

# A BACHELOR'S APOLOGY.

Her eyes were bright; her figure slight,  
And light as any fairy;  
Her nose was heavenward inclined;  
Her manners sweet and airy.

Her mouth was like a raiment;  
Her voice like any minstrel;  
Her hair was like a crown;  
And her eyes were like a star.

But then she smiled and her art,  
My heart could not resist her;  
And, added to her other charms,  
She had a sister's sister.

Try blossoms like any double rose,  
They blossomed a double pink;  
One grace the name of Laura;  
The other, Kate, I think.

When left alone with Laura,  
Love urged her soft desire;  
And in sweet Laura's absence,  
I doted more—on Kate.

And this to choose between them  
"Twas hard to choose between them,  
Because I had been happiest  
With either for my bride.

To tickle one's nose, and leave her  
Occupation all alone,  
To give in single address,  
Would need a heart of stone.

And that's the reason, ladies,  
I'm sent your partner,  
For being single-hearted,  
I'm a single man.

# A FATAL CARD.

Some years ago the Mississippi river was noted for its "floating palaces," as the large steamers plying between New Orleans and the ports above were called. Now the railways have driven nearly all the fine boats off the river, and left the field to the freight-boats, whose accommodations for passengers are by no means palatial. The former class of steamers were in many respects delightful, but they never ceased to be objects of dread to timid people, for if the racing, which was reduced to a system, did not result in the loss of the boat, there was sure to be one or more encounters between the lawless portion of the travelers, in which pistol-bullets would fly rather too thick for the comfort of steady-going people. The cause of such disturbances was generally a quarrel over the gambling-table. The regulations of the boat usually required that all such amusements be conducted in a saloon provided for that purpose in the "Texas, or officers' cabin," situated on the hurricane deck; but the sporting gentry were by no means careful to obey this rule, and the gaming was most commonly carried on on the dining-tables in the main saloon of the steamer, to the great annoyance of two-thirds of those on board.

Many professional gamblers used to make these boats their home, traveling back and forth with them, and fleeing all who were venal or foolish enough to fall into their clutches. So well, indeed, was this system managed that the various members of the "craft" seemed to have their different steamers marked out for them by common consent, so that no one would trespass upon the domain of the other. Of course these men were warm friends of the officers of the boat, who were either too sincere in their friendship to put a stop to the practice or too much afraid of the gamblers to care to provoke a quarrel with them, for in those days it was a common affair for such men to resent any fancied affront with a pistol-shot.

One of the most remarkable men of their class was named Daniel Sturdivant, a Frenchman, the son of a broken-down scion of nobility, who had settled in New Orleans before the transfer of Louisiana to the United States. Sturdivant had been raised as a "gentleman" by his aristocratic father, but upon coming of age, and finding his fortunes very bad, had taken to cards as a means of bettering them. His success in this field was so great that he was induced to continue in it until at the time I write, and he was one of the most notorious gamblers between St. Louis and New Orleans. He was forty-five years old, but had kept himself so well that he seemed much younger. He was a man of fine personal appearance and of great physical strength. He was also noted for his personal courage. As a gambler he was most expert and successful.

There were dark stories of deeds which he had committed while under the influence of play and liquor, and it was said by some that he had killed half a dozen men in his lifetime. Yet no one cared to speak these stories openly, for no one cared to bring upon himself the anger of such a man. There were few who knew him who really cared to play against him, but they feared a refusal to do so might involve them in a quarrel with him, and rarely declined his invitations.

About fifteen years ago, the time of which I write, he had attached himself to one of the magnificent steamers plying between New Orleans and Vicksburg, being heavily engaged in cotton speculations. I preferred the steamer of which Sturdivant had taken possession, inasmuch as it was not only the most comfortable, but also the swiftest, and time was of importance to me. It was known that I carried large sums of money with me, and I was always apprehensive lest Sturdivant should ask me to play. I had fully made up my mind to refuse him, and, if he attempted to draw me into a quarrel, to shoot him without mercy, as I knew that the only chance for my life lay in getting the advantage of him. Strange to say, he did not make any such proposition to me, and I gave him no chance to do so.

One night we had started out from Vicksburg, and were heading merrily down the river, when Sturdivant came up to the group which had gathered around the stove. He had been drinking, and was smoking a fine cigar as he approached. All made way for him.

"Well, gentlemen," he said, in an unsteady tone, "you seem to be terribly dull. Who wants to play for \$20 ante?"

There was no reply. All present seemed to know the man, and no one cared to volunteer to place himself in his clutches.

"Umph!" he exclaimed, with an expression of contempt, "afraid to try your luck against Dan Sturdivant, eh? Or maybe you want a little coaxing. Some of you must play with me. I can't stand such treatment. Come, let's see who will be."

He glanced around the crowd as if to select his victim. For the first time I noticed the gaze of one of the group fixed steadily upon him. He was a stranger to me, and was dressed in a plain suit of homespun, and his face was partially concealed by a wide-brimmed sombrero which was drawn over it. He was a small, but powerfully-made man, and in the decided expression of his well-shaped head I read an unusual firmness and intensity of purpose.

"Are you Daniel Sturdivant, the gambler?" he asked in a calm tone, without rising.

Sturdivant flushed darkly and gave the stranger a furtive glance.

"Some persons call me so behind my back," he said, insolently; "but no one would dare apply that term to me before my face."

"Nevertheless," said the stranger, "I want an answer—yes or no."

"Well, then," said the gambler, angrily, "I am, What of it?"

"Simply this," replied the stranger, "I have heard it said that you claim to be the best card-player in the South-west. I have come 200 miles to prove you a liar."

Sturdivant strode forward a step or two and thrust his hand into his breast as if to grasp a weapon.

"Stop," said the stranger; "if you shoot me you will simply prove yourself afraid of me. Take your seat at the table, and I will make my word good."

There was something in the calm, stern manner of the stranger that seemed to render the gambler powerless. He hesitated for a moment, and then said, bullishly:

"I never play with a man whose face I can not see."

"Never mind my face," said the stranger. "If you are not afraid of losing, you shall see it when I am done with you."

"But how do I know you have money enough for such sport?" persisted Sturdivant. "You look seedy enough, my fine fellow."

"There," said the stranger, producing a large pocket-book. "I have \$10,000 there; if you can win it you shall do so."

With an oath Sturdivant placed himself at the table, and bade his challenger do likewise. Those of us who had listened to this singular dialogue now gathered around the table, expecting to see a scene of more than usual interest. The stranger had not yet raised his hat, and we all felt from his general air and manner that Daniel Sturdivant had at last met his match. It did not take long to show that the stranger was an unusually good player. For an hour or more the playing went on in silence. The stakes were high, and the contest marked with rare skill. Sturdivant exerted himself as he had never done before, but, in spite of his efforts, he lost steadily. By the expiration of the time indicated above he had lost \$2,000. I noticed his flush upon his face deepen, and a strange light came into his eyes. At last, with an exclamation of triumph, he drew toward him the heap of notes.

"That was well done," said the stranger. "You are an expert at cheating. But go on. I can beat you whether you play openly or dishonestly."

Sturdivant said nothing, but dealt the cards again. The hand was played, and Sturdivant was about to seize the stakes when the stranger laid down a card and checked him. The gambler uttered a sharp cry and sat motionless, with his eyes fixed on the card, a worn and faded one of hearts, with a dark stain across the face. Sturdivant's face worked convulsively as he gazed at it, and the spectators gathered more closely

around the two, wondering at the strange scene.

"In God's name, who are you?" gasped Sturdivant, his eyes still fixed on the card.

"Look at me," said the stranger, quietly.

As if powerless to resist, Sturdivant raised his eyes to the speaker. The stranger had raised his hat and sat looking at the trembling man with eyes that fairly blazed with fury. Sturdivant uttered a groan, and sank back in his chair, with his face white and rigid. The stranger with one sweep gathered up the money from the table and thrust it into his breast.

"That ace of hearts is an unlucky card for you, Daniel Sturdivant," he said, coldly. "You played it once when you thought it to your advantage. Now, God help you, for that play is returned!"

As he spoke, he raised a pistol which we had not seen, and before we could stop him, aimed it deliberately at the trembling man and fired. The gambler fell heavily upon the table, a corpse, and the bright blood streamed over it, hiding the fatal card from sight.

"Gentlemen," said the stranger, rising to his feet, as we stood paralyzed with horror at the dreadful scene, "that man ruined my wife and tried to murder me. I have been hunting for him for ten years."

He walked slowly by us down the stairway to the lower deck. Just then the steamer touched at a landing and he sprang ashore and vanished in the dark woods.

I never learned the history of the mysterious affair, for the dead gambler was beyond human questioning, and I never saw the stranger again; but I shall not soon forget the impression it made upon me at the time.

# HISTORICAL.

TRIMONIAN notes were the shorthand notes of Roman antiquity, said to have been introduced into Rome by Tiro the freedman and favorite of Cicero. The notes consist of arbitrary signs, and are still common in marginal notes.

The popular hymn tune "Merton," affixed to Dr. Doddridge's beautiful hymn, "Ye Golden Lamps of Heaven, Farewell," was composed in 1842 by Gen. Oliver, organist, of Salem, Mass., during the delivery of a sermon.

The statue of George IV. on his horse at Trafalgar square, London, was designed by Sir F. Chantrey. The statue of the Duke of Wellington in front of the Royal Exchange, though commenced by Sir Francis, was finished by Mr. Weekes.

A CURT is an ancient measure taken from the human arm, as measured from the elbow to the end of the middle finger. The Roman cubit is believed to have been seventeen and one-half inches, and the cubit of the Bible somewhat less than twenty-two inches.

The origin of "Dixie's Land" is thus given: When slavery existed in New York, one "Dixie" owned a large tract of land on Manhattan island and a large number of slaves. The increase of the slaves and the increase of the abolition sentiment, caused an emigration of the slaves to more thorough and secure slave sections; and the negroes who were thus sent off—many being born there—naturally looked back to their old homes, where they had lived in clover, with feelings of regret, as they could not imagine any place like Dixie's. Hence it became synonymous with an ideal locality, combining ease, comfort and material happiness of every description. In those days negro singing and minstrelsy were in their infancy, and any subject that could be wrought into a ballad was eagerly picked up. This was the case with "Dixie." It was first set to music and introduced as a song by Dan Emmett, a clever and popular negro comedian, author of several pleasing negro melodies. It was sung in New York, and assumed the proportions of a song there. Its origin has been described as Southern, but such is not the case. During any time within the last eighty years the term "Dixie's Land" has been in use with the New York boys while engaged in the game of "tag."

AMERICAN ORGANS AT THE PARIS EXHIBITION.—Every American visiting our Section will conceive a legitimate pride at the well-merited praise which he will hear from the great European musical critics who constantly swarm around Messrs. Mason & Hamlin's Cabinet Organs, and openly acknowledge that nothing in Europe can be compared with the Exhaustive Bellows and Separate Vibrators peculiar to American Organs, as especially perfected in the Mason & Hamlin instruments.—Paris (France) Register, June 1, 1878.

ITALY makes a bid for Albania. The Greeks lost Albania in 1821, or in the struggle that followed, because they could not forget the wars the Albanians had waged against them. This feeling of enmity, and the conditions and circumstances of the war, threw the almost independent Albanians into the hands of the Turks. Italy now reaches across the Adriatic to claim the territory, the assistance of whose people the Greeks declined in 1821.

# A LITTLE MARRIED.

BY PRACHAM.

Some men are fastidious in selecting wives. Others are not at all nice in matters matrimonial. But a breach-of-promise case in Arkansas, in general, is far too rare and serious to leave a loophole for a laugh to come in.

Mr. Johnson Topp moved from Tennessee across the Mississippi into Arkansas. He was a man of means and a bachelor. He was not wholly averse to matrimony, but he had a fear of widows. He had moved from East Tennessee to Middle Tennessee, from that section to West Tennessee, and finally over into Arkansas, to escape from real or fancied matrimonial danger arising from enterprising, perhaps charming, Tennessee widows.

This being Mr. Johnson Topp's history, it surprised his friends that he should appear as defendant in the case of *Dubin versus Topp*; suit for breach of promise. But the Circuit Court docket of Crittenden county disclosed the fact of the suit, and the affidavit of Mrs. Malinda Dubin set forth the particulars. The plaintiff was put upon the stand to tell how wickedly she had been led into false hopes by this middle-aged bachelor.

"I live at home with my old dad," she said, "and this feller kept comin' round that makin' believe he wanted to trade mules. After he traded a time or two till that was played out, he come wanting cotton seed. I knowed he only wanted an excuse to get to see me, and I told Pop when he come again to bring him in, and see whether he'd talk turkey or not if he had a fair chance. And that was just what he wanted. You never see a man set up to a woman peartier than he did as soon as ever Pop introduced us, tellin' him, 'This is my darter, Malindy.' He was powerful shy at the offset; but let him get fairly started on mules or shoats, and he was dead sure to end with sparkin'. And it appeared like he couldn't wait more'n a minit for a woman to say yes. I didn't fool with the man as lots do, but I said yes; and about the next thing that happened he was tryin' to crawlfish. That's about the whole story."

But her lawyer did not think it was the whole story, and he was right—there was more to be told.

"Will you state to the jury how it happened that the defendant, Topp, went back on his word after he had asked you to marry him?"

"Well, as I said before, he was the most uneasy man until he got his answer, which was yes. The Fourth of July, I allowed, would be soon enough for the wedding-day, but he knowed he couldn't wait till then—it was impossible, I told him to call Pop in and talk it over. I went over to the kitchen to get a square meal, and show the man I could do the tallest cookin' in Arkansas, when I left myself out for it in dead earnest."

"And what happened when your father and the defendant, Topp, talked it over?"

"Before I left 'em I told Pop the man was on the marry, and I reckined it was all right. Pop allowed they'd best have something to take. I set on the whisky and sugar, and told them that was cookin' 'n' do; if they preferred mint in theirs they knowed just where to get it. When I came back I saw things was wrong. The first thing the man said, and he lookin' sober'n a funeral, was: 'Curnel Dubin, I allowed your gal, Malindy, was a single gal till this minit. Is she single, or is she ever been married looks?' And Pop he told the truth, lookin' him plumb in the eye: 'She's been married once, but—only a little—only a little.' And I said: 'That's so; he's talkin' the Gospel facts—only a little.' The man lit out then mighty sudden; and me and Pop thinks if that's any law in Arkansas he orter pay."

The defendant urged that he didn't want a wife who had been married ever so little. He thought he had been deceived. The jury said it differently. A little married didn't count in Arkansas,—he must pay; and he did pay.

# A NEW SYSTEM OF WASHING.

A new system of washing has lately been introduced in some French towns which is worthy of special mention. Its economy is so great as to greatly reduce the cost. This is the process: One kilo (two pounds) of soap is reduced with a little water to a sort of pap, which, having been slightly warmed, is cooled in five to six liters (ten gallons) of water, to which is added one spoonful of turpentine oil and two spoonfuls of ammonia. Then the mixture is agitated. The water is kept at a temperature which may be borne by the hands. In this solution the white clothes are put, and left there for two hours before washing them with soap, taking care in the meantime to cover the tub. The solution may be warmed again and used once more, but it will be necessary to add half a spoonful of turpentine and another spoonful of ammonia. Once washed with soap, the clothes are put in warm water, and the blue is applied.

This process, it is obvious, spares much time, much labor and fuel, while it gives to the clothes a whiteness much superior to that obtained by any other method, and the destructive use of the wash-board, or of pounding is not necessary to clean the clothes from the impurities which they contain.

BACHELORS AND MARRIED MEN.

The bachelor is wanting in one virtue, or at least one occasion of virtue. He returns home in the evening and finds at his bedside neither a wife to teach him kindness, nor a fair little head, just fresh from heaven, to teach him candor. He has nobody about him to love or assist. He knows not the joy of devotedness; he cannot even serve his apprenticeship to it. He lives alone, always alone, himself his only object. He scarcely fills on earth the place of his shoe-sole—and he thinks he lives!

Life knows him not—let him gang his gait.

Man, unprovided with a family, is only the beginning of man; to give him the finishing touch he must acquire the graces and the tenderness which are only to be acquired from the hearts of a mother, a sister, a wife, a daughter.

A man with a family, says Bacon, has given a pledge against himself to fortune. The bachelor, on the contrary, is not attached to the soil by a single root.

Bacon, nevertheless, has made a mistake. He ought rather to have said: A man with a family has taken a hostage against destiny. What does it matter to him if despotism deprive the citizen of a citizen's rights, and if Cesar, like the lion, reign in a desert? He may drive the people from public places, but he cannot drive the parent from his home. It is still possible, by one's own freedom, to testify to one's self, and find happiness there; as far, at least, as one has the right to be happy, while liberty wears widow's weeds in what was once a country, but is now a prison only.

And every time the family man puts an "X" aside to save his family from want, he, at the same time, helps to raise his native land above servitude. Independence of position is a guarantee for the independence of character. Despotism must have a mendicant people. When the people no longer hold out its hand, the despot ceases to reign.

Dear bachelor reader—the statesman who desires the prosperity of his country will tell you to get a family. We are that statesman's mouthpiece. There is wisdom in our words, depend upon it!—Chicago Ledger.

# TURKISH MANNERS.

The Turks are usually considered barbarous, and surely they are so in many respects—in their brutal cruelty to their fellow-creatures; in their utter absence of chivalry during war, when their conduct is not a whit above that of the Redskins of America; in their treatment of women; in their barker of slaves; in the dirt and tumble-down appearance of their towns and cities; and, above all, in their corrupt and inefficient method of administration. But, on the other hand, they have certain civilized habits in which they are decidedly above all Europeans. The houses of the ordinary citizens are decidedly cleaner, and, in some respects, enjoy a better organization. No Turk will enter a sitting-room with dirty shoes. The upper classes wear tight-fitting, fine shoes, termed *moete*, and, over these, galoches. On entering a house, the latter are laid aside at the door, and the visitor treads on the carpet without bringing into the dwelling-house a mass of impurity. The Turk never washes in dirty water, like a European. Water is poured over his hands, so that, when polluted, it is cast away, and not poured again over the hands and face. Certain conveniences in a Turkish house are always decent and cleanly—furnish, in this respect, a marvelous contrast to those of most European countries; moreover, near every mosque are to be found these aids to health and decency—giving, in this respect, a lesson to England especially.—Contemporary Review.

# COLDNESS OF MANNER.

There is no other way by which friendship may be so completely crushed out of existence as by coldness of manner; hard words are no competitors at all for they are so often satisfactorily explained. It is frequently said that "like begets like," and we believe that is often so. If we meet with an acquaintance who grasps our hand cordially, and gives it a generous and hearty shake, and their countenance lights up with a cheerful smile as they utter a pleasant and welcome salutation, if we are feeling dull and moody, we are, or at least should at once be, ashamed of that feeling, and instantly put forth our energies to disguise and banish it. If, on the contrary, we meet with one who repels our every attempt to be cordial by a studied coldness of manner, we very soon become impatient to any genial feeling for him, and a larger stock of pride springs to our aid than we ever dreamed our heart possessed, and a gulf is then and there formed over which a possible bridge can never be erected.

# REWARDS FOR REPUBLICAN CRIME.

"Special Cases."—The List of Participants in the Florida and Louisiana Forgeries Who Have Received Government Appointments.

(From the Washington Post.)

Of course Mr. Hayes knew nothing of the frauds that placed him in President Tilden's seat, nor had he the least personal acquaintance with the individuals who perpetrated them, and yet see how many of them he has made "special cases" of:

Mr. Noyes, who divided the swag among the Florida thieves, was made Minister to France.

Mr. Stoughton, who "conferred" with Anderson and other Louisiana culprits, was made Minister to Russia.

Mr. Dennis, who was one of the visiting statesmen, and helped steal the Florida vote, was made Minister to Austria.

Mr. McLin, who confesses that he helped steal the Florida vote, was made Chief Justice of New Mexico.

Mr. Dennis, who confessed to the frauds that made it possible for McLin to steal the Florida vote, was appointed, on the special request of Hayes, which was "written with a blue pencil," a special treasury agent.

Gov. Stearns, who held the fort while McLin stole the Florida vote, was made one of the Hot Springs Commissioners.

Mr. Cowgill, who completed the theft of the Florida vote, was made a United States Marshal.

Thus Noyes, Kesson, McLin, Dennis, Stearns and Cowgill, through and by whom the four votes of Florida were stolen from President Tilden, have all been recognized by Mr. Hayes as "special cases," and rewarded accordingly.

Wm. Pitt Kellogg, for helping steal the vote of Louisiana by brazening up the Returning Board and such Supervisors as Anderson, received a seat in the Senate, to which he had no title, through the single vote of Stanley Matthews, the friend and representative of Mr. Hayes.

S. B. Packard, who helped Kellogg steal the Louisiana vote, received the biggest Consulate in Europe.

Geo. L. Smith, who forged and falsified the returns of De Bolo parish, was made Collector of New Orleans.

Jack Wharton, who assisted, was made Marshal of New Orleans.

Madison Wells, who was one of the thieves whom Kellogg brazened up, was given the office of Surveyor of the Port.

Tom Anderson, who was another Returning Board thief, was kept in office as Acting Collector even after his conviction of forgery and theft. This was a very special case.

Cassaway, the third Returning Board thief, was made Naval Officer.

Kenner, the fourth and last Returning Board thief, perjurer and forger, was given a place in the Custom House under Principal Thief Anderson.

Gen. John M. Harlan, who was one of the referees in the Feliciana case, was made Judge of the United States Supreme Court.

George A. Sheridan, for helping to keep the Returning Board thieves stiff, was transplanted to Washington and made Recorder of Deeds.

Dan Valer, who, at the request of John Sherman, stole the vote of West Feliciana, was promised in writing a Consulate, but was killed before he could be appointed.

J. E. Anderson, for complying with John Sherman's request to the extent of signing a protest in his name, and which was afterwards forged to the extent necessary to steal the parish of East Feliciana, was personally and in writing recommended by Mr. Hayes for "a Consulate in a warm place."

A score of clerical supervisors, constables, and other officials, who were to cover up others' forgeries have all been provided for, but those we have enumerated were "special cases." Still we have no doubt that Mr. Hayes was perfectly innocent, and that these appointments were all accidents.

# The Investigation.

The House of Representatives have been persistent in looking for the exact facts connecting the Republican party with the crime of robbing the majority of the legal voters of the United States, and to this end have all the available witnesses been brought upon the stand; the result of which cannot be yet determined, but the following opinion covers all inquiries why this investigation should be prosecuted at this day. It is from

A distinguished democratic senator, who looks upon the crime of the party. When asked what he thought of electoral fraud matters generally, he said that to give his ideas he must go back to the beginning of the controversy. The Electoral Commission was regarded as one of the fairest and most patriotic that had ever passed Congress. It was framed at a time when passion had been at its highest degree. Both parties were contending for the supremacy, and a bill had to be framed to satisfy both sides, and at the same time meet the ends of justice. This was a difficult task, but it was finally accomplished by framing a bill which he regarded as a masterpiece of judgment and patriotism. Unfortunately, however, fair as was the proposition to make an Electoral Tribunal, and as the bill was framed, it was, in his opinion, a wrong manner. Mr. Tilden and Garfield, who had earnestly opposed the Electoral bill, afterwards participated so much in the commission, and according to his opinion, did so for the sole purpose of defeating the honest object of the bill. "But," said he, "the violation of the Electoral Tribunal, which was an overruling, or what might be called in law, a demerger, were that notwithstanding every proof that could be brought to the commission, and according to his opinion, did so for the sole purpose of defeating the honest object of the bill. "But," said he, "the violation of the Electoral Tribunal, which was an overruling, or what might be called in law, a demerger, were that notwithstanding every proof that could be brought to the commission, and according to his opinion, did so for the sole purpose of defeating the honest object of the bill. 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