

FROM ONE WOMAN TO ME

The pauper was on the street to-day.
Her dress was worn, her hair was
grey.
She was alone upon her feet.
Wore old and shabby. But her eyes
Were friendly on the springtime skies,
And oh, her smile was kind and
sweet!

"I passed you on the street to-day,
And I am pauper. I sat down.
Of midnight touch my very heart;
I had been east, and west apart
From other folk—I had been blind
But you who passed with shabby
grace,
"I murmured, as I saw her face,
"What would you do, poor soul, now?"

The pauper—
"The Old Man
OF THE
BIG CLOCK"

PLATINUM

That platinum was first discovered in South America is not a matter of common knowledge. Nor is it generally known that the metal, which is now worth about as much as gold, was once thrown aside as a worthless by-product.

Platinum is put to many uses that we do not know of. We did not know of its existence before 1855, when a Spanish traveller, Don Antonio de Ulloa, who had been appointed to accompany a French scientific expedition to South America, brought to England from Jamaica as early as 1741 by Mr. Charles Wood, an English metallurgist.

Although Ulloa first published his observations in his *Relacion Historica del Viaje a la America Meridional*, made at Madrid in 1744, specimens of the new metallic ore were brought to England from Jamaica as early as 1741 by Mr. Charles Wood, an English metallurgist.

Indeed, it is interesting to note that not so very long ago the grains of platinum that were mixed in with the ore of certain gold mines in Columbia were regarded as a waste product and thrown away.

Dr. George V. King, an expert on precious stones and metals, tells of strange happenings in Columbia that occurred because platinum when it was separated from gold by the dry or blowing process, was either cast into the street or thrown through cracks in the building where the work was done.

When platinum became valuable, so much of it was discovered in Quito, capital of the Choco district, where much gold refining was done, that the entire output of the country in that state was turned into a mine. The natives were employed in working the streets for the Government, and many property owners infested under their houses.

In another case, a man tore down his store and found enough platinum to rebuild on a large scale and to clear from the market all gold in Columbia.

It is safe to say that if Uncle Sam set to work again, it will find that its platinum deposits are worthy many gold mines.

A full plumb per cent of the world's supply of platinum used to come from Urubú Mountains, where it is relatively abundant and easily worked. Jewelers prefer it to gold or silver as a setting for diamonds, emeralds, diamonds, or scientific instruments, dentists, electricians and makers of incandescent lamps all require large quantities.

In the last two years platinum has been quoted as high as eight times the value of gold and at the present time is worth about four times as much.

TIME'S UP

The time of no returns us think of the passing of time. The following maxims, old and new, should make us think of the value of time:

Any time is no time most times.

A time when nothing never has time to do anything.

He who has most time has none to lose.

Nothing is more precious than time, in nothing less valuable.

No reward can recover lost time.

He always in time; too late is a crime.

The time that bears no fruit deserves no name.

Life is but time; waste the latter and you reduce the former.

You may have time again, but never the time.

The time when time is, for time will away.

Time present is the only time you can be sure of.

You can be provident of time who is not prudent in the choice of his company.

WAS WRONG DENOMINATION

A colored preacher was sent to the hymn, "What a wondrous world have I in Jesus," that he was continually giving it out. Some of the boys tore the leaf out and pasted it in a sheet from under the pulpit. The next day, however, the preacher announced the hymn, turning over started to sing it. "You bet on the bay horse, and I'll take the black." He got the first four or five words right, but when he got to the last, with a slight sputter, "Brethren, let's sing the familiar gospel hymn, 'Gird in the Arms of Jesus.' Homeone's sole good old Methodists hymn book and left us apocryphal."

NOT BY WATER

A bishop—who was on a sea voyage—arrived in New York. The passengers were greatly alarmed. This, so, too, was the bishop, who hastily convened a prayer meeting in the saloon.

When the storm had subsided the skipper of the liner chaffed the bishop regarding the matter.

"I should have thought," he said, "that anyone so keen as your lordship would have had the good sense to be afraid of a storm."

"Hung it all!" retorted the bishop, "you don't think I want to go to heaven by water, do you?"

TUNNEL-DIGGING MACHINE ALSO LINES WALLS

Digging a tunnel, removing the earth, and lining the walls with concrete blocks are the tunnelling advances, are all accomplished by a single machine. Your revolving arms at the front of a cutting head, which has a steel drum carrying the cutter, which cuts the earth. It is deposited by buckets, on a conveyor belt, which carries it to the car, brought up from the rear. Behind the cutter is the cutting head of the cut. Back of this is the lining contractor, which lays concrete blocks so that when they are pushed into place they expand and fit in spiral courses, moving forward in front of the machine, which keeps the cutting head in contact with the tunnel heading.



on duty. The second day he timed the crowding blocked by a freight for four minutes and reported to the magistrate.

There was a minute over the time allowed by the Railway Act, but the magistrate said that would be drawing the lines rather too closely on the trainmen and would be liable to suit. On the third day he found the crossing blocked for seven minutes continuously. This was ample evidence to show that the law was not being observed, although in the letter of his defense he said:

"I murmured, as I saw her face, 'What would you do, poor soul, now?'

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May it just be the Christmas season which has engendered so many kind thoughts in the good people who read these columns, and they have kept right on in that spirit for a week.

The editor waited me a letter the other day in which he said was from an esteemed elderly lady subscriber of many years' standing, who resides in the Royal City, up beyond there. The part of her letter he gave me says:

"I could do well with the news that you keep in that spirit of sympathy which the old timers had, and they used to have—Only a few, last now of the many I used to know. And the old timers were not bad, either. They were greatly interested in the reminiscences of 'The Old Man in the Clock Tower.' Like many others, I keep wondering who he can be. He has had a wonderful career, I suppose, in Action so many years ago.

"Move that train on!" spluttered the little old man, who was evidently a pauper, and they had to give him a few cents. "Move it on, I say!"

"The brakeman looked—the temperature of his face was red. "On do you small shrimp," he replied. "You're small shrimp."

"It is needless to say the little district superintendent saw that the brakeman looked for a job on another road.

"Well, say, I forgot to tell you there was a fine fawn in one of the best weekly papers, that comes into my weekly paper. The selection is both witty and refined. Anyway, I'd just write my

name back."

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