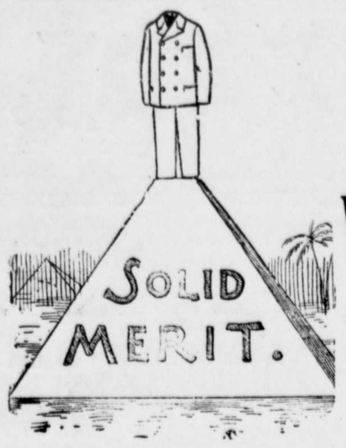

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A CHILD'S DREAM OF A STAR

A Pen Picture of Wonderous Beauty by That Master of Art, Charles Dickens.

There was once a child and he strolled about a great deal, and thought of a number of things. He had a sister, who was a child too, and his constant companion. These two used to wander all day long. They wondered at the height and blueness of the sky.

They used to say to one another, sometimes: Supposing all the children upon earth were to die, would the flowers, and the water, and the sky be sorry? They believed they would be sorry. For, said they, the buds are the children of the flowers, and the little playful streams that gambol down the hill-sides are the children of the water; and the smallest bright specks, playing at hide-and-seek in the sky all night, must surely be the children of the stars; and they must all be grieved to see their playmates, the children of men, no more. There was one clear shining star that used to come out in the sky before the rest, near the church-spire above the graves. It was larger and more beautiful, they thought, than all the others, and every night they watched it, standing hand in hand at the window. Whoever saw it first, cried out, "I see the star!" And often they cried out together know-so well when it would rise, and where. So they grew to be such friends with it, that, before laying down in their beds, they also looked out once again, to bid it good-night, and when they were turning round to sleep, they used to say, "God bless the star."

But while she was still very young, oh, very, very young, the sister drooped, and came to be so weak that she could no longer stand in the window at night; and then the child looked sadly out by himself, and when he saw the star, turned round and said to the patient pale face on the bed, "I see the star!" and then a smile would come upon the face, and a little weak voice used to say, "God bless my brother and the star!"

And so the time came only too soon when the child looked out alone, and when there was no face on the bed; and when there was a little grave among the graves, not there before; and when the star made long rays down towards him, as he saw it through his tears.

Now, these rays were so bright and they seemed to make such a shining way from earth to heaven, that when the child went to his solitary bed he dreamed about the star; and dreamed that, lying where he was he saw a train of people taken up that sparkling road by angels, and the star opening, showed him a great world of light, where many more such angels waited to receive them.

All the angels who were waiting turned their beaming eyes upon the people who were carried into the star; and some came out from the long rows in which they stood, and fell upon the people's necks, and kissed them tenderly, and went away with them down the avenues of light, and were so happy in their comyany that lying in his bed, he wept for joy.

But there were many angels who did not go with them, and among them one he knew. The patient face that once had lain upon the bed was glorified and radiant, but his heart found his sister among all the host.

His sister's angel lingered near the entrance of the star, and said to the leader among those who had brought the people thither:

"Is my brother come?"

And he said, "No.,'

She was turning hopefully away when the child stretched out his arms, and cried, "O sister, I am here! Take me!" and then she turned her beaming eyes upon him, and it was night; and the star was shining into the room, making long rays down towards him, as he saw it through his tears.

From that hour forth the child looked upon the star as on the home he was to go to when his time should come; and he thought that he did not belong to the earth alone, but to the star too, because of his sister's angel gone before.

There was a baby born to be a brother to the child; and while he was so little that he had never yet spoken a word, he stretched out his tiny form on his bed, and died.

Again the child dreamed of the opened s ar, and of the company of angels, and the train of people, and the rows of angels with their beaming eyes all turned upon these people's faces.

Said his sister's angel to the leader, "Is my brother come?"

And he said, "Not that one but another."

As the child beheld his brother's angel in her arms, he cried, "O sister, I am here! Take me!"

Again at night he saw the star and all the former company. Said his sister angel to the leader:

"Is my brother come?"

And he said, "Thy mother!"

A mighty cry of joy went forth through all the star, because the mother was reunited to her two children. And he stretched out his arms and cried, "O mother, sister and brother, I am here! Take me!" And they answered him, "Not yet;" the star was still shining.

He grew up to be a man, whose hair was turning gray, and he was sitting in his chair by the fireside, heavy with grief, and with his face bedewed with tears, when the star opened.

Said his sister angel to the leader, "Is my brother come?"

And he said, "Nay, but this maiden daughter."

And the man who had been the child saw his daughter, newly lost to him, a celestial creature among those three, and he said, "My daughter's head is on my sister's bosom, and her arm is around my mother's neck, and at her feet is baby of old time, and I can bear the parting from her, God be praised."

And the star was shining.

Thus the child came to be an old man, and his once smooth face was wrinkled, and his steps were slow and feeble and his back was bent. And one night, as he lay upon his bed, his children standing round, he cried, as he had cried so long ago:

"I see the star!"

They whispered one another, "He is dying."

And he said, "I am. My age is falling from me like a garment, and I move toward the star as a child. And O, my father, now I thank Thee that it has so often opened to receive those dear ones who await me!"

And the star was shining; and it shines upon his grave.

EXPANSION IN MEDICAL TEACHING.

The University of Pennsylvamia to Erect Medical Laboratories on a Complete Scale.

The University of Pennsylvania is about to erect, at a cost of more than $500,000, exclusive of grounds and equipment, a Medical Laboratory Building which will be unexcelled in every respect. The Trustees are also contemplating the erection, in the future, of a new Medical Hall, Anatomical Building and auxiliary buildings, which will adjoin the new laboratory about to be erected, and which will form one of the most extensive systems of buildings devoted exclusively to the teaching of medicine in Europe or America.

The new Medical Laboratory Building which will be erected at once, will be quadrangular in shape; will be two stories in height above a high basement, and measures 340 feet front by nearly 200 feet in depth. The long front faces north, securing a maximum amount of the best light for laboratory purposes. All along the front are arranged small rooms for research, rooms for professors and their assistants, a library, etc.,—these open into a private corridor, so that men employed in these rooms may pursue their work without interruption from students passing through the main halls.

Perfect lighting of all the laboratories has been obtained, the courts being large enough, with the low front building to furnish good north light to the Laboratory of Pharmacy and Pharmacodynamics on the first floor, and to the large laboratories on the second floor devoted to Pathology, where microscopic work is done,—the north front of these rooms facing on the courtyard being made almost wholly of glass and extending higher than the front.

The first floor of the new laboratories will be devoted to physiology and pharmacodynamics. The section which will be devoted to pharmacodynamics consists of one large laboratory for practical pharmacodynamics, a laboratory for teaching practical pharmacy, 44 feet by 142 feet; another for general pharmacodynamics, 44 feet by 65 feet; besides a museum and ten rooms for original research work, etc. The rooms in the basement of the building will be used for demonstrative work.

The second floor will be devoted exclusively to pathology. After providing for lectures upon general topics in pathology, the chief provision is for laboratory instruction. Each of the advanced laboratories measures 31 feet by 44 feet.

The capacity of the laboratories, the namber of reserch rooms, and the provision for securing abundant light at all seasons, mark it as modern beyond competition.

Besides the numerous laboratories, research rooms, etc., there are four lecture rooms in the building. The two marked "Demonstration Rooms" each seat 185 students.

While the new Laboratory Building about to be erected will be unexcelled, it nevertheless is only one of the group of building for the teaching of medical science, the construction of which is contemplated by the Trustees of the University. These, with the present large medical hall, laboratories and hospitals, will form one of the most complete and largest groups of buildings in existence, devoted exclusively to the teaching of medicine. The architectural construction of the entire group will correspond with that of the dormitories of the University, the same architects having been engaged to design the new Medical Laboratories.

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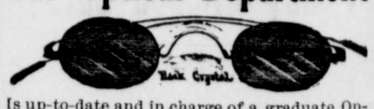

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