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### AUTUMN.

In spite of warm mid-day sunshine and indolent blue skies more than reminiscent of the summers we once enjoyed, there has been much to remind us that Autumn has arrived at last, and with no halting steps. There is a premonitory chill in the early morning air, a crispness which gives an added vigour to the life of the streets, a freshness which brightens with new zest and meaning the familiar sights and sounds. The crack of a whip, the rattle of wheels, the clatter of hoofs ring out their fine contempt for the wearied stunted trees of the town and the sere leaves, as they lie mangled in the roadway or are whirled into the mockery of a dance by the ribald winds of October. For Autumn has been borne down upon the town on reckless laughing winds from the cold mountain caves where they dwell, and is holding revelry; especially in the evening dusk, when the grey and blue of town and sky and the palest gold of the awakening stars would move one to contemplation, does Autumn recall one to the ever-youthful warmth coursing beneath its chilly freshness. More intimate than proud Summer, more vital than plaintive Spring, Autumn stands well aloof from cruel Winter; it is the perfect Season because it is the one most full of life, of maturity. Only in the distance, as it is departing from us, empty-handed, its gifts distributed, its purpose achieved, does it seem tinged with sadder hues—such is the pessimist, the cowardly imagination of men. Autumn itself is not the season of death, but of life; not the season of contemplation, but of enjoyment. With it comes again the taste of the old Earth, as it has come year by year since Man first scratched the soil and reaped his first slender harvest; and more than ever is it good to live and to give thanks when the grapes lie heaped in purple clusters on leaves of molten gold, and the dark green and russet and bright saffron fruit is massed beside the wealth of garnered corn.

And in the country itself where the trees are still clad in their festive garb—for the brave little leaves are Stoics and eager to sink into their warm graves in fine array—it is fulness and ripeness and the joy of strength and the laughter of life that you shall find on every hand, not death and decay and the despair of Winter. The clear stream, now silver, now brown, now green, at no time murmurs more contentedly between its happy banks than when the weeping willow drops its foliage piece by piece upon the water, and the blazing crown of the horse-chestnut is reflected in its unmoving depths. The great hills are never prouder or mightier than now when the clear light sharpens and hardens their contours against the sky, and throws into deep shadow the armies of pine-trees that guard the stalwart summits of grey rock. Even in the harsh call of the raven there is a note of vigour stronger than any you can hear in summer or in spring. Not in the cooing of doves or in the soft flight of swallows under the eaves is there the same vivid and suggestive force. There is magic in the smell of acacias and the dank earth after rain in the twilight of a perfect May; there is mystery in a moonlit forest on an August night; but the emotions aroused by these things are always somewhat unreal and elusive. In Autumn there is both magic and mystery, and yet also a singular sense of reality. Something there is in the air and the season that stings the blood into sympathy. Spring which breeds rebellion and Summer which claims us in surrender can hold nothing so close and intimate; nor is there a touch of slavery in the free joys of Autumn.

WEATHER FORECAST FOR TODAY  
of the Royal Saxon Meteorological Institute.

Moderate SE. winds, dry and fairly bright, temperature not much altered.

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**THE RAILWAY ACCIDENT AT SHREWSBURY.**  
TWENTY PERSONS KILLED.  
London, October 16.  
The number of persons killed at the accident at Shrewsbury is stated to be twenty.

**MRS. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN.**  
A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Austen Chamberlain at Highbury last Sunday. Mother and child are going on well.

**THE VOYAGE OF THE MAMMOTH.**  
The three aeronauts who escaped from the Mammoth balloon are well. They have, however, sustained some bruises. When they came in sight of the Wener Lake they believed it was the sea. Not knowing where they were, the aeronauts gave up the intention of proceeding to Russia, and decided to descend.  
The balloon is now being packed up.



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### AMERICAN NEWS. JAPAN AND THE U.S.

Paris, October 14.  
M. Tsuzuki, the first Japanese delegate at the Hague Conference, interviewed by a correspondent of the *Matin*, declared that the relations of his country with the United States were excellent. "It is absurd," he said, "to talk of a war to which such powerful obstacles are opposed as the Pacific Ocean and our mutual goodwill in the past. The American coast is too far from Japan for the latter to be able to send ships there, and there would be no purpose in invading the Philippines, for although it is not generally known, 40 per cent. of the available arable land in Japan is not cultivated for want of labour. The alarmist articles will not serve the purpose of their authors. Too much has been said about the dispatch of the United States squadron to the Pacific, and certainly it has not been understood as the Washington Government meant it to be understood. So long as this cruise is only a cruise, we need attach no importance to it."  
Gen. Porter, the United States delegate, having been acquainted with the declarations of his Japanese colleague, said he was convinced of the absolutely pacific intentions of Japan, especially after a war like that in Manchuria. "Japan," he remarked, "has need of repose in order to acquire the economic and financial resources which are indispensable for her. The cruise of the American squadron in the Pacific gives no occasion for anxiety, and it is criminal to talk of a war between Japan and ourselves."

### THE PACIFIC CRUISE.

New York, October 14.  
The cruiser advance guard of the Pacific Squadron having sailed on Saturday, says the New York correspondent of the *Globe*, the date on which the battleships will weigh anchor may be expected to be announced shortly. Preparations are being hurried forward as much as may be, and the squadron will leave at the earliest possible day.  
According to advices from Washington the Bureau of Navigation is making arrangements to transport an army of some ten thousand skilled mechanics to the Pacific Coast stations for the purpose of submitting the vessels of the fleet to a thorough overhaul at the conclusion of their voyage. It is possible, of course, that these mechanics may be required for permanent service if the prophets are to be believed who foresee that the squadron will remain in Pacific waters for an indefinite period.

### A TREASURE HUNT IN THE ATLANTIC.

According to the *Central News Agency*, the yawl "Catherine" was towed into New York last Sunday by a steamer from a southern port, which sighted her in a helpless condition, a few days ago.  
The little craft, manned only by Capt. Small and a mate, left Liverpool four months and six days ago, on a voyage to Honduras, and during her voyage she met with a succession of storms, which drove her out of her course, and ultimately left her helpless, several miles from land. The "Catherine" covered altogether 7,300 miles during her adventurous voyage.

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