

methinks he did issue orders to many people who could not be seen by us. And though I wot not what matter of people they might be with whom the words of such as he could carry weight, he did condemn conventions, issue mandates and suggest remedies in the most important manner. And in the course of time the figure stepped back into the smoke and we saw him no more.

Then the old woman's voice was heard again and it spoke in this wise:

"THE PONY CHORUS"

Straightway there danced from the swirling clouds of smoke a group of girls, wondrous strange to behold. And why they were called the Pony Chorus I wist not, for though in sooth many of them were constructed in keeping with the usual lines of a pony there were yet others who resembled nothing but common dray horses. Among them there were some who were connected to the ground by props that bulged woefully between the knees and the ankles, others whose manner of support was made very dubious, because of the extreme transparency of these same props, and yet others whose faces, scarcely worthy of the name at their best when contrasted with the velvet eyed women we had but just seen in Naples, were further contorted by chewing on large wads of some aromatic substance.

Yet methinks this whole group did conduct itself with the most unseemly arrogance so that pride exuded from every part of them. It is not befitting that we stop to ask the wherefore of these things; they are in the lap of the future and can never do us any hurt, but we can not but anticipate the reception that would greet such a chorus in this day, yea even in the stable district of Liverpool. But like that other vision they faded from sight and we were enabled to stem the tide of our mirth.

After these things had come to pass it fell out that the old woman revealed a whole method of existence hacked by the power of magic from the chain of the future. A smoky, low roofed, monotonous room took shape about us, and therein were divers strange people eating devious articles of food, playing at cards and talking about one another.

Those who came nearest to ideas of females walked to and fro along the aisles, causing the skirts of their fur coats to swing to and fro as they walked. And those who were not garbed in fur coats had the same method of movement as if unconscious that they were not bedecked in coats and therefore had no skirts to swing.

And behold, I was filled with a great yearning to see what manner of diet it was that did produce such people and I stepped up to the front of the room where the food was served. And there was a great platter bearing some unknown food which however much resembled meat. Emboldened by my curiosity I reached into the platter and grasped a handful of this most unsightly substance. I wot not the quality nor the brand of this same food, but the taste was like to the rotten bones which are thrown to the prisoners in the dungeon of the king of France.

It was but a few minutes before the effects of this foul diet were forthcoming. Feeling that my time on earth was nearing its end, and being filled with a great desire to communicate to the world what I had seen, I did get me paper and quill and write down those things which are herein related. Now being filled with sin and in no fitting state to face a just judge I go to prepare my soul for those things which may come to pass after death.