John Catrup

EASTON GAZETTE.

WHERE THE PRESS IS FREE—"Literature well or ill-conducted, is the Great Engine by which all Popular States must ultimately be supported or overthrown RELIGION purifies the Heart and teaches us our Duty—Morality refines the Manners—Agriculture makes us Rich, and Politics provides for the enjoyment of all.

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Extract from Miss Sedwick's late work, entitled "The Poor Rich Man and the Rich Poor Man."

A PEEP INTO THE POOR RICH MAN'S HOUSE.

As our readers may have anticipated, Susan at once entered into Harry's views: and in a short time, she and her family were transferred to part of a small house in Broome-street, in New-York One room served as kitchen, parlour and bed-room. It was furnished only with articles of the first necessity There was a snug little bed-room for Uncle Phil, which he said suited him exactly; and a comfortable, good sized one for Charlotte, with a neat rag carpet on it, 'Because Lottie suffered with cold feet," and a fire place in it, "for Lottie must have a fire when she had sick turns;" and two windows, "for all Lottie's living was fresh air;" and the only bureau and only rocking chair were in Charlotte's room, because, as she said, Susy had always some good reason at hand for giving her the best of every thing"

Our friends were undeniably what the world calls poor But they had affection, intelligence, temperance, contentment and godliness. Were they poor? We shall see. In the meantime, let us see if there is not some misuse of terms in this world. Morris Finley had "got on in the world" He had so far secured his *main chance* that he was engaged in profitable business. He lived in a good house, fashionably furnished; and his wife, like the wives of other flourishing young merchants, dressed in expensive materials made in the latest fashion.—Neither Morris nor his wife was vicious. They were only selfish and ostentatious, with unfurnished minds, and hearts as empty as their purses were full.

'Husband,' said Mrs. Finley to her partner, who had just come home from Wall street to dinner, his mind engrossed with some unaccountable rise in the stocks. 'Husband,' mother has been here"

'Well, what of that?'

'She has given up her house.'

'What of that?'

'Why, you know what of that as well as I do; she does not know what she is to do next.'

'We must premise that Finley's father in law had made some unfortunate, as well as fortunate speculations; had died, and left his wife and an unmarried daughter penniless.

'I am sure I cannot say what she is to do next," replied Finley; she is lucky to have one daughter well provided for. What does she propose?"

'She did not propose any thing. She sat and cried the whole morning.

'Of course she cannot expect to have a home here"

'Of course not. I told her, said I, 'Mother, if I were to ask husband to invite you here, we could not accommodate you for we have not a room to spare: you know we must eat in the basement to keep the parlours in order for company; and in the second story there is only the nursery and our bed chamber; and one of the third story rooms we must keep for a spare room: and, when Sabina Jane gets to be a little older, she must have the back upper chamber; and so,' said I, 'mother, you see, if husband were perfectly willing, it is impossible.''

'She could not have expected it.'

'Oh, no, she did not; but, then, a mother is a mother, you know, and I did not wish to hurt her feelings.'

'I presume, my dear, Helen Maria can get a place as governess or teacher in a school, I heard her say she had attended to music and painting & French, and so on, at Mrs ——'s school, for the last six years.'

'So she has, husband; but bless you! you know how girls learn things at school, and she never expected to have to teach.'

'I spect or not expect, I'd get my money's worth out of those schools. I saw on your father's books, three hundred dollars a year paid for Helen Maria's schooling for the last six years, & this is what it has come to. Can't she teach geography or arithmetic, or some of them useful branches.'

'No, she never was fond of the useful branches; she had quite a pretty taste for music and painting, but then people are required to understand them so well to teach them. No, I don't see as Helen Maria can earn any thing but by embroidering muslin; she does that beautifully; and if there was only a place where work might be sold without it being known where it came from, she might earn considerable, and no one be the wiser for it.'

'Nonsense, wife! We have not yet got above our relations' working for their living, though you may not be obliged to. Why can't your mother take a boarding-house, and then Helen Maria might assist her?'

'Oh! Helen Maria can't do any kind of housework; besides, she is delicate, you know. Now mother was brought up to it; and when *I* proposed a boarding-house, she said it she had any security to offer for her rent—'

'All there's the rub! I hope she don't expect me to offer; for you know, my dear, I make it an invariable rule never to endorse, but in the way of business, for those who endorse for me'

'What is to be done, husband, if she can't get into any way of supporting herself? She must live, you know'

'And I must support her, hey?'

'No, I did not say that; but we can't let her suffer. What would people say? —there are always enough to talk, you know'

'Yes, yes: well, I suppose I must advance the first quarter's rent, or something 'towards it. Oh! a thought strikes me; I know a house that will just suit, belonging to some old maid or widow or somebody that lives up the country The man that has the care of it ain't particular about security. I'll make the bargain for her—save her at least a hundred dollars. That's just as good to her as if I took the money out of my purse and put it into hers. I am glad to do your mother a good turn now and then in this way. I ain't one that holds to shirking poor relations.'

'Nor I, I am sure, and I told mother so; but *I* told her not to look to you; for, says I, mother, you know we have a very expensive family, and there are certain things we must have and husband says he will always keep on the safe side.'

'Yes, trust Morris Finley for that—Folks that mean to go ahead in the world must avoid unnecessary expenses Has the man been here about the curtains?'

'Yes; and I find the fawn, with blue borders, cost, for each window, twenty dollars more than the others

'Bless my soul! now is that?'

'The fixtures are very showy and expensive—I don't make a point of those—but the blue and fawn is such a lovely contrast, and such a match for my carpet. If there's any thing I do care a bout, it's a match.'

'But the price, wife is enormous.'

'But it is not more than Mrs. Johnson Smith gave for hers.'

'Are you sure of that?'

'Positive; Miss Saltus told me so, and Miss Saltus made them up. I should not depend on what Mrs. Johnson Smith said, for she always makes it out that her things cost more than anybody else's; but I can rely on Miss Saltus.'

'Well, if that's the case, take the blue and fawn. I hope *I* can afford what Johnson Smith can; but mind and make your bargain with that Saltus woman beforehand; work is slack just now and she can't afford to be by with that old blind mother on her hands. Get your work done as well and as cheap as you can; for, remember, *we must avoid all unnecessary expenses* But what keeps the sweet, my dear?'

'I am sure I don't know, my dear; I have been out making visits all the morning. Servants are good for nothing nowadays—always trifling away their time'

'What ails Sabina Jane? seems to me she does nothing but bawl'

Mrs. Finley opened the door to inquire, and in rushed a pale little girl, with a bit of plum cake in her hand

'Take care, Judy,' said the mother, picking up the crumbs which the child profusely scattered; 'you should not let Sabina Jane come into the parlour—it's no place for children.'

'She would come, ma'am'

'Oh, Sabina Jane, my darling, go back to the nursery, that's a good child.'

'I won't, I won't!'

Mrs. Finley, in a low voice to the nurse—'Coax her, Judy—tell her you'll take her out to walk.'

'I can't take her out, ma'am—my foot is lame.'

'Oh, only just tell her so, to pacify her. Stop, Sabina Jane, and listen to mother; Sabina Jane shall go out walking in Broadway, and have on her pretty velvet cap, and her cloak all trimmed with pink—there, that's a good girl! now she'll go with Judy. Get out her things, Judy—make her look like a little beauty!'

The little dupe returned to the nursery, and in two minutes was bawling louder than ever, having been quieted just the time by her mother's precious lesson in lying and vanity.

A PEEP INTO THE RICH POOR MAN'S HOUSE.

Seven years had not passed over without those precious accumulations to Aikin that constitute the poor man's wealth; save a conscience void of offence. there is no treasure comparable to healthy, bright, well trained children. Our friend Harry and his wife had kept the even tenor of their way—no uncommon event had happened to them; but, as the river of life glides through a varied country, the aspect of their's now varied from what it was when we last saw them.

The floor of the room was partly covered with a carpet, and the part visible as clean as hands could make it.—*It* was summer, and the blinds were closed, admitting only light enough to enable the persons within to carry on their occupations. Uncle Phil is sitting by the half-opened window, with a year-old baby on his lap, telling over on its toes that charming lyric, 'this pig went to market, and that pig stayed at home' —Aunt Lottie was preparing a pot of wholesome soup, which, like a judicious housewife, having boiled the day before, she was freeing from every particle of fat—a little girl, six years old, was tacking worsted binding together for Venitian blinds, whereby she got from a manufactorer (working only at odd intervals) half a dollar per week, and at the same time teaching a sister something more than two years younger, the multiplication-table—Susan Aikin sat by, her vigilant eye seeing every thing, and her kind voice interposing as often as the wants or claims of the children rendered her interference necessary: Her most difficult duty seemed to be to keep in due order a restless, noisy little fellow, William, the twin brother of her eldest girl, whom she was teaching to write: while at the same time she was tailoring and instructing in it at a young girl, who had just set the last stitch in a vest of the most costly material, and was holding it up for inspection; a slight anxiety, as she heard the approving word, tempering her conscious success. Susan scrutinized every part of it, every seam, buttonhole and button; and then said—

'There's not a fault in it—I could not do one better myself, Agnes.'

Agnes burst into tears; Anne looked up from her work inquiringly; little Mary exclaimed, 'Such a beggar girl cry!'—Willie said, 'She is not really crying;' & the baby stretched out its neck, and put up its lips to offer a kiss of consolation, which Agnes took, smiling through her tears, and saying, 'Oh, I'm only crying because your mother has been so good to me.'

'Well,' shouted Willie, 'that's a funny thing to cry for!'

'That was not all, Willie,' said his mother; 'Agnes cries because she has been good herself.'

'That's funnier yet; we never cry only when we are naughty.'

Mrs Aikin solved the riddle, and so will we; Agnes was the eldest child of a worthy and very poor neighbour of Mrs. Aikin. Her father had been disabled for some months, by falling from a building, and had recently died: her mother had lost her health from over-exertion Agnes had an idiot sister, and two brothers too young to render the family any assistance. Mrs. Aikin, foreseeing the distress of the family after they should have exhausted the father's earnings and knowing that Agnes was a diligent and good girl, and had been well taught plain sewing in a public school, offered to instruct her in making vests, a very profitable business to those who are skilled in it, and can command work from the first merchant tailors There were some obstacles in the way: Agnes could only be spared from home at odd intervals, and often at times very inconvenient to Susan Aikin; but who, as Susan said, would ever do any good in this world if they made mountains of molehills? Those who sacrificed multiplied cares but he like industry, would rather have said she made mountains of mountains She always received Agnes with a smile, always found a quiet corner for her, and made leisure to attend to her. Agnes, seeing the efforts and sacrifices her kind friend made for her, set the right value upon the good she was obtaining, and performed her part with fidelity.

Many complaints are made of the low rates of women's wages—some just, no doubt; but for the most part, they are paid according to their capacity. A well qualified seamstress, tailoress, or milliner, can, except in very late cases, obtain certain employment and good pay: a half-taught and careless worker must take her chance for stop work, and low wages. Susan Aikin could at all times command work from the most respectable houses, was one of the highest wages, and if occasion favours that she knew how to turn to account. 'Now, Agnes, my child,' she had said on the day previous to this on which we have introduced her young friend, 'here is a trial vest for you, I have got leave from my employers to put it into your hands; you must set every stitch in it; and, if it is done to their satisfaction, you are to have as much of their best work as you can do, which is as good as a promise of six dollars a week to you—a safe support for your poor mother, and helpless sister, and little brothers. Better, my child to trust to diligent, skilful hands, than to widows' societies, and assistance societies and so on; leave those for such as can get nothing better, while we use the means of independence that Providence has given us.'

'But if I should fail, Mrs. Aikin?'

'Why, then there is one comfort in it, we can try again; but you will not fail'

Thus stimulated and encouraged, Agnes set to work, and, as has been seen accomplished her task, and no wonder that she shed tears of joy when it was done. Which, we would ask, was happiest—which *richest*; he who paid fifteen dollars for the vest, or she who earned the dollar by making it, and thereby cheered the hearts of the desolate, and brought comfort and light to a dreary home? or, which is happiest—*richest*; she who is lapped in luxury, and is every day seeking some new and expensive pleasure, or those who, like our friend Mrs Aikin, in some obscure place are using their faculties and seizing their opportunities of doing good, never to be known and praised by the world, but certainly recorded in the book of life?

While the vest was passing round to be examined and praised by Aunt Lottie, Uncle Phil, and all for their joys were in common in this little family, Aikin entered, and had his share in the general pleasure; but his brow soon clouded. Children are quick readers of faces they love

'What is the matter, father?' asked Willie; 'is that ugly pain in your breast come again?'

'No, something worse, Willie; a pain in my heart.'

'What is the matter?' asked Susan, anxiously. Every eye now turned to Aikin

'It's poor M'Elroy's troubles again—He called me in as I was passing—There lay his wife on the floor, dead drunk. Returning from the grocer's she slipped down the cellar stairs, and is so black and bruised, her head so swollen you would not know her. The children were crying, and he wringing his hands and saying, 'I can bear it no longer.' He, every week of his life, earns more than I do, and this bad woman wastes it. This comes of marrying a poor, ignorant, ill brought up girl, who had nothing but a pretty face to recommend her. M'Elroy says his children are going to destruction. She makes them beg, sends them out begging, puts one in their mouths, and last and worse than all, gives them rum to drink'

'Dear me! dear me! exclaimed Susan, 'what can be done or then?'

'He says but one thing—he must turn her adrift; he has forgiven and forgiven till he is tired of it.'

'Ah, there is but one Being that is never tired of forgiving!'

'The poor fellow has been very patient, though; but he says, for his children's sake, he must break up, they are going to ruin He has engaged places for them all but little Sam; no one is willing to take him for the price M'Elroy can pay.'

'Not willing to take Sam, father!' interrupted Mary 'I should think they would be willingest of all to take Sam.'

'Why, Mary?'

'Because he wants taking care of most.'

'Ah, Mary, that's a rule few go by.—It's no joke,' continued Aikin to his wife, 'for the poor fellow to board out himself and four children, for there's not one of them yet old enough to earn his own living.'

'Sam's a bright boy,' said Uncle Phil

'And a poor, sickly little fellow, that's been cruelly neglected,' said Aunt Lottie.

'It would be a comfort to see if care and management would not cure him,' said Susan Aikin.

'M'Elroy can pay half a dollar a week, which I think will pay for all the poor little fellow can consume in his present state,' said Aikin.

'I see an opportunity' said Susan, seeming to think aloud.

'What did you say, Susan?' asked her husband.

'Nothing; I was only thinking it was an opportunity.' Her husband smiled. 'Well,' she added, 'I *am* superstitious enough to believe that the opportunities are given, and it is our business to improve them, and it always makes me feel bad when I have let one slip by: the same never offers twice?'

'Speak out plain, wife: what do you mean?'

It was now Susan's turn to smile—'You know what I mean, Harry if it would not be right for us to run into any expense for a neighbor's child, but care and kindness we can give—they cost us nothing Lottie is the best of doctors, and I think, among us, we could cure up little Sam; and that would be a comfort.'

'But,' asked her husband, 'are you not afraid to bring a child that has been in the hands of that bad woman among our children?'

'No, our children all pull one way; and if they see any thing wrong we shall know, for they are true and open as the day. Poor little Sam has not been sent into the streets like the other children; and, if he has caught some of them bad habits, surely they may be cured in one so young. We have no money to give away, husband; but of such as we have we can give, & hope for the Lord's blessing upon the gift.'

The whole family, old and young, were of Susan's mind. The little boy was brought into the shelter of their home, and soon, under the kind and judicious management of Lottie and Susan, his unstrung, weak, dropsical figure, was braced to health and activity; his eye brightened, and his sallow cheek changed to the natural hue of childhood—Good principles and good habits were implanted, and good feeling cherished; and he who must have perished in a miserable childhood, or have dragged on a mischievous, or, at best, a worthless existence, held up his head in after life among his fellows, a prosperous, useful, and respected citizen.

Truly did Susan Aikin say, 'God gives the opportunity;' and well did she improve it!

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

Executive Department,
Annapolis, Nov. 25, 1836.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and
Of the House of Delegates.

The extraordinary occurrences, which, in our judgment, rendered it proper and necessary, that you should meet in General Assembly at this time, having been briefly detailed in the Proclamation calling you together, a copy of which is herewith submitted, we proceed to state to you, more at large, the views by which we were influenced and the objects sought to be accomplished by calling for the exertion of your authority, in the unprecedented crisis in our affairs, so faithlessly and wantonly brought a bout

It was with deep regret, that we felt ourselves called upon to expose to the world conduct of *Marylanders*, so utterly unworthy of the name, and so little to have been expected of descendants from, and partakers in the honor and fame of ancestors of such unsullied purity and glorious memory, as every Son of the Soil should be proud of and strive to emulate But, after waiting in vain, with painful anxiety and deep solicitude, in hopes that a returning sense of duty, moral and political, would cause at least a sufficient number of the recusant Electors, to attend the College, and with those who had qualified, elect a Senate, until after the last of the existing elections of the session was over, but not until its result was ascertained, when there could be no suspicion of partizan design or political motive for our action, we felt that we could no longer forbear, in duty to the people of the State and justice to ourselves, to take a firm and determined stand in support of the Constitution and authority of the Government, against the designs and proceedings intended to effect their overthrow.

It is believed that the annals of party contention, and political errors and aberations from duty, to which all party spirit naturally tends, would be searched in vain for a case of such plain and palpable violation of Constitutional duty & moral obligation, as the conduct of the recusant Electors of the Senate of Maryland exhibits; and although all who have approved of their unlawful designs and lent their aid and assistance to carry them into effect, have been guilty of gross dereliction and violation of the duty of good citizens, it is only those who counseled, beguiled and misled them to the course they pursued, that equal them in degree of guilt.

A painful sense of duty having required us to denounce the conduct of the recusant electors and their abettors, in terms suited to the nature and design of their offences, it is with the greatest satisfaction that we turn from them to do justice to the patriotic and noble conduct of many of their political partizans — In some parts of the State, and particularly in Allegany county, the party to which they belong, almost with one voice condemned, and, from the first, reprobated their conduct, with as much severity as their political opponents have done, and we believe this has been the case with a very respectable portion of their political friends in every part of the State. Such patriotic conduct, breaking and rising above all party trammels, when the constitution and government—the tranquility and welfare of the state was endangered, merits all praise, and meets our unqualified admiration. And we have great gratification in expressing the highest confidence, inspired by manifestations and evidences in every quarter of the State, that when the recent excitements shall have passed away, and reason shall have triumphed over the madness of party, and resumed her empire, that the number even of the pompous partizans of the recusant electors, who will continue to countenance and support them in their delinquency, and revolutionary designs and proceedings, will be comparatively very few, and be confined to such of their most prominent counsellors & principal abettors as will have no hope of re-establishing themselves to the good opinion and confidence of the community. We will not allow ourselves to doubt, that even among the recusants themselves, there will be found some, whose honesty and patriotism will finally triumph over their misguided passions, and cause them to look back upon their late conduct with unmingled astonishment and shame and the most profound abhorrence of the wily, evil advisers by whom they were led astray.

As soon as the recusant electors had taken their last course, it became the duty of the Executive, and indeed of all good citizens, to inform themselves of the constitutional and best means of defeating their designs, and supporting the constitution and government, and providing a remedy for their dereliction of duty. Upon examination of the constitution and form of government with this view, we found cause of increased admiration of the wisdom and forecast of the patriotic and eminent statesmen by whom it was framed. We found that they had not left it in the power of any unfaithful agents of the people, to destroy this work of their wise heads and pure hearts — They provided that 'the General Assembly of Maryland' should consist of a Senate and House of Delegates, and for periodical elections of the members of each branch, without otherwise limiting the term of service of either But although they had the forecast so to frame the provisions in relation to the elections of members of the Senate and House of Delegates, as to guard against the effects of improper conduct; or omissions of unfaithful agents, being to leave the state without a General Assembly, by leaving the term of service of the members of each House unlimited, otherwise than by the election of successors, yet it is manifest that they intended the people should have the power and means, and expected they would be exercised, of terminating the service of the members of the Senate every fifth year, and of the members of the House of Delegates every year. It was in this view, undoubtedly, that they provided for elections to fill vacancies in the Senate, 'for the residue of the said term of five years.'

If any support were necessary to this plain view of the provisions of the constitution, it is abundantly supplied by numerous judicial authorities and decisions, both English and American in cases directly in point. In *Foote vs Prouse, mayor of the town of Truro, reported in Strange page 625, it was* held, that the words, *annuatim eligendos* (to be chosen annually,) were only directory, and that an annual election of them was not necessary to make an election in their presence good; and King, C. J. who delivered the opinion of the court, compared it to the case of constables and other *annual officers, who are good officers after the year is out, until another is elected and sworn.*' In this case, the charter of the town directed, that the election of Aldermen should be made annually, and that the election of Mayor should be held in the presence of the Aldermen. The Aldermen, in whose presence *Prouse* had been elected Mayor, had not been elected annually; but, held their offices of Aldermen in virtue of an election held some years before. *Prouse's* election was held to be valid. To the same effect, substantially, are the following decisions, viz: *Hicks vs. Town of Launceston*, 1 *Bolles Abridgment, page 513. Queen vs. The Corporation of Durham*, 10th *Modern Reports, page 148 Smith vs Smith*, 2d *Equity Reports of South Carolina*, and *The People vs. Hopkins 3 Johnson's New York Reports page* 147, in which all the other cases here mentioned, and several Text Books, are cited as authorities.

The continuance of the Senate, until superceded by the election of successors being thus settled in our minds beyond a doubt, we should at once have called the General Assembly together, with a view of their making provision for the election of other electors in the place of those who had refused and neglected to attend the College and perform their duty, but for the additional excitement and misconstruction of motive, which we apprehended would be produced in the public mind by such a step, during the pendency of the recent election of electors of President and Vice President of the United States; and we determined to call the General Assembly for that purpose; immediately after that election should be over without regard to, or intention to be influenced in the least by what might be the result of that election.

Considering that the spirit of the Constitution, and the plain intent of its framers require that the term of Senators shall be terminated by the election of successors every five years, or as soon thereafter as circumstances may admit of, our first object in convening the General Assembly was, that they might pass a law providing for the election of Electors of the Senate, in the place of those who had refused or neglected to attend the College and perform their duty. That the General Assembly have the authority to provide by law for a new election in such a case, is a proposition so clear of rational doubt, that, but for the lawless and anarchial spirit of the day, which calls in question the most venerable and best settled doctrines of Constitutional law, and embraces in the spread the most wild and monstrous absurdities, no argument or authority would be necessary or even proper to sustain it. Even if the original constitutional provision on the subject remained entire and unchanged, the power to provide for the election in such a case, would be ample, but all such parts of that Constitutional provision, as relates to the *judges, time, place* and *manner* of holding elections, having been abolished at the November Sessions 1798 & 1799, & left thereafter to be regulated by law, it would seem impossible that doubt could

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