

POETRY.

A GEM FOR EVERY MONTH.

JANUARY - By her who in this month is born...

FEBRUARY - The February-born will find Sincerity and peace of mind...

MARCH - Who on this world of ours their eyes In March first open, shall be wise...

APRIL - She who from April dates her years Diamonds should wear, lest bitter tears...

MAY - Who first beholds the light of day In spring's sweet flowery month of May...

JUNE - Who comes with summer to this earth, And owes to June her day of birth...

JULY - The glowing Ruby should adorn Those who in warm July are born...

AUGUST - Wear a Sarcophagus, or for thee No conjugal fidelity...

SEPTEMBER - A maiden born when autumn leaves Are rustling in September's breeze...

OCTOBER - October's child is born for woe, And life's vicissitudes must know...

NOVEMBER - Who first comes to this world below With dread November's fog and snow...

DECEMBER - If cold December give you birth - The month of snow and ice and mirth...

SELECT STORY.

THE ABSENT COUSIN.

A Life-Sketch.

BY SYLVANUS COBB, JR.

"But, Bella, if he should come home full of health and vigor, and as true and kind of heart as he was when he went away, you wouldn't let him stay in the way of your marriage, would you?"

"You talk, Ida, as though I was solemnly betrothed to him?" "No, no, not that, dear Bella; but you know it was the dearest wish of your mother that you should grow to womanhood and become Philip's wife."

"Oh! bother! what does that amount to?" "It would amount to much to me, Bella. A revenge for my mother's memory..."

"You mother's fiddlestick! Miss Trevor! You were in love with Philip Trevor yourself! And I tell you plainly, Ida, if he comes home with one cent less than a hundred thousand you may have him in welcome..."

"O! Bella! you do not mean that. I did love Philip, but never with a thought of marrying him. We were but children at the time. I was only twelve years old, and in short frocks; and Phil was a great, stout, handsome young man of sixteen..."

"And I was fourteen! Quite a marriageable age, wasn't it?" "You were certainly old enough to know whether you liked a youth like Philip Trevor or not..."

"Well, I didn't care that for him!" (A snap of the finger and thumb, and a pounce). "Still I might have arrived at that stage where a good bank account would have turned the scale..."

"Bella! Don't let aunt Martha hear you talk like that. She regards Philip as her own flesh and blood; and though he has been gone eight years, she thinks of him continually, and is now counting the hours until his home-coming..."

"A fig for aunt Martha, and a fig for your preaching! Wait till the hero comes. I shall claim the right of first choice. If he comes I shall take him. Should he be worth less than - well, say a hundred thousand - you may have him in welcome..."

"Come home rich, Philip, and I'll be your wife." And then he looked for Ida. Where was she? Ah! He found her at length out in the little orchard, sitting under a pear tree, crying bitterly...

"May God and all good angels bless you, Philip, and bring you back safe and well." And then he had gone. They had heard from him many times - most of his letters, however, had been to aunt Martha - but never a word of what he was doing, or how. At one time he would be here; at another there; and at still another somewhere else...

Finally, he wrote from Pike's Peak, the scene of eternal snow; and from that time all his letters had been written within sight of that wintry summit. His last letter, received by aunt Martha only the day previous to that on which we find the girls in the garden arbor, he said that he should very soon start for the old home. He had written that he was well, and that he had worked hard; but not a word - not a syllable - about whether he was rich or poor...

One word more in relation to these two girls. Bella Mason had lived with aunt Martha ever since her mother's death, and the only labor she performed was to help "the dear old soul" - that was her aunt - about her lighter house-work. She scarcely ever worked in the kitchen. In fact, she could be scarcely classed as a worker in anything. She was a lady.

Aunt Martha had offered her sister's child - Ida Snelling - a home beneath her roof; but the pure-minded, noble-hearted, truly proud girl would not take it. She had received a splendid education, and she made it support her. She had been assistant teacher in an intermediate school in a neighboring town since her mother's death - her father had died several years before her mother - and she spent her vacations and holidays always with her dear aunt. She loved aunt Martha - loved her with all her heart and all her soul, and she was never so happy as when her two arms were around the dear one's neck, and her sunny head pillowed on the faithful bosom...

It was a laborer in the garden to whom Bella had spoken so roughly and so unkindly; a young man, poorly clad, and evidently one of the waifs of the wide world. His brown face had a sad, pained look; and Ida had at once felt interested in him. She had thought if his skin had not been so coarse and freckled, and his hair so intensely red and thick, he would have been really handsome. He had good features; and his eyes, when she chanced to gain a fair look into them, were wonderfully deep and beautiful. Surely a man with such eyes must be intelligent.

"Fair lady," he said, in a low, struggling voice, with a touch of the outlandish in his idiom, "I am a poor man, as you can see. The gardener on the place hired me. I was not listening. My work called me here..."

"There! That's enough. I don't want to hear any more. Take yourself out of my sight!" "Oh! Bella! - Hush! I hush!" "Ida, I'm surprised at you. Would you take the part of every ragamuffin that happened along when he isn't wanted, listening to what his betters are?"

"What! Aint he gone yet?" "What are you stopping here for? Didn't I tell you to go?" "But the gardener bade me to stay. Whom shall I obey?" "Clear out! and don't let me see your ugly face again."

The man bowed very low, looking squarely into Bella's face, and then, having shot a glance at Ida that thrilled her through and through, he shouldered his hoe and rick, and turned back. "Mind! and come back!" called Bella after him. She walked that simply because she was angry with herself; and perhaps the man's coolness had nettled her.

"Good riddance!" she snapped out, after he had gone. "I wonder what possessed old Hodges to hire such a fellow! I should be frightened to see him, but you say you are thinking of? Have I frightened you?"

The younger girl started, as from a dream, and returned her cousin's look. "No," she said, after a little thought. "You frightened me, but you hurt me - you pained me. Bella, you - you ought not to have done it. He will tell Hodges, and Hodges will tell aunt Martha; and you know how good old heart will ache!"

"O! what! - Why? If there isn't the racial again, right behind us. He's been and doubled on his track, and come back! O! if I had a whip I'd see how long he'd stay on these grounds!" And with that Bella Mason sprang to her feet, and with her hand on the arbor; but the offender had gone. He was just passing out by the turn-stile at the corner of the house...

The girls moved on towards the house without speaking. Bella was angry with herself and with Ida; and the thought that her aunt would certainly blame her if she knew how she had been behaving, made her almost angry with her, also. The kind-hearted old lady had striven hard to soften her manners, and especially to moderate her speech towards those below her in the walks of life, with what success we can readily imagine...

As they came near the dwelling - a pretty white cottage, with a veranda along its whole front and at one end - what should they see but the red-headed laboring man conversing with aunt Martha! The two stood near the steps of the front veranda, before the main entrance; but the man went away immediately after they had come in sight.

"Do you suppose he has been and told aunt what I said to him?" "I don't believe he has done any such thing, Bella. He did not look like a tattler..."

mine matters, neither. I think he understood me." And then he looked for Ida. Where was she? Ah! He found her at length out in the little orchard, sitting under a pear tree, crying bitterly...

"Good riddance, say I!" cried the irate girl, spitefully; and with that she turned and stamped her way out of the room. "Oh! I am so sorry, I am so sorry! I could have cried with a good relish when I saw the poor man turn away. He was not listening. I do not like to dispute with Bella, but right is right; and I will not lend myself to the wrong, even my silence. The man was quietly at work, but Bella had been speaking loudly, and very, very foolishly, and when she saw that he must have overheard she was angry - more angry with herself, probably, than with anybody else..."

"Dear child," whispered the old lady, drawing the fair young head to her bosom, and winding her arms closely around the plump, healthful form, yet petite - "my heart's darling - I am glad you were kind to him..."

"Oh! how could I help it, aunt? In the first place, there was something in the man's face that commanded my respect; and in the next place, as you know, I always strive to make better and brighter the lot of those in misfortune; and that he has been unfortunate he looks plainly showed..."

Aunt Martha assented with a kiss, and then the subject was dropped. During the remainder of that day, and into the evening - through the evening - Bella scarcely opened her lips to speak. If she did so, it was with a snap and a snarl. But two days later the sun shone forth. Philip Trevor had arrived in Philadelphia from Washington, where he had been to exchange certain certificates of deposit with the government agency in Colorado for U. S. bonds; and a man who ought to know had said that he was worth some where about half a million, certainly as much as that. A clerk employed in the treasury department, at a nation's capital, had written home to his brother. To his knowledge Philip Trevor had bought five hundred thousand dollars' face value of four per cent registered bonds...

Bella was in high spirits, and she looked for her most becoming dress, and got Ida to fix her hair in the most bewitching manner. As for Ida herself, her summer vacation was almost at an end; but aunt Martha would not let her go until Philip had come.

And Philip came. A heavy travelling carriage drew up at the door, and he - or somebody - entered the house. The girls came down from Bella's room, where they had been waiting, and found aunt Martha in the arms of a strong young man - a man splendidly dressed, with the form of an Apollo. He returned as they entered and came towards them with a warm, kindly and loving smile. It was to Ida he first offered his hand. O! what a handsome man he was! His hair was glossy brown and curling, his skin somewhat dark from exposure, but as soft and clear as a woman's. And yet they knew him! The absence of the red wig, with its coarse tangle lying low on his expansive brow, and the waving away of the unsexually freckles, and the exchange of clothing, could not hide from them the poor man with the hoe and the rick, whom they had met in the garden...

Bella gave one long, searching look, and as she met the pained, reproaching glance of those elegant gray eyes, she sank into a chair, bursting forth as she did so: "O! aunt Martha! You knew! You knew! O! how could you?" "Bella!" replied the old lady, in sorrow and sadness, "I did know; but I was not at liberty to tell it. It is the dear boy's own wish - his own plan; and he bade me be silent. Surely, he had every right to employ so simple and innocent a test, where happiness of a lifetime was involved. If it has resulted unfortunately to you, I am very sorry, but your own good sense will tell you where to lay the blame..."

While aunt Martha had been thus speaking, Philip had advanced to Ida, and then taken her hand. "Ida, do you mind the parting words you spoke when I went away?" "Yes," she answered, in a whisper, trembling from head to foot. "Well, God and the good angels have blessed me, darling; and I have come back safe and well. Will you add to your crowning blessing by giving me this dear hand for my own? Your heart is already mine, I am sure; as mine has been yours longer than I can tell."

"Alas! poor Bella! For a time she would not forgive them for the wrong she felt they had done her. She even went so far as to declare that Ida had been in the plot from the first. But in time she softened, and came down from her isolation of indignation. She found that she also suffered. And when Philip and Ida were married, and she was one of the bridesmaids, and heartily, and - let us hope - lovingly, kissed both groom and bride..."

THE CHURCH AND THE PEWS. [Toronto Globe.] The lamentable scene which occurred in the church of the Ascension at Hamilton on Thursday night, when members of the congregation stopped the services because they considered them too "high," goes to show that the pew is no longer merely receptacles of doctrine, but are becoming the censurers and judges of it by virtue of their contributions to the support of the pulpit. It is highly desirable, however, that they should adopt some other way of expressing dissent than creating a hubbub in the house of God. Last Sunday in the Baptist church at Sangerites, N. Y., a preacher was very roughly handled. "When the bell stopped tolling," says the reporter, "Mr. Boyce rose and gave out hymn No. 66. Then, with a steady voice, he read two stanzas and stopped; but the volume of song was not forthcoming for the organ played not. Nothing daunted, the clergyman lifted his book and sang the hymn through alone, the congregation remaining silent. The hymn finished, the pastor took up the bible and commenced to read therefrom, but he had hardly finished a verse when trustee Robt. Worthington ran up the aisle, mounted the steps and snatched the bible from the minister's hands. Not content with that, he seized Rev. Mr. Boyce by the arm and dragged him from the pulpit and in order to bring the scene to an end began to pronounce the benediction, which the congregation needed badly; but "Mr. Worthington again jumped upon the platform and again dragged the pastor down." The congregation then dispersed. Mr. Boyce was engaged for a year, but it seems that one of the trustees, not the blackguard Worthington, wishes to get him out of the church in order to secure the position for a son-in-law, whilst other leading members of the flock fancy that Mr. Boyce is "too old-fashioned on certain points of doctrine." Neither the Sangerites people nor the Hamilton worshippers appear to be in the least bit provoked, or mildly, of such conduct or the evil effect to follow the religion which they profess to follow...

Every traveler should have Johnson's Anodyne Linctant in their satchel. Safe and reliable.

TRADING WIVES.

A Curious Case and a Russian Solomon's Decision.

A curious instance of trading with wives is reported in the newspaper Kavkaz of Tiflis. In the village of Zadroha a peasant by the name of Gosein married a good-looking young woman. A few weeks later his neighbor, Kerimoff, offered to buy his wife from him. He was satisfied to sell her for cost price if Kerimoff would pay him 150 roubles which he had spent on his wedding. The bargain was made. Gosein signed a paper renouncing all his rights on the woman, and Kerimoff took her to his home. Two weeks later the woman disappeared from her new home. A search was instituted, and she was found in the village of Karadjaly, living with a man named Abdaly-Effendy-Ogly, who had been her suitor before she was married to Gosein. Poor Kerimoff, deprived of his wife and of the 150 roubles he had paid for her, was in despair. He applied to the administrative authorities and to the clergy, but neither could help him. At last he sued Abdaly-Effendy for the sum of 150 roubles which he had paid for his wife. The latter appeared before the justice and pleaded that she had neither robbed nor stolen the woman. She had come to him of her own accord, and was at liberty to go wherever she chose. The justice dismissed the defendant and advised the plaintiff to sue the woman herself. She in turn appeared before the court pleading that she had never received any money from Kerimoff and owed him nothing; she was not responsible for the money he had paid to Gosein. Finally Gosein, her first husband, was sued. All the three husbands of the woman, the Tartar, the Moslem, and the Slav came to court; the Slav, Kerimoff, as plaintiff, the Tartar, Gosein, as defendant, and the Moslem, Abduly Effendy, as the one who had the woman in his possession. After much talking and arguing on either side the justice rendered the following Solomonic decision: "Gosein has purchased a right on the woman for the sum of money he had spent on his wedding. The latter is consequently entitled to the possession of the woman. But since Abduly-Effendy is now the actual owner of the woman, he must return to Kerimoff the sum he had expended on the article of trade." "Probatum est," says the paper in which this case is reported, "The woman is estimated as an article of trade, but the fee will which she exercises as a human being may be the cause of trouble and litigations which her purchasers take into the bargain at their own risk."

HOW HE SWORE OFF. As strange as it may seem there was once a judge of the district court of San Bernardino county, California, who proved of liquor and wine drinking, and lost no opportunity in sternly holding up to public gaze all persons who had committed crimes or misdemeanors while under the influence of strong drink. There lived in that town a man who was a play man set upon the bench a good many men who looked upon the wine when it was good and red and who often frolicked with John Barleycorn until they got the worst of it. There was one young man in particular, who belonged to a good family, who was wont to paint San Bernardino scarlet when funds were not too low. This youth entered his honor's study one day and exclaimed: "Judge, I'm going to swear off and I want you to..."

"All right, all right; I know - I know! I'll make out the papers and fix you up. It won't take ten minutes." And tickled nearly to death the Judge made out a satisfactory document, the young man quickly signed to it, and then swore never again to drink anything intoxicating. Then he asked: "How much do I owe you, Judge?" "Owe me! I owe you nothing, my dear boy, I will never see you again, and I'm going to pay you..."

"Now, see here, Judge, that won't do. I have taken up your time and I'm going to pay you." "Never!" "Well, you are the best man I ever saw!" "That's all right." "And that's all right." "I will not permit to demonstrate my thankfulness in some way."

"No, no, no!" "Yes, yes, yes! I'll tell you what I'll do, Judge." "What?" "Let's go and have a drink!"

HOT WATER CURES. There are but few cases of illness where water should not occupy the highest place as a medical agent. A strip of flannel or a napkin wrung out of hot water and applied around the neck of a child that has a croup, will usually bring relief in ten minutes. A towel folded several times and quickly wrung out of hot water, and applied quickly to the neck of a headache or neuralgia, will generally afford prompt relief. The treatment in colic works like magic. We have known cases that have resisted other treatment for hours yield to this in ten minutes. There is nothing that will so promptly soothe throat or inflammation as hot water when applied promptly and thoroughly. Pieces of cotton batting dipped in hot water and kept applied to sores and new cuts, bruises and sprains is the treatment adopted in many hospitals. Sprained ankles have been cured in an hour by showering with hot water, poured from the height of a few feet.

A ST. JOHN ROMANCE. Met at the Dufferin About Christmas, Marred in May. Among the arrivals at the Dufferin hotel, St. John, last week, were Wm. R. Stewart, Buckingham, Quebec, and Mary A. Westaway, Georgetown, P. E. I. A little further down appeared the entry, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. R. Stewart. On enquiry it was found that Mr. Stewart and Miss Westaway had met accidentally in the Dufferin about Christmas. They had met before but it took only a few minutes to discover that they had met their destiny. They parted on the day they met, and came together the second time in the Dufferin last week. Half an hour sufficed to arrange details and a visit to Rev. W. O. Raymond followed. The happy couple are the centre of interest at the hotel.

"HOW TO CURE ALL SKIN DISEASES." Simply apply "SWAYNE'S OINTMENT." No internal medicine required. Cures tetter, eczema, itch, eruptions on the face, hand, nose, etc., leaving the skin clear, white and healthy. Its great healing and curative powers are possessed by no other remedy. Ask your druggist for SWAYNE'S OINTMENT.

TROOPS BEING SENT OUT.

Another Boer War About to be Inaugurated by Great Britain.

Replying to a question in the house of commons, London, in regard to the reported Boer "trek" being prepared for the invasion of Mashonaland, Manicaland and other South African territory, for the purpose of establishing the so-called republic of the North, hon. Edward Staudhoppe, secretary of war, intimated that troops were being sent to British Bechuanaland in order to oppose the proposed Boer "trek." Recent advice state that 20,000 well armed Boers propose to cross the Limpopo in June and proclaim the republic of the north. The leaders of the "trek" included men of position from both the Free States and Cape Colony and all the steps taken are said to have met with the approval of the famous Afrikaner band, recently in session at Kimberley. The Boer movement is a South African movement in the direction of northward expansion and is bound to conflict with the claims of the British chartered company, to say nothing of the claims of the Portuguese South African company. One of the objects of the raid is said to be the replacement of the chartered company by a popular movement free from the imperious government's control. There is a strong feeling against the company and against imperial control in South Africa. The leaders of the "trek," however, say little or nothing about the chartered company, claiming to base their proceedings on concessions granted long before the chartered company existed. The new republic will be founded on the constitutional laws of the South American republic and is expected to attract men of high character and ability from all parts of South America. Another "little war" in South Africa seems to be threatened. It will require many more British troops than are now available to cope with the 20,000 Boers, who are dead shots and capable of suffering the most severe hardships without complaint.

CANADIAN BARLEY. Russians Annihilated by the High Tariff. The United States senate committee on trade relations with Canada met in the Merchants' Exchange, Buffalo, N. Y. John B. Manning, ex-mayor, was the first witness. He said he had been in the barley business for many years. He asserted that reciprocity would benefit the people of this country as well as Canadians. He pointed out that in Buffalo \$100,000.00 is invested in the malting interests. He showed "that Canadian barley is the best for malting that is grown on this continent, and should be admitted into this country under favorable conditions. He said, as a result of the high tariff, our Canadian barley business is annihilated, and that fifteen cents duty was high enough. He thought 3,000,000 bushels less was in New York State than at this time last year. He then explained why American barley was inferior to Canadian. He thought the new duty would not tend to increase the production in this state. 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