
RELATED THINGS

CONTRIBUTIONS AND REPRINT

THE CITY HUNTERS.

For The Public.

Ne'er can they roam across unfathomed seas,
 Revive dulled senses where old cities roll
 Romantic grandeurs 'fore the traveler's soul;
 The intrepid hunter's jungle thirst appease;
 Or seek the Ice God's uttermost degrees.
 'Mong those who battle round one City's goal
 They bear the life-sweat of man's struggling soul,
 Striving for Babylon's seductive ease.

Some may attain her footstool, share her throne,
 Where gorgeous social queens bejeweled blaze;
 But many, stript and starved, lie lifeless, prone—
 A footway for the City's hunting throng,
 Mad for a quarry in commercial maze—
 'Mid curses, prayers, groans, jeers and ribald song.

JOSEPH FITZPATRICK.

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SPAWN OF THE DEEP.

For The Public.

I. The Skate.

There is a new dark mass on the beach this noon, where the tide has just ebbed far, that has a different aspect from the heaps of seaweed among which it lies,—of a fleshy sleekness, repulsive even at a distance.

Approaching it the curious explorer finds a dead skate, like some giant frog squatting for a leap, with wide-open eyes filmed over like blue jelly staring glumly, and grotesquely wide-slit mouth drawn down at the corners as if in a deprecatory grimace at this fate of being mere stranded jetsam.

When one raises the creature's upper jaw, the slimy gray tissues of the cavernous throat draw apart with a loud clucking, and the adhesive mucus stretches into ropy festoons from roof to floor.

What parody among created shapes is this huge porringer of flesh, with flat disk-head tapering to the muscular tail, purplish-brown of skin, and heavy as the fat jowls of a hippopotamus!

If even the little beached squids, blackening the sand about them from their collapsed ink-bags, taint the air with their decay, what catastrophe will the dissolution of this mass of the dead fish involve?

But the ocean has another purpose than to leave its eerie denizen to such humiliation. By night the northeast wind sends the scavenger waves of high tide crashing far up the strand, and like a mother that shields a dwarfish child from morbid scrutiny of passers-by, the deep takes the unsightly

bulk back again to the concealment of its charnel silence.

II. The Jellyfish.

Cyanea arctica.

Swayed and jolted over stones of the beach by the wave-edges, compressed and then outspread in limp surrender, a great crimson jellyfish marks the green water like a blot of red ink.

The puzzled observer at first glance mistakes the abhorrent, sprawling pulp for a growth of raw flesh cast from some ocean creature, so difficult is any organization to discern in the tumbled plaything of the tide.

Now in a moment of comparative repose, undulant skirts of brownish tissue uncover the central mass, and give sight of its surmounting ring of regular bulging mounds in exact semblance of a mold of translucent strawberry gelatin, rich in gorgeous ruby lights.

Beneath the sections an inner skin is visible, marked with latticed lines, suggestive of checked gingham, while from some orifice or rupture protrudes what might be taken for grayish sweetbreads, or some repulsive spilling-forth of lax brain-tissue from the jelly skull as the waves topple it.

From the periphery extend many long feelers like vermicelli in alternate hues of maroon, carmine and pale-yellow, that are made to writhe by the water in vivid mimicry of animation, till the whole drifted sea-thing suggests the bloody scalp of the Gorgon, ringed with thin serpentine locks.

Some of the streamers torn away on the stones strew the sand, and woe to the observer's bare feet if these are washed across them by the retreating waves, for let the poisonous strings lodge against the skin as they seem determined to, with the apparent malice of an exasperated wasp, and the instep will smart for an hour from their sting!

A bather just come ashore from a swim is rubbing his legs ruefully, declaring they are a-prickle from the corrosive "saliva" with which the gelatinous sea-scorpions impregnate the water about them, where floating beneath the surface they are poised defiant in their ample habitat, like baneful purple cancers in the sea's green flesh.

Beside the largest of the stranded creatures, that spans a yard diameter with its hillock of garnet and gray protoplasm, a comely, sun-browned little boy in his bathing-suit, that leaves bare his dimpled arms and half the rounded thighs, stoops fascinated though afraid; and the bright smooth floor of sand becomes like the illustrative chart of a synthetic philosophy, presenting in these vivid models the stupendous gamut of the evolutionary process, from such mere nebular coagulum of physical being to the highly-organized, selective triumph of the thoughtful child.

What aeons and cosmic periods look from the boy's brown, wondering eyes, as they scan so tim-

rouously this repugnant red concretion of primordial matter, that yet symbolizes the indispensable service of placenta in the birth of creation's nobler forms!

ELIOT WHITE.

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SLAVERY AND LAND VALUES.

For The Public.

In histories of the United States we are told that slavery was originally introduced in the Seventeenth century into all parts of the country. But proving unprofitable, after long trial, in the North, it was there gradually abolished, beginning with Vermont, in 1777, and ending with New Jersey in 1804. In certain portions of the South, however, the system was so commercially successful that young and able-bodied slaves often sold for more than \$1000.

The market price of a slave, like that of a working horse, depended upon what he could produce for his owner beyond the cost of his keep. A speculative element was also introduced in this price from the uncertainty of human life and the future possibility of valuable offspring. If a slave had no actual or potential earning power beyond his cost of maintenance, he was worthless. It is evident that youth, health, strength and industrial skill all tended to increase the surplus product and market value of slaves who possessed them; while old, crippled or sick slaves were not accepted as gifts except by the charitable.

The land of the hill districts of the North was of so barren a nature as to give only a frugal living even to industrious white freemen; and the attempt to work it with African slaves, whom it was impractical to watch, was foredoomed to failure. In the richer valleys, especially those of the Central West, a surplus might have been obtained from slave-labor worked in gangs under overseers. But the cold climate was unfavorable to their health, and, before the bottom lands were sufficiently cleared and provided with transportation facilities for the profitable export of slave-raised products, a moral sentiment had arisen against slavery itself.

In the South there were practically no slaves in the mountain districts, which were left to the cultivation of the poor whites who were satisfied with the frugal living to be gained from land "on the margin of cultivation." But the rich Southern lowlands were so well adapted for raising rice, sugar, corn, and especially cotton, by slave labor, that the plantation owners enjoyed large incomes and vied in ostentation with the aristocracy of Europe. Had none of the Southern lands yielded more produce than was necessary to supply the subsistence of their tillers, it is safe to say that there would have been no slave question in our history.

The effect of the abolition of slavery on land values was obscured in the South by the general

industrial ruin left by the Civil War, but in the British West Indies it was clearly exhibited. Many philosophers, guided more by sentimental than scientific reasoning, had predicted that the planters would enjoy larger incomes with free than with slave labor, but the change caused results that differed with varying land conditions.

In Jamaica, where only a third of the land was cultivated under slavery, the freed Negroes were (unfortunately for land values) allowed to settle freely on the wild lands, where they easily raised enough for their simple wants, and only hired out at high wages, if at all, to their former owners. This higher labor-cost greatly reduced the land-owners' gains from the Jamaican estates, and, coupled with the decline in sugar prices (owing to the abolition of preferential duties for her colonies by England), caused the abandoning of 146 plantations between 1832 and 1848.

On the other hand, in islands like Barbados and Trinidad, where all the land was under private ownership, the freed Negroes had no other recourse than to work for their old masters. Production increased, owing to the superiority of starvation to the overseer's lash as an incentive to diligence, and wages were kept at about the level of slave subsistence by the importation of coolie labor from the Madeira islands and from Hindustan. The planters had no longer to risk their funds on the lives of sickly laborers, and the large sums received from the English government, as compensation for manumission, were available for the clearing of more land or the purchase of improved machinery. The net result of these various factors was an increase in the net as well as in the gross product of the estates, and a marked rise in land values in consequence.

These West Indian examples well illustrate the close economic analogy between chattel and land slavery. It was only in Jamaica, with plenty of available free land, that the Negro was able to increase his income after emancipation. In the privately monopolized islands the freeman received no better wages than had the slave.

R. B. BRINSMADE.

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THE THREE GRACES AND JUSTICE.

For The Public.

Once upon a Time the Three Graces made a Poor Man the Object of their Solitude.

Faith thought that the Main Trouble was with his Soul, and preached to him.

Hope opined that he was afflicted with Acute Pessimism, and sought to relieve his Condition by presenting to him the Bright Side of Things.

Charity put a Patch on his Pants, and, congratulating him, said this would keep the Cold out for a While, anyway.

These well-intentioned Ministrations were re-