

EVIL -- FROM THE 375th EDITION OF DOCTOR BODY

Evil does exist, and most fearfully. If, however, it were unaccompanied by bad health, this tirade would be unnecessary. might indeed be considered obtrusive, might be looked upon as impertinent: for surely what is practiced in quiet -- what is unseen -- can offend no one. But alas! the injury is not only to the passing hour, it is of the age to come. Evil has its commencement in earliest life. The secret is acquired, not unfrequently, by a liason with nature herself. Sooner or later it forms a part of the natural impulses. The act, which is afterwards resorted to, holds such fascination for the youthful mind that the culprit believes he has discovered the climax to earthly enjoyment, and hermitizes himself on every occasion for its realization. The maturer mind hails it as a refuge, and gradually prostrates his dignity to its baseness.

IN PREPARATION FOR A MURDER

By the time you read this many fish will have paused underwater on their way upstream. Many conversations will have been had on as many subjects. We'll both be settling into the watery grave we call our life. The womenfolk are already preparing the next-to-last meal in their usual way. We open the presents received during our lifetime and wonder where it went. If we had taken notes, we would at least have a record to show instead of a few stock jokes written beforehand and recited by heart. Neighbors have noticed the empty house and carried away what they remember. Even favorite haunts lose something in transition. Old stories get posted along the future where we hear them sotto voce in eterno. Return to your domicile my friend and forget what I say. Read this poem huffing and puffing its way to the centers of the earth in a vain effort not to matter. We came and saw the present resume its original shape. Now recall it.