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POPPIES.

The sun's golden center has swung
Half way out 'tween the glow and the gloom.
In the air is an arthen unsmiling
And the breath of a languored perfume.
The shadows have drifted away
Somewhere out of the path of the world,
Not a sigh bends the grasses astray,
And the sails of the cloudboats are furled—
It is noon!
It is noon in the heart of the world!

My hands with red poppies are filled,
On a bed of white poppies I lie,
And the sweet of life's joy twice distilled
They exhale as they wither and die.
Red poppies and white, white and red
Love or sleep, sleep or love—which is best?
To burn with a joy sorrow fed
Or in sleep with their sleeping to rest?
White or red!
White or red, love or sleep—which is best?

Oh, poppies, with dreams in your heart,
To my heart a soft lullaby croon,
At whose music unrest shall depart
As the shadows steal skyward at noon?
Say, poppies, all drooping in sleep
In the silence, the glow and the gleam,
Can you sink me in slumber so deep
As shall make all the years but a dream?
Soft and low—I am drowsy with sleep!
Soft and low—I am drowsy with sleep!
—Kate A. Bradley in Detroit Free Press.

Beautiful Sight.
In "Transiberian Savages" the author gives a description of a beautiful and unique phenomenon which he witnessed off the shore of Sakhalin island. The bright blue water was so clear that for a long distance from the shore he could see the bottom, and even the fishes, shoals of which were moving gently hither and thither.

Above the swimming fish was a strange phenomenon. The surface of the water was like dazzling snow. This brilliant white surface, which extended over an area of nearly a square mile, was not sea foam, for, with the exception of the ocean swell, the water was placid as a lake.

My friend, seeing my delight, motioned me to hand him one of the rifles. He took no aim, but simply fired. Instantly the air was full of skimming snowflakes, scintillating in the bright sunshine against the deep blue sky right across the horizon, while the surface of the water ceased to be white and became uniform in its blueness.

This is the most beautiful sight that this latitude has to offer, and most fortunate was I in getting it. Just at that season millions upon millions of exquisitely white birds migrate to that spot. They are whiter than the whitest of gulls, and their plumage is much more brilliant, so as to be quite dazzling in the sunshine. What these birds are I had no opportunity of determining.

Madras—The Eurasians.
Only 4,000 Europeans are to be found in the immense population of 400,000 souls, if we exclude the 12,000 Eurasians who occupy the No Man's Land, on the borders of black and white. This hybrid race presents insoluble difficulties to the political economist. Craving for the social recognition denied to a community which originated in the vices of the early European colonists, and scorned alike by the pure blooded nations of east and west, the sins of the fathers seem visited upon the yellow children of this degenerate stock unto the third and fourth generation.

By a curious freak of nature the Eurasian of Portuguese descent sinks step by step in the scale of color until he becomes of darker hue than the Hindoo of unblemished race, and the hybrid Gonesse of the present day combine distinctively European features with a skin of total blackness. The unbalanced Eurasian character, full of conflicting elements, lacks the sterling and enduring qualities which command respect and insure success, and this feeble type of humanity has hitherto appeared incapable of elevation to vigor of thought and action.—All the Year Round.

A Dowry on Approval.
A curious custom prevails among Roumanian peasants. When a Roumanian girl is of a marriageable age, all her trousseau, which has been carefully woven, span and embroidered by her mother and herself, is placed in a painted wooden box. When a young man thinks of asking to be allowed to pay his attentions to the girl, he is at liberty first to open the box, which is always placed conveniently at hand, and examine the trousseau. If the suitor is satisfied with the quantity and quality of the dowry, he makes a formal application for the girl's hand, but if, on the contrary, the trousseau does not please him, he is quite at liberty to retire.—London Woman.

At Tissington, an English town, the wells and springs are decorated on Ascension day in memory of a rain that fell on that date nearly 400 years ago after a drought that threatened a famine.

Many Parisian drinking cups have been found in the ruins of Persepolis. They are shaped almost exactly like our saucers.

The hemins, or huge beadresses, worn by the ladies of Paris during the fourteenth century, often cost as much as \$29.

Camden, N. J., was named for the Earl of Camden. It was formerly spelled Campden.

Chickahominy is an Indian word meaning "turkey lick."

GEORGE ELIOT.

Her Religion and Her Morals and Lessons From Her Life.

M. M. Mangasarian, in his lecture on "George Eliot's Religion and Morals," says:

"George Eliot achieved true immortality—the victory over oblivion—through the power of genius and goodness. She not only won the admiration of the generation in which she lived, but she also conquered the future. George Eliot has more readers today in England and America than when she lived in the flesh and was seen walking about London. The only thing that is eternally young is genius. If she were living now, few would hesitate to pronounce her the greatest woman writer of the day. George Eliot is a moral artist, an ethical teacher, in a sense in which Sir Walter Scott or Dickens was not. She brings to her task an uncompromising earnestness; every page of her writings is saturated with an almost unrelaxing seriousness. To demonstrate the eternal laws of conduct which inclose and environ man's existence is the burden of her books.

"The two marriages of George Eliot have elicited much criticism, friendly and unfriendly. I have heard it said George Eliot herself regretted in after years the influence her example exerted upon others. There was in this act of hers an apparent disrespect and indifference to existing institutions. The question of the relation of the sexes is steadily moving to the front. In Europe and America there are writers who think it is the crucial question of the day. I do not believe George Eliot ever violated the spirit of her high teaching on the subject of marriage.

"George Eliot is a philosopher novelist, teaching the meaning of life through the channels of fiction. There is in her, as there was in Thomas Carlyle, a lurking sadness, a melancholia. While reading her pages I have said to myself, 'She has turned her pen in tears.' The story of her religious evolution proves that to know the truth was her only desire, to cling to error was her only fear. At an early age she found herself slipping from the dogmatic Christianity of the day, but if she stopped going to church she never ceased to be religious. The first condition of human goodness is something to love, the second something to reverence. Can there be a better definition of ethical religion? Religion to her meant something else besides doctrines and notions; it meant the free and diligent exertion of the intellect, the hunger and the thirst after righteousness. This breach with the creed of her youth never created bitterness in her soul, for she says, 'It is possible, thank heaven, to have very erroneous theories and very sublime feelings.' No other writer has uttered more eloquently the supremacy of the deed over the creed. She is the modern stoic."

The Gecko.

The gecko is an odd little creature. His name is seldom heard, and his form is seldom seen, for he lives in warmer climates than this. His home is in Africa and the southern countries of Europe.

This little gecko has so many strange ways and there is something so uncanny in his appearance that the people of the countries where he lives are rather afraid of him, believing his bite to be poisonous, although this is denied by naturalists. He is a little creature, with a broad, flat head, like a snake, and a long body, with a narrow tail, with odd shaped bits of skin arranged like scallops along the sides of it. He has short legs and queer, catlike claws, which enable him to easily climb the old walls and rocks upon which he lives, catching the insects of various sorts which make his dinner.

He is a nocturnal animal, walking abroad at night and sleeping in the daytime. He moves with sudden rushes and without any noise whatever. His odd name was given him from the queer noise he makes, which is something like the noise you would make to start a horse with. The gecko is of a gray color, so near the shade of the old walls and rocks among which he makes his home that he can barely be seen.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Fireproof Stairways.

Professor Goodman of the Yorkshire college, writing on this subject, says that it is a mistake to suppose that stone stairs are safer than wooden ones in case of fire. Stone is often the first material to fall in case of fire. As soon as the fire begins to play upon the thin slabs of stone, such as are used for stairs, they collapse with a crash. His opinion is that iron or steel stairs, incased in coke breeze or broken brick concrete, makes by far the safest staircases, so far as the fire risk is concerned.

Popea's Bath.

Popea, one of the wives of Nero, used to take with her a troop of 500 asses so that she could enjoy the luxury of a bath in asses' milk, which was supposed to have the property of making the skin tender.

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