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POETRY.

THE WIDOW'S PRAYER.

BY MRS. L. H. SIGOURNEY.

The youthful maid—the gentle bride—
The happy wife, her husband's pride,
Who meekly kneel at morning ray,
The incense of their vows to pay:
Or pour, amid their household train
From love's full heart, the vesper strain;
What know they of her anguish'd cry,
Who lonely lifts the tearful eye?
No sympathizing glance to view
Her altered cheek's unearthly hue—
No soothing tone, to quell the power
Of grief that bursts at midnight hour;
Oh, God! her heart is pierced and bare—
Have mercy on the Widow's prayer!

Not like that mother's heavenward sigh,
Who sees her fond protector nigh,
Is her's, who, reft of earthly trust,
Hath laid her bosom's lord in dust.
Sleeps her young babe? but who shall share
Its waking charms—its holy care?—
Who shield the daughter's opening bloom,
Whose father moulders in the tomb?
Her son, the treacherous world beguiles,
What voice shall warn him of its wiles?
What strong hand break the deadly snare?
Oh, answer, Heaven! the Widow's prayer!

For not the breath of prosperous days,
Tho' warmed with joy, or wink'd with praise,
E'er kindled such a living coal
Of deep devotion in the soul,
As that wild blast which bore away
Its idol to returnless clay.
And for the wreath that crown'd the brow,
Left bitter herbs and hyssop bough—
A lonely couch—a sever'd tie—
A tear that time can never dry—
[illegible] woe—unpitied care—
Unnumbered [illegible] Widow's prayer!
Oh, God! regard the W[illegible]

THE UNCOUTH FRIEND;

OR, THE EXCLUSIVE.

'Well,' said Ellen North, with a toss of her pretty head, and a contemptuous curl of the lip, as the street door closed behind her father and his friend. 'I do think papa is the strangest man that I ever saw!"

'How so?' inquired her mother, quietly.

'How so? why mamma, I shouldn't suppose you would ask. Only think of his bringing that vulgar old codger here to dinner to day.'

'I am very sorry, Ellen, if your father has done any thing to injure your delicate nerves; perhaps you had better retire to your room till you recover from the shock.'

'You may laugh at me as much as you please, mamma, but I know if Mrs. *A.*, or Mr. C, or Dr. L. had been here, you would have been ashamed.'

'I am not disposed to laugh, my child, however ridiculous your notion might appear to others, for this is in reality a serious subject. Neither the presence of the visitors you have named, nor that of any others, would make me ashamed to entertain this Mr. Selwyn, since I understand he is an old friend of your father's. I never saw him before. but his being invited to dinner, is a sufficient proof of his respectability, and I shall always be pleased to entertain any guest your father introduces.'

'An old friend! I hope papa is not under any obligations to him.'.

'I know of no pecuniary obligations, but these are not always the deepest, Ellen.'

'I know what you would say, mamma, but there are different classes in society, and I suppose men belonging to the same class, have claims upon each other, but I don't see why they should extend their claim to their superiors.' Mrs. North smiled, and Ellen, perceiving that she had been uttering nonsense, attempted to cover her bad argument by ridiculing the farmer. 'But Mr. Selwyn is such a vulgar appearing man, mamma, why he is as coarse and rough as though he had been accustomed to the stable, or cobbler's stall, all the days of his life. I verily believe he was never in a parlor before; his loud voice almost frightened me, and then his great thick boots—dear me! one would think he was shod with iron.'

'I perceive that you ars somewhat agitated—'

'Now, mamma!'

'Well, I will not laugh at you—Mr. Selwyn's face is certainly somewhat weather-beaten, and his features, as they should be not very feminine, but I discovered nothing like vulgarity in his person or manners. His voice is strong and manly, and I will acknowledge needs some softening down, to sound well in a parlor, and his dress is just what I should expect from the little that I saw of his character, plain, neat, and comfortable.'

'Well, I am sure you can't say but his behavior was clownish, didn't you observe him eating with his knife, drinking from his saucer, and putting his napkin any where and every where but the right place?'

"These are but trifles, Ellen, and only confirm what we should know without them, that custom has not made him acquainted with all the minutiæ of what we call refined society.'

'Then, I shouldn't think he would come here, even if papa did invite him.'

'Ellen, my dear child, you don't understand these things. Why should Mr. Selwyn refuse to dine with an old friend, merely because there happens to be a little difference in their respective circumstances? They commenced life together, one chose noise and bustle, the cares and anxieties attendant on a merchantile life, and the other betook himself to his quiet farm; is this difference in tastes a reason why they should ever be estranged;'

'Is Mr. Selwyn rich, mamma?'

'I don't know. Be that as it may, I know by your father's manner to-day, that he esteems him highly, and that he was evidently very much pained by your rude conduct.'

'Well, I suppose there is no harm in being rude to rude people, and for the life of me, I couldn't help laughing at his stiff bow, and queer voice.'

'A *lady* is a lady every where, Ellen, and I am extremely sorry that you have so forfeited your claim to the title.'

'Oh, nonsense, mamma, the old fellow didn't dream that I was making fun of him, and without doubt, will tell his daughter, that he boasted so much about, how delighted he was with the attentions of the charming Miss Ellen. Only think how condecendingly I played that beautiful waltz and then—true, I was a little vexed when, without giving me a single compliment, he asked for 'Auld Lang Syne,' as though I was expected to know such old-fashioned things.'

'Yes, rather too *condescendingly*, Ellen, and since you seem to be insensible to any claim but that of fashion, let me tell you that I never saw a true lady put on an air of condescension. If Mr. Selwyn had not pitied your vanity and folly, he would have made you fell his disapprobation.'

'*Pity me!*' exclaimed Ellen, angrily, 'really, mamma, I do not need the pity of such people, and hope I never shall. Pity, indeed! and I suppose he will bring his great, strapping, red-haired daughter to pity me next, and I shall have to play to a whole tribe of little Selwyns. Pah!'

'Oh, Ellen!' exclaimed Mrs. North, 'if these are the boasted accomplishments that you left me to gain, most bitterly do I regret the day that I committed my only daughter to another's guardianship.'

'Pardon me, dear mamma,' returned Ellen, somewhat softened, 'I did not intend to wound your feelings, and am extremely sorry for the ill-natured things I have said; but, really, mamma, I couldn't help laughing, indeed I could not.'

* * * * * *

Months passed away, and Mrs. North's utmost exertions were insufficient to eradicate the prejudices of Ellen, which she had imbibed during a year that she had travelled with her cousins. She had the utmost dread of what she called *parvenue* society, and was very careful never to recognize as acquaintances any but those who happened to belong to a particular circle. The consequence was, that she lost the opportunity of gaining a great deal of information, rendered herself unhappy, made enemies unnecessarily, and often incurred the ridicule of her friends.

* * * * * *

It was more than a year after the conversation recorded at the commencement of our chapter, that Mr. North entered the parlor earlier than was his wont, and strode two or three times across it, then, with an air of dogged determination, stopped short, and exclaimed, 'Well, it's of no use to conceal it any longer—its an ugly piece of business, and the sooner you know it the better.' Mrs. North, in some surprise, closed the volume she was reading, and Ellen, astonished more at her father's strange manner than at his words, let fall her embroidery frame, and started to her feet. Mr. North continued in a softer tone, 'You, my dear Jane, who have never been elated by prosperity, will, I know, bear our reverses well, but Ellen—what will her boasted accomplishments avail her, when she finds herself a beggar?'

'What do you mean?' asked Mrs. North, with as much calmness as she could command.

'Simply that I have failed—not fashionably, but utterly and hopelessly, and on looking over my accounts to night, I find I have not got a penny I can honestly call my own, not even enough to procure a shelter for our heads. This has not driven me crazy, as it does some men, because I know I have a sensible wife—' A sob from Ellen, who was extended on the sofa, interrupted him, and seeing that the face of his wife was very pale, he ventured to express a hope that all might not yet be as bad as he supposed.

It was in vain that Mr. North endeavored to encourage his family. His affairs were quite as much deranged as he had represented them, and as he scorned all subterfuge, the news soon spread throughout the city.

It was with difficulty that Mrs. North preserved her calmness through the scenes that followed, and Ellen, finding herself neglected by the summer friends she had trusted, confined herself to her apartment.

A week passed away, and the family, having partially recovered from the shock, were once more seated in the pleasant parlor, endeavoring to devise some means of future support.

'It is quite as bad as I expected,' said Mr. North, 'but I will not retain a penny lawfully another's. I have been unwise, blind, mad perhaps, but I will not be unjust. If I only had a place where I could, with propriety, leave you and Ellen.'

'Why not let us go to uncle's, papa?' asked Ellen.

'Because,' returned the father, 'although your punishment be just, it might not be salutary. You would now be among them the very being they taught you to despise.'

'Oh, my cousins,'—Ellen began, but she remembered their exclusive notions, and the unexpected change in her other friends, and burst into tears.—'Oh, dear, dear!' exclaimed the poor girl, 'to think there was not one true friend among them all.'

'Because the friendship was built on a wrong basis,' said Mrs. North, not however, without a sigh, for she too had been deceived.

'A letter, sir!' said a servant, entering. Mr. North took the letter, gave it a cursory glance, and threw it on the table.

'Why don't you read it?' inquired his wife.

'Because we have more important business now than reading the letters of strangers,' said Mr. North, examining the seal. 'The post-mark is indistinct. and the hand-writing strange, some business communication I presume, and I have done with business.'

'No, not done with it,' said his wife, cheerfully, 'only laying plans to begin anew. But if you will read your letter, when you have finished, I will disclose to you a little plan of my own.' Mr. North broke the seal, and listlessly cast his eye upon the page. The contents however seemed of more consequence than he had imagined, for his face suddenly became flushed, his lips quivered, and the big drops collected in his eyes, rolled down his cheek, and lodged upon the paper. He had not wept before, and his wife was alarmed. 'There, read it!' said he, passing the letter to her hand, 'I cannot.' Mrs. North read aloud:

'*Dear Ned*—A piece of news which reached my ears last night has made me bold enough to write and demand a favor of you. Now don't refuse me, for I have set my heart upon it, and shall follow my letter to town as soon as possible, to use force, if necessary, in carrying you off. I have a house close by my own that I shall be glad to lease, and it would be such a delightful thing to have you for a neighbor, that I am determined to carry the point with you. You may as well sell off your fine furniture, for you would have no use for it here, and I have good, solid, farmer's stuff enough to make your new mansion quite decent and comfortable. *I insist upon* your coming, at least to spend the summer with us, but will promise when you get weary of a country life, to detain you no longer.

RICHARD SELWYN."

'The vulgar old codger?' said Mrs. North in a low tone to Ellen, but Ellen had, at the commencement of the letter, as if she more than guessed its author, buried her face in the sofa cushions, and she only replied in a tone quite as low as her mother's, 'Oh, mamma, how can I see him?,

She did see him, however, and was readily pardoned. The house in the country which Mr. Selwyn had purposely purchased on hearing of the misfortune of his friend, proved a little paradise, where Mr. North spent a long and happy life. As to the 'strapping red-haired daughter,' she was found to be the sweetest little Hebe that ever bloomed among the wild flowers, and breathed the pure air of the country, and to our heroine she was the best and dearest of friends.

The moral to our little story is apparent, yet would we say to the young, the thoughtless, and the proud, judge not from outward appearances. Worth often clothes itself in a homely garb, and folly, meanness, and imbecility, stalk proudly in the halls of fashion, as the diamond hides its brilliancy in the sands of India, while the false jewel glitters in the gilded casket.

REPORT

OF MR. LECOMPTE, OF CARROLL.

The committee appointed under an order of this House on the 28th ult. to take into consideration "the propriety of asking of the General Government to refund the sum of $72,000, with interest, given by the State of Maryland to the General Government, in the year 1790," have complied with the direction of the order, and respectfully submit the following report:

In the Journal of proceedings of the House of Delegates of 1790, we find the following preamble and resolution.

"Whereas, by a resolution of the General Assembly of Virginia, passed on the 10th day of December, 1789, it was proposed to the General Assembly of Maryland, that the Assembly of Virginia will pass an act for advancing a sum of money, not less than $120,000, to the use of the General Government, to be applied in such manner as Congress shall direct towards erecting public buildings; the Assembly of Maryland, on their part, advancing a sum not less than three-fifths of the sum advanced, by the said Assembly of Virginia, which resolution came so late to the last General Assembly of Maryland that it could not be acted upon, and was therefore referred to this present session.

And whereas, this General Assembly doth highly approve of the object of the said resolution, and is desirous of doing every thing required on the part of Maryland, for carrying the same into effect.

Resolved, That this House doth accede to the proposition contained in the said resolution of the General Assembly of the State of Virginia, & will advance to the President of the United States for the purposes mentioned in the said resolution, the sum of $72,000 payable to his order in three equal yearly payments."

In pursuance of a subsequent motion in the House, a committee was appointed "to report to the House the ways and means to raise the sum of $72,000, to be advanced by the State for erecting the public buildings for the use of the General Government."

The committee reported on the 19th December, the ways and means accordingly, which report was adopted.

It is found by reference to the Treasurer's account for the years 1793 and 1794, that the following payments were made to the order of the President of the United States, to wit: $24,000 on the 27th January, 1792; $12,000 on the 6th March, 1793; $12,000 on the 9th July, 1793, being two of the payments.

The brief research which was made, in great difficulty, because of the peculiar and prolix form of stating the accounts, at that remote period, did not result in a more full ascertainment of the execution of the purpose of the General Assembly; but the provisions having been fully made for raising the entire sum, as will be seen by reference to the report of the committee, and a compliance to the extent of two-thirds discovered, leaves but little room to doubt that the payments were all made, and that the evidence of the fact exists, though not readily to be found.

The inquiry is, shall the State seek to be reimbursed this sum, with interest? There are no collateral circumstances to throw any light on the transaction, so far as to enable us to judge whether it was a donation, or as a loan. For the present, however, we will regard it in the former view, certainly that which gives the inquiry the more doubtful character, and at first suggestion, rather inclines the mind to a negative reply. But a more enlarged consideration of the subject, will find circumstances indicating the opposite conclusion.

This is one of many evidences of the attachment of Maryland to the Union, and of the generosity which has marked her dealings with the General Government. The General Assembly, shortly after this period. in the year 1781, and in prosecution of a purpose in progress before this time, passed a law, by which all that part of the Territory of Columbia lying in this State was acknowledged to be forever ceded and relinquished to the Congress and government of the United States." This was beyond doubt an absolute gift, without consideration, but well justified by the importance of having a convenient location for the seat of government. Standing as it does in the records of the past, a monument of the liberal feelings of Maryland, we would not that it should be robbed of this character, and remain a sale for value received. It is cited as another instance of the early disposition of Maryland to afford every facility within her power to the advancement of the interests, and the relief of the embarrassments of the union, for the purpose too of showing that to seek a restoration of the other, does not place Maryland in a position obnoxious to the charge of recalling indiscriminately favors heretofore granted. In addition to this, it may be suggested that the cases are different in their principle, the one a cession of property which, however beneficial to the General Government, and however a deprivation of the means of the State, is not so clear a loss to her wealth, or if it be the one being recalled, the other will remain an ample proof of our generosity.

The donation of $72,000, if it was a donation, was made at a period when the affairs of Maryland were in a prosperous state, and when the resources of the General Government were not yet developed. The history of the period will sufficiently illustrate this position, though it needs scarcely such a reference, since, it may easily be presumed from the simple fact of the passage of the resolution. It were not respectful to suppose that in any other case, the offer would have been made, or, if made, that it would have been accepted.

Since that time there have been almost countless variations in their relative positions of prosperity and adversity, but the vibrations have not been on the extreme on either side of a just medium. There has been, until now, no time at which Maryland was so far depressed as to make it proper to look beyond her ordinary resources, for the means of relief, a fact to which, perhaps, it is to be attributed, that the question before us has lain undisturbed in the records of the past.

But now Maryland is in deep. debt; an emergency exists which though not beyond her hopes to survive without dishonor, it must yet be conceded presents every possible inducement to the most prudent husbandry of our resources, and excites the most intense anxiety to relieve the source of supply from every unnecessary demand; for that source is taxation of our people, a source always sought with hesitation, and only in the last resort, and then no further than the absolute necessities of government require. And how has Maryland so lately prosperous, and once the willing dispenser of bounties become embarrassed in finance, and involved in deep pecuniary distress? The same feeling has occasioned it in which existed in 1790, but differing in this respect, that the one was indulged in moderation and resulted in legislation not beyond our means, and was a virtue· the other precipitated into excess, and led to expenditures more than could be justified by our condition, and was a vice. But the resemblance does not end with the feeling which prompted the action in the several cases, it goes farther, and in this, that the consequences in both cases have been the benefitting of the General Government, the earlier instances directly, the latter indirectly, but not on this account the less certainty or the less extensively.

The great works of internal improvement in the inception of which Maryland was aided by the united contributions of the General Government, and of Virginia, but whose prosecution has fallen so heavily upon her own, have been fruitful in blessings to the union, and the completion of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, the work whose progress has most deeply involved the pecuniary condition of the State, promises to the General Government, yet more striking advantages. This needs no other illustration than to remind the House that the Baltimore and Washington rail road runs directly to the metropolis of the union, and thus furnishes the greatest convenience of intercourse to and from the seat of government, while its connection with the Baltimore and Ohio rail road, not only extends this benefit to the immense west, but affords other facilities, compared to which the mere convenience of intercourse for ordinary purposes is but trifling, found in the readiness with which important information is disseminated, while dispatches are accelerated to a degree capable of untold advantages—the transportation of arms is made easy, and the removal of soldiers, for the exigencies of government, so robbed of its difficulties and delays, that no reasonable fear can exist that the interest of the Government will long suffer for want of the power to support them. In all these varied respects, these works have contributed and will contribute, to the interest of the Union, in ways and to an extent to which human sagacity looks, in vain, to ascertain the limits,—it may be to the preservation of rights, the dearest to her existence, and to the executions of purposes the most magnificent that may await her destiny. It should be added to justify the promises intimated of the gains to be derived from the completion of the canal, that its terminus being within the limits of the District of Columbia, if the boundless hopes which have allured the steps of past legislation, are to be realised to any extent, it may well be said that the territory of the Union should look to a more full participation than any other.

With these facts before us, it cannot be supposed that to seek the re-imbursement of the sum of $72,000, will be regarded as inharmonious with justice and propriety, nor can it be readily supposed that the General Government will refuse to do what surely a high minded liberality would dictate to the individual, whose adversity had been relieved by another, when the tide of time had made the recipient capable to restore a mite of the favors conferred. If it be said that this is all true, yet a doubt is raised whether it would consist with a tone of elevated refinement to remind the recipient of the past, and ask to be restored some portion of former gratuity, the reply is, that Governments do not act with so nice a reference to scruples of delecacy, and least of all, the State Governments of this Union toward the parent Government. Or if there exist no difference in the abstract proposition as referring to individuals, and as embracing communities, precedent has certainly infringed upon the principle to a degree that leaves no doubt of the propriety (in a merely conventional view of the subject) of the demand in this instance. The precedents referred to are those of the State Governments, asking the General Government to distribute the proceeds of the sales of the public lands; or if this be not in point, because of a supposed right to the public lands, the asking the General Government to assume the debts of the State, questions upon which, however diversified opinions may be as to the constitutionality of granting the prayers, or of the policy and expediency, have never been opposed upon the score of delicacy.

So far, the report of your committee has proceeded upon the supposition that the grant of 1790 was a donation, and if it be so, they think that the preceding considerations will justify the resolution with which they propose to conclude their report. It admits, however, of another view, which, if the correct one, places the inquiry beyond all doubt. The language of the preamble and resolution which have been recited in their report, for the more clear exhibition of the subject of this inquiry, is "will advance;" this language is also used in the report of the committee, and wherever any proceedings in relation to it are had, language, which without torture may be understood, if indeed, it be not the only way in which it should be understood, to contemplate a loan.

The committee propose for the action of the House, the following resolutions:

Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland, That our representatives in Congress be requested to use their exertions to obtain the passage of a law, by Congress, to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury, to refund to the State of Maryland, the sum of $72,000, with interest, which was advanced by the State in the year 1790, to the General Government, for the purpose of erecting public buildings.

Resolved, That His Excellency, the Governor, be respectfully requested to forward a copy of these resolutions and the accompanying report, to our representatives in Congress.

Death of T. W. White.—We are pained to announce the deat of Mr. T. White, Editor of the Southern Literary Messenger. He died yesterday morning. He was one of the most enterprising and useful men of his day. He has done great service iu the cause of Southern Literature and the cause of periodical Literature of the United States, and his death creates a blank which cannot soon be filled. The event is deeply deplored, as well on this score as on account of his personal relations and the attachment so generally felt for the man. He was a warm friend, a generous hearted humane and valued citizen· His relation as head of an interesting family was not the least imposing in which he could be regarded, and the manner in which it was filled was the most beautiful chapter in his life.—*Richmond Compiler.*

AFRICA.

The Governor of the Colony of Liberia, in a despatch addressed to the Executive Committee of the American Colonization Society on the 9th of June last, states that on his arrival at Bassa Cove, which place he visited in February, 1842, he found anchored there a fast sailing schooner belonging to New York.

The Captain refused to pay any port charges, in defiance of the authorities, who had no means of forcing a compliance with their regulations.—The Supercargo of the vessel was a Spaniard.—The Governor told him he knew him to be a slaver, and ordered him to leave the settlement.—The vessel soon got under way and stood up the coast, but in ten or fifteen days returned and in twelve hours took in a cargo of 250 slaves, and put to sea.

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