

## GOING DOWN TO MAINE: OR, THE KISS DEFERRED.

Two little cousins once there were—  
Mary Ann and Mary Jane;  
First one lived in Boston town,  
The other in the town of Maine;  
But as the town of Boston stood  
So very far from Maine,  
The cousins yet had met,  
Which caused them much pain.)

And Jane who wrote this note—  
Dear Cousin Ann, I've made a plan  
For you to come with me to the Ann unknown,  
I've always longed to see.  
And a face all lit fair, eyes deep blue,  
While round your face, with many a grace;  
Now I, they say, have eyes of gray,  
And the pugdest little nose.  
I tell me you think that I'm saving a kiss,  
For the cousin so fair with the golden hair,  
And the eyes so brightly blue.  
My dearest, all great and small,  
My dearest, all great and small,  
And we'll sit up in our little low chairs,  
And have fun for hours in the woods for hours,  
And I know such a pretty play!

Write Ann to Jane: "I'd come to Maine  
And play so good, I only could,  
But my kiss too poor, when I come,  
What says for that will bring me,  
All it holds is gold, gold,  
Clothes and everything."

The years flew on; young maidens grew  
Were Mary Ann and Jane;  
The second down in Mason town,  
(But as the town of Boston stood  
The cousins yet had never met,  
Which caused them much pain.)

And now Jane wrote a perfumed note,  
All in a perfumed cover—  
"Dear Cousin Ann, dearest Ann,  
Do come, and bring your lover,  
I've a lover, too, so tender and true—  
On a moonlight night, when the moon shines bright.  
How charming it will be  
To please walk and pleasantly talk,  
Or for two and we, to the white waves foam,  
All down by the sounding sea!"

Write Ann to Jane: "That visit to Maine  
Must longer yet delay,  
My cousin dear; for soon draws near  
The time when I'll be married,  
More years had flown, much older grown  
Were Mary Ann and Jane;  
Still dwelt the first in Boston town,  
(But as the town of Boston stood  
So very far from Maine,  
The cousins yet had never met,  
Which caused them much pain.)

And Jane who wrote this note—  
"Dear Cousin Ann, I'll write her;  
Won't you come down from Boston town,  
Bring all your girls with their golden curlis,  
And their eyes so heavenly blue;  
And bring that husband too,  
For a pretty band that around me stand—  
They're so lovely a set as ever you met,  
And all remarkably bright.  
I know this isn't—don't you know?—that since long ago  
I have been keeping watch for you, dear  
I've written to you, and I've inscribed and sent you from here!"

Thus Ann did reply: "Also! how can I  
Forth on my travels, dear Jane;  
I've too many to take, yet none can forsake,  
If your kiss is warm still, pray keep it until  
Your kiss is warm still, pray keep it until  
I've got a lover, too, so tender and true.  
This note I've written, and I'll be saving for you,  
This many and many a day."

Time onward ran; now Jane and Ann  
Were old and feeble grown;  
Lived with their mother and tears;  
This locus of gray were stroked away  
Their forms were bent, their brows were wrinkled;  
They were aged women now,  
One, young folks all did call Ann" call,  
The other one, "Aunt Jane;"  
The second down in Mason town,  
(But as the town of Boston stood  
The cousins yet had never met,  
Which caused them much pain.)

Sudden one day—one winter's day—  
To Cross the ocean, and to the cold,  
In spite of ice and snow,  
"Why, grandmother dear! This time o' the year  
You are far too old for the cold;  
We pray you wait till spring.  
And birds begin to sing,  
"Children," said she, "don't hinder me,  
The flowers may bloom around the tomb,  
And the dead are gone.  
I'm here, I'm here, to take you to Maine  
To take this kiss, you know—  
Since long ago."

In glad surprise Ann said she cries:  
"Way, Ann, can this be you?  
Where and oh where is the golden hair?  
And where are those eyes of blue?  
And where are those roses red,  
And your chubby cheeks, I pray?"  
But the dimples, when she does,  
Are the dollies up stairs, in the small, low chair,  
Shall we gather flowers, woodland bowers,  
And shall we play?"  
And the little head that around these did stand—  
Are they gone, all gone so soon?"

They turned their eyes to the darkening skies  
When the winter scene was below,  
With the waste of snow sinking down  
Behind the waste of snow.  
And the years of long ago.

Thus, sitting down, Jane talked the pair  
Of those they loved that day;  
How some were dead, and some were wed,  
How others far away;  
Had sadly gone astray;

How faded was the winter's day;  
Shadows deep now over the sleep,  
But still the pale goes on;  
Are smiling and gay.  
And marriage bells and funeral knells  
Are mingled in one strain.

And thus, at last, a lifetime passed,  
The cousins in Maine,  
"Hark! a tear."

## HOIST BY HIS OWN PETARD.

A few weeks ago some workmen engaged in removing an old mansion on the corner of California and Mason streets were considerably puzzled at finding a number of copper wires connecting the bath-rooms with a room above. The owners of the property were equally puzzled, having never been known of their existence. The wires were removed and nothing more thought of the matter. This recalls to my mind an incident which many will now remember.

On the 14th of July, 1862, a Prof. Crofton was found dead in the bath-room I have just mentioned. Crofton was well known among scientific men as a professor of chemistry, and besides, had a large circle of acquaintance in this city. He was supposed at the time to have committed suicide, and his death furnished a three days' sensation for the press. The accounts in four leading newspapers materially contrasted, and made the matter all the more interesting to the public. All agreed, however, that the man was dead. Even the *Cal*, while not positively admitting his demise in the article, virtually conceded it in the head line.

Crofton, when found, was lying in the bath, covered with wounds of a curious nature that no one could explain how they came to be inflicted. They were deep, ragged, and gaping, and there was no instrument found in the room with which they might have been made. Even the detectives who visited the scene of Crofton's death shook their heads and were at sea. Those who discovered the body found the door seemingly fastened from the inside, and

were obliged to burst it open. The room had no other means of egress or ingress.

"Sicude!" remarked one of the reporters.

"How came those wounds on the neck?" asked a detective.

"Who else was here?" responded a journalist. And neither man had anything to say.

A post mortem revealed nothing new, except that the physicians found a state of the blood which they could not satisfactorily account for.

"He was frozen," said a young physician, whose opinion seemed to have it foundation only in surmise.

"You seem to have forgotten that this is July," remarked an elderly gentleman connected with a university.

The newspapers were filled with other in building up ingenious theories as to the cause of the affair, the Coroner's jury found a verdict of suicide, for want of anything better, and the remains were buried.

The reader who desires to get a more detailed account of the affair—as related at the time—can do so by referring to the files of any of the city papers of that date. In fact, I would produce them here, did space permit. The main thing, however, is to clear up the mystery of Crofton's remarkable death.

He came to the coast in 1860, and was reputed to be a man of sufficient means to live handsomely in the interest of his health. He stopped at the Oriental Hotel, and there met Edward Dean, a young man who, like himself, was a gentleman of leisure. The two became intimate, and finally, tired of hotel life, they determined to seek quarters which would be more congenial and home-like. They found these quarters at the residence of Richard Armstrong, a mutual acquaintance, who lived in very desirable quarters on the corner of Mason and California streets. Before the costly habitations of Stanford, Crocker, and other millionaires sprung into existence, Armstrong's house came to be known as the "biggest house." The two became intimate, and finally, tired of hotel life, they determined to seek quarters which would be more congenial and home-like. 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