

PLYMOUTH WEEKLY DEMOCRAT.

VOLUME XIV.

PLYMOUTH, INDIANA, THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 1869.

NUMBER 21.

Poetry.

ONE YEAR AGO.

BY MRS. H. B. STOWE.

One year ago a ringing voice,
A clear blue eye,
And clustering carols of sunny hair,
Fair but to die.

Only a year—no voice, no smile,
No glint of eye,
No clattering carol of golden hair,
Fair but to die.

One year, what love, what schemes
Fair to life!
What joyous hopes, what high resolves,
What generous strife!

The silent picture on the wall,
The picture of the past, the flowers bloom fair
Above that head;
No sorrowing tint of leaf or spray
Says he is dead.

No pause or hush or merry birds,
The singing swallows,
Tell how deathly sleeps below
The form we love.

Where hast thou been this year, beloved?
What hast thou seen?
What rising fair, what glorious life
Where hast thou been?

The bell! the bell! so thin, so strong?
Twixt us and thee;
The morn shall fall, the bell shall fall,
What we may see?

Not dead, not sleeping, not even gone,
But present still,
And waiting for the coming hour
Of God's sweet will.

Lord of the living and the dead,
Thee we dear death
We lay in silence at Thy feet
Till sad, sad year!

Selected Miscellany.

LOVE'S REFORM.

The other morning I was disturbed at the unusual hour of nine, by the announcement that Frank, Latty had called, and was desirous of seeing me.

I was rather surprised at this information, and was considering whether it was more probable that my friend had stopped out four hours later or had risen three hours earlier than was his wont, when the door opened, and in he walked, with an expression of calm benignity in his countenance, which left no doubt of his having had his requisite amount of sleep. Besides this, he had a flower in his button-hole, instead of a cigar in his mouth, which latter would of course have been the case had he been treating the sober hour of nine a. m. in an unbecoming manner, and as if it were merely a late hour of the night.

"Has any serious scenes happened?" said I, as soon as I had offered Frank a seat, "or have you turned somnambulist, and walked down here in your sleep?"

"No," he replied, quite in his usual tone and manner; "but I knew you were only coming to town last night, and I wanted particularly to see you as soon as possible afterwards. Besides, I had another very good reason for getting up before twelve this morning."

"What was that?" I inquired.

"It is rather a long story," he answered; "but if you will order breakfast I will repeat it to you."

"I accept the bribe," I exclaimed, ringing the bell.

"Three months ago, then," commenced Frank, "my father made me, what I considered at the time, a very unreasonable proposition. He suggested that I should get married."

Here the servant entered with the breakfast things, and even he could not help smiling at the absurdity of such a suggestion to such a man.

"The notice appeared to me," continued Frank, "as it now appears to you, to be an absurd one, and I hinted as much to my respected parent. Instead of agreeing, however, to what I said, he did that which I had no right to expect from so near a relative—he asked me what reasons I could show for supporting my objections."

"He might as well have asked you your reasons for drinking too much pale ale," I remarked.

"I drink very little of it now," he said, and, without heeding my ill suppressed astonishment, he pulled out his watch (that watch from which he used to be so often parted!) and observed, that as he had but little time to spare, he should feel obliged by my not interrupting him to often in his narrative. Having obtained my implied acquiescence on this point, he continued as follows:

"I was unwilling to undertake a regular attack on the holystone in the presence of my own father. I, however, endeavored to explain to him that I wished, for some time at least, to pursue the life of a very independent gentleman, and that made no part in the programme of that career."

"My father calculating on an avarice which I do not possess, informed me that the lady he should suggest possessed unequal wealth, though, by-the-bye, I distinctly remember his telling me of it on a previous occasion. I explained to him that my contempt for riches was considerable; to which he replied, that he hoped I did not, at all events, entertain a similar feeling towards the paternal opinion.

"I delayed giving a final answer; because, being anxious to obtain money beyond my usual allowance, I thought respect and civility would best become me. At last there was no help, and I was obliged to decline being led, like a perfect sheep, to the altar; upon which my father hinted that I should take a special departure from his residence, and not trouble myself about calling again until I was prepared for some alarming sacrifice; adding, in a tone which meant to be insulting, that he shouldn't wonder if my feelings were already engaged."

"And were they?" I inquired.

"They were in part," continued Frank; "but not to the extent which the old boy imagined. About a fortnight previous to the conversation which I have repeated, having heard a great deal about the advantages of early rising, I determined to

try it, anxious, as I always have been, to experience every sensation sanctioned by morality and custom. Well, I tried it; I got up at half-past eight, walked to Kensington Gardens, and soon met with the advantage in the shape of a young lady, who was not only exceedingly pretty, which is the case with many English women, but moreover exceedingly well dressed, which is the case with very few of them.

"The Goddess of Early Rising was sitting on one of the benches, reading a book. She continued reading while I was passing, which I thought unkind; perhaps, however, it was only to show her eyelashes. It would have been more than rude—it would have been absurd—for me to have addressed her, as she was attended by an evil spirit, whom I should have supposed to be her companion, were it not that she appeared to be treated with consideration and kindness.

"I liked early rising so much the first time, that I tried it a second, third, and fourth, and met with the advantage in the shape of the goddess on each occasion. At all events, I had not frightened her from the particular bench, which she appeared to prefer; and I knew that she had noticed my presence there, from certain indications which passed between herself and the evil spirit in my approach.

"On the fifth morning the goddess entered the gardens alone, and I instantly began thinking of the best form of prayer to offer up to her when I perceived that instead of pausing at the accustomed seat, she continued to walk for some distance. I knew that she must have expected me there at the usual time, and therefore that she could have no wish to avoid me; but knowing also that any one addressing a lady without having had the honor of an introduction, runs the risk of being mistaken for a beggar, I naturally hesitated a little.

"I then addressed her what I had hitherto said could give offense to no one. But her blushes, as I looked inquiringly at her, convinced me, in spite of her pretended unconsciousness, she was aware that I had been addressing her personally, while at the same time, uttering the mere name of a spirit. Well, I made a short protest of a further apology. I was at last bold enough to attack the prejudices of society, which prevented conversation between two persons—however desirable such conversation might be on the one side—in all cases where an introduction had not been obtained, when I was stopped by Miss Wilton, informing me that if I imagined I had offended her by uttering a few words, it was strange that I should endeavor to improve my position by making long speeches. This observation struck me in my vanity, and wounded it very severely. I bowed and left the theatre, but not until I had pushed the fallen programme out of sight.

"I soon returned, and presented Miss Wilton with a programme, which I said I had observed her to be without, and which I intended to have just procured, where-as I had thrust it into my pocket immediately on seeing her own fair to the great. She smiled as she accepted it, but I trembled as I saw the father's name, for I knew he should discover the meaning of the epigram, or, in other words, see the note which was contained in the folded bill. The note was written in the style we all know so well, and I will, therefore, not trouble you with its contents. I will only say that its object was an unhostile meeting between myself and Miss Wilton on the following morning, without seconds, ground fixed in Kensington Gardens. I slept but few hours that night, partly from love of Florence, partly from supping with B— and H—, and stopping up till five, when the meeting was to take place at eight.

"The next morning I was first on the ground.

"More fool you!" said I, interrupting her. "No wonder the girl gives herself airs when you behave in such an absurdly attentive style to her!"

"Silence, barbarian!" Frank exclaimed, and then continued his story.

"Though Florence declared she could never meet me again, she very kindly pointed out the means by which I could gain admission to a ball which was to take place the next evening and at which she was to be present. I spoke to her on the subject of marriage," hear, hear, and laugher from myself;" and was somewhat astonished at her saying she had already been offered to one young man, who had at once refused her, and that she had from that time indignantly resolved to give up all thoughts of matrimony.

"'Give up all thoughts,'" I replied, and told my visitor, "I called on my father and told him briefly that I was desirous of getting married, though not to the lady for whom he so kindly destined me. My father taxed me with folly, reproached my intellect with infirmity, and ended by saying, that the young lady whom he had in view, was more amiable, more pretty, and more wealthy, than any other I was likely to meet with, and that I was at liberty to marry her."

"What was I to do? I could not have the impudence to walk before the girl, and drop my own handkerchief. It would have been rather too much in the sultan style, and she could not have been expected to pick it up. I threw myself on a bench for a few minutes, and, upon looking round, saw that the object of my thoughts had reached the gate of the gardens which leads into Hyde Park. I followed her, and, upon looking back, when I was at some distance from the entrance, perceived the evil spirit hurrying towards it. I at once understood that she had been expected there some time previously, and that it was by the mere accident, and one very unlikely to occur again, that the goddess was at that moment being by herself.

"My resolution was taken immediately. I would address her; but what was I to say? I might have said I had a mind to have a pleasure in your company, as I had in mine."

"No," said I, unwilling to compromise the girl; "I have not seen her, but Florence is a very pretty girl, and no one with any other name shall be my wife."

"And the young lady in love, say you, are so desperately in love with me, my parent suggested.

"'Oh, if I marry Florence Wilton I shall be equally pleased—I must marry my dear Florence,' I declared.

"Why you must be mad to take such a fancy to the girl without having seen her?" was the next paternal remark.

"What am I to do? I demanded, "you call me mad when I wish to marry that darling Florence, whom I have never seen—and forbid if I speak of marrying my one else."

"'Marry Florence, by all means,' said my father, smiling; 'she will be going to the ball you say are going to to-morrow night, and I will introduce you then to the whole family.'

"'I will dance with her to-morrow night, and marry her the day after,' I exclaimed frantically.

"'Good morning; you're insane at present,' my father answered, as he repeated to another room.

"'Oh, if I marry Florence Wilton I shall be equally pleased—I must marry my dear Florence,' I declared.

"Why you must be mad to take such a fancy to the girl without having seen her?" was the next paternal remark.

"What am I to do? I demanded, "you call me mad when I wish to marry that darling Florence, whom I have never seen—and forbid if I speak of marrying my one else."

"'Marry Florence, by all means,' said my father, smiling; 'she will be going to the ball you say are going to to-morrow night, and I will introduce you then to the whole family.'

"'I will dance with her to-morrow night, and marry her the day after,' I exclaimed frantically.

"'Good morning; you're insane at present,' my father answered, as he repeated to another room.

"'Oh, if I marry Florence Wilton I shall be equally pleased—I must marry my dear Florence,' I declared.

"Why you must be mad to take such a fancy to the girl without having seen her?" was the next paternal remark.

"What am I to do? I demanded, "you call me mad when I wish to marry that darling Florence, whom I have never seen—and forbid if I speak of marrying my one else."

"'Marry Florence, by all means,' said my father, smiling; 'she will be going to the ball you say are going to to-morrow night, and I will introduce you then to the whole family.'

"'I will dance with her to-morrow night, and marry her the day after,' I exclaimed frantically.

"'Good morning; you're insane at present,' my father answered, as he repeated to another room.

"'Oh, if I marry Florence Wilton I shall be equally pleased—I must marry my dear Florence,' I declared.

"Why you must be mad to take such a fancy to the girl without having seen her?" was the next paternal remark.

"What am I to do? I demanded, "you call me mad when I wish to marry that darling Florence, whom I have never seen—and forbid if I speak of marrying my one else."

"'Marry Florence, by all means,' said my father, smiling; 'she will be going to the ball you say are going to to-morrow night, and I will introduce you then to the whole family.'

"'I will dance with her to-morrow night, and marry her the day after,' I exclaimed frantically.

"'Good morning; you're insane at present,' my father answered, as he repeated to another room.

"'Oh, if I marry Florence Wilton I shall be equally pleased—I must marry my dear Florence,' I declared.

"Why you must be mad to take such a fancy to the girl without having seen her?" was the next paternal remark.

"What am I to do? I demanded, "you call me mad when I wish to marry that darling Florence, whom I have never seen—and forbid if I speak of marrying my one else."

"'Marry Florence, by all means,' said my father, smiling; 'she will be going to the ball you say are going to to-morrow night, and I will introduce you then to the whole family.'

"'I will dance with her to-morrow night, and marry her the day after,' I exclaimed frantically.

"'Good morning; you're insane at present,' my father answered, as he repeated to another room.

"'Oh, if I marry Florence Wilton I shall be equally pleased—I must marry my dear Florence,' I declared.

"Why you must be mad to take such a fancy to the girl without having seen her?" was the next paternal remark.

"What am I to do? I demanded, "you call me mad when I wish to marry that darling Florence, whom I have never seen—and forbid if I speak of marrying my one else."

"'Marry Florence, by all means,' said my father, smiling; 'she will be going to the ball you say are going to to-morrow night, and I will introduce you then to the whole family.'

"'I will dance with her to-morrow night, and marry her the day after,' I exclaimed frantically.

"'Good morning; you're insane at present,' my father answered, as he repeated to another room.

"'Oh, if I marry Florence Wilton I shall be equally pleased—I must marry my dear Florence,' I declared.

"Why you must be mad to take such a fancy to the girl without having seen her?" was the next paternal remark.

"What am I to do? I demanded, "you call me mad when I wish to marry that darling Florence, whom I have never seen—and forbid if I speak of marrying my one else."

"'Marry Florence, by all means,' said my father, smiling; 'she will be going to the ball you say are going to to-morrow night, and I will introduce you then to the whole family.'

"'I will dance with her to-morrow night, and marry her the day after,' I exclaimed frantically.

"'Good morning; you're insane at present,' my father answered, as he repeated to another room.

"'Oh, if I marry Florence Wilton I shall be equally pleased—I must marry my dear Florence,' I declared.

"Why you must be mad to take such a fancy to the girl without having seen her?" was the next paternal remark.

"What am I to do? I demanded, "you call me mad when I wish to marry that darling Florence, whom I have never seen—and forbid if I speak of marrying my one else."

"'Marry Florence, by all means,' said my father, smiling; 'she will be going to the ball you say are going to to-morrow night, and I will introduce you then to the whole family.'

"'I will dance with her to-morrow night, and marry her the day after,' I exclaimed frantically.

"'Good morning; you're insane at present,' my father answered, as he repeated to another room.

"'Oh, if I marry Florence Wilton I shall be equally pleased—I must marry my dear Florence,' I declared.

"Why you must be mad to take such a fancy to the girl without having seen her?" was the next paternal remark.

"What am I to do? I demanded, "you call me mad when I wish to marry that darling Florence, whom I have never seen—and forbid if I speak of marrying my one else."

"'Marry Florence, by all means,' said my father, smiling; 'she will be going to the ball you say are going to to-morrow night, and I will introduce you then to the whole family.'

"'I will dance with her to-morrow night, and marry her the day after,' I exclaimed frantically.

"'Good morning; you're insane at present,' my father answered, as he repeated to another room.

"'Oh, if I marry Florence Wilton I shall be equally pleased—I must marry my dear Florence,' I declared.

"Why you must be mad to take such a fancy to the girl without having seen her?" was the next paternal remark.

"What am I to do? I demanded, "you call me mad when I wish to marry that darling Florence, whom I have never seen—and forbid if I speak of marrying my one else."

"'Marry Florence, by all means,' said my father, smiling; 'she will be going to the ball you say are going to to-morrow night, and I will introduce you then to the whole family.'

"'I will dance with her to-morrow night, and marry her the day after,' I exclaimed frantically.

"'Good morning; you're insane at present,' my father answered, as he repeated to another room.

"'Oh, if I marry Florence Wilton I shall be equally pleased—I must marry my dear Florence,' I declared.

"Why you must be mad to take such