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"THE END OF EVERY GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE THE WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE."

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MISCELLANEOUS.

AN ALCHEMIST'S FORTUNES.

[CONCLUDED.]

The hapless son of a hapless father was dragged, amid the abuse of the populace, to the house of the alderman of the ward, while Alice Forrester, completely bewildered by the events of the morning, almost hoping, yet fearing, whether the young stranger were indeed her brother, gladly availed herself of the aid of the countryman to return to her humble dwelling. Meanwhile the chief constable led his prisoner into the presence of the alderman of his ward; an old cautious, reserved man, who, among the populace, had the character of being very miserly, but who, among the higher classes, had the name of being a very wealthy, prudent, and devout man. Commending the diligence and valour of the constable, and promising him the reward, he dismissed him, taking, in the superabundance of his loyalty, the charge of the prisoner upon himself, whom he carefully locked up in one of his upper rooms, intending, as he said, to send him for examination before the King's Council on the morrow. As the houses of aldermen were frequently, at this period, used as temporary prisons for culprits of higher rank than his prisoner, this determination excited no surprise, except that Alderman Fraunceys, who hated every thing belonging to his office, and who certainly would never have filled it, could he have helped it, should on a sudden become so alive to the duties of that office, and so eager to fulfil them. Interested in this case indeed he certainly was; for, in the afternoon, instead of attending service, as was his wont, in the chapel of the White friars, he proceeded to the prisoner's room, and placing two constables outside to watch, he entered.

'And what is this which I have heard?' said he; 'are you indeed Master Gervase Forrester's son?'

'The holy saints are my witnesses,' said young Forrester, earnestly; 'besides, if ye only inquire of the master and crew of the 'Lyon of London,' ye will find that I am no imposter. Alas! after eight years' absence from my country, it is hard to be imprisoned thus wrongfully.'

'It is, good Master Forrester,' said the Alderman kindly; 'and truly I have much sorrow for your father, whom I would gladly aid; for I have for years past heard of the fame of the learned alchemists of Edmonton; and how far hath he advanced in the great work?'

'I know not,' replied young Forrester hastily, almost scornfully.

'Nay, good young man,' resumed the Alderman, drawing nearer his prisoner, and whispering, lest the constables withoutside should hear him, 'fear not *me*, for *I* am also a student in holy alchemy, and would any day within the last ten years have paid down twenty rose nobles, for the benefit of one hour's conversation with your learned father. 'Tis said he hath a curious furnace of quite a new construction, and that the liquid hath already boiled more than five years. Sweet lady! with my utmost care, I never could keep my crucible boiling above eight months at the farthest; and you have, doubtless, learnt much in foreign lands—for in Spain there are, 'tis said, many right learned professors.'

'In south, I have not,' said the young man.

'Nay, say not so; for the son of an alchemist could not have been brought up with his father, and failed to learn many a wonderful thing, and the son of Gervase Forrester, I am certain, could not,' persisted the Alderman. 'And now I would right willingly have aid of you in these wondrous studies, and for that end will gladly take measures to set you at liberty to morrow, and also do what I may to aid your father, who hath been committed on suspicion of treason; if you could only tell me how I might get admission into your father's house, and tell me how he manages to keep up his beechen fire; for, say as you will, I well know that you understand these things.'

A ray of hope flashed on the young man's mind, as he listened to this unexpected proposal. 'Truly, worshipful sir,' said he, 'whatever I may do for you I will.'

'Well, then, good Master Forrester, I should greatly like to see the inside of your learned father's laboratory, and to look at that curious furnace, if ye think there would be no danger of the spirits that keep watch there; for ye well know that the laboratory of Geber was guarded by seven angels, each in his turn, and that Dr. Norton, when he went out, was accustomed to say three words which closed the door so fast, that not even a sledge hammer could open it. Soothly, I should greatly like to see that room, and I could well go thither under colour of searching for papers; but then, doubtless, your father hath closed it up. Now, only give me some little information about it, and ye may even ask what ye please; for my studies by day, and my dreams by night, and my prayers to the saints, are all of alchemy.'

Little do we know what kind of knowledge may not at some time prove serviceable.—Young Forrester now inwardly rejoiced that some portion of that mystic jargon, which had been the disgust of his childhood, had remained indelibly impressed on his mind; and he commenced so learned a discourse on 'calcination,' 'sublimation,' and 'vivification,' that the worthy Alderman was lost in wonder and gratitude. 'If you, worthy sir, would but go with me,' said he, 'and be the first to enter (for I am sure you can command the spirits) I would follow after; and my best thanks, and my most earnest efforts for the liberation of your learned father, would be at your service.'

Well pleased with this proposal, young Forrester expressed his ready acquiescence and at nightfull, Alderman Fraunceys and his prisoner, accompanied by five or six well armed and trusty servants, set out. It had been arranged that, on entering the house, the Alderman was to explain the pretended nature of his visit to poor Alice, and to conduct her to a neighbour's house, and, then, leaving the armed company below to keep watch, he and the young alchemist would proceed up stairs. They arrived at the house but all was silent; the crazy door soon yielded to the vigorous arm of young Forrester, and the Alderman and his men, not without a slight feeling of awe, crossed the threshold. There was a sound of footsteps above, and a low murmur, which the quick ear of young Forrester discovered to be voices of some persons engaged in earnest conversation. Motioning with his hand to his companions, who, indeed, at that moment had little inclination for talking, he stole softly up stairs, stopped withoutside the door of the laboratory, and, peeping through a well remembered hole, through which in his boyish days he had often watched and wondered at his father, he perceived two persons busily engaged in depositing something beneath the hearth, the hearth-stone of which had been raised, while the still glowing embers of the beechen fire, the crucible, and the retorts, lay scattered around.

'There cannot be a safer place,' said one of the men, 'for, after the fright which the girl and her friends have had, the house will certainly get an ill name for goblins; and, as for *gold*, it will be far safer here than in our possession, for no one would think of searching for *it* in the house of an *alchemist*.'

'No, truly,' replied the other; 'if the White Rose is victor, we shall little need money or papers; if it be not, we have but to return hither, and provide for our journey beyond seas.'

"Ay, truly," said the first; "and little did poor Forrester believe, when I enticed him to London, that his guerdon would be the extinguishing of his beechen fire and imprisonment for himself."

The scoff implied in the last words aroused the fury of the young man. He burst into the laboratory, seized the speaker and loudly called for assistance. His call was vain, for, doubting not but that the struggle above stairs was with no being "of mortal mould," the men, setting open the door to afford free egress for the spirits of darkness, began in all haste to say their night-spells; while the Alderman, in the height of his fear and his devotion, promised "our ladye," his especial patroness, wax-tapers enough to burn from Lady day to Candlemas, a vow which, when his fright was over, he very prudently altered to "from Candlemas to Lady-day." Unaided by his companions, young Forrester struggled long and manfully, but in vain; the strangers gained the entrance, and extinguishing the light, rushed down stairs, and vanished through the most conveniently opened door, exhibiting, as three of the men declared by the bones of St. Thomas a Becket (a favourite saint with the Londoners, because a fellow-citizen) most undoubted marks of their infernal origin, in their saucer eyes and delectably curled horns.

"O! that ye had but seized them!" said young Forrester; and the Alderman sate aghast in wonder and admiration at a man who had fought with two demons, and made them flee away.

To hasten up stairs and secure the papers, which he felt well assured were most valuable, was young Forrester's next task—a task which he was enabled to perform without fear of interruption from his still affrighted companions below. "Many thanks, good sirs," said he, as, taking up the carefully sealed packet he replaced the weighty bag of gold beneath the hearth-stone; "for, if ye have been the means of sending my father to prison, ye have left us the means also of his liberation, and store of gold to pay his charges."

Faithful to his promise, he now summoned the sorely affrighted Alderman up stairs, assuring him that there was no danger; but, while the wondering student in "holy alchemy" took up with reverend caution the retorts and crucibles that lay scattered around and looked with marvelling eyes on the strange characters which, to aid him in the great work, Gervase Forrester had engraven on the walls, his bitter lamentations burst forth over the scattered embers of the now extinguished "beechen fire." "Ay," said he, "and thus is it that evil spirits wage constant war with the learned adept; the liquor was on the point of transmutation, but Saturn was in the ascendant; and, therefore, did they come hither, and destroy the labour of almost seven years."

Although young Forrester could not sympathize in the worthy Alderman's lamentations, he very prudently held his peace. He returned with him to town, and, the next morning, no longer a suspected traitor and a prisoner, but the discoverer of most important intelligence, which he claimed to deliver into the king's hands alone, he stood before the council at Baynard's Castle. The papers were, indeed, most important. An instant order was sent for the liberation of Gervase Forrester; a right royal reward was assigned to the young man, whose courage and promptitude had secured such important documents; and the evening of that same day saw the liberated alchemist welcoming his long absent son, and congratulating his daughter on this sudden and most unexpected change in their fortunes. It was even said that, not until three hours after his return, did he inquire after the "beechen fire." This assertion, however, Alderman Fraunceys always contradicted, declaring that, as he was returning from the Tower, he inquired about it; but that he received the news with marvellous composure, merely saying, "Well, we must try again."

Never did the two strangers return to claim their hidden treasure—the one lost his life on the field of Stoke; and the second, no other than Symonds, the priest, the prime agent in the plot, soon after closed his days on the gibbet at Tyburn. Ere a week had elasped our fortunate alchemist again took possession of his family mansion at Edmonton, and, at the feast which signalized the house-warming, Alderman Fraunceys and the Sub-prior of Westminister honoured with their presence the table of the learned Gervase Forrester, while rich Simon Cotterel, no longer scorning an alliance with "a beggarly alchemist," took his place among the friends of the family, and expressed his earnest wishes for the marriage of his son with the fair Alice.

And long and prosperous were the days of Gervase Forrester. In his greatest need he had put his simple trust in Heaven, and large had been his reward. His son rose to high eminence as a Turkey merchant, he became owner of the vessel which had conveyed him to England; and old Master Hakluyt, and the "Annals of Commerce," will inform the inquiring reader how many a rich cargo was brought by the "Lyon of London.'. But Gervase Forrester, though he rejoiced in the good fortunes of his son, still would not wholly give up his pleasant dream of alchemy; again was the "beechen fire" lighted, and Alderman Fraunceys stood beside him as an humble pupil, while he was pointed out by both neighbours and strangers as the only alchemist who ever obtained wealth. Whether he, indeed, ever found the great secret was a question very warmly debated among the adepts, both during his life and after his death, and it was finally agreed upon that he had. And when, at length, his comely effigy in branched damask gown, and his head supported by three books, adorned the table tomb on the north side of the church, many a student, down to the days of the indefatigable Elias Ashmole, went a pleasant pilgrimage to Edmonton, to discover, if possible, among the fanciful emblems that decked the crumbling stone, some hint at least of that mighty secret which undoubtedly lay buried below.

EXTRACTS FROM FOREIGN JOURNALS.

Considerable sensation had been created in the political circles of Paris, by a positive announcement that the King of Naples was to marry the Grand Duchess Theresa, daughter of the arch-duke Charles of Austria, and that the Princess Maria of Wurtemburg was affianced to the Prince of Weimar. It will be remembered that the hand of the King of Naples was bestowed, not very long ago, by the newspapers, upon one of the daughters of King Louis Philippe, and that the Grand Duchess Theresa was in like manner given to the young Duke of Orleans; and the new arrangement is thought by some to be rather a slight upon the reigning dynasty of France. At all events, the "perturbed spirits" of the French capital—the Carlists and revolutionists—were rejoicing with more zeal than decency, over what they considered a great political defeat of the King's wishes and intentions.

It appears that the plague of "strikes for higher wages," has reached France also. At Bordeaux the journeymen tailors were standing out, and the shops were closed. Symptoms of the like spirit were observed in other parts of the kingdom.

COUNTER REVOLUTION IN PORTUGAL—*Defeat of the Queen' arty.*

A violent but unsuccessful attempt was made at Lisbon, on the 3d and 4th of Nov., to abolish the Constitution of 1820. From what we have learned of this conspiracy, it appears that the Queen—probably at the instigation of the Prince Royal—was at the bottom of it. Donna Maria, it seems, was not sincere in taking an oath to support the constitution; and she only waited a favorable opportunity to overthrow it, and establish Don Pedro's charter. Her majesty first sounded the palace guards, and finding that she could depend upon their devotion to her person, she proceeded to Belem, whither she summoned all the members of the cabinet. With the exception of Viscount Sa da Bandeira, the minister of finance, they all attended, and were equally surprised and indignant that egress was refused them till the following morning, although the guards declined to declare them detained under an order of arrest. On the fourth, at an early hour in the morning, it was announced to them by the Marquis of Saldanha that the Queen had ordered their dismissal from office, and that a new ministry had been formed. They were likewise given to understand that the first act of the newly appointed cabinet would be the re establishment of the charter, and the total abrogation of the constitution of 1820.

An alarm of what was passing in the palace soon spread like lightning through the city. The people were astonished, but their astonishment quickly gave way to rage.—The National Guards flew to arms and boldly invaded the palace. The first hostile object that presented itself was Senor Jose Freire, late Minister of Finance, who was hastening in his carriage to the palace, to join the Queen. The guards fired, and the unhappy object of their wrath was instantly a corpse. Senor Manoel da Sylva Passos would have shared the same fate but for the intrepidity and presence of mind displayed by the Marquis of Saldanha, who harangued the crowd and afforded the minister an opportunity to escape. Before three hours had elapsed, the Queen was brought to her senses by finding that her guards had joined the constitutionalists, and that in fact she was a prisoner in the palace. In her distress she sent for Lord Howard de Walden, the British minister, imploring personal protection, which his lordship pledged himself should be granted. Immediately orders were given for the landing of three hundred marines who were commanded to hold themselves in readiness should their presence be required

The Queen immediately ordered a flag o truce to be sent to the refractory guards, assembled at the Campo de Gurique, with orders to disperse peaceably to their homes. The bearer of this flag was spurned by the people. Her Majesty then ordered another flag to advance, and to declare to the guards that she only sought such a modification of the charter as would sanction the establishment of a house of peers, and that if they would but consent to hear the Marquis of Saldanha, he would explain to them her gracious intentions. The people were more incensed than before, and swore that the appearance of Saldanha would be the signal for his death.

The Queen, more and more alarmed, sent a third flag to assure them that the Queen would restore to them the constitution, subject to a provision for the peers sitting in the Chamber as deputies, without the formalities of an election; and that an amnesty should be granted to all who had declared themselves in favor of the charter. The people answered that they consented to the amnesty, but they would listen to no other proposition so long as her Majesty was defended by the presence of foreign troops. This resolution obliged the Queen to give orders for the re-embarkment of the British marines, and the sending of a fourth flag of truce to the constitutionalists, agreeing to the solemn recognition of the constitution, subject to such modifications as the Cortes might recommend, and likewise proffering to recall the members of the constitutional cabinet. These orders were received with loud acclamations and cries of "Long live the Queen!" resounded in every direction.

The castle guns of St. George, and the vessels in the river, announced the restoration of tranquility by a royal salute. In the evening, the Queen left the palace of Belem, and returned to the palace of Necessidades, where she was received by the National Guards, amid the most enthusiastic greetings. The whole city was illuminated, and the people assembled in crowds to congratulate each other on the fortunate issue of this second struggle for freedom.

The tranquility thus obtained had not been disturbed up to the evening of the 7th. The "Digrio do Governo," of the 5th, contains six royal decrees, three of which appoint Senors Bandeira, Passos, and El de Castro—the first President of the Council, and the others Ministers of the Interior, and of Grace and Justice. These appointments have given universal satisfaction.

GEN. CLINCH.

The Florida papers furnish a full account of a public dinner given to Brigadier General Duncan L. Clinch, late of the Army of the United States, in testimony of their high sense of his worth as a private citizen, and of his disguished services while in command of the United States force in the campaign against the Seminole Indians. The toasts, regular and irregular, were generally patriotic and *piquant*. The following are a few of them, which will give the reader a taste of the whole.—*Nat. Int.*

The Army of the United States—Brave, capable, and faithful; justly entitled to the gratitude of the people, and the patronage of the Government.

The Navy—It has illuminated by its achievements the deep ocean and the shallow lake; the woods as well as the waves discourse of its glory, and accord in the note of victory.

The President of the United States, the Heads of Departments, and "all the powers that be"—It is a becoming duty to *respect* them as the constituted authorities of the land. Our *affections* may be reserved for an introduction. When we know who they are, we shall judge of the propriety of cultivating their acquaintance.

Gen. Duncan L. Clinch—Our worthy fellow-citizen and *respected guest*; a good soldier, a good planter, and a good fellow—May he never lose a crop, a battle, or a friend.

The Live Oak, he pride of Florida's Forest—May it never shade any but freemen, nor bear a cannon subversive of liberty.

Gen. D. L. Clinch—With a thousand as brave fellows as those under his command when he received the Indian bullet through his cap, he would have saved the Government the trouble of a Court of Inquiry on the failure of the Florida campaign.

Florida—The home of the afflicted, a foe has desolated her fairest fields, and moistened her soil with the blood of the brave; but a genial sun still gilds her valleys, and a mellow, health-restoring breeze still floats over the breeze of barbarous war—May the remunerations of a generous, protecting government soon restore her rich harvests and golden fruits.

Oceola—The great untaken, and still unconquered red man; would that his aspirations were less unholy than they are! Battling for his hunting ground, his kindred and his log cabin, how know we that humanity is not blessing his cause, when the Great Spirit is giving him victory?

THE ANNUALS.—In six numbers of our paper we have published entire "Friendship's Offering," "The Forget Me Not," and "The Keepsake," without interfering with our usual variety of miscellaneous articles, intelligence, &c. After our next number—which will be *altogether original*—we shall resume the re-publication, and probably furnish our subscribers with two or three supplementary sheets, in order to give their contents while they are fresh, and before they have been printed in other papers. "The English Annual," which is a half-priced book, made up of stale stories and poetry from the Court Magazine, is already sufficiently familiar to our readers, and we shall, therefore, omit it in our reissues. Its leading article, "You cannot marry your Grandmother, by T. Haynes Bailey," as published in the August number of the Lady's Book, and has since been copied into one-half the weekly papers in the United States.—*Philadelphia Saturday News.*

Singular case of Spectral Illusion.—A young lady having lately received a violent blow on the middle of her forehead, by running against a door in the dark, suffered very much from pain about the part, and also from a disturbed state of mind. The latter being considered by two scientific gentlemen as caused by a local affection of the brain, they inquired if she was not visited by apparitions of persons and other objects. She replied at once that she was, and described them in a vivid manner. These apparitions terrified her very much, until she was told that they were caused by a morbid condition of the brain, in consequence of the blow she had received, when her terrors vanished and she does not now mind the visits of the apparitions, on reflecting that they proceed from this cause. This case, with many others of the same character, are highly important, both in mental and medical science, as they give to this functional deragement a local and ascertainable external cause.—*N. Y. Sun.*

A pretty Superstition.—There is said to exist among the Russian girls the following innocent superstition:—On the Thursday previous to Whit Sunday, they try what is called 'the prophetic swimming of the bridal wreath.' A wreath of flowers is plaited together and thrown into the stream, when, if the wreath swims on the surface of the water, they will, in the same year, exchange their maiden for a nuptial state; but should it sink they are to wait still longer for the happy change.

Legislature of Maryland.

Thursday, December 29.

In the House, Mr. Eccleston submitted the following preamble and resolutions:

Whereas, the several sovereign States which now compose this nation, have yielded up and forever surrendered to the government of the United States, many sovereign rights and privileges, and among them, the mail establishment, and the regulation and entire control thereof, which has become a source of much revenue to the country, and an object of peculiar advantage and benefit to national officers; who in the enjoyment of the franking privilege, have been enabled to send much valuable information to their constituents, on subjects deeply interesting and important to them, as citizens of this free and enlightened republic; and believing, from the present prosperous condition of the post office department, that the time has arrived, for the more general diffusion of the advantages and benefits, which would flow from a further extension of the franking privilege—therefore,

Resolved, By the General Assembly of Maryland, that the franking privilege should be extended to the several Governors of the sovereign states composing this Union.

Resolved, That the Franking privilege should be extended to the members, and chief clerks of the several legislatures of the States of this Union, during their session,

Resolved, That his Excellency the Governor be, and he is hereby respectfully requested, to send a copy of the above preamble and resolutions, to the Governor of each of the States of this Union; with a respectful request, that the same may be presented to their several Legislatures.

Resolved further, That the Governor be and he is hereby respectfully requested, to send a copy of the above preamble and resolutions, to the Senators and Representatives of this State, in the Congress of the U. States, and solicit their earnest and diligent exertions, to obtain an act of Congress to carry into full effect the purpose and intention of the above resolutions.

Which was read the first time, and ordered to lie on the table.

Saturday, Dec. 31.

Nothing of much interest occurred in the Legislature to-day.

In the Senate, the bill confirmatory of the act requiring the vote of two thirds of each branch of the General Assembly to the passage of bills granting divorces, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

In the House, several petitions, &c. were presented, all however, of an uninteresting character.

In the House the following leaves to report bills were granted.

On motion of Mr. Richardson, to report a bill to charter the Friendship Beneficial Society of Baltimore.

On motion of Mr. Ridgley, to report a bill, supplementary to the act of last session for the relief of the heirs of Jane White.

On motion of Mr. Alexander, to report a bill to determine the time from which acts of the General Assembly shall operate.

On motion of Mr. Perry, to report a bill to charter a company to make a turnpike from the national road west of Cumberland, to intersect the northwestern turnpike of Virginia, at some point in Allegany county.

It was ordered, on motion of Mr. Richardson, that the Indemnity Commissioners be requested to furnish the House a schedule of the items for which indemnity was granted, with their values, &c.

Some leaves of a local character were granted. At an early hour the House adjourned.

Monday, Jan. 2, 1837.

The General Assembly to day, at 12 o'clock, went into the election of *Governor of Maryland*, and the result was, that of the 81 votes taken, His Excellency THOMAS W. VEAZEY, received 70.—Gov. Veazey's re-election must be a source of gratification to all the friends of the Constitution in the State. The firm and resolute stand which he took during our late troubles, entitles him to the gratitde of the people. But little else was done.

In the Senate, so much of the Governor's Message as relates to education, was, on motion of Mr. Schley, referred to a select committee, consisting of Messrs. Schley, Wright, Becket, Brown and Hambleton.

So much of the Message as relates to the recent Proclamation of the Governor, and so much of it as relates to the conduct of the Recusant Electors, were, on motion of Mr. Ricaud, referred to the Committee on Judicial Proceedings.

In the House, leave was granted Mr. Ely, to report a bill to incorporate the Musical Company of Baltimore County.

Mr. Culbreth submitted an order which lies on the table, directing the Committee on Ways and Means to enquire into the expediency of making a temporary investment of the States' portion of the Surplus Revenue,