

## Poetry.

## LINES.

IN MEMORY OF THE LATE MRS. GEORGE HUNTER OF SCOTCH TOWN, GRAND LAKES, QUEEN'S COUNTY.

He gives his beloved sleep.

Oh, you thus to sleep in the Lord,  
Earth's sorrowful wakings all o'er,  
Instead of the armor, to wear the white robe,  
And to rest eternally—eternally.

To fall in great weakness asleep,  
In the likeness of Christ to awake;  
To kneel at his feet and to look in his face,  
Who laid down his life for our sake.

Reward of the faithful; at last  
To receive the wondrous, "white stone,"  
And to find the jewels of life's death  
Had washed to the foot of the throne.

Why weep you over the casket,  
The spirit has flown to its rest;  
And her voice with the harp of her loved ones,  
Sweetly warbling the songs of the blest.

Then why weep over the casket?  
Ah, nature must weep, must weep;  
Nor sorrow nor tears can disturb her repose  
He gives his beloved ones sleep,  
Douglas Harper, March 13, 1878.

## The Fireside.

## MY FIRST SWIM.

If I were to live my life over again, I would certainly learn to swim in boyhood. But I should ask advice of my elders before taking my first lesson. Almost every boy desires to practice this manly art, which may be of service in some emergency of danger. But boys who have loving fathers and mothers often find that their first splash in the river or the mill-pond is made against the protest, if not against the commands, of their parents. No one can greatly blame parents for being frightened at the idea of their boys incurring the risk of drowning; nor, on the other hand, do I wholly blame the boys for thinking themselves able to take care of themselves while in the water.

I think the fault lies with both parents and boys. Manly boys always desire to learn to swim. Such a desire on their part is neither absurd nor rash. Parents ought to aid in gratifying it, either by setting themselves as teachers, or by securing them proper instruction and guardianship.

As I was once standing on the shore of that beautiful Lake Como, my attention was called to a French young man, who, with two sons, both quite young, was in a boat anchored out a little distance.

The gentlemen removed all his clothes with the exception of a light bathing suit which he wore under them, disrobed his boys and then leaped into the water. The boys were told to follow.

The father was an excellent swimmer. The boys had never before been in deep water. The father instructed first one and then the other. I watched them for nearly half an hour, bold and cautious at first, but steadily striding out bolder and bolder, until length they seemed to have the knack of the art, and were lifted into the boat.

I ventured to say to the nobleman, as he landed, that his boys were very young to learn to swim.

"None too young," he replied. "This is their first trial and they do well. They will do better as they grow older. I go with them, for boys should be taught and not permitted to run alone. That's bad, very bad!" He declared that when he was a boy he knew how to swim, ought to follow his example.

This incident recalled my first experience in the water. When I was ten years of age, I attended a district school, and one of my mates was Frank Judson. The school was some distance from our house, and the noon recess only an hour long. I was, therefore, in the habit of "taking" my dinner, as the phrase was, and Frank did the same. We used to open our baskets and share luncheons under the shadow of an old butternut tree standing in one corner of the yard.

You would have laughed, I think, to have seen us lunching together, our feet keeping time with our jaws, and our tongues running ahead of our thoughts. Glorious days they were of ham sandwiches and plum-pudding! No wine that was ever poured from a glass, had half of the richness and cooling flavor of the tincture of water that closed our repast.

One day in June we were lunching under the shade tree, when Frank suddenly said,—"Let's go over to the creek after school. The water must be just warm enough for swimming."

"I can't swim," I answered, "but I'm sure I could learn."

"Of course you can learn. It's the easiest thing in the world. You've only to strike out this way and that way, and keep your head up, and don't get frightened, and—"

"I know that, but—"

"I don't dare to try. Father has always said that I mustn't go into the water, and I should 'catch it' if I knew that I had disobeyed him."

"But if you're ever going to learn, it's time to begin. I learned to swim two years ago. Anyhow, if you don't go I'll ask somebody else."

I liked Frank very much, and was a little jealous of his company. The thought of his asking some other boy made me more eager to go with him. "Is Duck Creek very deep?" I asked.

"No; though its depth enough to drown a fellow if he isn't careful. Come, won't you go?"

"I don't know."

The bell rang just then, and we went into the school-room.

Through the whole afternoon, the desire to learn to swim possessed my mind, and when Frank and I were together again, I said, "I would like to learn from the opposite bank."

"When you can only learn in shallow water. You can learn to swim in great deal better in deep water. Why, you'll touch bottom from the first thing and wouldn't have the courage to get off your feet."

"But I shall sink if I jump over my feet."

"Of course you will. But you must take a full breath before you leap, and keep your mouth shut; then you'll come up again quick enough. Feel the use for you to use your hands and feet. Like this, you know."

"It will be easy enough when you get the hang of it."

Persuaded by Frank's words, and following his advice, I took a full breath, and followed him into the water. Keeping my mouth shut, I swam a second after touching bottom. I was on the surface.

"Now strike out!" cried Frank. "Don't splash, don't splutter! So there, that's it—go ahead!"

"When I'm happy! A live fish could have been more so. It was a success. I had learned the secret of the art of the first trial!"

But the end was not yet. My friend was a little ahead of me, and I was half the distance from the rocky shore from which we had dived. Suddenly I felt a sharp pain in my left side. It crept up to my

shoulder, and instantly my arms seemed paralyzed. Was this the cramp of which I had heard?

I tried out for help, feeling sure that I was going down. My feet almost touched bottom. Every time I tried to shout, the water rushed into my mouth.

I knew not what took place after this. But when I came to my senses, I was lying on the bank of the creek with my head thrown back, and Frank and an old German were bending over me.

The danger was over; I was saved; but I was very sick, and my head throbed as if it would burst.

I rode home after having been put on my clothes, my companion going with me. I felt better when I had been in my room a little while, and then I bathed my face and brushed my hair, so that I might appear as usual at the table.

No one in the house knew of the danger I had been in, and I intended it should remain a secret; but as we were rising from the table, my father, a quiet man, who always took things in a quiet way, remarked to me—

"And so you've been trying the water to-day. How did it suit you?"

I did not say a word in his face, for I read anger as well as grief in his voice. To my guilt I added insolence, by saying—

"Who told you I'd been in the water?"

"Whom do you suppose?" was the stern response. I knew who it was, and determined he should suffer for it. I had a whipping that night, and such a whipping! I shall never forget it.

When I went to bed, I did not know whom I loaded the most, my generous father, or my open-mouthed schoolmate. Such a scene.

The next day, before the school-hour, I gave Frank a piece of my mind. I was younger than he, but stronger, and offered to fight him at any time he named.

I called him man, told him that he had no business to tell my father, and that, in return for his tattling, I would as soon keep company with a viper as him.

"Perhaps if you realized you saved your life, you wouldn't talk in this way, and this is all the thanks I get for it. Very well, I neither want your friendship nor your company."

We went into the school-room and came out of it, day after day, till the school vacation came, when each of us strapped up our books, and said good-by all round. At the broad gate, Frank and I met by chance. One of our schoolmates had "made up," but the other was still stubborn.

I had not the manliness, to look to him, "Let's be friends again!"

We passed out of the yard, looked each other in the face, and parted for the last time. The parting was soon forgotten. Vacation days are happy days for school-boys. One morning the newspapers brought the tidings of an awful disaster on Lake Michigan.

The steamer "Lac la Poudre" had burned to the water's edge, while on her way to Chicago and a large number of lives had been lost.

Later papers confirmed the sad intelligence, and gave fuller details. They told how many of the passengers perished, either by drowning or being burnt alive; of the marvellous escapes, and of the heroic conduct, both of the lost and saved.

Sad was the catastrophe, far sadder to me was the conduct of a youth named Frank Judson, who perished in the attempt to save a lady passenger. Young men from Michigan, and both were, unfortunately, among the victims of the disaster."

My schoolmate had perished nobly, and no sadder rumor than that I. You will believe me when I tell you that I have never ceased to regret that I did not clasp his hand in the school-house yard, and say, "Come, let us be friends!"—Yours S. E. COMPANION.

## ADDRESS.

DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS.—On Thursday evening the 7th April a large delegation of the members of Oxford Lodge of the United Temperance Association, together with a number of friends of Thos. W. Smith, Esq., of Upper Gagetown, met at his house for the purpose of taking leave of him and his family, and of the eve of their departure for the United States.

After spending a pleasant hour or so in friendly conversation, Thos. W. Smith, Esq., was called to the Chair, who briefly explained the object of the meeting, after which the following address was presented by J. W. Travis, Esq., on behalf of Oxford Lodge:

DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS.—It is with feelings of deep and unfeigned sorrow, that we, as representatives of Oxford Lodge of the United Temperance Association, visit you this evening for the purpose of bidding you "Good-bye" and wishing you "God-speed" in your journey to the land of your birth, the home in which your lives have been spent; and the community in which you have ever been the objects of universal and unqualified respect and esteem.

For the land of your birth, the home in which your lives have been spent; and the community in which you have ever been the objects of universal and unqualified respect and esteem.

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## PUZZLE DEPARTMENT.

EDITED BY ELIZABETH, OF B. BOX 3212, BOSTON, MASS.

Contributions and answers respectfully solicited.

290.—BIBLICAL ENIGMA.  
My 1, 2, 3, 4 often occur.  
My 2, 3, 4 is a girl's name.  
My 3, 4 is a nickname.  
My whole is referred to in the 10th chapter of the book of Exodus.

291.—STAR DIAMOND.  
A consonant; a pronoun; a kind of grain; to take food; a consonant.  
292.—DROPT LETTER FROM THE BIBLE.  
A consonant; a pronoun; a kind of grain; to take food; a consonant.

293.—CROSS-WORD ENIGMA.  
My first is in prison, but not in flogging;  
My second is in a row, but not in a line;  
My third is in a row, but not in a line;  
My fourth is in a row, but not in a line;  
My fifth is in a row, but not in a line;  
My whole is a garden flower.

294.—CHARADE.  
My first is an animal—no more the same;  
My third does half an even compass;  
My fourth is what is done without shame;  
My whole doth to many great lives give cause.  
Lower Quenbury.

295.—POETICAL PUZZLE.  
Ann's life is a life of glory;  
Her life is a life of glory;  
Her life is a life of glory;  
Her life is a life of glory;  
Her life is a life of glory;  
Her life is a life of glory.

296.—WORD SQUARE.  
Lacy, an aquatic bird; a knot; a bird.  
Lophog, never, ranging, Gusto.  
Johnston.

297.—LOGOGRIFF.  
Behold a spire, and have kind; change head, and have a bird; change again, and have to wander.  
Monoton.

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## FITS! FITS! FITS! FITS!

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Persons suffering from this distressing malady, who have been referred to in the 10th chapter of the book of Exodus, will find relief by taking FITS!

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