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THE BALLAD OF A BOTANIST.

Near the quiet little village of a trim New England town
Lie the peaceful, pleasant acres of a farm of fair renown,
Where the fond pursuit of botany
Doth banish all monotony
And tan the faded cheek a ruddy brown.

Here Euphorbia cyparissias* waves a welcome unto all,
Ampelopsis quinquefolia spreads its mantle o'er the wall,
While from Salix babylonica
And Cydonia japonica
With cheerful chirp the wrens and robins call.

Leonurus and Linaria lead our steps along the lane
Where Lilium and Trillium and Uvularia reign.
And Asclepias cornuti—
Good for "greens" if not for beauty,
Like Utrica, though its touch entaileth pain.

Chrysanthemum leucanthemum the grassy fields adorn,
The fragrance of Trifolium on every breeze is borne
And the tall Vebascum thapsus†
In very rapture wraps us,
As its kingly candle kindles in the morn.

In the woods the *Anemone meorosa you will* find,
Mitchella, Tiarella and the lithe Celastrus twined,
And Monotropa hypopitys—
A very spooky crop it is—
That may scare the superstitiously inclined.

There are many more that flourish on this fair and fertile farm;
I should greatly like to name them all, and catalogue each charm—
The curious Cruciferæ, umbrellared Umbelliferæ
The laughing Labiatæ, the glorious Aggregatæ,
Roseaceæ, Malvaceæ—but do not take alarm,
For I'm only just a botanist, and I really mean no harm.

—F. L. Sargent in Youth's Companion.

*Called in England "welcome to our house."
†Known in Europe as "king's candle."

HIS FAILURE.

I should never have known that he was a failure if he had not told me so himself. Most assuredly he had not the air of one. For his coats were always fashionably cut, and his taste in liqueurs was almost as delicate as my own, and he could afford to gratify it far more frequently.

Such was the testimony of appearance, and so far as I knew his history it pointed to the same conclusion. He had been, I understood, a writer, like myself, though even less successful, and then "fortunate speculations" had enabled him to retire from a calling which he found more honorable than remunerative and spend his afternoons in playing billiards at the club.

And yet Everard Deane esteemed himself a failure. He told me so emphatically one evening at the hour when truth "peeps over the glass's edge when dinner's done."

"It was all that confounded Stock Exchange," he murmured, gazing gloomily into a glass of green chartreuse.

I begged him to accept my cordial congratulations. "It's a better way to fail than most," I said. For I had known so many who failed upon the Stock Exchange and lived happily—drinking champagne and driving about in broughams—ever afterward.

But Everard Deane protested.

"I don't mean what you mean," he said. "I didn't lose money on the Stock Exchange. I made it—lots of it. That is the mischief of it. That is precisely why I am a failure."

He looked gloomier than ever as he spoke and ordered a second green chartreuse.

Jerking his head so as to indicate a man at the farther end of the room—a well dressed man, excessively bejeweled—with whom, half an hour since, he had cordially shaken hands, he whispered:

"That is the man who has been my evil genius. You know him?"

"I think so. It's Morrison Parker, the great financier, isn't it?"

"It is, and Morrison Parker, the great financier, has been my evil genius. It's a foolish story, but I sometimes like to tell it after dinner. A brandy and soda?"

I accepted, and when the waiter had brought the glasses Everard Deane resumed:

"I was an author, you know—a young author—with great aims and high ambitions. I made enough money to live upon by writing for the papers, but I looked upon literature, not as a trade, but as an art. I was a member of the Waste Paper club, where all of us professed to take the same artistic views of life and letters and sat up till the small hours discussing them through a haze of tobacco smoke and steaming grog. I was very happy there until the day came when Morrison Parker joined the club. He owned a newspaper—The Stock Exchange Recorder, I think he called it—and therefore he was technically qualified. But when he came and sat up with us in the small hours he did not talk literature. He talked finance."

"Yet the two subjects may occasionally have relations with each other," I suggested.

"Precisely. That is the point that Morrison Parker used to insist upon, especially when he had had a good day and made us drink champagne with him to celebrate his luck. 'Why do so many half educated city men profess to look down on authors?' he would ask. And then he would answer his own question. 'Because there isn't one author in 500 who knows how to make £1,000 a year. That has always been the great reproach of letters, from Dr. Johnson's time to ours. It's high time to put an end to that reproach. Why don't you fellows do it?'"

I sighed, wishing that I knew how to put an end to it myself, and then I asked:

"And did your friend descend from the general to the particular and tell you how it could be done?"

"He did. He told us all to open a speculative account in Louisvilles."

"Louisvilles? That is the name of an American railroad, I believe?"

"It is. And opening a speculative account means buying the shares without being able to pay for them, selling them at a profit and putting the difference in your pocket. Simple, isn't it?"

"Very simple," I said. "The merest child's play, provided that the shares go up."

"Oh, they went up all right, and so did the others that I bought afterward. I've never lost a shilling through following Morrison Parker's tips. I can't complain of that."

"And yet you call the man your evil genius?"

"Yes. I still call the man my evil genius because I lost my soul through him—my soul as an artist, that was so much to me."

I started. I could not understand. But, with an impetuous impatience, Everard Deane hastened to make clear his meaning.

"You call yourself an artist, and you do not understand? Do you imagine that an artist can meddle with these sordid actualities and not find his soul defiled by them? Do you suppose that he will sit down quietly to toil for doubtful gains indefinitely deferred, when he knows that a sudden turn of the market may put hundreds in his pocket? No, no, my friend, it is not possible. What does he do? Why, he buys every edition of the evening paper to see the prices. He runs into his club to watch the tape. He drives up to the city in working hours to ask his broker whether he ought not to sell. That is how it was in my case. That is how it must be in every case. My balance at the bank was growing, but while it grew my soul—my artist's soul, in which I gloried so—was dying, crushed out of its bright existence by the dead weight of material cares. And so things went until I stood, as it were, at the parting of the ways and swore that I would make my choice."

"Your choice?"

"My choice between the artistic and the material life. I meant to make it dramatically too. There was still enough of the artist left in me for that. It was at midnight, in my chambers in the Temple. I took the manuscript of my half finished novel—the novel that was to make me famous—from the desk and placed it on the table. Beside it I laid a heap of share certificates, and transfer forms and contract notes. Between the two piles there stood a lighted candle. One of them was to be burned to ashes in its flame—one of them, and at this solemn hour I was to determine which, and, by determining, decide the whole course of my future life."

He paused. I had to press him before he would proceed.

"And then you burned"—

"Neither," was his unexpected answer. "Neither, for I could not decide. My novel went back into the drawer it came from, to wait there till the old joy in the higher life came back to me. And that joy never came. Even to this hour it has not come. I look back to the old days. I long for them. But I know quite well that they will not return to me. The greed for gain, its ceaseless worries and anxieties, has killed my soul, and that is why I tell you that I am a failure."

There was a melancholy, at once incredible and convincing, in his accents. Unless there were a woman in the case, I would not have believed it possible for a man so well to do to look so miserable. I sought to say something that might lift him out of his despondency.

"Failure or no failure, at least you can go to Monte Carlo in the winter," I suggested.

"I know. I'm going next week with Morrison Parker," Everard Deane replied.

And then he shook his head slowly and shrugged his shoulders gloomily, as though to say that the joy of sojourning on the Riviera while we were toiling in the fogs was nothing to the price that he had had to pay for it.

And as I drove home that night to Whitcomb street I tried to persuade myself that he was right.—Francis Gribbe in New Budget.

Freckles.

Women who have suffered year after year from these annoying blemishes, freckles—who have seen them come under the rays of the summer sun and disappear when the yearly reign of King Sol is over—are illogical enough to consider the glowing monarch accountable for our annual crop of freckles. All sorts of reasons have been given for these annoying pigmentary discolorations. One well known dermatologist declares they are the result of too much iron in the blood, and that the sun's rays bring the iron stained spots to the surface, just as they do to a bit of cloth which has come in contact with iron and then is put in the sunlight. In other words, that freckles are iron rust.

Professor Hebra of Vienna, who is accounted the greatest authority of his century, insists, on the contrary, that the sun does not produce freckles. He says: "It is a fact that lentigo (freckles) neither appears in the newly born nor in children under the age of 6 or 8 years, whether they run about the whole day in the open air and exposure to the bronzing influence of the sun or whether they remain confined in the darkest room. It is therefore true that neither light nor air nor warmth produces such spots in children."

The Curious Fossils.

Some time ago, in company with a friend, I was searching for fossils among the debris of an abandoned limestone quarry. The owner, hearing us chipping and pounding among the rocks, approached us and inquired what we were looking for. On being answered "fossils," he said: "Fossils? What's them for—to ketch fish with?" I do not remember what answer he received, but it is more than probable that some of the fossils would have made excellent bait—say some of the smaller trilobites—could they only have been used in time, but, unfortunately, we were a few thousand decades late.

Another time, while wandering over the rugged Devonian slopes of the Helderberg mountains, we came across a native who gravely informed us that the curious, crooked fossil shells (zaphrentis) there abounding were petrified heifers' horns.—Archæologist.

Hands and Feet.

"My dear fellow," said a society woman of great candor to an awkward, timid young Harvard graduate whom she was to present, "you have any amount of talent, you have position, you have money, but you will never be at your ease, never show at your best, until you know what to do with your hands and feet. You must lose them, forget them, be unconscious of them."—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

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FARM FIELD AND GARDEN

SAND BINDING GRASSES.

Plants That Protect the Land From the Ravages of Sea and Wind.

The forthcoming annual report of the department of agriculture contains some interesting data concerning sand binding grasses, by Professor F. Lamson-Scribner, expert in grasses. He makes plain the fact that "all sand binding or soil binding grasses have strong creeping roots, so called, which are really modified underground stems." Following are some of the interesting items gleaned in advance from the professor's paper by the New York Sun. To the far north on the Atlantic coast sea lyme grass is a conspicuous sand binder. Below Maine marram is the leading species. This gives way south of Maryland to bitter panic grass, which extends to Florida and around some parts of the gulf coast. There are several important sand binders among the grasses along the southern borders, as the St. Augustine grass and creeping panic.

In the interior regions, away from the influence of salt water, the sand binders are usually represented by other but no less valuable species. Running mesquit and several grama grasses are valuable as sand binders on the mesas of Arizona and western Texas. The propagation of sand binding grasses may be effected by seed when procurable, but the better way in most cases is to transplant cuttings of the creeping root stocks.

The best known and one of the most important of all sand binders is the sand reed, otherwise known as marram grass. This grass is common all along the coasts of northern and western Europe and on the Atlantic coast from Virginia northward. Below its southern limit grasses of other kinds take its place. It is not confined to salt water regions, but grows in abundance along the shores of the great lakes. Marram grass has been introduced along the Pacific coast, near San Francisco, for the purpose of binding the sand dunes there. The town and harbor of Provincetown, Cape Cod, owe their preservation to this grass. At one time Provincetown had a beach grass committee clothed with power to enter any man's inclosure, summer or winter, and set out marram, or beach grass, as it was called, if the sand was uncovered or movable. Sand storms, once the terror of the town, were thus entirely prevented.

Hardly less important than marram as a sand binder is the sea lyme grass, which has stout stems from 3 to 6 feet high and long, sharp pointed leaves. This species is common along the western coast of the United States. A closely related grass with similar habits of growth is found on the Atlantic coast from Maine northward and on the shores of Lake Superior. The Digger Indians of the northwest use the seeds of the lyme grass for food.

South of the range of marram on the Atlantic coast bitter panic grass may be utilized as a sand binder. It grows in sand along the shore from Connecticut southward. The leaves are very bitter to the taste. A conspicuous grass of the southern shores is water oats. Its large spikes of flowers are gathered for dry bouquets. A grass of less growth than those above described, but much valued as a sand binder, is salt grass, or alkali grass, as it is called in the interior. It is common along the Atlantic and Pacific coasts and in the deserts of the west. In seizing upon new ground it sends out long root stalks, often several yards in length, and from these at intervals erect stems arise. An area thus taken presents, during the first few years, the striking appearance of being cut into triangles, quadrangles and other geometrical figures.

A well known grass of the old world is the Japanese lawn grass. It is one of the few grasses which are at the same time good binders of sands and excellent forage plants. It is highly commended as a lawn grass for sandy soils, and doubtless would be better for that purpose in southern cities than the rather coarse St. Augustine grass. It sends cut runners which soon cover a lawn with a soft and firm carpet specially prized for tennis courts.

The common reed is one of the most valuable of grasses for binding the banks of rivers subject to periodical floods. It is very usefnl in converting swamps and stagnant pools into dry land. It grows along rivers and lakes from Maine to California. It is one of the largest of native grasses. The young shoots are liked by cattle, and the mature stems make the best of thatch. This grass resembles the cultivated reed, and like that species is occasionally grown for ornament.

Storing Potatoes.

A perfect store place is capable of being kept quite dark and cool, but quite safe from frost. Therefore it should be at least partially under the ground level, as being the easiest way of keeping frost at bay. If stored in sheds, they should not be put into large masses directly they are lifted, for they are liable to generate more warmth than is good for them, but if spread out rather thinly at first, they may, after a fortnight, be placed much thicker without any harm. But where large quantities have to be kept through the winter there is no better plan than placing them in mounds, according to The Gardener's Magazine, which advises as follows:

Select a place a little above the general level, so as to be quite safe from

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In experiments in New Jersey, according to the station record, it was found that where the soil was not reasonably good it was necessary, in order to secure a good stand, to delay sowing until September. On poor soils excellent crops were secured when the seed was sown even as late as October. For good lands the author recommends that seed be sown between July 15 and Sept. 15. It was found that in New Jersey spring seeding either alone or with oats gave disappointing results.

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Philadelphia	‖11 16	§ 7 25	‖10 20	§ 2 02	§ 3 46	§ 5 59	5 10	9 32	10 46	§ 12 00	§ 5 52	§ 7 51
Baltimore	7 43	6 25	8 50	12 05	3 00	5 27	6 22	10 37	11 15	12 35	6 55	8 40
Wilmington	12 03	8 13	11 03	2 50	4 27	6 53	4 15	8 45		9 58	11 20	5 05	6 53
Farnhurst		f 8 22		f 2 58				f 8 36	‖ 9 50	‖ 11 12		
New Castle		8 27		3 03		7 05		8 31	9 45	11 07		6 40
State Road		f 8 33		3 08		f 7 10		f 8 25		f 11 01		6 35
Bear		f 8 38		f 3 13		7 15		f 8 20		f 10 56		6 31
Porter		8 46			4 48	7 21		8 13	9 34	10 51	4 41	6 27
Kirkwood		8 52	‖11 33	§ 3 21		7 26		8 09		10 46		6 21
Mt. Pleasant		9 03		f 3 30		f 7 34		8 01		f 10 37		6 10
Armstrong		f 9 06				7 38		f 7 57				f 6 06
Middletown	12 44	9 13	11 49	3 39	5 11	7 43	5 29	7 53	9 15	10 29	4 24	6 02
Townsend		9 22		f 3 48	5 20	7 52		7 44	9 06	10 20	4 15	5 51
Blackbird		f 9 27		f 3 52		f 7 57		f 7 39		f 10 15		f 5 46
Green Spring		f 9 33		f 3 58		f 8 03		f 7 33				f 5 40
Clayton	1 02	9 40	12 06	4 05	5 23	8 08	3 06	7 29	8 52	10 05	4 02	§ 5 36
Smyrna Lv		9 50	11 56	3 52	5 23	7 58		7 19	8 42	9 55	3 52	5 28
Brenford		f 9 45		f 4 10		f 8 13		f 7 24		f 9 59		f 5 30
Cheswold		f 9 51		f 4 16		f 8 19		f 7 20		f 9 54		f 5 25
Dupont				f 4 19				f 7 14				
Dover	1 20	10 04	12 22	4 26	5 52	8 28	2 50	7 11	8 35	9 45	3 47	5 16
Wyoming	a 1 27	10 11	f 12 28	4 33	5 58	8 34	2 44	§7 05	§ 8 29	9 38	f 3 41	5 09
Woodside		f 10 18		f 4 40					f 8 22	f 9 31		f 5 02
Viola		f 10 22		f 4 45					f 8 18	f 9 27		f 4 58
Felton	a 1 40	10 27	f 12 39	4 49	6 10		f 2 32		§ 8 14	9 22	f 3 30	4 53
Harrington	1 50	10 41	12 53	5 03	6 20		2 22		§ 8 05	9 13	3 20	4 44
Farmington		f 10 47	w 1 00		f 6 28					f 8 59		f 4 31
Greenwood		f 10 55	a 1 07		f 6 36					f 8 51		f 4 23
Bridgeville	a 2 14	11 03	f 1 15		6 45		1 48			8 43	f 2 58	4 15
Cannons		f 11 08			f 6 50					f 8 37		f 4 09
Seaford	2 26	11 18	1 26		6 58		1 34			8 29	2 46	4 00
Laurel	a 2 38	11 29	f 1 36		7 09		f 1 21			8 15	f 2 36	3 45
Delmar	2 50	11 39	1 46		7 20		‖ 1 08			§ 8 05	§ 2 26	§ 3 36
	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P. M	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P. M.	P M

‖ Daily. § Daily except Sunday.
"a" Stops to leave passengers from Wilmington and points north, or take passengers for points south of Delmar.
"f" Stops only on notice to conductor or agent, or on signal.
"w" Stops to leave passengers from Middletown or points south.
"t" Stops to let off passengers from points south of Harrington.

NEW CASTLE ACCOMMODATION TRAINS.—Leave Wilmington 12.10 a. m., and 9.51 p. m. daily, 8.13, 11.15 a. m., 2.50, 4.30, 6.15, and 6.53 p. m week-days. Leave New Castle 6.30 a. m. and 10.19 p. m. daily, 8.31, 9.45, 11.07 a. m., 1.18, 5.36, 6.40, and 7.22 p. m, week-days.

Express trains leave Harrington 8.05 a. m., and arriving at 6.20 p. m., week-days, run through solid to and from Baltimore, via Porters and Newark.

BRANCH ROADS

Delaware, Maryland & Virginia R.R.—Leave Harrington for Franklin City and way stations 10.46 a. m., 6.25 p.m., week-days. Returning, train leaves Franklin City 5.52 and 9.30 a.m., week-days.

Leave Franklin City for Chincoteague (via steamer) 2.04 p. m., week-days. Returning, leave Chincoteague 4.42 a. m. week days.

Leave Harrington for Georgetown and Lewes at 10.46 a m., 6.25 p. m. week days. Returning, leave Lewes 7.35 a. m., 3.07 p. m. week days.

Leave Harrington for Berlin 10.46 a. m., and 6.25 p. m., week-days. Returning, leave Berlin 6.59 and 11.54 a. m., week days.

Leave Harrington for Rehoboth 10.46 a. m. weekdays. Returning, leave Rehoboth 7.18 a. m. and 6.25 p. m. week days.

Queen Anne & Kent R. R.—Leave Townsend for Centreville and way stations 9.25 a. m. and 5.25 p. m., week-days. Returning, leave Centreville 7.41 a. m. and 2.50 p. m., week-days.

Delaware & Chesapeake R.R.—Leave Clayton for Oxford and way stations 9.45 a. m. and 5.40 p. m., week-days. Returning, leave Oxford 6.55 a. m. and 1.43 p.m., week-days.

Cambridge & Seaford R. R.—Leave Seaford for Cambridge and intermediate stations 11.23 a. m., week-days, and on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays 7.00 p. m. Returning, leave Cambridge 6.20 a.m., week-days, and 2.42 p. m., Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

Connection.—At Porter, with Newark and Delaware City Railroad. At Townsend, with Queen Anne's & Kent Railroad. At Clayton, with Delaware & Chesapeape Railroad and Baltimore & Delaware Bay Railroad. At Harrington, with Delaware-Maryland and Virginia Railroad. At Seaford, with Cambridge & Seaford Railroad. At Delmar, with New York, Philadelphia & Norfolk, Wicomico & Pocomoke, and Peninsula Railroads.

S. M. PREVOST, General Manager
J. R. WOOD, General Passenger Agent

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FARM
AT PRIVATE SALE.
The undersigned offers at private sale the Jas. W. Stewart farm, situated within a quarter of a mile of the town of Cambridge, as follows:
1st—60 ACRES OF CLEARED LAND and 25 ACRES WOODLAND, being the home place with good buildings thereon.
2nd—56 ACRES, lying between Washington street, Cambridge, and the Bayly road. This will be sold in lots of 5 acres or more to suit purchasers.
This land is of elegant quality and will be sold on easy terms. Apply to W. LAKE BOBINSON, or JNO. R. PATTISON, Cambridge.

Notice!
Wheeler Transportation Line,
DAILY STEAMERS
—FOR—
GREAT CHOPTANK, TRAPPE and TUCKAHOE RIVERS.
On and after March 29, 1895, steamers will leave Pier 5 Light street wharf daily except Sunday at 7 p. m. for Oxford, Trappe, Cambridge, Chancellors', Clark's, Medford's, [Choptank] Lloyd's, Dover Bridge, Kingston, McCarty's, Ganey's, Downe's, Tower's, Williston, Re e, Coward's, Covey's, Hillsboro and Queen Anne.
RETURNING
Will leave Hillsboro Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 10 a. m., Covey's 10.30 a. m., Coward's 11 a. m., Williston 1 p. m., Ganey's 1.30 p. m., McCarty's 2 p. m., Kingston 2.15 p. m., Dover Bridge 2.30 p. m., Medford's [Choptank] 4 p. m., Clark's 4.20 p. m., Cambridge 6 p. m., Trappe 7.30 p. m., Oxford 9 p. m., stopping at intermediate landings, arriving in Baltimore early the following mornings.
Steamer leaves Hillsboro Saturdays at 4 p m for Williston, leaving Williston Sundays at 7 a m, Medford's 10 a m, Cambridge 11.30 a m, Trappe 12.30 p m, Oxford 1.30 p m, arriving in Baltimore at 8 p m Sundays.
Freight received until 6 p m daily.
Grain sacks always on hand.
H. C. OREM, Agent.
Office, Pier 5 Light street.

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