sir," I replied, calmly, "that is her name." "My God! 'tis she!" he exclaimed, passionately. Mr. Lesling overheard these words, and rising from his seat addressed Mr. Hudliffe as follows: "My dear sir, Fannie is not my child, though I always loved her as such. How I became possessed of her is in this wise: It was a bitter cold night in mid-winter. The winds howled, and the waves lashed the shore. The night was pitch dark. Suddenly there was heard a gun—the signal of distress, and all the seafaring men in our village convened, to decide what was to be done. A few boats were launched, manned by skillful hands, but only to be washed on shore by the desperate waves. On the 7th day God ended his work. On the 7th month Noah's ark touched the ground. In 7 days a dove was sent. Abraham pleaded 7 times for Sodom. Jacob served 7 years for Rachel. And yet another 7 more. Jacob mourned 7 days for Joseph. Jacob was pursued at seven days' journey by Laban. A plenty of 7 years and a famine of 7 years were foretold in Pharaoh's dream by 7 fat and 7 lean beasts, and 7 ears of full and 7 ears of blasted corn. On the 7th day of the 7th month the children of Israel fasted 7 days and remained 7 days in their tents. Every 7 years the land rested. Every 7th year the bondmen were set free. Every 7th year the law was read to the people. In the destruction of Jericho, 7 persons bore 7 trumpets 7 days; on the 7th day they surrounded the walls 7 times, and at the end of the 7th round the walls fell. Solomon was 7 years building the temple, and feasted 7 days at its dedication. In the tabernacle were 7 lamps. The golden candlestick had 7 branches. Naaman washed 7 times in the river Jordan. Job's friends sat with him 7 days and 7 nights, and offered 7 bullocks and 7 rams for an atonement. Our Savior spoke 7 hours from the cross, on which he hung 7 hours, and after his resurrection appeared 7 times. In the Lord's prayer are 7 petitions, containing 7 times 7 words. In the Revelations we read of 7 churches, 7 candlesticks, 7 stars, 7 trumpets, 7 plagues, 7 thunders, 7 vials, 7 angels, and 7 headed monster.

Explaining a Phenomenon. The Cincinnati Enquirer furnishes the following "plausible theory," explanatory of a recent shower of fish: Most of us have heard that many years ago a cow jumped over the moon, and to this day, no authentic information has been had of her coming down. Now, in order to jump over the moon, the distance traversed would naturally carry the cow outside the influence of terrestrial gravitation, and at the same time necessitate avoidance of the moon's attraction. The cow, of course, not being within the attraction of any heavenly body, would constitute a planet of herself, and would revolve on her own axis, have an atmosphere of her own. It is also well known that the rarefied atmosphere that exists a few miles away from the earth will not sustain animal life. Therefore, the cow must have died shortly after leaving the earth. That, however, would not have prevented the full accomplishment of the jump, as the impetus at the start would have been sufficient to propel her, dead or alive, the required distance through space. It is a verified fact that the preservative effect of a rarefied atmosphere on meat is in direct ratio to the distance from the earth attained. To sum up, it only remains to supply some such commotion in nature as that which disintegrates meteoric bodies and hurls their atoms into space, and the so-called phenomenon is explained. The elapse of time since the cow died explains the fact the microscopic examination of that meat revealed no bloody corpuscles.

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GIVE HIM A CHANCE. Poor soul! he is down at the foot of the hill, And despairing, we see at a glance; Beset with temptation, surrounded by sin, Don't spare him! just give him a chance. Were you in his place and as tempted as he, You might be as bad, even worse; Then give him your hand and a blessing beside, Instead of a kick or a curse. So hunted, so branded by merciless men, No wonder he eyes you askance, No wonder he thinks you are like all the rest, Be merciful! give him a chance. He is somebody's son in childhood, perhaps, He shared a fond mother's caress; Or give him a lift—a kind, cheery word. You surely can do nothing less. To exercise charity, Christ-like, to him, Will only give pleasure enhance; As for mercy you hope from heaven above, Have mercy and give him a chance.

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How to Behave. (Stolen from the Danbury News.) Never cut navy bug at the table. Mud turtles never drink champagne. No lady will chew tobacco at a funeral. A switch in hand is worth two in the bush. A sassy-mouthed man seldom has clean hands. Be sure you are tight—then stand on your head. It is vulgar to shake the grate with the butter-knife. It is impolite to open oysters with a fork at a wedding. Don't wink at your wife in public. Reason given next week. Never make sport of a lady friend because she has a wooden leg. Never wear a low necked dress in warm weather. It shows ill-breeding. When you get a fish bone in your throat take the fish tongs and pull it out. In giving advice, the less you know the more fluent will be your speech. No lady is bound to bow to a gentleman until he loosens her pull-back. A No. 10 boot is just the thing to augment the insolence of a watering place snob. No well-bred person will say to a lady: "Madame, your husband is a horse-thief." When you are eloping with another fellow's girl don't stop to argue with the cab driver. The easiest way to ventilate a room in cold weather is to throw a cat through the window. Do not run after famous people. Order a cab, and if the driver is drunk, take a street car. The silly habit ladies have of wearing their lovers cigarette ashes in lockets is going out of fashion. If your back hair comes off at a party, ask some gentleman to hold it until you are ready to go home. If your friend is away from home, nail your card on a gait post and sit on the fence until she returns. The prettiest sight on earth is a sweet young girl in a cherry tree. Moral—Get married as soon as you can. It is a mark of ill-breeding to eat onions while playing on your neighbor's flute. Moral—Music will not boil the pot. When one's mother-in-law has twins it is not polite to send her tickets to a circus. Moral—Don't fool with a buzz saw. Nothing is more beautiful than a young girl trying to tame a mule with a croquet mallet. Moral—Don't make an ass of yourself. Never kiss a lady at a party. It will make another jealous and cause your landlady to foreclose the mortgage on your trunk. Short stove wood and clean shirts are among the Lost Arts of the domestic fireside. Moral—Keep your mouth shut at a funeral.

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Making Lead-Pencils. The wood most commonly used in this country in the manufacture of lead-pencils is the Florida red cedar, except an inferior grade, chiefly for the use of carpenters, which is made from white-pine. The lead is the well known "plumbago," or graphite, of the best quality of which there is now only one available mine, that being in Asiatic Siberia. Hence the limited supply and the high price. Many pencils are now made by grinding and cleaning what was formerly prepared as reituse in working the plumbago, and making a paste by mixing with clay. In making the clay and graphite, great care must be taken in selecting and cleaning the clay and getting the proper proportions. The mixture, after being well kneaded, is placed in a large receiver, and forced out through a small groove at the bottom in the shape of a thread of the thickness and style required—either square, octagonal or round. This thread, or lead wire is cut in bars of proper length, then straightened, dried at a moderate heat, and packed in air-tight crucibles and placed in the furnaces. The grade of the lead depends upon the amount of heat it is exposed to, the amount of clay used in mixing, and the quality of the plumbago. The lead is colored by various pigments. The wood, after being thoroughly seasoned, is cut in thin strips and dried again, then cut into strips of pencil length. These strips are grooved by machinery, then carried on a belt to the gluing-room, where the lead is glued in the groove, and the other half of the pencil glued on. After being dried under pressure, they are sent to the turning-room and rounded, squared, or made octagonal by a very ingenious little machine, which passes them through three sets of cutters, and drops them ready for polishing or coloring; the former is done on lathes by hand; and the latter by a machine which holds the brush and turns the pencil flat to it through a hopper. After the pencil is polished, it is cut into an exact length by a circular saw, and the end is cut smooth by a drop knife, the pencil resting on an iron bed. The stamping is done thus: A hollow die is heated, the gold or silver foil is laid on the pencil, which rests on an iron bed, and the die is then pressed on it by a screw lever. The pencils are then ready to be packed for the market.

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