

Millheim on the L. C. & S. C. R. R., as a population of 6-700 is a thriving business center, and controls the trade of an average radius of over eight miles, in which the Journal has a large circulation than all other county papers combined.

DEATH AT THE TOILET.

"Tis no use talking to me mother; I will go to Mrs. B—'s party to night, if I die for it—that's all—I'll go! You know as well as I do that Mr. T— will call for me at 8 o'clock this evening, and he's going to leave town to-morrow, so up I go to dress."

"Annette, why will you be so obstinate? You know how poorly you have been all the week; and Dr. L— says that late hours are the worst thing in the world for you."

"Pshaw, mother! nonsense, nonsense." "Be persuaded for once, my daughter. I beg of you! Oh, dear, dear, what a night it is, too—it pours rain like pitchforks, and blows a perfect hurricane! You'll get wet, y child, and catch cold, you may rely upon it. Come now, won't you stop at home with me to-night, daughter? O yes, do be good and stay!"

"I'll have lots of nights to be home with you, and I'll go to Mrs. B—'s party to-night if it rains cats and dogs along with pitchforks."

Such was, very nearly, the words, and such was the manner, in which Miss A. D— expressed her determination to act in defiance of her too indulgent parent's wishes and entreaties.

She was the only child of her widowed mother, and had but a few weeks before completed her twentieth year, with yet—nowithstanding her many vain endeavors—no other prospect before her but that of single blessedness.

Certainly, the twentieth year may be generally considered the time of life when female beauty begins to blossom into real loveliness, if the former years have been occupied in acquiring useful knowledge and the principles of Christian duty. But when the seeds of vanity, folly and deceit are sown in the nursery, and nourished at home and at school by flatteries, useless visits and the immortal current literature of the age, the essence of a girl's youth, never guarded by modesty, may be properly expected to vanish with her teens.

Although belonging to a respectable family, and by nature endowed with a rich fund of intellectual ability, a weaker, more frivolous and conceited creature than Miss A. D— it would be very hard to find. She was the torment of the nervous parent, and the nuisance of acquaintances.

Her mother's circumstances were very strained, suffering barely to enable them to maintain a position in what is called respectable society; nevertheless, this young woman continued, by some means or other, to gratify her penchant for dress, and gadded about here, and there, and everywhere the most gaudily attired young person in the neighborhood.

Though far from having a pretty face or fair figure, for she was both stooped and bony, yet she believed herself handsome; and by a vulgar, flippant forwardness, especially when mixed in company, extorted such attentions, as persuaded her that others thought she was good looking.

For two years she had been an occasional patient of mine. The settled pallor, the tallowness of her complexion, jointly with other symptoms, evidenced the existence of stomach and liver complaint; and the best visit I paid her was in consequence of frequent sensations of oppression and pain in the chest, which plainly indicated some organic disease of the heart.

I saw enough to warrant me in warning her mother of the possibility of her daughter's sudden death from this cause, and the imminent peril which she exposed herself to by dancing, late hours, &c., but Mrs. D—'s remonstrances, gentle and affectionate as they were, were thrown away upon her headstrong daughter.

It was striking six by the clock in the Methodist Church, when Miss A. D—, humming the words of a popular song, lighted her lamp and withdrew to her room to dress. In a few moments she called Sarah, the hired girl, and gave her a sound raking for not having starched and ironed some article of dress that she had intended to put on that evening.

Scated beside the stove in her little parlour, Mrs. D— had com-

menced reading the account of a prepossessing American young lady who had gone to Paris and there married a very wealthy officer of the French army.

The story was interesting, and much time had passed unnoticed, the clock told a quarter to eight.

Annette's toilet was usually a laborious business, and therefore her long absence excited no surprise in the mind of her fond parent. The noise she had made in walking to and from her dressing table had ceased for some time; but then her mother thought she might be engaged at the mirror in adjusting her hair and preparing her complexion.

"But Mr. T— may arrive at any moment, and the girl should be ready to receive him," said Mrs. D— in a subdued tone of voice.

Taking hold of the little call bell on her table she rang it, and Sarah was soon by her side.

"Do you know Sarah," said Mrs. D—, "whether Miss Annette is yet ready for the party?"

"I don't know, ma'am," replied the girl. "I took her the curling irons about half an hour ago, and she seemed to be then a little out of humor."

"Go up to her room and see if she wants anything," said Mrs. D—.

The girl went up stairs and knocked at the bedroom door, once, twice, thrice, but received no answer.

There was a dead silence, except when the storm shook the windows. "Could Miss Annette have fallen asleep? Impossible!" Sarah knocked again, but unsuccessfully, as before.

She became a little flustered; and after a moment's pause, opened the door and entered. There was Miss A. D— sitting before the looking-glass.

"Why, la me!" commenced Sarah in a petulant tone, walking toward her young mistress, "here I have been knocking for five minutes, and—"

Horror-struck, she staggered against the bed, uttering a loud shriek, which alarmed Mrs. D—, who instantly tottered up stairs and fainted as soon as she beheld the lifeless form of her daughter. Miss A. D— was dead!

Sarah immediately alarmed the neighbors. I was sent for. It was a stormy night in March, and the desolate aspect of things abroad, deserted the streets, the dreary, howling wind, and the incessant pattering of the rain contributed to cast a gloom over my own mind, when connected with the intelligence of the event that had summoned me out.

On reaching the house I found Mrs. D— working in a violent fit, surrounded by several of her neighbors who had been called to her assistance. I repaired instantly to the scene of death, and beheld what I never shall forget. There was a table towards the further side of the room, and on it stood a looking-glass, hung with a little white drapery, and various articles belonging to the toilet lay scattered about—gloves, curling papers, ribbons, pins &c. An arm-chair was drawn to the table, and in it sat Miss A. D—, stone-dead.

Her head rested upon her right hand, her elbow supported by the table, while her left hung down by her side, grasping a pair of curling irons; each of her wrists was encircled by a showy gilt bracelet. Her face was turned toward the glass which by the light of the lamp reflected with frightful idly the clammy, fixed features, daubed over with rouge and carmine, the tall narrow jaw, and directed full into the mirror, with a cold dull stare, that was appalling. On examining the countenance more closely, I thought I detected the traces of a suik of conceit and self-complacency, which not even the paralyzing touch of death could wholly obliterate.

The hair of the corpse, all smooth and glossy, was curled with elaborate precision; and the shining silk neck was encircled with a string of glistening pearls. The ghastly visage of death thus leering through the tinsel of fashion—the vain show of artificial beauty—was a horrible mockery of the fooleries of life!

Indeed it was a most humiliating and shocking sight. Poor creature! Struck dead in the very act of sacrificing at the shrine of vanity! Two or three of the women present proceeded to remove the corpse to the bed for the purpose of laying it out.

What strange passiveness: she who but a few hours before would not, on any account, submit to the entreaties of a fond mother, offered no resistance to those who bound her for the cold and silent grave.

Her limbs were extended, and her jaws tied up with a riband that she had intended to wear that evening at a fashionable gathering.

On examining the body I found that death had been caused by disease of the heart. Here life might have been prolonged possibly for many years, had she taken my advice and that of her mother.

MAKE HOME BRIGHT.—In view of the approaching cold, dark days, and nights of winter, we should like to put in a plea for warmth and light in the household. If economy is necessary, as it will doubtless be in many homes, let it take some other direction, and though there be fewer pies and cakes, less trimmings on the children's dresses and pipes are smoked instead of cigars, let there be a good fire on the hearth and let the sitting-room lamp burn brightly. Economy in these respects—meaning stinting them—is no economy. Eye-sight injured by a dim light may never be regained, and shivering over an insufficient fire often causes sickness or death, ten times as expensive as a fuel saved would have been.

Fires in sleeping-rooms for young people in good health are, we believe, wholly unnecessary. Plenty of cover and a carpet, at least at the bedside, will keep up wholesome warmth even with the thermometer down to zero. But a good fire in the sitting-room is in cold weather essential both to health and comfort. Well-meaning men, who do not intend to be unkind, often gumble over the quantity of fuel consumed, and still more over the cost of it, forgetting that "cherish" a wife she must at least be kept warm, and anxious wives, dreading such grumbling, shiver over a few coals, hoid g to save expense in fuel. To what good? Their work is half done, with numbed fingers, neuralgia probably sends them to bed if pneumonia does not, the children are cross and crying with blue noses and chilblains, and the comfort of the family is wholly upset. Sift the cinders, save the chips, burn the corncocks, which make a splendid fire by the way; be as economical as you like in fuel, but not at cost of health. And men and boys, see that the wood is hauled and cut. "He that provideth not for his own household is worse than an infidel," and the wood-pile is as important as either the pork barrel or meat tub. There is little choice between being hungry or cold. Even green wood makes a good fire if split fine enough, and the boy who looks out for it is an unseizable help to his mother.

Who can tell how much of the fascination of the country tavern or the city bar room is due to their bright lights and blazing fires. Think of that wives and mothers, and "fight the devil with fire." Philadelphia Sunday Times.

A RELIABLE MAN WANTED. "A reliable man wanted to take charge of a farm"—"A reliable man wanted in a counting-house"—"A reliable man wanted to superintend a mill." What a demand there is for reliable men! Young women want them for husbands, father and mothers want them for so-called-in-law. People in trouble inquire anxiously for a reliable lawyer whom they can consult; the sick want a reliable physician, the churches want a reliable man for a minister, although they do not advertise their wants in a newspaper.

There seems to be no end to the demands for reliable men. Are reliable men so scarce that so much profit is made of getting them? We apprehend that they are not as plenty as they should be. Reliable architects and contractors and engineers are not to be found in every place, or there would not be so many railway and bridge accidents. Cashiers and other bank officers are not always reliable or true would be no defaultations. The same may be said of trustees or insurance-officers. In truth, reliable men do not crowd one another in any class of occupation.

Young man, it is for you to determine whether you will be a reliable man or not. It all depends upon yourself. No hint is easier, only resolve that you will be a reliable man and stick to it through every temptation.

To GIRLS.—Never marry a man who has only his love for you to recommend him. It is very fascinating, but it does not make the man. If he is not otherwise what he should be, you will never be happy. The most perfect man who not love you should never be your husband. But though marriage without love is terrible, love only will not do. If the man is dishonorable to other men, or mean, or given to any vice, the time will come when you will either loathe him or sink to his level. It is hard to remember, amidst kisses and praises, that there is anything else in the world to be done or thought of but love-making, but the days of life are many, and the husband must be a guide to be trusted—a companion, a friend, as well as a lover. Many a girl has married a man whom she knew to be anything but good, because he loved her so. And the flame has died out on the hearthstone of home before long, and beside it there has been sitting one that she could never hope would lead her heavenward—or who, if she followed him as a wife should, would guide her steps to perdition. Marriage is a solemn thing—a choice for life; be careful in the choosing.

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