

**A WOMAN.**

In herself she dwelleth not,  
Although no home were half so fair;  
No simplest duty is forgot,  
Life hath no dim and lowly spot  
That doth not in her sunshine share.

She doeth little kindnesses  
Which most leave undone, or despise;  
For naught that sets one heart at ease,  
And giveth happiness or peace,  
Is low-esteemed in her eyes.

She hath no scorn of common things,  
And, though she seems of other birth,  
Round us her heart entwines and clings,  
And patiently she folds her wings  
To tread the humble paths of earth.

Blessing she is; God made her so.  
And needs of week-day holiness  
Fall from her noiseless as the snow,  
Nor hath she ever chanced to know  
That aught were easier than to bless.

She is most fair, and thereunto  
Her life doth rightly harmonize;  
Feeling or thought that was not true  
Ne'er made less beautiful the blue  
Unclouded heaven of her eyes.

She is a woman; one in whom  
The springtime of her childish years  
Hath never lost its fresh perfume,  
Though knowing well that life hath room  
For many blights and many tears.

—Lovell.

**THE LATE MR. M'GLUCKEN.**

"Mr. Peters," said the editor to the newspaper reporter, "you say you were personally acquainted with the deceased Mr. McGlücken?"

"Yes, sir."

"Are you certain of the facts that you have given in his obituary notice?"

"Well, tolerably certain."

"Because, in describing his appearance, you say that he had a Roman nose, and only one eye, and that there was a wart upon it. Do I understand you that the wart was upon the Roman nose or the eye? The expression is not perfectly clear."

"The nose, of course."

"You remark, also, that Mr. McGlücken's nose was badly injured in a railway accident on the G. W. R. in consequences of the bridge giving way. Do you mean that the railway accident resulted from the breaking of the bridge of Mr. McGlücken's nose, or that the bridge of his nose gave way after the accident, or that the nose was hurt by the railway bridge giving way, or how? You are not definite enough."

"I refer to the railway bridge."

"The truth is important. I notice that you say, in the fourth paragraph from the bottom, that Mr. McGlücken went to sea when he was a young, and that his craft was stove in at the Fiji Islands. Then immediately afterward you remark that at poker he never had a rival. Now, I can hardly believe you mean it, and yet do you know that a superficial reader, glancing over your article, might easily get the impression that McGlücken went to sea in a stove, and somehow or other managed to row himself ashore on the Fiji Islands with a poker. Read it over and see for yourself. I tell you, Mr. Peters, this kind of indefiniteness won't do for a newspaper. It confuses people's minds, and maddens them, and brings them down here with murder in their hearts."

"Well, I admit that it is not exactly clear."

"But this is not the worst. What do you mean when you say, in the fifth paragraph, that while Mr. McGlücken lived near Brighton he was somewhat lame for a few years, and that he had the finest corn in the country—it was more than five feet high? Now do you mean that he had a corn five feet high, or that he had corn in his field five feet high, and if the latter, why do you associate the corn with Mr. McGlücken's lameness? Don't you see for yourself that most persons would get the notion that Mr. McGlücken's lameness was caused by a corn which grew up through his boots and was fastened to his lat? Why, Mr. Peters, if we were to print a thing like that I believe this office would be gutted by a mob before night."

"I see. I must rewrite that."

"Immediately afterwards, following that singular reference to the fact that his aunt persisted in putting on her goshes whenever she went to bed, you remark that his grandmother swallowed her speacales three times in church. You see you fail to make the thing connect. And no sooner does the bewildered reader give up the problem than you add, respecting Mr. McGlücken's connection with the church choir, 'that he was a fine singer generally speaking, but on this particular Sunday he rode his favourite horse to church, and, as he had the blind staggers, he had to stop before reaching his destination so he missed his usual participation in the services,' etc."

"I pledge you my word of honor, Mr. Peters, as a man who has his finger on the public pulse, there will be a million people round here to-morrow perfectly savage to know whether McGlücken had the blind staggers, or whether the horse had! No, sir, it won't do! It really won't. I want to put in a good obituary of McGlücken. I know you want to do him justice. I can see your sympathetic feeling running all through this article. It is cram-full of genuine emotion. You really mourn for McGlücken. But

hang it, young man, if I were to let the bilowy tumults of sorrow that rage in your soul boil out into the columns of The Daily Argus in this particular form I should have the whole McGlücken family after me with a libel suit, and within forty-eight hours all the insane asylums in the country would be so crowded that the patients couldn't breathe. No, you must overhaul it; furbish it up; remodel it, lick it into shape. I'll give you one more chance."

Then Mr. Peters handed in his resignation, and sought a position as conductor of a 'bus.  
—Pearson's Weekly.

**Mr. Jones' Baby.**

Ah, yes; there is evidently something the matter with that child. Life has no charms for him. He is utterly indifferent about his personal appearance; doesn't care how his hair is combed, or whether it is combed at all; is equally indifferent as to whether his face is washed; treats all visitors—and especially his feminine friends—with coldness, and even with rudeness; openly laments their arrival, and rejoices at their departure; declines to be interviewed concerning the number of his teeth; declines to show anyone how big he is, or to entertain his relatives by clapping his hands; does not seem to feel at all complimented when told that he is fat.

I suppose if he were requested to entertain his relatives by standing on his head he would return a contemptuous refusal. He weeps at every opportunity. His regular office hours for weeping are from 11 p. m. to 5 a. m., with intermissions for soothing syrup and similar refreshments.

I think he is meditating suicide. I know he has swallowed unlimited quantities of pins, needles, carpet-tacks, and shoe-blacking. I found him yesterday with a box of sulphur matches in his hand, and he seemed to be in doubt whether he ought to eat them or whether they were intended for external use only. He seemed, however, to favor the latter idea, and he was trying to set fire to the house; but he had some of the matches in his mouth, showing that he had not quite abandoned the former theory.

He has endeavored to drown himself in tubs of cold water, and to scald himself to death in boilers of hot water; and the number of times he has thrown himself down stairs is beyond calculation. Ever since he learnt to creep he has been trying to utilise that juvenile accomplishment by crawling out of a two storey window. He recently seized a carving knife at the table in a most furious manner, and if had not been for the timely interposition of Mrs. J., there is no knowing what scenes of carnage might have ensued.

Yes, it is quite clear that he intends to make way with himself.

**What can be the cause of it all?**

His mother has frequently been of the opinion that it was pins, but I never took any stock in that theory, as she herself, after mature investigation, has been compelled to abandon it.

Some of our friends have asserted that the baby's future teeth are the cause of all the trouble. I think this is absurd.

It is inconceivable that he should prefer to go through life without any teeth; and even if he did, he ought to reflect that, at the worst, teeth are a temporary evil. Most people manage to get rid of them by a judicious use of sweetmeats; but even if this remedy should fail the sufferer need not despair while chewing tobacco remains as a last resource.

**I think it is pure cussedness.**

I have learned a good deal since that child shuffled on this mortal coil, but I don't know everything yet.

**Election in Norway.**

A general election is approaching in Norway, and the event will not fail to be awaited with a good deal of interest throughout Europe, as well as in the two countries more immediately concerned. Public feeling is greatly excited in Norway, notwithstanding the habitual moderation and self-restraint of its people. The Norwegians show no disposition to abate one jot from their previous demands for separate Norwegian consular agents and other modifications of the existing arrangement. The tension of the situation has been increased of late by the report of a plan or plot on the part of King Oscar for robbing Norway of its power of resistance, and by the rumour that he has been asking advice as to the best means of bringing the refractory partner to terms. The radical party among the Norwegians are said to be determined to push their claims at all hazards, and to be ready to bring about a separation, even at the cost of a sanguinary struggle, if necessary. The election will show to what extent the people are prepared to follow them. The temper of the Swedes is said to be also giving way under the strain. Should the result of the election be to show that the radical policy is favored and supported by a popular majority, a war may be precipitated at any moment. Although a separation which would increase the number of small states in Europe would be deprecated on general principles, there is no doubt that sympathy will be with a brave and high-spirited people in the defence of what they regard as their constitutional rights, and their essential freedom.—Toronto Week.

**EXCESSIVE RATES.**

**The Question of C. P. R. Freight Before the Railway Committee.**

It will be remembered that the government promised the members from the Northwest near the close of the last session of the dominion parliament that a commission would be appointed to inquire into the freight rates charged by the C. P. R. A meeting of the railway committee of the privy council was held last week. Mr. Nicholas Flood Davin, and Senator Boulton presented the claims of the settlers.

A report of the meeting taken from the Toronto Mail, is here given. It would appear that the minister of railways was disposed to be led by the nose by ex-Judge Clarke, the C. P. R. solicitor.

Mr. Davin contended that relief should be given in the premises. First looking at the low price of grain and the earnings of the Canadian Pacific railway, the freight rates should be lowered. Secondly, looking at the population of the West and the earnings of the road on the line from Fort William to Vancouver, the freight rate should be lowered. Thirdly, looking at the rates charged similar distances below the line in the United States to that between Winnipeg and Montreal, the freight rates should be lowered. Fourthly, the freight were resented by the Northwest, not merely as rates for carrying goods out, but also for bringing goods in. Fifth, then look at the enormous price of coal in the Northwest, which was largely due to the high railway rates.

Mr. Haggart—What have we to do with fixing freight rates?

Mr. Davin—I don't know how you can fix rates.

Mr. Haggart—I don't think we are in a position to do so.

Mr. Davin—What we in the Northwest contend is, that since this line has been highly subsidized by the government, certainly there ought to be some power to deal with their charging excessively high rates.

Mr. Clarke (for the Canadian Pacific railway)—You know no doubt, that we have asked that there should be such an inquiry, and that the premier has promised that there would be such an inquiry.

Mr. Haggart asked under what part of the statute the case came.

Mr. Davin pointed to section 11 of the railway Act.

Mr. Clarke said that did not apply to this case. That was if there was discrimination, but this was not the case. This was a question of rates.

Senator Boulton next proceeded to address the committee, and was incessantly interrupted by Mr. Haggart and Mr. Clarke to give specific charges of discrimination, as they did not want to hear speeches.

Mr. Clarke—There is a tribunal to deal with rates in England. But the question is as to whether we are discriminating against one person in favor of another. That is a matter for the governor-general-in-council to deal with and not this committee.

Senator Boulton then proceeded to address the committee, commencing by alluding to the grievances of the North-West societies against the high freight rates of the Canadian Pacific railway. He was glad to hear that there was to be a commission to enquire into this.

Mr. Haggart—Not a commission. There was to be a departmental enquiry. The parties in the North-West who had grievances in this direction to ventilate would be heard before a committee of the cabinet, not the railway committee.

Mr. Boulton was glad to hear that there was to be such an investigation at any rate.

Mr. Clarke—This committee has nothing to do with enquiring into the condition of farmers in the North-West. Mr. Boulton ought to specify a certain case of discrimination, then he could go into generalities afterwards.

Mr. Haggart—There is no doubt about that. You ought, Mr. Boulton, to confine your remarks to some case of discrimination in favor of individuals, or of one town against another.

Senator Boulton still persisted in his idea of being entitled to show how the people in the North-West suffered and thought of this matter.

Mr. Haggart—If you confine yourself to some particular case we will hear what you have to say, but the committee has no jurisdiction to deal with the general matters to which you refer.

Judge Clarke held that some one interested and representing the Patrons of Industry should be heard.

Mr. Boulton then said that \$8,000,000 of the gross earnings of the Canadian Pacific railway was taken out of the western section by charges averaging \$3,500 per mile, and that this was a discrimination against that sparsely populated country over and above that charged in other sections. On being pressed for more specific charges, the senator gave the rates charged by the Canadian Pacific railway between Montreal and Winnipeg, and New York and St. Paul. They were: First-class freight, \$2.90 and \$1.15; second-class, \$1.77 and 90c.; third-class, \$1.40 and 78c.; fourth-class, \$1.08 and 52c.; fifth-class, 89c. and 44c.

Mr. Clarke declared the Canadian Pacific railway could not control the rates charged by the New York Central, over which they ran, and therefore the comparison was not fair. He insisted on a specific charge concerning Canadian Pacific railway lines only.

Mr. Boulton said the lumber rate between Rat Portage and Winnipeg was \$3.75, and between Ottawa and Montreal, \$1.25. Mr. Clarke asked that a specific transaction, the date, and shipper, be given.

Mr. Boulton said he was charged \$250 on a car load of lumber from Vancouver to Russell, Man., while the Thompson lumber firm, of Cobourg, were charged only \$180 on a similar shipment to Cobourg, 1,600 miles further east.

Mr. Clarke asked if the two transactions took place in the same year, and the senator said one was in 1893 and the other in 1894. Judge Clarke said a comparison of different years was obviously unjust.

Mr. Boulton talked at length on the low price of wheat, and hence the necessity of a regulation of the freight rate. He was frequently interrupted by Mr. Haggart and Mr. Clarke, who pointed out that the committee had no power to regulate freight rates.

Finally Mr. Davin and the senator after a consultation, decided that they could not possibly go on at present, as they had not the specific charges necessary for an investigation by the railway committee.

Miscellaneous factiae are plagiarized as often as apothegms. It is curious to find, observed Truth's book-reviewer some time ago, in "The Humour of France," Bishop Leslie's address to God on the eve of a battle, put by Alphonse Daudet into the mouth of the stewart priest of Chemille:—

"I can do without assistance from anyone, O God, for I have strong fists and right on my side. Stay, then, quietly there; look on at the fight; be neither for nor against. I shall soon settle his business."

Which doubtless suggested the still terser prayer of the shipwrecked sailor about to grapple with the polar bear upon the iceberg, who besought the Deity, if He wouldn't help him, not to help the bear, and He would see a good fight. In Truth of December 31, 1891, a puzzle competitor versified, as an original idea, the ancient conundrum about women being unable to go to heaven "because there was silence there for the space of half an hour."

There are few men who are not ambitious of distinguishing themselves in the nation or country where they live, and of growing considerable with those with whom they converse. There is a kind of grandeur and respect which the meanest and most insignificant part of mankind endeavor to procure in the little circle of their friends and acquaintances. The poorest mechanic, nay, the man who lives upon common alms, gets him a set of admirers, and delights him in that superiority which he enjoys over those who are in some respect beneath him. This ambition, which is natural to the soul of man, might, methinks, receive a very happy turn, and, if it were rightly directed, contribute as much to a person's advantage as it generally does to his uneasiness and disquiet.—Addison.

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