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THE SONG OF PEACE.
 A song is sung in the air,
 And I would drink it in,
 With the scent of the roses rich and rare,
 But still the battle's din
 Rings in my ears and deafens me;
 I cannot hear the angel's choir,
 The noise of the world, its misery,
 Throws like a bitter pain.
 But now and then, as in despair
 I seek to read the books,
 Comes a burst of harmony on the air
 To which my heart responds;
 And then the echo of the fray
 A moment seems to cease,
 Though the wondrous harmony dies away.
 That moment brings me peace.
 And then I pray I may retain
 A peacefulness of heart,
 Though the warrior's laurels I fall to
 Or riches of the mart.
 For that sweet song will give me rest,
 And banish all distress,
 The flowers of God and the gold of the
 Will be my happiness.
 —Shakespeare's Simplicity.

Many of Shakespeare's contemporary poets must have had every advantage that he had in practical experience of the stage, and all of them had probably as familiar an intercourse with the theater as he. But what a difference between their manner of constructing a play and his! In all his dramas we find a skill in the handling of less apparent. In the best of them it is unrivaled. From the first scene of them he seems to have held as from a tower the end of the action, and he knows, for example, he had his story before him, and he follows it closely enough; but how naturally one scene is linked to the next and one act leads to another.
 If this play were meant to illustrate anything it would seem to be that our lives were ruled by chance. Yet there is nothing left of chance in the play which advances with the unvacillating foot of destiny. And the characters are made to subordinate themselves to the interests of the play as to something in which they have all a common concern. With the greater part of the secondary dramatists the characters seem like untried people trying to walk the deck of a ship in rough weather, who start for everywhere to bring up anywhere, and are hustled against each other in the most inconsequent way.
 It is only when the plot is very simple and straightforward that there is any chance of smooth water and of things going on without a hitch of each other. Was it only that Shakespeare, in choosing his themes, had a keener perception of the dramatic possibilities of a story? This is very likely, and it is certain that he preferred to take a story ready to his hand rather than invent one. All the good stories, indeed, seem to have invented themselves in the most obdurate manner somewhere in the morning of the world, and to have been camp followers when the famous march of mind set out from the farthest east.—James Russell Lowell in Harper's.

How the One Postum Became Nine.
 The fact that the opium is a stuporiferous drug does not seem to be common knowledge. Anyway it was revealed to a man who lives on Long Island in an old man not long ago. He killed one of the animals in his garden with a gun and dragged the carcass to the house. The hired man told him that he had killed a dog, but the man, Pathego, some five miles distant, he could get a bounty of fifty cents, which was offered by the county. The man did not at the time have any objection to the offer, so he offered the opium to a neighbor who drove by on his way to Pathego. This man didn't think that half a pound of opium was worth anything, but he would have to take it to Pathego to make some purchases. She suggested that her husband throw the body into the bottom of the buggy under the seat, as he would have to make the fifty cents no matter how he did it and they drove to town together. After attending to their shopping they stopped in front of the magistrate's office and the hired man said, "He went behind the vehicle to take out the opium, when, lo and behold! he found eight little ones beside the old animal."
 The man then tucked them all into the pouch under her breast at the sound of danger and they had remained snugly hidden until shaken out by the jolting of the buggy. The man then drove to Pathego, brought down \$4.50 with his shot instead of one-ninth of that sum, as he had at first supposed.—New York Tribune.

An Untraceable Smell.
 Nothing so inflames the imagination of a mother and a housekeeper as an untraceable smell about the house. Sewer gas and its train of attendant evils, or decomposing animal matter hidden in the walls to work discomfort, if not danger, is at once suggested, and there is no peace of mind till the source is discovered and the cause removed.—New York Times.

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