

add to the importance of our walks abroad. Fancy a stout policeman vanishing from his uniform . . . and the spirit winging its way truncheonless through the Emyrean."

So, with delightful humour and exquisite pathos, he faces the great ordeal, and for the small remnant of his life he takes Marcus Aurelius for his guide, where he says: "Let death surprise me where it will and when it will, I may be 'eumoios,' or a happy man, nevertheless. For he is a happy man who in his lifetime dealeth to himself a happy lot and portion, which is good inclinations of the soul, good desires, good actions." He translates this literally by dealing out his fortune to those in need, leaving himself enough only for his short span of life, and by busying himself in the deliverance of his young secretary, Dale Kynnersley, from the toils of a music hall artiste, Lola Brandt.

He then passes a perfectly *uneumoios* week among his friends. "I had stood godfather to my Sister Agatha's fifth child, taking upon myself obligations I shall never be able to perform. I had dined amusingly at Jane's, shot pheasants at Fairfax Glen's place, and paid a charming country-house visit. When I came back, I consulted my calendar with some anxiety, and set out to clear my path. I have now practically withdrawn from political life."

Judge, then, of his dismay, which for the life of us we cannot help sharing, when, after a successful operation performed on him without his knowledge when unconscious, he finds instead of facing Death he has to face Life, stripped of everything that made it desirable.

"The doctor, good, deluded man, does not realise he is the tool of the Arch Jester. He has no notion of the sardonic joke his knife was chosen to perpetrate. . . . That we should come into this world again naked at the age of thirty-eight is a piece of irony too grim for contemplation.

"Yet I am bound to contemplate it. Figuratively, I am naked. . . . Partly by my own act and partly by the help of Destiny (the greater Jester than I), I have stripped myself of all those garments of life which not only enabled me to strut peacock-fashion on the pleasant places of the world, but also sheltered me from its inclemencies."

It is impossible to read without pain the description of his farewell, necessitated by his altered circumstances, to his chambers in the Albany, "to the tasteful furnishing of which I had devoted the thought and interest of many years. Bits of old china, my choice collection of mezzotints, a picture or two—one a Lancret, a very dear possession."

Though we leave this dear Jester consoled, we are not a whit satisfied with the manner of his consolation.

Readers who have loved "The Beloved Vagabond" will hail this volume with delight.

H. H.

#### VERSE.

"This was the English King, that loved the English ways:

A man not too remote, or too august,  
For other mortal children of the dust  
To know and to draw near.

Born with a nature that demanded joy,  
He took full draughts of life, nor did the vintage cloy;

But when she passed from vision, who so long  
Had sat aloft—alone—

On the steep heights of an Imperial throne,  
Then rose he large and strong,  
Then spake his voice with new and grander tone,  
Then, called to rule the State

Which he had only served,  
He saw dear Duty plain, nor from that highway swerved,

And, unappalled by his majestic fate,  
Pretended not to greatness, yet was great.

—Sable and Purple, May, 1910.

By WILLIAM WATSON.

#### COMING EVENTS.

July 1st.—Association for Promoting the Training and Supply of Midwives. Annual Gathering of Midwives. By kind permission of Mrs. Penn, 42, Gloucester Square, Hyde Park, W. Badges to midwives will be presented. 3 p.m.

July 7th.—Garden Party and Distributions of Medals and Prizes, Guy's Hospital, 8.15. The Laboratories, Museums, College, and the Henriette Raphael Nurses' Home and Wards will be open to inspection from 3 to 5.30 p.m.

July 8th.—Meeting, Executive Committee, Society for the State Registration of Nurses, 431, Oxford Street, London, W., 4 p.m. Tea.

July 11th.—The Society of Women Journalists. Reception by the President, Lady McLaren, 43, Belgrave Square, S.W. 10 p.m.

July 11th.—East End Mothers' Home. Annual Meeting, The Mansion House, by kind permission of the Lord Mayor. 3 p.m.

July 16th.—Meeting of the Matrons' Council, General Hospital, Birmingham, 3 p.m. Meeting, Addresses on State Registration of Nurses, 4 p.m.

#### WOMEN'S CONGRESS, JAPAN-BRITISH EXHIBITION.

July 4th.—Discussion on "Technical and Domestic Training of Women and Girls." 3 p.m.

July 5th.—Discussion on "Women in Horticulture," Lady Falmouth presiding. 3 p.m. (two days).

July 6th.—Discussion on "Women in Agriculture," Lady Mount Stephen presiding. 3 p.m.

July 7th.—Discussion on "Women and the Fight against Destitution." 3 p.m.

July 8th.—Discussion on "Women in Philanthropy." 3 p.m.

July 9th.—"Physical Training and Organised Play," Adeline Duchess of Bedford presiding. 3 p.m.

#### WORD FOR THE WEEK.

The contempt with which men speak of "a complacent" husband compared with the reverence and deep appreciation with which they speak of "a forgiving wife" is significant of the necessity of raising to a higher level the standard of domestic morality which the average woman demands of the average man.

Mrs. FAWCETT,  
Before Divorce Commission.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)