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BALLAD OF THE DREAMER.

Swift as sound of music fled When no more the organ sighs— Spelt as all old joys are sped. So your lips, love, and your eyes. So your gentle wail replies. Mine, one hour, in sleep that seem, Fit away as slumber flies, Following darkness like a dream.

As the scent from roses red, As the dawn from April skies, As the phantom of the dead, From the living love that lies, On the moonlight silver stream, So you rise, when dreams arise, Following darkness like a dream.

Could some witch with woven tread, Could some spell in fairy wile, Lap about this dreaming head In a mist of memories, I should like him that lies Where the lights on Palmos gleam, South of Selden down the skies Following darkness like a dream.

Sleep, that grants what life denies, Shadowy bounties and supreme, Bring me back her face, that dies, Following darkness like a dream. —Andrew Lang.

FOOTPADS ON THE STREET.

Comparatively few men are now attacked by footpads on the street," said a gentleman who for the last twenty-five years has made frequent business visits to Chicago. "There was a time before the fire when business men and others coming to the city felt unsafe on the streets, because there were frequent instances of men being stopped or knocked down and robbed by vagabonds, who as a rule made their escape. There is less of this now than there was years ago, because men carry less money than they did years ago, when there were few banks in the country towns and no good system of exchange or credit.

"It is a rule among business men of this era to carry with them money enough only for their immediate expenses, and a merchant, a drover, or a trader of any kind coming to the city, instead of having thousands of dollars on his person, will have probably less than a hundred. The footpads have come to understand this, and they take fewer risks, because they know that the returns will not be sufficient to warrant the risk. Hundreds of business men in Chicago make it a rule to carry less money in their pockets than do their employes or the average workman. This is as much a rule of business as is the depositing of cash in the bank at a certain hour.

"The effect of the rule is seen in the comparative freedom of the prosperous business man from attack by thugs or street vagabonds. Twenty or more years ago the very opposite was the rule. A man doing a prosperous business felt that he was called upon to demonstrate the truth of his pretensions or claims by cover or open exhibition of a plethora of pocketbook. Particularly was this the case with men coming to the city without acquaintance or letters of credit. Their pocketbooks were their certificates of financial standing, and a man who did not have a full pocketbook or who did not exhibit a disposition to spend money freely was not regarded favorably by new business acquaintances. The mere fondness for display of money, the exhibition in the possession of money, led men to be a little reckless in the display of large bills or of gold pieces, and men with the heaviest pocketbooks were easily spotted by footpads." — Inter Ocean "Christine Crayons."

Snakes in Mexico.

Some of the islands are absolutely unexplorable, because of the insupportable number and variety of the serpents that infest them. No wonder those early Indians considered a skirt of woven snakes the most appropriate garment for the Goddess of the Earth! Centuries before the coming of the Aztecs the poetical people who inhabited these western shores, contemplating the azure Pacific, named the Goddess of Water Chalchicuilic—"she of the skirts of blue;" and no less appropriately the tribes of this section called the earth's goddess Chalchicuilic—"she of the skirt of snakes." Other tribes called her Coatlicue—"the woman serpent"—the Aztec Eve, whose head is a serpent's, with the breast and limbs of a woman, and whose gown is a web of snakes adorned with tassels and feathers.

In attempting to explore some of the islands of Lake Chapala it seemed as if the earth literally wore a "skirt of serpents." The ground swarmed with them, swaying and writhing from every bush, hissing and squirting on every fallen tree, and rippling the water in all directions. It was a question as to which were more numerous, the birds above or snakes below. They tell us that as soon as the spring birds appear there is a great gathering of snakes below and hawks above. The latter literally cover the trees, and whenever hunger dictates they make a dash at the tired little creatures who have settled upon the islands after their annual return from some unknown region. If a bird escape the hawks and seek to refresh himself with a drink, in the twinkling of an eye he is swallowed by one of the greedy serpents that lie in wait for him at the water's edge.—Cor. Philadelphia Record.

Menagerie Animals Insane.

A Brooklyn physician tells me that all the animals in Barnum's menagerie and in every other menagerie for that matter, are insane. Not howling, roaring, biting mad, but simply off their mental heads. He says that no animal accustomed to the free range of woods and hills can be cooped up in a cage for more than two or three months without going to pieces intellectually, and manning around his cage in an aimless manner, paying little attention to anything but his feed. For snakes, crocodiles and that sort of cold blooded creatures, confinement is not irksome; they obtain their provender without lusting for it, and that suits them to a dot. Some kinds of birds, too, are imprisoned a natural condition, for they and their ancestors for many generations were born in cages and never knew liberty. But with strong and active animals the case is different. The lion, the tiger, the wolf, fox and bear do not endure transplanting from their native deserts, plains and jungles. Imprisonment in little cages is to them the direst cruelty. How would a man feel if he had to live in one?—"Hambler" in Brooklyn Eagle.

Another Fortune Teller.

Omaha Man—Are you making a fair living out of your Kansas farm? Kansas Man—Living? Why I'm rich. You see, there was a little piece of poor ground back of the dike which was not fit for anything. Well, one day brother Jake dreamed there was gold under it, and the next morning he offered me \$100 for it, on long time, of course, for he hadn't any money, and I sold it.

"Yes."

"Well, Brother Bill heard of Jake's dream and bought the lot of him for \$1,000, in the same way, you know. Then I got scared and bought it back for \$5,000. Then I sold it to Bill for \$10,000, and so it went on until a few days ago, when I got the lot again and sold it to Jake for \$100,000. Just think of it. No more farming for me."

"But what security have you to show for all that value if Jake has no money?"

"Why, I've got a mortgage on the lot."—Omaha World.

Comfort in English Hotels.

The guests of the hotel spend very little time in their rooms. The smoking room in the English hotels could be copied with advantage in the United States. There is nothing more dreary in the world than the reading room or gentleman's waiting room of American hotels. In the English hotel the smoking room is furnished with heavy leather covered chairs and sofas, with small tables scattered about. Here any one order anything he pleases to drink or come in after his dinner for his cup of coffee with his cigar. It is always a very comfortable place, and, indeed, almost the only comfortable place in the hotel.—T. C. Crawford's Letter.

Youthful Gallantry.

Ethel—Now I am going to be nurse and play I'm taking the baby in its carriage to the park.

Roy (who has a penchant for Ethel)—Well, then, I'm going to be your nurse.