Poetry.

From the Crusader.

GUARD THINE ACTION.

When you meet with one suspected
Of some secret deed of shame,
And for this by all rejected
As a thing of evil fame—
Guard thine every look and action—
Speak no heartless word of blame;
For the slanderer's vile detraction
Yet may soil thy goodly name.

When you meet a brow that's awing
With its wrinkled lines of gloom,
And a haughty step that's drawing
To a solitary tomb—
Guard thine action; some great sorrow
Made that man a spectre grim,
And the sunset of to-morrow
May have left thee like to him.

When you meet with one pursuing
Paths the lost have entered in,
Working out his own undoing
With his recklessness and sin—
Think, if placed in his condition,
Would a kind word be in vain!
Or a look of cold suspicion
Win thee back to truth again?

There are spots that bear no flowers,
Not because the soil is bad,
But that summer's gentle showers
Never made their bosom's glad;
Better have an act that's kindly
Treated sometimes with disdain,
Than by judging others blindly
Doom the innocent to pain.

From the Independent.

The Pearl of Orr's Island:

A STORY OF THE COAST OF MAINE.

BY MRS. HARRIET BEECHER STOWE.

CHAPTER XIV.

June and July passed, and the lonely two lived a quiet life in the brown house. Everything was so still and fair—no sound but the coming and going tide, and the swaying wind among the pine-trees, and the tick of the clock, and the whir of the little wheel as Mrs. Pennel sat spinning in her door in the mild weather.

Mara read the Roman history through again, and began it a third time, and read over and over again the stories and prophecies that pleased her in the Bible, and pondered on the wood-cuts and texts in a very old edition of Æsop's Fables, and as she wandered in the woods, picking fragrant bayberries and gathering hemlock, checkberry, and sassafras to put in the beer which her grandmother brewed, she mused on the things that she read till her little mind became a tabernacle of solemn, quaint, dreamy forms—where old Judean kings and prophets and Roman senators and warriors marched in an out in shadowy rounds. She invented long dramas and conversations in which they performed imaginary parts, and it would not have appeared to the child in the least degree surprising either to have met an angel in the woods or to have formed an intimacy with some talking wolf or bear, such as she read of in Æsop's Fables.

One day, as she was exploring the garret, she found in an old barrel of cast-off rubbish a bit of reading which she begged of her grandmother for her own.

It was the play of the Tempest, torn from an old edition of Shakespeare, and was in that delightfully fragmentary condition which most particularly pleases children, because they conceive a mutilated treasure thus found to be more especially their own property—something like a rare wild-flower or sea-shell. The pleasure which thoughtful and imaginative children sometimes take in reading that which they do not and cannot fully comprehend, is one of the most common and curious phenomena of childhood.

And so little Mara would lie for hours stretched out on the white, fine sand beach, with the broad open ocean before her and the whispering pines and hemlocks behind her, and pore over this poem, from which she collected dim, delightful images of a lonely island an old enchanter, a beautiful girl, and a spirit not quite like those of the Bible, but a very probable one to her mode of thinking.

As for old Caliban, she fancied him with a face much like that of a huge skate-fish she had once seen drawn ashore in one of her grandfather's nets,—and then there was the beautiful young Prince Ferdinand, much like what Moses would be when he was grown up—and how glad she would be to pile up his wood for him if any old enchanter should set him to work!

One attribute of the child was a peculiar shame-facedness and shyness about her inner thoughts, and therefore the wonder that this new treasure excited, the host of surmises and dreams to which it gave rise, were never mentioned to anybody. That it was all of it as much authentic fact as the Roman history, she did not doubt, but whether it had happened on Orr's Island or some of the neighboring ones she had not exactly made up her mind.

She resolved at her earliest leisure to consult Captain Kittridge on the subject, wisely considering that it much resembled some of his fishy and aquatic experiences.

Some of the little songs fixed themselves in her memory, and she would hum them as she wandered up and down the beach.

"Come unto these yellow sands
And then take hands,
Courtesied when you have and kissed,
(The wild waves wist,)
Foot it featly here and there,
And sweet sprites the burden bear."

And another which pleased her still more:

"Full fathoms five thy father lies,
Of his bones are coral made,
Those are pearls that were his eyes:
Nothing of him that can fade
But doth suffer a sea change
Into something rich and strange;
Sea-nymphs hourly ring his knell—
Hark, I hear them—ding, dong, bell."

These words she pondered very long, gravely revolving in her little head whether they described the usual course of things in the mysterious underworld that lay beneath that blue spangled floor of the sea—whether everybody's eyes changed to pearl and their bones to coral if they sunk down there—and whether the sea-nymphs spoken of were the same as the mermaids that Captain Kittridge had told of. Had he not said that the bell rung for church of a Sunday morning down under the waters?

Mara vividly remembered the scene on the sea-beach, the finding of little Moses and his mother, the dream of the pale lady that seemed to bring him to her; and not one of the conversations that had transpired before her among the different gossips had been lost on her quiet, listening little ears. These pale still children that play without making any noise, are deep wells into which drop many things which lie long and quietly on the bottom, and come up in after years whole and new, when everybody else has forgotten them.

So she had heard surmises as to the remaining crew of that unfortunate ship—where perhaps Moses had a father. And sometimes she wondered if *he* were lying fathoms deep with sea-nymphs ringing his knell, and whether Moses ever thought about him; and yet she could no more have asked him a question about it than if she had been born dumb. She decided that she should never show him this poetry—it might make him feel unhappy.

One bright afternoon when the sea lay all dead asleep, and the long steady respiration of its tides scarcely disturbed the glassy tranquility of the bay, Mrs. Pennel sat at her kitchen-door spinning, when Captain Kittridge appeared.

"Good afternoon, Miss' Pennel, how ye gettin' along?"

"Quite well, Captain, won't you walk in and have a pleasant hour?"

"Don't mind if I do, thank you," said the Captain, raising his hat and wiping his forehead. "I be pretty dry for a fact."

Mara had listened to a talk which was here and there interlarded with a few remarks of her own, and drawn from it the conclusion that Captain Kittridge was the very person to consult about her discovery. She had noticed that he was a man of few words, and that he had a habit of pondering before he spoke, and she had a vague impression that he was a person to be relied on.

Mara followed him in, and sat down on a low stool at his feet, and looked up at him with her great eyes, as he sat in the rocking-chair, and Mrs. Pennel resumed her spinning.

"Miss' Pennel," said the Captain, "I've got a couple of mackerel here that I'd like to have you cook for my supper. I'll bring 'em in when I come back from the shore."

"Thank you, Captain, I'll be glad to get them," said Mrs. Pennel.

"Mara, you go with the Captain and help him bring in the mackerel," said Mrs. Pennel.

Mara followed the Captain down to the shore, and helped him bring in a basket of fish, and then sat down on the door-step to clean them, while Mrs. Pennel got supper.

"Mara," said the Captain, "you're a master hand to clean fish. I'll have to get you to clean all I ketch."

"I should like to," said Mara, "for I'm fond of fishing."

"Wal', I'll bring 'em up to you, then," said the Captain, "and I'll tell you what, Miss' Pennel, I'll bring up a mess for you every day, and you can have a chowder when you like."

"Thank you, Captain," said Mrs. Pennel, "I'm very much obliged to you."

"Don't name it, Miss' Pennel," said the Captain, "I'm only too glad to get a chance to do anything for you and Mara. Mara's a master hand to clean fish, and I'll bring 'em up to her."

"Mara," said Mrs. Pennel, "you must thank the Captain for his kindness."

"Thank you, Captain," said Mara, looking up with her great eyes, and smiling.

"Wal', I declare, Miss' Pennel, Mara's a real handsome child," said the Captain, "she