An Hour at the Old Play Ground.

I sat an hour to-day, John,
Beside the old brook stream,
Where we were school boys in old time,
When manhood was a dream;
The brook is choked with fallen leaves,
The pond is dried away—
I scarce believe that you would know
The dear old place to-day.

The school house is no more, John,
Beneath our locust trees;
The wild rose by the window side,
No more waves in the breeze;
The scattered stones look desolate,
The sod they rested on
Has been plowed up by stranger hands
Since you and I were gone.

The chestnut tree is dead, John,
And what is sadder now
The broken grape vine of our swing
Hangs on the withered bough;
I read our names upon the bark,
And found the pebbles rare
Laid up beneath the hollow side,
As we had piled them there.

Beneath the grass-grown bank, John,
I looked for our old spring,
That bubbled down the alder path,
Three paces from the swing.
The rushes grow upon the brink,
The pool is black and bare,
And not a foot this many a day
It seems, has trodden there.

I took the old blind road, John,
That wandered up the hill;
'Tis darker than it used to be,
And seems so lone and still!
The birds sing yet among the boughs,
Where once the sweet grapes hung;
But not a voice of human kind,
Where all our voices rung.

I sit me on the fence, John,
That lies as in old time,
The same half panel in the path,
We used so oft to climb—
And thought how o'er the path of life
Our playmates had passed on,
And left me counting on this spot
The faces that are gone.

How to Win Woman's Favor.

It's very easy to make yourself popular among the ladies. Don't stand back and tremble, and think because you haven't the figure of Adonis or the face of Apollo, you stand no chance at all. It is not mustaches and straight noses that do the business. Woman, bless their souls, don't care a fig for such things. Only remember a few little preliminaries and you can make them like you if your hair *is* red and your mouth wide!

When you go to make an evening call, don't start too early. Ladies are not well pleased to be caught before their curls and basques are arranged. Be particularly careful not to sit down on the cat nor kick the dog across the floor—the girls are sure to appreciate any one who knows how to be polite to their pets. If there's a piece of worsted work, admire it; don't forget to mistake the artificial flowers in the vases for real; if the young lady is doing crochet-work, ask her if she can't teach you. Beyond everything, don't tip back in your chair, for every crack in the fragile furniture there'll be a worse fracture in your friendship! And when she begins to yawn behind her pocket-handkerchief, take up your hat and go. "Short and sweet, long and bitter," is a good motto for evening visits.

When you are out walking with a lady, don't go striding along until she is forced to run to keep up with you—the first you know she will run off. Notice just how she walks and moderate your pace accordingly. If she meets a feminine acquaintance and stops for a nice little chat, it is essential that you should not manifest impatience by balancing first on one heel and then on the other. If she wants to look into a shop window, stop and admire too, though you may not know a ribbon from a railway station. When you come to a crossing give her the whole of it, and go meekly in the mud! Tell her how becoming her new bonnet is, and implore her to wear it the next time she goes to the opera with you.

If you meet a rival young gentleman at her house don't be rude to him—it is the worst policy in the world. Be as polite as possible to him; *crush* him, if you can, with courtesy. Never laugh loud in a parlor, and remember to speak low. It's just as well not to talk very much yourself, let the ladies have the preference, and they will prefer your society accordingly. Be blind and deaf to whatever they choose to keep from your sight and hearing—a steel spring escaping from a crineline for instance, or papa in the hall wondering "whether that young fellow means to go home to-night or not!"

Nothing easier than to be favorite with the ladies. Humor them, wait on them, study their little peculiarities, be always ready to escort them anywhere, amuse them when they are dull and laugh with them when they are lively, and though you may be as homely as a hedge fence, they will like you ten times better than the handsome blockhead who thinks his looks are going to do everything for him.

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A long experience as a practical planter and farmer, with the analytical examination for more than ten years, of every kind of Manure sold in our market, (advantages possessed by none others in the trade,) will enable me always to furnish those, who may favor me with their orders, with the *best, purest*, and therefore the *cheapest* Manures.

Farmers, planters and others will be furnished with all the Guanos sold in our market. Also, with PLASTER OF PARIS, and PURE or MAGNESIAN LIME, according to the wants of the soil,—and too much care cannot be taken in adapting the proper lime to soils; for the want of this, thousands of dollars have been annually lost to our State. Also the following artificial manures:

Higgins' Super-Phosphate of Lime,

prepared under his own direction: and

Higgins' Nitrated Saline Fertilizer,

an admirable Top Dressing for Wheat, Oats or Grass, which has been very successfully used, and prevents, to a great extent, the wheat from being straw-fallen; where the wheat is pale, sickly or yellow, it at once changes it to a bright, healthy green, and rapidly increases its growth, and greatly promotes the yield.

All Manures sold in our markets are liable to differ naturally, though coming from the same place and bearing the same mark. Still more are they liable to *adulterations, &c.*, and for these things *our Inspection System has never afforded an adequate protection.*

All Manures sold by me will have my name stamped on each bag or barrel, be carefully analyzed, and for their purity the buyer is pledged a legal guarantee and my personal honor.

The Manures sold by me will be at the same rate as those sold by others in the trade.

Persons wishing to obtain any of the Manures manufactured by me, or any others of my selections, should so specify in their orders to their agents in town.

TERMS CASH, or accepted city paper.

☞I will also attend to the BUYING OF REAL ESTATE, and *everything* connected with the Farming and Planting interest.

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The largest assortment of Pianos, Melodeons, Musical Instruments and Musical Merchandise, of all kinds, in the United States.—Pianos from ten different Manufactories, comprising those of every variety of style, from the plain, neat and substantial 6½ octaves, in Walnut or Rosewood Cases, from 150 to $200, to those of the most elegant finish, up to *ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS.* No House in the Union can compete with the above in the number, variety and celebrity of its instruments, nor in the *extremely low prices* at which they are sold.

HORACE WATERS' MODERN IMPROVED PIANOS, with or without Iron Frames, possessing, in their improvements of ever-strings and action, a length of scale, power and compass of tone equal to the Grand Piano, united with the beauty and durability of structure of the Square Piano. They are justly pronounced by the Press and by the first Musical Masters to be equal to those of any other manufacturer. They are built of the best and most thoroughly seasoned material, and guaranteed to stand the action of every climate.

Each instrument guaranteed to give satisfaction, or purchase-money refunded. SECOND-HAND PIANOS, at great bargains, constantly in store; prices from 30 to $140.

HORACE WATERS' MELODEONS, superior instruments in tone, touch and durability of make, (tuned the equal temperament.) Melodeons of all other styles and makes. Prices: $45, $60, $75, $100, $125, $140; double Reeds, $150; double Reeds and two banks of Keys, $200. Less a liberal discount Clergymen and Churches, an extra discount.

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Volume 15.

TRUE HAPPINESS.

PSALM XXIII. 2.

BY JULIA B. SMYTH.

Kindest Shepherd! rough and dreary
Is the wayward wanderer's track;
At thy call, careworn and weary,
To Thy fold I hasten back;
Where the tender grass is springing,
Close the cooling stream beside—
Where, o'erhead, the birds are singing
From the dawn till eventide.

Thitherward Thy footsteps wending,
Thou dost gently lead the way;
In Thy arms the young ones tending,
Lest they faint in noontide's ray.
Here it is that living waters
Quell the soul's tumultuous flow;
Here it is earth's sons and daughters
Only lasting peace may know.

Here may those depressed by sorrow
Lay their burdens down and rest,
Patiently the glad to-morrow
Waiting, on the Saviour's breast.
From that fold, O Shepherd loving,
Nevermore let me estray,
Till the hand of Death, removing,
Leads me to eternal day.

[From the New York "Metropolitan."]

ROMANCES IN REAL LIFE.

BY A NEW YORK LAWYER.

No one will question the facilities which members of the legal profession enjoy, of learning the secret life of a vast metropolitan population. An extensive criminal practice has made me personally acquainted with many a sad story, rivaling in interest the most thrilling fiction, and showing, as no other circumstances could, the interior of many a heart. These have not all been of a dark character, for the lights and shades are strangely blended in an emporium which holds a representation from all people and all climes; but it is to the romantic that I would rather address myself in these papers, if, happily I may win their attention. The seal upon my lips has been removed by the death of the parties whose doings I may relate.

In 1837, the third year of my practice at the New York Bar, in the month of April, as I was sitting in my office one morning, reading briefs, complaints and answers, before a generous fire, for the chill of Spring had not yet given place to the milder airs of Summers, an old man entered and interrupted me in my tasks.

"Are you Mr. M———," he enquired in tones trembling with emotion or age.

I answered him affirmatively, when he seated himself beside me and commenced the following recital:

"I am a stranger to you, but your name has long been familiar to me. I am old in years, as well as sin, and not having long to live, I wish to make reparation, and have chosen you as the instrument. Now listen to me. In this package you will find my will, open it, and call in some one, and let me sign it in legal form."

I summoned the requisite number of persons after which, when this formality was concluded, and they dismissed, he continued:

"I commenced life in the service of a man, who was to me all that a friend could be; but I wronged, aye, robbed him. After enjoying his confidence for years, I betrayed him into unwise and unprofitable speculations, myself reaping the benefit of his misfortunes. As he fell, I rose, for it was upon the total wreck of his prosperity that mine was founded. When I was afterwards in affluence he came to my door a beggar, and I spurned him. Nay, you need not shudder, I am after all the sufferer; and this confession is in part an expiation.

"Well," he continued, after a short pause, "he was financially destroyed, but the evil reached farther than the individual. He had a daughter, who through me became acquainted with a foreign adventurer—a scoundrel. I cannot tell the specious method of his courtship. Enough that she loved him, and wedded him. When she had become a mother, she found that she had married one altogether worthless, and that he had already a wife living abroad. My deeds are related at a greater length in this paper," (handing me one,) "which you can read hereafter. Her wedded name was Hoffman. Her child was a daughter, and it is to her that my fortune belongs. You must find her, and invest her with this property. I have retained enough to support the balance of my waning life. I have no more to say, except that you will find your expenses amply provided for, even in your most strenuous efforts."

The aged man tottered from the office, and I never saw him again in life. He informed some one of my address, and I, with an u
saw his remains placed i
grave on the banks of the
My efforts to find the lady
proved for a long time fr
ascertained by the will an
tion of the property tha
heir to over a half million
About three years afte
to myself a wife," and w
upon a wedding tour We
We traveled by easy stage
the State, stopping frequer
beautiful villages that dec
rior. At one of these w
charmed with the variety
ry, and the picturesques o
try, that my wife induce
without much urging, to
a whole week. During th
took daily strolls or ride
the neighborhood, enjoyi
full the delight of the fa
One morning we had wal
the little village green, wh
the two churches and sc
supported and attended b
gers. My gentle wife s
gaze upon the shining fa
chubby boys and girls
flocking into the school-ro
there appeared the young
tress, who with a graceful
us in. We complied, an
called the little students t
asked me to open the com
with prayer. I declined;
a sweet, trustful and
voice, implored the divin
There was no pharisaical
every word came from th
was addressed directly to
Author. I felt impresse
solemnity of the occasion
but wonder at the purity
ple orison. When we de
wife expressed a wish to
school-mistress; from a
boy we learned where she
with an aged mother.

Reader, I will not keep
pense.