

dals of August days always are. Cousin Leonard and I stood watching the heaps of damask cloud piled up in a corner of the west when I caught sight of Lena Grant coming up to the house; she carried a large bundle which almost concealed her figure. It was the first time she had been there; and, somewhat surprised, I went out to her.

'Oh, Maggie,' she said, 'I've had such a present! And I don't know who sent it either; but I guess you do. I've brought it with me.'

'Well, Lena, we'll go round to the back porch, where nobody'll see us, and look at it; and I led the way.'

It was indeed a handsome present! There were four new dresses, two of muslin and two of calico, two pair of mottoco ties, some white aprons, and, Lena said, 'the most beautiful bonnet at home, trimmed with white ribbon.'

'And you don't know who sent them, Lena?' I said after exhausting my admiration on every article.

'No, Grandma said it was a black man.—The bundle was directed to me; and the man wouldn't tell her a word, only said he was ordered to leave it at her house for her grand daughter.'

'I thought you must be at the bottom, Maggie; so I came right over to see. Don't you know who sent them?'

'No, truly, I don't; but only to think Lena, how beautiful you will look! Miss Martell, the dressmaker, must fit them for you; she does all my dresses, and she has so much taste.'

'Did you ever?' said Lena. 'I'm just as grateful and happy as I can be; but I can't help crying ever since these things came,' and she wiped away her tears. 'Isn't it funny?'

'I guess not, Lena. Mamma says people may cry for joy as well as sorrow; but you won't forget Miss Martell?'

'No, Grandma will let me have her, I know. You see, Maggie, I shouldn't have worn these old dresses if mamma had lived; but grandmother thinks the old fashioned ones as good as any other.'

Those new dresses were soon placed in the tasteful fingers of Miss Martell; and under that lady's supervision Lena Grant's personelle was entirely revolutionized. You would not have identified her with the strange, wild-looking being who, two months before, had presented herself for the first time at Miss Mervin's desk.

Before the term closed, she was quite a favorite with the girls. It was surprising how easily she jumped from class to class, proving that she possessed a mind of no ordinary character. The attachment which had commenced under such peculiar circumstances strengthened daily between us.

Mrs Grant, too, proved to be a good sort of woman on acquaintance. She was a little singular and notional, it is true, believing that in all things 'the old was better than the new;' but aside from this idiosyncrasy, she was a good-hearted woman, and well nigh worshipped Miranda. Mrs Grant was poor, and the snows of nearly seventy winters lay on her forehead; but her spirit was not 'dead within her.' She cultivated the land around her dwelling, and therefrom procured a comfortable subsistence for herself and Lena.

'I shall be a school-teacher some time, and support grandma when she is old,' said Lena, with an uplift of her earnest eyes; and then I knew the purpose that consecrated her studies.

'Maggie,' said Hattie Morse, coming to me after school, 'you knew your cousin and Albert are always talking about some old tree where they pass the day together. Well, I've teased All to tell me where this remarkable tree was; but he never would, and only laughed. To-day when Leonard came for him, I resolved to find out; and, don't you think, I followed him to that old oak tree that stands in the lane behind the field? There's just the nicest seat for two, made by a curve of one of the lower branches; and it's so cool and pleasant: Wasn't I smart to find it out?'

'Yes, very, Hattie; and we laughed together. But an after-thought flashed into my mind.'

'Were they not there that day? and had they not witnessed the scene that transpired between Lena Grant and me?'

'Yes, they must have done it; and it was from Alfred and Leonard the dresses had come! That was why Leonard had asked me how many yards it required to make a girl's dress; it was all unravelled now. How very stupid it was not to see it before! They had looked down from the green oak-boughs, and been silent spectators of the whole! I buried my face in my hands as I thought of it; but from my heart I blessed the young men. I kept my secret as they did theirs.'

Eight years had passed. It was August again. Cousin Leonard and Albert Morse had finished their collegiate and professional studies, and were at Moss Farms again; the latter came up one evening with his mother and sisters, to see us. Lena Grant happened to be there, my noble, beautiful Lena. For three years, she had supported herself and her grandmother, whom the infirmities of age

had confined to her room, by teaching. Lena had developed into a beautiful girl-woman. Her auburn hair lay still in heavy curls about her fair, gentle face; her large eyes had gathered a deeper, fuller life into their wondrous depths; and the smiles that hovered about her lips were in the sunshine that comes to May-flowers after the rain.

'The 'old brown house' was changed, too, almost as much as Lena; it had been painted white, and a portico added, up whose side climbed the honeysuckle every June.

I saw Albert Morse, spite of his gentlemanly self-possession, start slightly when I presented Lena to him, and he glanced significantly toward Leonard; and I knew they were thinking of the old days and the oak-boughs. Albert Morse remained by Lena's side nearly all the evening, to the apparent discomfiture of his sister. He accompanied her home—and but I am so tired of telling love stories, reader! Suffice it, one day in the next October, Lena came to me and said, putting her arms about my neck and her blushing cheek to mine: 'I have promised, next spring, Maggie, to be his wife.'

I thought of his haughty sister. No matter! She ought to be proud of Lena Grant. That same month, Cousin Leonard and I took a long walk one evening; when we returned, I might have said to Lena Grant the very words she had used to me.

'When did you commence loving me, Leonard?' I asked, before we went into the house.

He smiled. 'One morning, eight years ago, under the old oak tree that stands in the lane back of the school-house, did I commence loving you, Maggie White?'

I laughed. 'Oh, I know all about it!' And then I told him what had never crossed my lips before.

'Well,' said he, 'there is one woman that can keep a secret; I believe it now, Maggie.'

'Are you not ashamed, Leonard? I have a good will not to have you because you entertain such a contemptible opinion of my sex.'

'No, you hav'n't; you couldn't refuse me now if you tried,' said the egotistical young gentleman, as he broke the pout on my lips with a kiss.

It was the truth, reader, though, of course, I didn't tell him so!

MANAGEMENT OF BOYS.

A clergyman of much observation recently remarked, that the experience of sixty years had taught him, that if boys had a faithful and judicious mother, they were pretty sure to turn out well, whatever might be the character of the father. There are mothers, who from various causes, in rearing their sons, are deprived of the co-operation of the father. The following hints are intended for the assistance of such mothers.

1. Keep your boys by all means out of the street. At the proper time for play allow them to invite some of the neighbor's children into your yard, or permit them to visit those children of your friends with whom you are willing they should associate. But let it be an unalterable law, that they are not to rove the streets in freedom, to play with whatever companions chance may throw in their way. By commencing early and firmly with this principle you will have no difficulty in enforcing it. Turn a boy loose into the street to associate with the vicious and profane, to lounge at the corners of streets and stables, and he will certainly be ruined. Therefore, at all hazard, keep them out of the streets.

2. Do not allow your boys to play out of doors in the evening. There is something in night exposure and night plays which seem to harden the heart. You never see such a boy possessed of a gentle and modest deportment. He is always forward, self-willed, and unmanageable. There is always temptation in the darkness of the evening to say and do things which they would not be willing to do in open day. The most judicious parents will never allow their children to be out at such hours, consequently the only companions he can be with are the unmanageable.—There is something almost fiendlike in the shouts which are occasionally heard from such troops of boys congregated at the corners of the streets. If you would save your son from certain ruin, let him not be with them. Keep him at home in the evening, unless by special permission, he is at the house of some judicious friend, where you know he will engage in fireside sports.

PUTTING A NEW FACE ON THE MATTER.

—We cannot say that the heads of the young gents of the present day are turned; on the contrary, they appear to be so firmly wedged in their collars, that they may be designated as 'fixtures to be sold cheap.'

Mr Butterworth gave evidence in a recent law case, and Sergeant Buzfuz wished to shake Butterworth's credit. So, cross-examining another witness, he asked him, 'What is Butterworth?' 'Thirteenpence a pound,' was the answer. A roar of laughter extinguished Buzfuz.

When does snow look most poetical? When it is turned into rime.

GRAND JURY PRESENTMENT.

GRAND JURY ROOM,
January Sessions, 1856.

PARISH OF NELSON.

Commissioners of Roads, Isaac Cushman, Upper District, account correct and a balance of 5s 6d in the hands of the Commissioner.

Rowland Crocker, Middle District, account also correct and balance of £3 9 0 due him which the Commissioner for the present year is ordered to hand over to him.

John McLaughlin, Lower District, account correct and balance due him of £3 8 8 which the Commissioner for the present year is ordered to hand in to him.

John Cain, Town Clerk charges for services as Town Clerk 30s, allowed.

Alexander Ferguson charges for the same 40s not allowed.

Overseers of Poor, Robinson Crocker's account for supplies by order from the Overseers, examined and found correct. Over charges in favor of Messrs. Harley and Burchell of 20s in the general parish account. George Swain charges 20s for hauling provisions to his own home for the support of a pauper living with him, not allowed.

Accompanying the Overseer's account is grave charges made against the former overseers of poor as regards paupers who are receiving parish aid and at the same time holding property.—The Grand Jury think that all property in possession of persons applying for permanent parish aid should according to law be disposed of in the manner rendering the net proceeds to the credit of the parish.

PARISH OF BLACKVILLE.

Commissioners of Roads, John McMiry, Lower District, shows a balance in the Commissioner's hands since the year 1854 of 12s 6d.

James Donald, Upper District, all the persons have wrought and the account satisfactory.

Nathaniel Underhill, Middle District, this account shows that Wm. T. Underhill is excused from performing statute labour, at the same time it shows that he has received 46s 6d for work performed on the roads and should not have been excused; it also appears that other parties have been excused and not by the certificate of two Justices as the law requires.

Overseers of the Poor, account shows a balance of £26 16 11 to be due the overseers; this account satisfactory and an assessment granted for the same.

Collectors of Rates, Edward Dalton, Lower District; this account satisfactory.

Simon Bean, Upper District, shows the defaulters' list very large, the account otherwise satisfactory.

PARISH OF BLISSFIELD.

Commissioners of Roads, Hiram Freeze, District No. 1, satisfactory.

James S. Mitchell, District No. 2, this account shows 6s to be due to Samuel Harlow, for a cart broken on the roads. The Jury are of opinion that this charge should never have been made and should not be allowed, the account otherwise satisfactory.

John DeCantellon, District No. 3, shows a balance in the Commissioner's hands of £17 3 and the account satisfactory.

Burke, Archibald and Edward Kelly, Overseers of Poor account. In this account the sum of £18 is charged as paid to L. L. Green for the support of William Gilbert, a pauper, for one year ending in May next; and John Arbo, one of the overseers of poor for the said parish, having been before the Grand Jury and having been sworn, saith, he was willing and offered to keep the said pauper for the sum of £12 for the said period, which would have been a saving to the parish of £6, but that the other overseers overruled him and gave the said pauper to L. L. Green; under these circumstances the Jury are of opinion that L. L. Green should not be allowed more than £12, the sum Arbo was willing to keep the pauper for. The Jury further note the sum of 10s per week for the support of James Doak, a pauper, which they consider too much and would say that 7s per week was a sufficient charge which would be a saving to the parish of 27s.

PARISH OF LUDLOW.

Commissioners of Roads, James McElenec, District No. 1, satisfactory, all persons having wrought their statute labour in the District.

Edward Price, District No. 2, shows a balance of 4s 3d due the Commissioner; account satisfactory.

George Campbell, District No. 3, shows a balance of 6s 1d in the Commissioner's hands; account satisfactory.

PARISH OF CHATHAM.

Road Account, John Johnston, Upper District, he charges on roads per Vouchers, £21 9 2

Credits commutation fines £19 6 0
Balance of account, 1854, 2 9 2

£21 9 2

There is an error in his account of 6d, 0 0 6
He was surcharged last year this sum for making out his papers 1 5 0

Making amount due by commissioner, 1 5 6
Asa Perley, Lower District, he charges expended on road for voucher, £1 15 4

Paid expenses suit with pay, 0 15 8

£2 11 0
He credits balance from Commissioner of 1854, £0 16 6

Commutation fines 1855, 1 17 6

£2 14 0

Due by Commissioner, 0 3 0

The above two balances of 25s 6d, and 3s might have been advantageously expended in further repairs.

Richard Carman, Middle District, he charges expended on roads, £100 16 3

Paid George Johnston former Commissioner's account of an order of Session, 1 12 6

Paid Constables and Justices fees against persons prosecuted for assessment 11 12 9

For his services as Commissioner, 20 0 0

£144 1 6

He credits commutation fines, £162 10 0

Sales of rubbish off the roads, 4 3 9

166 13 9

Thereby making the balance due by him appear to be £22 12 3

The Grand Jury in 1855 fixed the balance due George Johnston the preceding Commissioner at £20 6 11, directing the same to be paid him, and the Justices in Session passed an order confirming the presentment of the Grand Jury, and ordered that the Commissioner for 1855 pay this amount. Mr Carman has had and now has sufficient funds to have paid this amount, and no explanation is given why he has only paid Mr Johnston 32s 6d and retained so much public money in his own hands; with reference to the above charge of £11 12 9, it appears strange that while this large sum is charged for costs, nothing is credited as received in any instance than the amount payable without suit. This must be wrong, more especially as the return shows there were no defaulters. The next extraordinary charge of the sum of £30 is altogether illegal. The Commissioner is by law only exempt from his own statute labour and cannot be paid for his trouble and time—further, and even if he could this is a most extravagant charge for the duty performed being more than one fourth of the whole amount expended.—The amount collected appears small likewise as under the new law; the road assessment for the middle district of Chatham ought to have had more than a hundred pounds expended.—In parishes where a large amount is collected, partly from transient persons such as Chatham and Newcastle, it would be well if the law would allow a small sum to pay the expense of collecting, but under the present law it cannot be allowed; a small charge has in some instances been made by former commissioners of this district but never allowed. A copy of a resolution passed at the parish meeting in Chatham, on the 1st January, 1856, that Richard Carman was entitled to £20 for the year 1855, has been laid before the Grand Jury. This resolution cannot alter the law or entitle him to retain any amount for his services.—The law must first be altered by the Legislature. The balance should therefore stand thus:—

Balance due acknowledged as per account rendered, £22 12 3

This sum charged as Justices' and Constables' fees, 11 12 9

This sum over charged, 30 0 0

£4 0 0

Making the balance due by commissioner which he ought immediately to be ordered to pay to the order of Sessions, £4 5 0

OVERSEERS OF POOR.

W. J. Fraser, Hugh Bain, J. Devereaux, they charge for support of two paupers omitted in account of 1854, £26 5 0

Paid W. Muirhead for support of papers from closing of last year's account to acceptance of tenders, £29 11 5

Expended this year per account for paupers, 736 6 9

Paid Dr. Benson's account per contract for 1854 omitted, 7 10 0

Amount for support of paupers until a new tender is taken and to be accounted for, 25 0 0

£815 13 2

They credit fines received from Justices, £5 11 5

Received for a stove sold, 2 0 0

Received on account of expenses of funeral of a pauper, 5 0 0

Balance collection of dog tax, 1854, 0 4 0

£12 15 5

Making amount to be assessed for £802 17 9
An item of 21s in Mr Muirhead's account as cash paid Mrs Fitzpatrick, is not explained for what expended, otherwise the account is satisfactory and amounts vouched. The tender to supply their parish with provisions and other necessaries for paupers was taken at a lower rate than in any other parish in the County and has been most satisfactorily fulfilled. From the large amount, however, that has been expended, it is most desirable and necessary that some plan be adopted by the overseers henceforth to reduce the expenditure, either by finding paupers work or otherwise as may seem best. One of the most important courses that could be taken by the overseers would be the inserting in the local newspaper weekly or at least monthly, the names of and amount supplied to each pauper. By this plan some existing evils might be avoided, and the public