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### WHEN YOUR LETTER CAME.

Sweetheart, when your dear letter came last night,  
My heart was burdened with a wild unrest;  
I seemed to grope in shadowy dim of light,  
By doubtful moods a prisoner of gloom distressed;  
But then I knew my promptings were the best  
If only they found favor in your sight—  
Your sweet forgiveness stole a light across,  
Sweetheart, when your dear letter came last night.

Sweetheart, if man could always have his way—  
If circumstances were not his cruel down—  
If perseverance favor found today  
And prizes were not given to the clown,  
Perhaps I say perhaps—perhaps some day  
Rich come to him whose heart is in his lay,  
And he might merit praise, a laurel crown,  
Sweetheart, if man could always have his way.

Sweetheart, some day these clouds will disappear,  
These darkening shapes that cloud the smiling sun,  
The living day be bright with blue and clear,  
The singers' dreams of reality be won.  
Until then, sweetheart, while the hours run  
But give your prayers to him who holds you dear,  
Your love will seek that most prized boon—  
Sweetheart, when your dear letter came last night.

—Roy Farrell Greene in Chicago Inter Ocean.

### A Night on the Heather.

A strident voice hailed us through the darkness, the voice of our excellent friend, the shepherd of the Redwirehead. His tall form seemed all but gigantic in the falling light, but his walk was sufficient to mark him far off. A rough gray plaid hung on his shoulders, his homespun clothes had a healthy smell of peat rock, and his hand grasped a great horn handled stick, which he dug into the earth as he walked. Clearly the stick was too old a companion to be left at home, for in his other hand he held a gun, and few men think it merdful to carry both. He peered into our basket and nodded, for he was a man of few words. We looked at his gun, and he answered our unspoken question.

"Aye," said he, "it's an auld fox that gave me sair work if the lambin time. She's hidin in a scrog o' birk on the hill there, and I'll hae a shot at her, though I should sit too mornin'."

We also were out for the night. We would come with him, for one fox was better in our eyes than many trout. So in a trice it was agreed that we two should keep watch on the hill and plot the death of this ancient mottler of evil. In the upper parts of the Tweed valley this shooting of foxes is not a crime, but a necessity, for they make deadly havoc among the young lambs in the spring of the year. A price, too, may be had for the skins, and so it comes about that every mountain shepherd keeps the young and shoots the old ones as enemies of his profession. —Macmillan's Magazine.

### Running Amok.

A Malay is intolerant of insult or slight; it is something that to him should be wiped out in blood. He will brood over a real or fancied stain on his honor until he is possessed by the desire for revenge. If he cannot wreak it on the offender, he will strike out at the first human being that comes in his way, male or female, old or young. It is this state of blind fury, this vision of blood, that produces the amok. The Malay has often been called treacherous. I question whether he deserves the reproach more than other men. He is courteous and expects courtesy in return, and he understands only one method of avenging personal insults. —Many Sketches.

### A Shaker Cure.

Among the Shakers there is a singular and very ingenious medical custom. If a member of the fraternity has taken cold, her companions seriously set themselves to work to make her angry. They make disagreeable personal remarks about her until she blushes with indignation. Then her blood is heated, and the theory is she will be able to throw off the chill from which she has been suffering.

### Lion Strength.

For a short distance a lion or tiger can outrun a man and can equal the speed of a fast horse, but they lose their wind at the end of half a mile at most. They have little endurance and are remarkably weak in lung power. Their strength is the kind which is capable of a terrific effort for a short time.

Education, briefly, is the leading human minds and souls to what is right and best and making what is best out of them. The training which makes men happiest in themselves also makes them most serviceable to others. —Ruskin.

Hot shot as well as chain and grape shot, when first employed, were declared to be inventions of the devil and not to be sanctioned among civilized nations.

The first cabbages grown in Great Britain were raised on the ground adjoining the abbey of Arbroath, having been produced from seeds obtained from Artois in France.

Starve was once the only remedy of death. One of his sermons tell how "Christ starved on the cross for the redemption of men."

"Ancient" coins, many of which antedate the Christian era, are made in large quantities in London and find sale all over the world.

### LITERARY STYLE.

It Is Born in a Man and Can Neither Be Thought Nor Imitated.

The author of "How to Write Fiction" appears to be one of those innocents who believe in a new discovered "science of human nature" and in the theories of M. Zola. You go about with notebooks, you become yourself with "heredity," and then if you succeed it is partly by dint of your native qualities, partly by aid of griminess not fit to be named among Christians. It is the same affair in poetry. Wordsworth was a poet by virtue of his genius. He was born so. His theories hampered him, when he was true to his theories. Even our author perceives that Shakespeare and Homer did not need theories and popular science falsely so called, and this is just as true of Miss Austen and of Mr. Du Maurier at an age when we shall not conjecture.

Mr. Du Maurier was born a writer and a story teller. Thirty-five years ago he proved this in a little sketch in Once a Week and rather later in his poem of "Brannigrindas" in Punch. Only a very skilled writer could have rendered, as Mr. Du Maurier has done, the immortal little Belgian poem translated in "Tribly." Yet Mr. Du Maurier has been drawing all his life, not sedulously practicing another art, and under private tutors and with an eye on Professor Huxley's lectures. Improvement is not of course impossible or a matter of chance. Some men, like Balzac, have to crush their gold out of a mountain of quartz. All or nearly all who possess "style" gain it in part by cultivating a natural ear for the harmonies of prose as observed by them in the great writers. A few perhaps, but very few, have toiled like Mr. Stevenson by the way of "the sedulous ape."

Thackeray, from his Charterhouse days, was always Thackeray and could not answer an invitation to dinner without writing in the Thackeray manner. Mr. Stevenson on the other hand, kept his dress suit of style for great literary occasions and did not wear sword, diamonds or perriquet in his formal correspondence. Yet Thackeray, to the very last, took trouble and corrected, as his manuscripts prove, while his manner was more or less conspicuously based on that of Fielding. He was a literary writer, like Tennyson, in verse, whereas we conceive that Mr. Barrie's admirable style owes nothing to literary reminiscence or the labor of the file, but is a happy, spontaneous appropriateness of utterance.

As a rule, we take it, setting aside such rare cases as those of Thackeray, Virgil, Keats and Tennyson, the people who write best do so without taking thought. Mr. Froude, whose taking manner has some strange occasional blemishes, answered very impatiently when some busybody asked him questions about his "style." He only said what he meant to say in expressions which came to him naturally and without research. On the other hand, we have now many writers of no eminence whose dull, labored manner is praised for its preciosity. In Mr. Pater we had a writer of singular natural gifts who decidedly ended by broiling and tormenting his style. And this is still more likely to be the end of men who, if they have a plain tale to tell, should tell it plainly. —London News.

### Golf.

The Philadelphia Record is impressed with the weird nomenclature of golf. "The brass niblick," it says, "the cleek, the iron mashy, bulger driver, the putter, the lofter and all the other varieties of sticks are in themselves enough to drive the novice to despair, but it remains for the Country club to frame a set of rules governing the etiquette of golf. The first rule reads as follows: 'Any player losing a ball and incurring delay thereby may be passed by any other player cuning up.' A twosome may pass a threesome or foursome, and a foursome a threesome. A twosome may pass another twosome after giving the earlier game at the first tee a clear tee and one stroke, provided that is sufficient to put the earlier game out of range, except on the putting green, where under no circumstances shall more than one set of players be at the same time."

### A Queer Cure.

In Spain a favorite panacea, in theory, for the whooping cough is found in three hairs plucked from the back of an ass. This remedy is not often resorted to in actual practice, however, from an accompanying belief that the ass from which the hairs have been plucked will decline as the patient is restored to health and will die when the cough is completely gone.

### Character.

Each man in his sphere, however narrow or extended, will find that his fellow men weigh his character and his abilities often and unconsciously stamp him with their estimate, and that the average resultant of these frequent averages is just—E. Pierpont.

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