

Poetry.

OVER AND OVER AGAIN.

Over and over again, no matter which way I turn,
I always find in the Book of Life some lesson
I have to learn.
I must take my turn at the mill; I must grind out
the golden grain;
I must work at my task with a resolute will, over
and over again.

We cannot measure the need of even the tiniest
flower,
Nor check the flow of the golden sands that run
through a single hour;
But the morning dew must fall, and the sun and
summer rain
Must do their part, and perform it all, over and
over again.

Over and over again, the brook through the meadow
flows,
All over and over again, the ponderous mill-wheel
goes;
Once doing will not suffice, though doing be not in
vain;
And a blessing falling us once or twice, may
make us try again.

The path that has once been trod, is never so rough
for the feet;
And the lesson we once have learned is never so
hard to repeat.
Though sorrowful tears must fall, and the heart to
its depths be torn
With storm and tempest, we need them all to render
us meet for heaven.

—Selected.

ENGLAND'S RULERS.

First William the Norman, then William his son,
Henry, Stephen and Henry, then Richard and
John;
Next Henry the Third; Edwards, one, two, and
three.
And again, after Richard, three Henrys we see.
Two Edwards, third Richard, if rightly I guess,
Two Henrys, sixth Edward, Queen Mary and Queen
Elizabeth;
Then James, the Scot; then Charles, whom they
slew.
Then followed Cromwell, another Charles too;
Next James, called the Second, succeeded the throne;
Then William and Mary together came on,
Till Anne, Georges four, and fourth William, all
past,
God sent them Victoria, the youngest and last.

THE HERMIT'S STORY.

BY OSCAR REAR.

"I wouldn't, if I were you, boys."
The boys thus addressed turned quickly to see
who the speaker might be. After satisfying them-
selves that it was no one but "Old Phil Hamilton,"
the hermit, they took no further notice of him but
went on discussing their plans as before, till a sec-
ond time they were interrupted, this time by,
"I tell you, boys, it isn't right, and you mustn't
do it."
"It isn't right," said Will Brown, sneeringly,
"What's that to you, old man?"
The old man took no notice of this insulting
speech, but went on quietly.
"Come to my house to-night at half-past six and
I will tell you a story, which I hope will convince
you that it isn't right to play cards. Will you
come, boys?"
"Oh, yes, we will come," they all answered at
once.

THE HERMIT'S STORY.

The hermit, with a pleasant "good morning,"
passed on, leaving the boys to wonder what the
story could be that was going to tell them.
"I do hope it's about himself," said Harry Win-
throp. "I've always wanted to know his history."
"Well, I don't believe he'll tell it to us to-night,
for he said he wanted to prove to us that it isn't
right to play cards," said Fred Evans.
"It wouldn't be hard to convince me," said Ed
Graves, "I always thought so."
"But never dared to say so," said Will, sneer-
ingly.
Ed made no reply, but his face grew very red at
this taunt from his school-fellow.
"Come, come, boys, it's high time we were off
to school," broke in Fred, as he set off in the di-
rection of the school-house at a brisk run, followed
by his companions.
These boys had been talking about buying a pack
of cards and meeting on certain nights of each week
in some private place to play. Their parents would
not allow them to play cards at home, so, as they
had got the idea—many boys have that to do with-
out their parents' knowledge.
Philip Hamilton was a hermit living about half-
a-mile from the village of K—, in an obscure
place. At first he had existed great curiosity, but
as time went on, and he seemed inclined to tell his
past life, people had finally settled down to the
belief that he was a little insane. Why they had
come to this conclusion no one knew.

SURE AND FAITHFUL.

"Charlie, Charlie," clear and sweet as a note
struck from a silver bell, the voice rippled over the
common.
"That's mother," said one of the boys, and he
instantly threw down his bat and picked up his
jacket and cap.
"Don't go yet! Have it out!"
"Finish the game. Try it again," cried the
players in noisy chorus.
"I can't—right off—this minute. I told her
from the city, a few years older than I, to visit his
cousin. He was considered by us to be quite a
young man, and we were easily persuaded by him
to do things which we had been taught to shun.
Among other things he had taught us to play cards.
Of course we did this without the knowledge of our
parents.
"When I went to college I found plenty of young
men with whom to play cards; sometimes we were
paid for money. We had to be pretty shy, for it
was against the rules of the college and expulsion
was the penalty.
"Sometime cards always excited me very much.
I was generally very successful, and was enough to
keep myself well supplied with pin money.
"There was one fellow named Symonds, whom
I used to get very angry whenever I beat him, which
I usually did.
"One day, it was just one month before I gradu-
ated without honors—for I had spent many hours
punching when I should have been studying—
Symonds came to me and said:
"My cousin, Alfred Fielding, has come, and
wants to play cards with you."
"All right," I said; "I will meet him to-night
in your room."
Often when we had been playing, Symonds had
told me of his cousin, who, he said, could beat me
to one at cards. Of course I felt a little uneasy
about meeting this fellow, but took care that they
should not see it.

THE MENACING COMET OF 1880.

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THE DOCTOR'S VERDICT.

A TRUE STORY.

BY SOPHIE E. EASTMAN.

Our Patrick, one hot morning,
Without the slightest warning,
Had a stroke in the meadow, as he mowed
the ready grass;
And his wife, who came down crying
To the place where he was lying,
With sudden gratulation saw her own physician
pass.

So she hastened to assist him,
With a cry that she had lost him—
Her jewel of a husband, her precious "dar-
ling boy!"
But he, intent on calming,
Declared "nothing alarming."
Said he: "I'll make him well again in the twink-
ling of an eye."

"For, unless I am mistaken,
His brains were slightly shaken,
So they're scattered through his body down to
his very feet;
But I will give this potion,
And apply an outward lotion,
Then they'll concentrate back again and the cure
will be complete."

So he talked and rubbed alternate,
For his fee, he meant to get paid.
And at last our Pat recovered, but ever after
said:
That his brains forsook their place
(As in some other cases!);
But the doctor drove them back again and shut
them in his head.
South Hadley, Mass.

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a comet as that of the year 1811 were to fall directly
upon the sun. This, the most remarkable of all known
comets, says Mr. Proctor, was some hundred mil-
lion miles from the sun at the time of its nearest
approach to him, and can never bring the slightest
trouble to the solar system. But if its course had
chanced to be directed full upon the sun, the me-
teoric mass doubtless falling on its head and train
(not tail) falling in countless millions upon him at
the rate of 300 miles per second, when they crossed
his visible surface, and probably passing deep be-
neath it, would have produced a heat, far exceeding that
which he constantly emits. The increased emis-
sion would not have lasted a month or even a week,
but it would have sufficed.
So, again, what is now known of cometic struc-
ture leads to the belief that the comet of 1880,
called Donati's, would have proved a very danger-
ous visitor had it come led directly toward the sun.
The chance of its doing so is very small, but the
space, travelling directly toward the sun, is so small
that it may be reckoned "almost at naught."
As to comets already belonging to our system, if
any such have orbits passing very close to the sun,
so as to be checked in their career at every peri-
helion passage, it is clear from the continuance of
life during many hundreds of thousands of past
years on the earth that the mischief must long since
have been taken out of the system—unless we suppose
(which is incredible) that the last perihelion pas-
sage of such a comet preceded the beginning of
life on the earth.

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