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in at one side, and, at a given signal, were rushed out on deck in open mutiny on board a burning steamer.

Carried away by the excitement of the play and occasion, I managed to get out at the front of the stage, in fact, played the part of conspirator-in-chief without the notes, and was so daring as even to boldly threaten the officer who had a loaded pistol and who was supposed to terrify the crew into obedience. I did n't terrify at all well, and came very near getting my eyes put out from a discharge of black powder.

I am confident that my fall thereafter upon the stage was superbly done, but unfortunately, not being much accustomed to stage demeanor, I had fallen in the wrong place, and the curtain came down on the middle of back, my feet being outside and my head within. The dead man next me intimated in a stage whisper that I had better get out from under the curtain, which I proceeded to do, endeavoring to make it appear as natural a movement as a dead man could be expected to make. I did n't move nearly as much as Salvini does at the end of "Othello"; that always struck me as a trifle over-done.

Quite satisfied with my acting, I rose up, only to receive a general "hauling over the coals"; first, from the hero who had hard work (he told me in vigorous language which it is needless to repeat here) not to shoot me in reality.

Then the "chief conspirator," whose role I had usurped, came down on me, but he was better natured about it. Then I went downstairs. The "master of the wardrobe" did not fill my ideal of the position. He spoke very plainly; among other things he mentioned excessive freshness as one of my attributes. I can scarcely recollect the connected narrative, there was so much repetition to his language,—some of it was very profane, too! I took off my things quickly. Oh, I remember a very tall marine from the Navy Yard who took my part (he came from Kentucky, and his father was a distiller—he took after his father, I think), and made a capital policeman. I was quite grateful on getting my overcoat and hat back, and amid a few parting blessings and cursings I left the theatre a wiser if not a better man.

TH. P.

Incineration.

[Abstract of a paper in the Princeton Review for September.]

THE rapid increase of population in cities and the consequent extension of its limits has, as a matter of course, very much developed sanitary science; in fact, it has become absolutely necessary to devise some means for abating the evil of burying grounds in the midst of crowded cities. The pleasing illusion of the peaceful sleep of the grave is dispelled if we only examine into the loathsome processes of putrefaction continually going on in buried bodies until their final resolution into their elements. This process of decomposition is simply oxidation; our bodies are burned up sooner or later, whether we approve of cremation or not, and it is simply a matter of choice whether it shall take place in the clean glow of the crematorium in an hour, or be a process of twenty, fifty, perhaps a hundred years in the loathsomeness of the grave; the one certain fate for all is, however, "Ashes to ashes."

The products of the decomposition of the human body are, carbonic acid, carburetted hydrogen, sulphuretted hydrogen, ammonia, nitrous and nitric acids, and water, besides other offensive organic vapors and some non-volatile minerals; it has been ascertained that each human body generates annually about fifty cubic feet of carbonic-acid gas.

The normal atmosphere of cemeteries is sufficiently full of noxious vapors, but in the springtime, when the opening earth releases the gases imprisoned during the winter, who can estimate the disastrous effects arising from breathing this air! The atmosphere of burying grounds is freighted with the germs of almost every form of zymotic diseases. Pasteur's experiments have proved that earth-worms bring to the surface myriads of bacteria from the bodies of the decomposing dead. The blood of animals dying of splenic fever, though dried and kept for years, and pulverized into dust, permits the