

# The Sunbury American.

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## The Sunbury American.

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## Select Poetry.

### 'TIS WELL TO HAVE A MERRY HEART.

'Tis well to have a merry heart,  
However short we stay;  
The wisdom in the merry may say,  
Philosophy may lift its head,  
And find out many a flaw,  
But give the most my truly say,  
That's happy with a straw.

If life but brings us happiness—  
It brings us we are told,  
What's hard to buy, though rich one try,  
With all their heaps of gold?  
Then laugh away—let others boast  
Of what they will or may;  
Who laugh the most may truly say  
He's got the wealth of earth.

There's beauty in a merry laugh,  
A moral beauty too—  
It shows the heart a genuine heart,  
That's paid each man his due,  
And lent a share of what's to spare,  
Despite of wisdom's fears,  
And made the cheek less sorrow speak,  
The eye weep fewer tears.

The eye may show itself in cloud,  
The temper wrath begin;  
It finds a spark to kindle the dark,  
Its sunlight is within;  
Then laugh away, let others say  
Who laugh the most may truly say  
He's got the wealth of earth.

### THE LAWYER'S STRATAGEM.

WRITTEN BY DROWN.

A gay young heir who long had sighed  
To take an heir for his bride,  
Though the maid was yet a minor,  
He sought to win her by a stratagem;  
To win the favor of the maid,  
Yet, fearing from his humble station,  
To meet her father's cold negation,  
Made up his mind without delay  
To take the girl and run away!

A pretty plan—what could be finer!  
But as the maid was yet a minor,  
There still remained this slight obstruction:  
He might be punished for "abduction!"  
Accordingly, he thought it wise  
To seek a sure and safe device—  
A cunning knave who loved a trick  
As well as law, and skilled to pick,  
As lawyers call it, a fine flow,  
To help a client cheat the law,  
Before him straight the case was laid,  
Who, when the proper fee was paid,  
Conceived at once a happy plan,  
And thus the counsellor began—

"Young man, no doubt, your mind courses  
Is lit with thoughts of getting a horse,  
As soon as your lady love get on;  
You get on too—but, hark ye, mind  
She rides before you, hark ye behind;  
And then, you see, you make it true,  
That she will ride before you, hark ye behind;  
That very night she got the horse,  
And put the lawyer's plan in force;  
Who, for the next day, no laughing matter—  
The trust lady was his daughter!"

MORAL.  
When lawyers counsel craft and guile,  
It may, sometimes, be worth the while,  
So ascertain the deepest names!

### Select Tale.

(From Peterson's Magazine.)

#### ARISTOCRACY.

Billy was coming home, Billy her heart's  
joy. Mrs. Gray smoothed once more the  
corners of the already smooth rug carpet,  
dusted once more the dustless table, and then  
with a look of somber satisfaction, took her  
seat in the chimney corner to listen for Billy  
was coming home!

Dear Billy! his mother's home should look  
clean and bright and cheery to the boy, if he  
did miss there the polished city furniture.  
Then what a smile overran the wrinkles in the  
good old lady's face, as she thought of the  
supper to be served upon porcelain,  
spiced with city condiments it might not be;  
but there were the sweet cake and the nut-  
ton-chop that Billy had relished when a boy,  
and for the cooking—what man, rich or poor,  
will not aver that there is but one cook in  
the world—his mother.

Mrs. Gray shook up the cushion of her  
chair and was seating herself, when she saw  
that the table-cloth opposite was just a grain  
narrow; she evened that, brushed the clean  
heart again, unrolled her knitting, and re-  
sumed her seat.

Was that a sound? Though only half way  
toward the middle of the needle, Mrs. Gray  
fell her sock and ran as fast as her old  
feet could travel to the door. No, only the  
winter wind was beating for admission—  
Might not the clock have stopped? Its hands  
did move, no slowly! No, younger ears could  
have heard its tick outside through the paneled  
door.

Well, were the sweet-cakes rising? Was  
the supper really so tempting to look upon?  
Could she think of no improvement? Mrs.  
Gray opened the cupboard door, and gazed  
with shining eyes upon the viands which should  
be laid on the table. No, no, no, no, no, no,  
studied his pictured Adonis or Cleopatra half  
so lovingly as she the rising dough, the un-  
cooked chop, the three pickles, the smooth  
slice of butter, the scrap of cheese, and in a  
half-filled cup—most precious of them all—  
the pinch of powdered herb, with that deli-  
cious dusty-green hue, that makes it known to  
lovers of genuine tea.

"All that for me, mother?"  
"Bless my heart, Billy! how could you  
have come in, and I have watched and waited  
this hour past? But never mind, I'm glad to  
see you, my son; here, sit in the rocking  
chair and rest, and I will talk your coat."  
"Seeing that you are seventy-one years old  
and I am twenty-one, we'd better reverse that  
arrangement. Do you sit down. Why, mother,  
how handsome you look! A dear old  
soul, aren't you?"

A happy old soul she was as she watched  
her boy, and a married woman spruce and manly  
he had grown; and yet how he had all the  
old familiar ways, and remembered all the  
old places about the house; hung the new  
overcoat upon his peg, and took his chair  
for a seat at his corner of the fire—dear Billy!

"Madame Snelling was a person of more  
education than polish, more sinner than  
elegance. Possessing a little fortune, she  
still preferred the cares of her present life,  
accompanied as they were, she said, by a  
larger sphere of usefulness, accompanied as

"I declare, how good it is to be home again  
how clean and nice it is here, how the tables  
shine; how natural that border of tulips looks  
around the floor; and the rag-carpet—how I  
remember cutting up the cloth for it—that  
gay stripe was poor little Annie's baby-look  
don't you think, mother, I was a thoughtless boy  
to tease it away from you?"

"No, Billy, you wanted to make my carpet  
dollars; and Annie wears better garments  
now she has gone to our Father's home. I  
was only thinking how she would enjoy this  
night—your first return."  
"Maybe she does enjoy it. Who can tell?  
If I should be called above, do you suppose  
I'd forget my old mother? But we won't be  
solem to-night. Look! This purple stripe  
was made from the first gay waistcoat I ever  
had. Didn't I feel proud to wear it when it  
was new, and shouldn't I be ashamed of such  
a gaudy thing now? Then the stripes next it  
looks black, but in the day time it's bottle-  
green—how well I remember! That's the  
remainder of pa's old military pants—after I  
had worn them a year or two, cut down."

So the young man ran on, seizing whatever  
topics seemed to please the good old lady  
most.

"There, Billy, now supper is ready. And  
this is a chop, Billy. And, Billy, do you  
remember how you used to like sweet-cakes?  
Well, here they are, and these are pickles,  
Billy."

"I declare, I haven't seen such a beautiful  
supper since I went away from home; how  
good the chop smells!"  
"Yes, and do taste one of the cakes, Billy,  
they're light as puff-balls."  
"All in good time, I can't eat too many  
things at once. Mother, to change the sub-  
ject, don't you think that now I'm of age, you  
almost twenty-two—William sounds better  
than Billy?"

"I've never called you William; your father  
never did, and little Annie, dear soul!  
wouldn't know her brother by that name—  
But William you shall be, if you wish; I  
promise not to call you any other name; now  
eat your supper, Billy."

"I've finished. Come, let us clear the table  
together; and then you shall see how you  
like the things I've brought from the Federal  
city."  
"What, more presents, when you sent the  
flannel hardly a week ago?"  
"You wouldn't call flannel a present! St.  
Anthony, I've broken a saucer! But never  
mind, I remembered some of our plates were  
all cracked, and there's a whole new  
tea-set in my trunk."

The trunk was opened, and Mrs. Gray  
smiled and sighed by turns, think Billy had  
spent a good third of his income in holly  
but useful gifts for her: patent foot-warmers,  
patent bat-irons, patent knives—they were  
patent to keep the only thing which inter-  
ested until her son should return again.

On the morrow, Master William Gray was  
gone. At parting he gave, once more the  
often repeated injunction concerning his  
name.

"But what difference can it make in my  
letters, nobody hears me, Billy; and I like  
the look of the word better than Billy."  
"Doesn't any one hear them? You know  
how proud I am of your handsome hand, and  
your good sensible reflections; suppose there  
were a friend that would read my letters  
sometimes?"

The old lady looked through her spectacles  
sharply to see that them. Billy blushed,  
and made his mother farewell.

The scene change now to a city; the interior  
of a large boarding-house, and the private  
parlor of its mistress.

Another aged woman sits by her fireside at  
work; her mind active with pleasant antici-  
pations but far different ones from those of Mrs.  
Gray.

What strange contrasts, what delicate  
shades of difference must be seen by the im-  
partial eye which looks down from above!  
Take, for instance, the aged: lift the roof  
from a hundred homes, and listen for some  
footsteps, look for withered forms; some you  
shall find in the household circle of state man-  
aged about by luxury, claiming honor, love,  
obedience; some you shall find contented  
with crumbs that fall from their children's  
tables, slighted and only tolerated in the  
home; some sit alone by cheerless firesides,  
with the Book which hath given comfort to  
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