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THE KENT NEWS.

Frustra, laborat, qui omnibus, placere, studet—"He labours vainly, who endeavors to please every one.

BY E. MANSFIELD. CHESTER TOWN, Md. $1 50 PER ANNUM, in advance.

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THE KENT NEWS.

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EDWARD MANSFIELD,

PROPRIETOR.

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POETRY.

[From the Star Spangled Banner,]

His Harp the Minstrel Bard has Lain

BY WILLIAM E. PABOR.

AIR—"The harp that once through Tara's Halls."

His harp the minstrel bard has lain
Aside for evermore;
He'll never wake its chords again,
To music as of yore.
The lips that sang the deeds of fame,
Will never ope again;
Nor will he breathe of love's warm flame,
In an enraptured strain.

In death the the minstrel lieth cold,
His voice has gone for aye—
And in the dark and slimy mould,
The minstrel bard doth lie.
We sigh and sorrow for the song
He used to strike for us;
And mourn his harp shall linger long,
Ere one will wake it thus.

We laid him where the river flows,
'Twas there he wished to lie;
And there in spring the violet grows,
And zephyr's o'er them sigh;
And naiads from the rivers bed,
Arise when day is o'er;
Upon his grave the tear they shed,
And sigh—he is no more.

SELECT TALES.

THE BRIDAL EVE

BY HARRIET BOWLES.

CHAPTER I.

"What a magnificent nuptial present!" exclaimed Mrs. Benton to her daughter, as, on entering the chamber of the latter, at Saratoga, they discovered a costly diamond necklace, with a perfumed note accompanying it. "Mr. Wallingford is indeed all that is generous and noble!"

The daughter's cheek became tinged with crimson, though a smile rose to her lip as she contemplated her lover's costly gift. At that moment her heart was torn by contending emotions; but alas! she knew that she could find no sympathy in her distress from her parent.

Mrs. Benton was a widow, with no child but her beautiful daughter. Aspiring, vain, and mercenary, she resolved that Isabel should make a brilliant match, and for this purpose the mother had brought her daughter to the springs, where her loveliness soon rendered Miss Benton the belle of the season. Her charms had conquered among others the *millionaire* of the year, a middle aged retired merchant; and, in obedience to her mothers explicit commands, was, on the ensuing day, to become the bride of Mr. Wallingford.

But Isabel, though feeling it to be her duty to obey her parent, could not submit to this doom without many and painful struggles. A year before she had met and loved a young painter, when on a visit to a friend in the country; and though they had not met for many months, his memory was still fresh in her heart, and she felt that though she might wed the wealthy Mr. Wallingford, she could never give him the affection she had already bestowed on her poor artist. As the day appointed for her union approached; her feelings became more and more acute, until now she could have flung herself at her mother's feet and begged to be released from her engagement, only that she knew her parent would prove inexorable.

"Alas!" thought Isabel, as her mother left the apartment, "there is no escape for me from this hateful alliance. And yet Mr. Wallingford is all that is noble and generous—yet—yet I cannot love. Oh! Henry," she exclaimed apostrophising her absent lover, "would that you were here. But what do I say? For months he has not written to me, and alas! I cannot conceal from myself that I am forgotten. No, it is sinful in me thus to think of one who has deserted me. Oh! that ever he could forget those dear, dear moments when we walked together under the old avenue, while the moon simmered down through the leaves, and our hearts beat in unison with the music of all nature around us. Oh! Henry, dear Henry," and she claped her hands, "that ever you should forget those hours."

"Nor have I forgotten them, dear Isabel!" exclaimed a voice beside her, that thrilled every nerve with extacy, and looking around she perceived her lover, who had entered the little parlor unperceived.

We will not describe the thousand things that were said at this meeting.—Suffice it to say they were like all lover's protestations. But the explanation of Henry must be laid before our readers, though in a more succinct and less broken manner than he gave it.—His tale, however, even as told by himself, was short. He had written, according to promise, to Isabel, but received no answer. Again and again he had written, but always with the like success, until at length his pride forbade him to write again. But his love had survived notwithstanding the apparent coldness of Isabel, and having incidentally heard that she was at the Springs, he had resolved to see her, and learn the worst.

"Then it was your mother that intercepted your letters," said Henry when Isabel had, in turn, narrated her story—"and this marriage—oh! Isabel dear Isabel, can you sacrifice yourself!"

What need to tell the result. Love ever triumphs, and it was arranged that, that night, Isabel should elope with her lover

CHAPTER II.

It was between the hours of two and three o'clock, on the same night, that Isabel, who could not think of sleeping, stole into the little private parlor that was adjoining to the chamber of her mother, and not far from the apartment occupied by Mr. Wallingford. The position of this parlor rendered it one from which a nocturnal flight was not only possible but easy, for in this parlor there was a window out of which you could with ease step into the garden, and at the end of that garden was one of the leading streets of the town.

Isabel was seated at a table on which there wss a small lamp and a tiny watch. The hands of that tiny watch seemed to her to be almost fixed, or to move as if nothing could induce them to go on to the hour of appointment. At first Isabel awaited the hour of rendezvous without hesitation, and without trembling; but when it was approaching to the hour for the signal given with her lover, her duty to her parent recurred to her, and she hesitated. Affection for her mother—for Mrs. Benton was still her mother—struggled long with her promise to her lover. At length she said,

"No, I cannot fly. My mother!—My mother! harsh though you may be, I cannot cost you a tear. I will write a note for Henry, telling him I cannot keep my promise with him, and to-morrow I will throw myself at my mother's feet and confess all. She will, she *must* relent."

Accordingly she took up a pen, and hastily wrote a few lines to her lover, at every word blotting the paper with tears. At length exhausted by her emotions, she lent back on the sofa to indulge in a fit of weeping. Long she wept, but finally nature attained the mastery; and like a child, worn out by grief, she sank insensibly to sleep.

The dawn was just beginning to break when Mr. Wallingford, who chanced to be an early riser, passing down the corridor, perceived the door of Mrs. Benton's parlor ajar, with Isabel apparently unconcious on the sofa. Alarmed at the sight, he entered; but finding that Miss Benton was only asleep, he would have withdrawn, when his eyes was attracted by his name in the unfinished note on the table, and led by an ungovernable curiosity he read as follows:—

"It is the will of my unhappy destiny, combined with the desire of my mother. I must never see you again—never more listen to you; never—but why utter the word? To-morrow I become the wife of Mr. Wallingford; fly, then, from my sight—it is a sacrifice that I appeal to your honor to mak——"

"Who can this gentleman be? Who is this mysterious lover of whom I have never heard? Alas! I fondly dreamed, Isabel, that you loved ME, but I see how that I have been deceived and that your mother is, perhaps, forcing you into a union you ab——"

His words were cut short by a footfall. It was Henry leaping into the window, and Wallingford looked around. The rivals gazed at each other an instant, nor will we attempt to describe their feelings when they found they were father and son. Their exclamations of astonishment awoke Isabel, who fainted, while, at the same instant, her mother appeared on the scene. The insensible girl was borne from the room, and then the young man, flinging himself at his father's feet exclaimed,

"My father—my father! I am innocent, pardon me."

"Rise, sir," said Mr. Wallingford, "I am no longer your father. I am your accuser, and your judge. Why have you come to Saratoga?"

"It was absolutely necessary for me to do so. Honor compelled me to come and see one who—is very dear to me."

"Very well; but then you choose to pay your visits to this very dear person at moments that are very equivocal—at three o'clock in morning, for instance."

"Father, since you know all, why do you thus question me? Why thus interrogate me?"

"Because it my desire to know the most minute details of your love for Miss Isabel Benton."

"And wherefore?"

"Because she ought to be my wife, and not yours."

"Then, sir, you must know, that it is about six months ago, in a stroll through the Susquehanna country, whither I went as an artist, and under an assumed name. I met this young lady. Why tell the result. We loved. I did not reveal my real name, for I wished to be loved for myself, and not as the son of the rich Mr. Wallingford. She promised to be mine ere parting; and were to write to each other. But our letters were intercepted, and deeming she had proved false to me, I resolved to forget her, until last week, when hearing accidentally from a friend here, that she was to be married—though he did not say to whom—my agony drove me hither, to see Isabel, reproach her for her perfidy, and bid her an eternal farewell.—Oh! my father had I known all, I would have suffered anything, rather than come hither."

"Henry!" said the father, wiping away a tear, "you have conquered. The love of one like me cannot be such as that a young man feels. The sacrifice will be less to me than to you. Take her, and God bless you."

The son fell on his father's shoulder and weeping, would have refused the boon, but Mr Wallingford was inexorable, nor would he suffer the ceremony to be delayed more than a day—the ample settlement he made on his son fully reconciling Mrs. Benton to the match.

Singular Mode of Courtship.

The Rev. Dr. L——n, an eminent Scotch divine, and professor of theology, was remarkable for absence of mind and indifference to worldly affairs. His mind wrapt up in lofty contemplations, could seldom stoop to the ordinary business of life, and when at any time he did attend to secular affairs, he generally went about them in a way unlike any body else, as the history of his courtship will show. He was greatly beloved by his elders and congregation, was full of simplicity and sincerity, and entirely unacquainted with the etiquette of the world. Living the solitary comfortless life of a bachelor, his elders gave him frequent hints that his domestic happiness would be much increased by his taking to himself a wife, and pointed out several young ladies in his congregation, any of whom might be a fit match or companion for him.

The elders, finding all the hints had no effect in rousing the doctor to the using of the means, preliminary to entering into a matrimonial alliance, at last concluded to wait upon him, and stir him up to the performance of his duty. They urged on him the advantages of marriage—its happiness—spoke of it as a divine institution, and as affording all the enjoyments of sense and, in short, all the sweets of domestic life. The doctor approved of all they said, and apologised his past neglect of duty, on account of many difficult passages of Scripture he had of late been attending to, and promised to look after, it, "the first convenient season." The elders, however, were not to be put off any longer; they insisted on the doctor at once making use of the means, and requested from him a promise that, on Monday afternoon he would straightway visit the house of a widow lady, a few doors from him, who had three pretty daughters, and who were the most respectable in the doctor's congregation. To solve any difficult passage in the book of Genesis—reconcile apparent discrepancies, or clear up a knotty text, would have been an easy task to the doctor, compared with storming the widow's premises. But to the raising of the siege the doctor must go, and with great gravity and simplicity, gentle reader, you can imagine you see him commencing the work.

After the usual salutations were over, he said to Mrs. W——n, "my sessions have of late been advising me to take a wife, and recommended me to call upon you, and as you have three fine daughters, I would like to say a word to the eldest, if you have no objections."—Miss W——n enters, and the doctor, with his characteristic simplicity said to her, "my sessions have been advising me to take a wife, and recommended me to call upon you." The young lady who had seen some thirty summers, was not to be caught so easily; she laughed heartily at the doctor's abruptness: hinted to him that in making a sermon, was it not necessary to say something first to introduce the subject properly before he entered fully upon it; and as for her part, she was determined not to surrender her liberty at a moment's warning—"the honor of her sex was concerned in her standing out." This was all a waste of time to the doctor, and he requested to see her sister.

Miss E. W——n then entered, and to save time the doctor says 'my sessions have been advising me to take a wife, and I had been speaking to your sister, who has just gone out at the door, and as she is not inclined that way, what would you think of being Mrs. L——n?" "Oh! Doctor, I don't know, it is rather a serious question.—Marriage, you know, binds one for life, and it should not be rashly entered into. I would not consent without taking time to deliberate upon it." "My time," says the Doctor, "is so much occupied, and as my session has said so much to me on the business that I must finish it to-day, if I can; so you had best tell your mother to send in your youngest sister to speak to me." In a moment comes the honest, lively Miss Mary W——n. 'Come away, my child, it is getting on in the afternoon, and I must get home to my studies. I have been speaking to both of your sisters on a little business, and they have declined I am a man of few words; and without misspending precious time, what would you think of being made Mrs. L——n?" 'Indeed, I always thought a good deal of you, Doctor; and if my mother does not say against it, I have no objections.' The Doctor left Miss Mary in a few minutes, enjoining her to fix the day, for any would suit him; but to send him up word the day before.

The doctor was scarcely home before a keen dispute arose in the family among the three young ladies, all claiming the doctor. The eldest one said the offer was first made to her and she did not positively refuse. The second declared that she wished only a little time to think upon it; and the younger insisted that it was completely with her. The mother of the young ladies was in such difficulty with her daughters, that she was obliged to call upon the doctor himself to settle the dispute. She called, and the reverend doctor in his characteristic way said, "my dear Mrs. W——n, I am very fond of peace in families; it is all the same thing to me, which of them, and just settle it among yourselves, send me up word." The doctor was married to the youngest, and one of his sons is at this day a respectable clergyman, "in the land of the mountain and the flood."

St. Louis Bulletin.

ADDRESS

OF THE COMMITTEE TO THE MINISTRY AND LAITY OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES.

DEAR BRETHREN,—The undersigned having been appointed a Committee under a resolution adopted at a meeting of male members of the Methodist E. Church, in the city and county of Philadelphia, held on the 11th day of December, 1851, at the M. E. Union Church, in the city aforesaid, deem it due to you, as well as themselves, to make a brief exposition of the nature and objects of the present movement.

It is well known that the laity of our Church have no voice in making and modifying the laws by which, as church members, they are governed. It is also known to many of you that this exclusion of the laity from a share in the government of the Church has been a source of discontent and agitation among its members for many years. The division which occurred in 1844, and the events which have followed that division—among which an alarming diminution in the membership of the Northern Church is not the least significant—have given new activity to this long continued dissatisfaction.

Fearing a wide spread disaffection in the Church, which would result in supineness, alienation, and indifference to interests over which the laity have no control, and deeply solicitous for the welfare and prosperity of our Zion, a few of the brethren in this city assembled together to deliberate upon the propriety of adopting such measures as offered the best promise of putting this subject forever at rest. Believing that "in the multitude of counsellors there is safety," they invited five members from each station in this city to unite with them, and the meeting, thus constituted, appointed a committee of nine to call a public meeting of all the male members of the Church in the city and county of Philadelphia. At this public meeting, after a full discussion, the proceeding Resolutions were adopted by a large majority.

By reference to the first resolution, it will be perceived that it is no part of the duty of the undersigned to dictate to their bretheren the course to be pursued by them in this movement, but simply to invite them to send delegates to a general convention of the Church to take into consideration the propriety of petitioning the next General Conference to make such changes in the law of the Church as the proposed convention may recommend.

It will, of course, devolve upon the convention to set forth its reasons for the changes which it may agree upon, and the undersigned do not feel called upon to enter upon any argument in anticipation of its action. But, as they have reason to believe that the movement is not generally understood; that it is even regarded by some of their brethren as dangerous, radical and revolutionary, and that it will result in discord and schism, they feel bound most solemnly to disclaim any intention of marring the peace or mutilating the integrity of the Church. They go still further, and not only disclaim all interference with the Episcopacy and itinerancy of the Church, but they declare their determination to advocate and sustain them both. So far from taking any step which might excite prejudice or distrust in the mind of the laity towards the ministry, it is their earnest wish to allay and remove these by bridging the gulf which separates the two orders. So far from threatening to withdraw their support from the ministry, they declare their purpose to sustain them in their high and holy calling, by their sympathies, their prayers, and their means; and so far from wishing to exclude them from participation in this movement, they cordially invite their co-operation in seeking the contemplated change.

The undersigned are met at the outset with the argument that the Church has prospered under its present form of government and has been instrumental, under God, in bringing more of souls into the fold of Christ, and that it is, therefore, unwise to disturd an organization which has which has worked out such glorious results. They submit, in reply, that these have been attained, not *in consequence* of the exclusion of laity from the councils of the Church, but *in spite* of it. They are more justly attributable to the doctrines of the Church, which address themselves to the heart and consciences of the people, to its itineracy, its class and prayer meetings, its mourner's bench, its earnest ministry, its zealous laity, and its facilities for reaching the poor.—If the Church, by these means, has accomplish so much, with a form of government so opposed to the genius of our political institutions, how much more might it have done for the salvation of men and the glory of God, if with the same doctrine and usages, it had had the advantage of a constitution more in harmony with the spirit of our age and people! Without detracting from the veneration felt by all Methodists for the Founder of our Church, we should do well to remember that Mr. Wesley dictated our form of ecclesiastical government at a time when the principles of civil freedom, and particularly the right of the people to govern themselves, were not so well understood as at present. He formed his system of church policy in accordance with monarchial ideas; but since that time the great experiment of self-government has been made in this country, and what was then regarded as a doubtful trial, has now become a demonstrated fact.

The undersigned do not deny that the condition of the early members of the Church may have been such as to justify the ministry in assuming the entire legislative, judicial and executive control; but that state of things has passed away; and advancing with the steady progress of knowledge, the laity have attained to a degree of intellectual capacity which qualifies them to render valuable aid to their clerical bretheren in the councils of the Church. They respectfully submit that the tutelage of infancy is not adopted to the condition of manhood, and that every institution should, from time to time, so modify its law as to conform to the progressive movements of civilization. Changes to suit the exigencies of progress are written on every page of our country's history. The constitutions of nearly all the thirteen States, which originally composed our confederacy, though adapted to the wants of the period in which they were framed, have been revised and altered to meet the necessities of the present age. And while the governments of our sister Protestant Churches have been so constructed as to harmonize with our National and State institutions, the M. E. Church alone remains indifferent to the improvements going on around it, and pertinaciously adheres to an absolute and unprogressive system. The undersigned believe that all civil, social, and religious organizations are capable of self government. Justice at least requires that those who *pay* should be represented in the councils of those who *expend*.

The undersigned furthermore submit that the movement in which they are engaged, so far from being *radical, revolutionary*, and *dangerous*, is eminently *conservative, peaceful*, and *safe*. It proposes that all the usages of the Church, which have been the springs of its prosperity, shall be sacredly preserved. It contemplates no action, except by the firm friends of the Church, through its legally constituted legislature, to whose wisdom they appeal, and to whose authority they submit. It throws no firebrand of dissension within the hallowed gates of our Zion, but prays to spread oil upon the troubled waves of agitation and controversy. It disclaims all motives of ambition, and seeks the sole object of benefiting the entire Church, by drawing more closely the bonds of brotherhood between the ministry and laity. It promises to aid the ministry, by sharing its responsibilities; to infuse new energy into the laity, by giving them a direct interest and influence in the work of the Church; and to remove an objection to our polity which has driven multitudes of its most valuable members out of the Church, and prevented multitudes more from uniting with it.

The undersigned cannot suppose, for a moment, that a question of so much importance, submitted to so large a body, embracing almost every variety of political constitution, will be acted upon without opposition. But may they not hope it will receive from their brethren a calm and dispassionate investigation? They are far from believing that evil is the necessary result of the discussion of a great question; but they can readily see that indulgence in unholy tempers and unkind epithets in place of a brotherly interchange of views, may result in injury to our beloved Zion. They, therefore, earnestly exhort their brethren throughout the connection to endeavor, in the consideration of the measure proposed, to present to the Church, and to the world, the sublime spectacle of a vast brotherhood exhibiting in their discussions the legitimate fruits of our holy Christianity; "on earth peace and good-will towards men."

In conclusion, the undersigned submit for your consideration and action the following preamble and resolution, with their earnest prayers to the great Head of the Church that he will so direct your heart and minds, that your deliberations shall promote the triumph of his gospel, and the spread of scriptural holiness over these lands."

Whereas, At a meeting of the members of the several Methodist Episcopal Churches, in this City and County, held at Union Church, the 11th of December, it was deemed advisable to call a convention to be composed of delegates from the different circuits and stations throughout the connection; said convention to be held in this city, on the 3d of March next, to take into consideration the propriety of presenting a memorial to the next General Conference, asking for such a change in the government of our Church as will secure the introduction of lay delegates into our Conferences;

Therefore Resolved, That we recommend to the several circuits and stations throughout the Church to appoint lay-delegates in such way as may be most convenient, either by seperate action of the circuits and stations, or by a general meeting in such circuits where there are more than one station. Provided, that not more than five delegates shall be sent from any circuit or station; but when no appointment be made in circuit or station, it may be represented by any member or members of the society, not exceeding five; said delegates being, in every case, at least twenty-one years of age, and three years a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

W. H. ALLEN,	T. K. COLLINS,
J. J. BOSWEMM,	S. ASHMEAD,
JOHN WHITEMAN,	JOHN HUFF,
W. P. TILDEN,	CHARLES B. HARE,
P. R. MCNEILLE,	M. CRAMER,
THOS. W. PRICE,	J. B. CHRISNAN,
ANTHONY NULL,	A. CUMMINGS,
EPHRAIM CLARKE,	P. HACKER,
J. B. DARE,	D. J. COLLOCK,
COLSON HIESKELL,	C. TERRINE,
	W. W. PIERSON.

A HARD HIT.—A plain spoken woman recently visited a married woman, and said to her, "how do you contrive to amuse yourself?"

"Amuse!" said the other, staring; "do you not know that I have my housework to do?"

"Yes," said the other, "I see you have it to do, but as it is never done I concluded you must have some other way of passing your time."

Necessity knows no laws. Well, necessity is like a great many lawyers.