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YOUNG FOLKS.

THE SEA-GULL'S KISS. BY EDWARD IRENÆUS STEVENSON.

We were sitting together, six of us. in lading Captain Dan Furlet, on the somethat dilapidated pier at East Inlet, waiting for the evening mail. The evening mail for that matter the morning one, too smally took its time, and we improved all he shining hours of waiting for it by be miling Captain Dan into yarn spinning. soften as his leisure and humor allowed. He and that wharf were united in a firm bond of fellowship. The Captain fished from the wharf, transacted his business the wharf, smoked his morning, afternoon and evening pipes on the wharf, settled the was to be the next Mayor on the wharf, lived but a stone's cast from the sharf, and I am pretty sure risked his health by sleeping for half of many a clear summer night under the rickety shed occupying its water end, in spite of Mrs. Furlet's tearful complaints.

"I'd go to Halifax a good deal oftener than I do, boys," he remarked one day, in a tone of candid statement, "but 'tain' convenient to take this wharf along."

The Captain had a pleasant voice, a snug fertune, an artificial leg (this in confidence) and endless reminiscences. This afternoon sailor superstitions—their absurdity, oddness, and quantity-and of the singular from beyond our world of sea and shore. coincidences and chances that sometimes make them so significant to the simpleminded seaman, increasing his childish heed to them. The very sea itself, so full of circumstances, reported more or less cor. and I fancy took the sensible view that if rectly from ship to ship and mouth to any other sailor had so approached the bird, mouth, fill each humble Jack-tar's mind with awe for this or that "sign" and portent. It was after we had been raking together the old fancies and fables referring to seabirds and birds at sea—the albatross, the petrel, the dove, the gull, and the likethat Captain Dan told us of a strange fancy | vessel, came to us, and, struck with some and incident in his career, but I am sorry that I cannot attempt to set it down in his own blunt words and phrases.

"In the year 1865 I was mate on the bark Alice Robe, sailing from Boston to an English port-Hull, I believe, or maybe 'twas Southampton. We had a mixed-up and so brisk a breeze blew up that it was crew aboard as to its nationalities. There were English, Irish, French, and one or two Eyetalians" (the Captain never used any other pronunciation of the last-named), "and some more that I don't remember. We had a smooth voyage, and all got along well together, officers and men. Among the rest there was a young fellow named Beau car, a Frenchman by birth and education, though he spoke our language perfectly. He was a nice-looking, trim, quiet sort of foretopmast headlong into the sea. man, and, to my mind, didn't seem very well or happy most of the time. One day been reefing in company with a messmate. while he and I were on deck, watching a According to the latter's story, the Frenchporpoise that was bouncing about near our | man all at once uttered a faint cry, lost his wake, Beaucar, without any warning, staggered, and if I had not caught him, would fell out into the air before the other could have fallen flat to the deck.

ing. 'Nothing, nothing,' he persisted. that sort of a turn nothing?

out of the fellow the fact that he had a in the faces and thoughts of the men aboard curious weakness of the head, or heart, or the Alice Robe that day, and for days after something—a giddiness coming on—that was | the casualty. apt to take the poor boy (for he wasn't much more than that in age) without any warning, event was regarded by the crew-or by many and no matter where he was or what doing, of them -as something forewarned and hint-

of course. a difficulty from the ship's doctors so long?" earlier in the day. They could talk and, I I asked him, in astonishment,

him, and his secret had been no mischief to his occupation. But all the same, I couldn't but think, 'I wouldn't be in your shoes, my man, for a good deal; that is, and stay on the high seas.' But I promised him to keep the matter to myself.

"About a week later, one afternoon, sea-gull came flying across the sky from the dear knows where. It puzzled us al guess. The hird was evidently tired, any case, and settled down on a loose spar as if it had dropped there out of the sky. It was a calm, sunny day. We were far from A lot of us gathered around the creature at a safe distance, lest we should frighten it off. It acted peculiarly, remaining on its perch, with its large head a little bent down, its beak slightly open, and shifting its weight curiously, now upon one leg and now another, quite at home at once.

"Some food was!" | rought forward, and then, in trying to place it and a pannikin of water within reach, v c discovered that the bird, so far from being readily frightened, was surprisingly tame. The seaman gradually pressed closer al cutit, and soon Beaucar walked forward as doffered it the water and raw fish. It eyed him quietly at each step he took. It did not seem to be in any especial need of food. When Beaucar stood near by it and leaned forward, it stretched its neck and positively stared at the tellow as if it had seen him before, and I cannot tell you what a curious, eerie look seemed lurking in its round, bright, bird eyes. watched it with new curiosity. "Beaucar drew back. Thereupon occurred a stranger thing than I have ever witnessed. As he stepped aside, the great bird spread its wings, and fluttered directly upon the sailor's shoulder and balanced itself there! Beaucar and all of us exclaimed in suppressed astonishment at such extraordinary tameness. Had the bird been some ship's pet that had lost its home and master? It was not hunger that rendered it thus familiar, for the pannikin stood there untouched. But this was not all; for while Beaucar, half laughing and half frightened, stood there, with the huge creature dilating its wings and turning its head to the right and left, suddenly it kept its beak pointed toward his face. We thought it might be about to strike at the young sailor. Not so. It bent almost affectionately near him, laid its downy poll to his cheek, and with that, if ever I were I to ?" a bird 'kiss' its master or mistress, that great gull 'kissed' the man Beaucar, placing hideous !" its beak twice to his lips in a way that was extraordinary, startling, amusing, anything else you please to call it!

silent. Beaucar, however, langued too, set man who has called to see her. ly, and uttered some words—pet name, I think so ?" "Why, of course, presume-in French, and then, putting up his me that he is a very hard this hand, stroked the gull, which seemed pleased when I come to equation, I half at the carees. Then, without the least sign never know another man who of being frightened, it sprang into the air so much diston

from the seaman's shoulder. It flew up, up into the open air. It alignted nowhere the on the ship or her rigging, and in a few minutes it was a speck in the distance that presently vanished. Officers and men, open mouthed gazed as long as it was in sight. A chorus of ejaculations broke out. Beaucar was surrounded by his messmates, who chaffed him, asked him questions-though all that had taken place they had seen from the beginning, and understood as fully as he could -and a little hubbub and babel of confusion took place. One spectator suggested one thing; another sailor declared what he thought the reason for the bird's behavior might have been. The whole incident had taken only some ten minutes. But besides all expressed comments, there were murmured from man to man a dezen superstitious notions as to the 'meaning' of this remarkable occurrence. The old salts dickered their stories and 'signs,' the younger seamen whispered the most far-fetched and ridiculous explanations and portents.

"Undoubtly a rare and even wonderful natural circumstance had been observed by us. Presently the idea that it had some special 'meaning' for Beaucar seemed to be fastened in the mind of every sailor on board the ship. But (as an instance of the rude delicacy that unbred natures can feel and show) I remember that few of Beaucar's mates said much to him about their regard we were talking-or rather he was of ing this winged guest as the bearer of some warning of fate to him, some messenger who had been, perhaps, 'commissioned' to the young Frenchman. They whispered their sailor-like opinions with solemn shakes of the head to each other, but not at length mystery and variety as it is, strenghens to Beaucar. As for Beaucar, he was chiefly such a tendency; and numberless singular amused and puzzled at the sea gull's actions. it would have probably behaved itself in exactly the same odd way. The precise reason for its conduct I never could settle myself; but I always have supposed that a thoroughly domesticated and petted gull, a creature lost from some not very distant semblance between Beaucar and its master. it had caressed him in the curious way i did, and then darted off, deciding on its course toward its friends.

"Well, the day wore on; the sea became rougher about four o'clock in the afternoon, necessary to shorten sail quite suddenly. The Captain of the Alice Robe and I were watching some detail or other in the shortening. The crew were distributed about the rigging, hard at work. Suddenly we heard a cry. A dark object fell like a flash from overhead, and clearing the ship's taffrail plunged with a tremendous splash into the 'Man overboard! Man overboard! rang the cry. Some one had fallen from the

"I t was Beaucar! The young sailor had hold of the spar and his balance on it, and so much as put out a hand to save him. The "' What is the matter with you, man?' I | boats that were sent out came back without success. The poor fellow must have been "He came to himself, white and totter- swept away, and sunk, to rise no more, almost immediately in such a sea as was now "' Nonsense!' said I. 'Are you often rurning. Terrible and unexpected event seized with fits like that, man? Do you call We could hardly realize it, accustomed as one becomes to expecting even death to in-"The end of it was that I presently drew | vade a sailor's life. All was indeed changed

"But you can imagine how the painful ed at to poor Beaucar by the singular incident " But how on earth have you kept such of the sea-gull's visit and the sea-gull's 'kiss' fancy, think of very little else for a long "Well, luck and pluck had befriended time after; and the boldest declared that they had known that the young sailor was doomed man and his days numbered the instant that they witnessed the great seabird's attention to him, when he approached its temporary lodging-place, where it rested glad of friendly faces and human society. We found the men talking in corners here and there: the forecastle at night became perfect scrap bag of wild and sad tales, and discussions from mouth to mouth of the scene that the morning had brought to our notice. Some declared that they had heard

the gull speak to Beaucar and nod its head in response to utterances from him. "You will guess that I knew what had brought about the sad incident. Beaucar's falling-sickness (as I had feared for the poor fellow) had taken him just in an evil moment for his safety, when balanced on the spar, reefing. One lurch, a fall, and the ocean swallowed him up, and his story was ended tragically. I felt that his sad death relieved me of the seal of confidence, and I told what I knew of his disease. But, as you may imagine, the sailors half doubted my statement. Nothing would do for them. we soon discovered, but that Beaucar, sound and well, and without any falling-sickness or likelihood of it, had received a strange 'warning,' through the sea-gull's 'kiss, from the next world, which he had very slightly understood or regarded, and to that warning, came the poor young sailor's death on the same day, as I have already described. The coincidence was odd, and for the cure of sailor superstitions most unlucky. The crew did not recover from the incident all the rest of the voyage, and considerable number of them refused to return with us after we had reached port. To this day, I dare say, you will find plenty of sailors who have heard and will tell you with solemn faces the story of the 'warning' given an able seaman on board the 'Alice Robe;' and if you should try and convince them fifty times over by the truth about poor Beaucar, it would not do the least good. A sailor's notion, wise or silly, is about the most obstinate one in the world.

The Depth of Woman's Affection. Elsie and Maude, out walking, meet Amy. Elsie-"Oh, Amy, dear ! Kiss me ! Do ! They kiss and part. Maud-" Why did you kiss her so heart-

Klaie-"I am so glad her new hat is so

"Mr. De Blinks is a very intellectual "We laughed; then were absolutely young man," said a young lady to a ge

THE LITTLE CONGO HERO.

Seds from a Crecedile. ful and intelligent of the spper Congo and wrong. natives, and since Capt. Coquilhat, four

to tell him about it.

out of sight.

"The piddle was lying in the cance. to concer." The boy picked it up to paddle back to the The wife, who told this in after years to where the crocodile was. He was swimming to find her.

and started home. canoe. If he reached it you know what he spanding his money as he likes. would do. He would upset it with a blow, lost. Eight or nine of us jumped into can- found in every walk of life. oes and started for the boy. The crocodile had nearly overtaken the cance, but we reached it in time. We scared the crocodile away and brought the cance to the shore.

The boy stepped out on the ground and fell down, he was so frightened and tired. We carried him into one of my huts, and took she was dead. "But after a little while she opened her eyes. She could whisper only two or three words. She asked for the boy. We laid plied. him b side her on her arm. She stroked

him two or three times with her hand. But | wife." she was hurt so badly. Then she shut her eyes, and did not open them nor speak again. Oh! how the little boy cried. But he had saved his mother's body from the crocodile.

As Essalaka told this story the tears. coursed down his cheeks. "I have seen in this savage tribe," writes Capt. Coquilhat, "men and their wives who really love each other, and veritable honeymoons among young couples. The child feels for his father the fear and respect which his authority inspires, but he truly loves her mother, and has a tender interest in her even after he becomes a man."

How the Great Southern Tortoise Burrows.

Here and there, but rarely perhaps in one amid a hundred of these mounds, we find the place where the reptile entered the ground. This opening is at once seen to be quite separate in character from 'he mounds which first attract the eye. It asists of a clearly defined tunnel, the sides commonly somewhat smooth and compacted by the energy with which the body of the creature has been driven through it. The passage inclines steeply downward, descending at the outset at an angle of from 20 ° to 30 ° then turning at the depth of two or three feet to a more horizontal position. On the surface, a little beyond this entrance, is a heap of debris, which consists of the sand taken from the passage. A few feet in from the opening, the passage appears to be closed by loose material which was not ejected from the mouth of the tunnel. Although I have been unable to catch these tortoises at work, I have succeeded by tolerably safe inferences in tracing their method of operation. When they begin the burrow, they endeavor at once to penetrate downward to the level in which they obtain their food. At the outset they manage, by frequently backing out of the passage and trusting the earth behind them in their retreat, to clear a considerable opening. When they have advanced a few feet in the excavation, they cease to discharge the material excavated in their advance, but thrust it behind them, and leave it lying in the chamber, which it entirely closes. With this storage-room provided, the gophers are able to advance through the earth for the distance of some vards: but as the earth compacted by its own weight, by the pressure exercised through the expansion of roots, and action of rain, occupies less space than the same material loosened in the progress the burrow, they soon become hampered their movements. They then turn toward the surface and continue the excavation upward until they have attained very nearly with lunatics."-[Nebraska State Journal, to the open air. They then use the gre strength which they clearly possess to thrust a quantity of the burrowed material upward until it rises above the surface in the form of a cone, and by the space in the burrow thereby gained they are able to go a few feet further in their tortuous line of advance, when they must again seek to discharge a portion of the earth in the manner just des-

Money for Wives.

On the much-mooted but nev ruesties of money in the household, On the Coage, near the causter, live the proper understanding concerning pecuniary had his hardest battle when he floated down the management and labour of the wife the great river. They are the most power count as nothing, she is conscious of injustice

"My dear," said an eminent philanthropist years ago, established a station in their to his wife one day, as he suddenly turst country they have become good friends of into the sitting-room, "I have been counting the whitee. A while ago an exciting event the windows in our house, and find there are occurred in one of their many villages, and forty. It just occurs to me that you have to Essalaka, the chief, went to Capt. Coquilhat keep those forty windows clean, or superintend the process, and that is not a beginning "You know the big island near my town," of your work. "All these rooms have to be he said. "Well, yesterday, soon after the sweet and garmahed, the carpets made and sun came up, one of my women and our cleansed, and the house linen prepared and little boy started for the island in a canoe. kept in order, beside the cooking, and I took The boy is about twelve years old. He it all as a matter of course. I begin to bee says that while his mother was paddling she what women's work is, even when she has saw something in the water, and leaned help, which you are not always able to proover to look at it. Then he saw a crocodile cure. You ought to receive a monthly stiseize his mother and drag her out of the pend, as a housekeeper would. Why havecanoe. Then the crocodile and woman sank n't you made me see it before? I have not been just to you, while I have been generous

village. Then he thought: 'Oh, if I could her husband's credit, sat down with him only scare the crocodile and get my mother and for the first time since their marriage back! He could tell by the moving water opened her heart freely on the topic of woman's allowance. She confessed to have had just under the surface toward the island. many a sorrowful hour at her position as Then the boy followed the crocodile just as beggar. At the head of a large household fast as he could paddle. Very soon the in a western town, where domestic service crosodile reached the island and went out was both scant and incompetent, she had on land. He laid the woman's body on the hardly been trusted with \$5 at a time dur ground. Then he went back into the river ing their united lives. "Robert and I talkand swam away. You know why he did ed it over," she said, "and decided that the this. He wanted his mate, and started out woman who takes care of any household "Then the little boy paddled fast to where time it is first made till it is worn out, has is not very expensive as wives go in these is mother was lying. He jumped out of expanded upon it an amount of time and days. the boat and ran to her. There was a big strength fully equal to the labour that made wound in her breast. Her eyes were shut. it, counting from the shearing the wool till He felt sure she was dead. He is strong, it comes from the loom. It may be unskilled but he could not lift her. He dragged her | work, but it is work all the same. And this body to the cance. He knew that the croco- is only one small item in her housekeeping dile must come back any minute to kill him labour. Does she not deserve some payment too. He used all his strength. Little by beside her board and clothing? Robert little he got his mothor's body into the can- saw woman's work in a new light. From oe. Then he pushed away from the shore that time till to-day he has placed a generous share of his income in my hands-not as "We had not seen the boy and his mother a gift, but as a right. And he knows that at all. Suddenly we heard shouting on the I will no more fritter it away than he will. river, and we saw the boy paddling as hard If I choose to deny myself something I as he could. Every two or three strokes need, and bestow its cost in charity or buy he would look behind him. Then we saw a books I crave, he no more thinks of chidlarge crocodile swimming fast toward the ing me than I think of chiding him for

There are other Roberts who have yet to and both the boy and his mother would be learn this lesson of justice, and they are

## A Costly Little Joke.

"Sreaking of women," said the Colonel, after a long pause, "I was travelling in Missouri once in my buggy, when I met a tall, slabsided girl of 20 in the road. I had taken his mother's body in there, too. We thought a drink or two and felt jolly, and so I hailed her with :

> "Howdy, Sal? Fine day?" "Howdy, stranger," she promptly re-

> "Say," I went on, "I'm looking for a

" What sort ?"

"About your kind."

" Want me?" "If you'll have me." "Reckon I will. Let's drive back to see

dad and mam. "I was joking, you know, so I told her that I was in a great hurry and would return. Three natives who came along just then stopped to find out what was the matter and they set in with the girl to take me back. The only way I could get out of it was to bolt for the woods, leaving the horse

and buggy behind, and five years later the girl was still driving them. That little joke

How it Will be in Chicago, A. D. 2,000. Albert-" Edwina, I love you! Will you marry me?"

Edwina-"Yes, dear; but not until next Monday. To-day is Thursday. To-day I marry Billy; Friday I shall be divorced. Friday night I wed Augustus. I like him, and we will go over Sunday. Monday

Albert-"For how long?" Edwina - "I can promise you two weeks, at least." Albert-"All right. Good-bye !"

Edwina-" Where are you going?" Albert-"To marry Lulu to fill up the

All Owing to the Tariff. "Yes," said the asylum physician, sadly, as he conducted a visitor through the gloomy building where so many unfortunates were confined, "we see a good many sad things. For instance, look at that wretched maniac over there, whose eye is as vacant as the eye of a corpse. Three months ago it gleamed with the fire of genius; he was a man among men. Intellectual, eloquent, com manding, he was admired by all, and golden future was apparently before him. But on a fatal day he commenced to study the tariff question, and you see what he is now. He is incurable. He walks up and down the corridor all day repeating these words: 'If the tariff on lumber be removed and the tariff on wool be increased. how much of a surplus will remain in the Treas ury when the export duties on pauper labor be added to the internal avenue derived from home rule in Ireland?' It is sad, very ead, to see a noble intellect shattered thus, but so long as the tariff question is at large we must expect to see this building crowded

# Rubbed the Wrong Leg.

A lady and gentleman were hurrying forward to salute one another, when simultaneously they glissaded on the pavement, and in a no was good. He rubbed his leg, now swollen to twice its normal site; no feeling was there "Angels, I cannot understand why you received a sounding whick on his head from encourage that young Sniffdrop, the couled the makerile of the prostrate female. "Lee Something Like a Honeymoon.

man of his word. In 1882 he fell violently a law with Mine Henriques, of Buffalo, and married her "right away." The lady was young and pretty, but far from strong; and the devoted husband determined to try what travel would do for her. They were married in May, 1882, and upon the wedding day this card was sent out to her friends : -"Mr. and Mrs. Sigourney at home, at Secremento, every Thursday from May 10, 1888," The whole of the six years which have elapsed since then have been spent in travel with the view of re-establishing the lady's health. During that period they have visited England, Ireland, Spotland, France, Germany, Italy, Austria, Russia, Greece, Denmark, Turkey, China, Japan, Egypt, Persia, Africa, and South America, beginping with Patagonia and finishing at Panama, whence they returned to England before embarking for New York. In the midst of all this travelling Mrs. Sigourney has found time to become the mother of four children -twin boys born at St. Petersburg, a daughter born in China, and another daughter born in Brazil. When the 10th of May arrived the happy couple were "at home" at Secremento to receive their friends. according to their promise of six years before. The expedient has been thoroughly successful. Mrs. Sigourney now enjoys excellent health, and whereas at the time of her marriage she weighed the insignificant figure of 102 lbs., she now turns the beam at 165 lbs. The coat of this six years' honeymoon was \$60,000, only \$10,000 a year—certainly a very moderate expenditure. Thus Mrs. Sigourney may be taken to have cost her husband very nearly one article, like a carpet, for instance, from the thousand dollars per pound, which perhaps

### Consumption of Wood.

. 14 .

The London "Times" furnishes some interesting statistics as to the frightful consumption of wood used as sleepers for railway tracks, and points to its figures as a strong argument in favour of the employment of metal sleepers. It appears that the six principal railway companies of France use more than 100,000 sleepers per day, or 3,650,000 per annum. As a tree of the usual dimensions will give only ten sleepers, the railways in question require 1,000 trees per day for sleepers alone. In the United States the consumption is much greater, amounting to about 15,000,000 sleepers a year, which is equivalent to the destruction of about 170,000 acres of forest. The annual consumption of sleepers by the railways of the world is estimated at 40,000,000, and this is probably less than the actual number. The "Times" remarks: "From these figures the rapid progress of disforestization will be understood, and it is certain that the natural growth cannot keep pace with it. Hence we have had during the last quarter of a century the frequent inundations and changes in atmospheric condition." It would be interesting to calculate how much wood is annually wasted in Canada on sidewalks, block pavements, telegraph and telephone poles, and general railway works. The figures we fancy would startle those who have been advocating greater conservatism in the utilization of our timber resources. It is of course to be noted that for all the purposes mentioned wood is needlessly and unprofitably used.

# China on Her Dignity.

The "Chinese Times" contains a letter, signed by the Pekin official and written just after the news had reached China that the United States had passed the Chinese Exclusion Bill. Following is an extract taken from the letter:

If the obnoxious American bill should be of mine cost me just \$350, to say nothing carried into effect there will be no other of being run through a patch of woods five course open for China consistent with her miles wide." measures by prohibiting the citizens of the United States from coming to China. This will be by no means proportionate to the harm to the Chinese interests in America, but it will have to be done in order to show that the Chinese can do the same thing, and if this will have no effect in bringing the United States Congress and the United States Government to reason and fairness, then it will be a question for China to consider whether it is not time for her to cancel her treaties made with that country, to recall her subjects from there, to expel all the United States citizens from this country, and to cease all relations and intercourse. diplomatic and commercial, with that coun-

# Bloodhounds.

Mr. William Buchanan, writing to the London Times, says :- Just now, perhaps, my own personal experience of what bloodhounds can do in the way of tracking criminals may be of interest. Here, then, is an incident to which I was an eye-witness. In 1861 or 1862 (my memory does not enable me to give a more exact date), I was in Dieppe when a little boy was found doubled up in a horre-bin with his throat out from ear to ear. A couple of blood hounds were at once put on to the scent. Away they dashed atter, for a moment or two, sniffing the ground, hundreds of people, including the keeper and myself, following in their wake; nor did the highly-trained animals slacken in their pace in the least till they had arrived at the other end of the town, when they made a dead stop at the door of a low lodging-house, and, throwing up their noble heads, gave a deep bay. On the place being entered, the culprit—an old woman—was discovered hiding under a bed. Let me add that the instinct of a bloodhound, when properly trained, for tracking by scent is so marvellous that no one can say positively what difficulties in following a trail it cannot surmount."

# A Spanish Floating Exposition.

It is reported by Industrie (London) that a floating commercial exposition is being prepared in Spain for corrying specimens of spanish manufactures to the principal ports of South America "The Conde de Villane" is the name of the ship which is being fitted up as a sect of marine demmercial museum. This ship will take the first instalment of fly taken at Bared