

Borrowed Trifles.

RUNNING A-MUCK.—An Englishman (at Batavia) asked me, abruptly, if I had ever seen a native Malay under the influence of the "muck." "The what?" I asked. "The muck! the running muck." I replied in the negative, adding that I had never before heard the expression. He expressed great surprise and proceeded to tell us that the running muck was often productive of many deaths. I thought this a rather singular piece of information to come by itself, but contented myself with observing, "You don't say so!" The Englishman cleared his throat, swelled very large, called for a glass of "arf-and-arf," and continued as follows:—"Some few of the natives here consume quantities of opium in various forms; and the result is, that, in due course of time, their features become sharp, the skin is drawn over them like parchment, and, losing their minds, they become more ferocious and bloodthirsty than the tigers themselves. Armed with the long and flexible kreiss (a sharp dirk knife, whose edges are wavy and of a beautiful temper), they rush frantically from their houses, and run as swiftly as their limbs will carry them—sometimes naked, sometimes clothed, always mad. Rushing through the crowded streets in this way, their only aim seems to be to destroy life,—stabbing, biting, cursing, kicking, every one whom chance throws across their path. As soon as he is seen in this state, terror proclaims the news far and wide. "Amoak! amoak!" is screamed by the population, just as "fire! fire!" is in our own cities. Every man grasps the first weapon that comes to hand, and follows the flying path of the common enemy. Very long spears are, however, preferred to the shorter kreiss; and with these they pin him up in a corner, and lance him to death with as much or more gusto than they would a tiger. As many as forty persons were once killed by one of these maniacs before he could be "cornered;" and yet there is no law against the use of opium." The word "muck" is a corruption of the Javanese "amoak," to kill.—*Gleanings from a Yankee Diary.*