THE SORROW SIDE OF THE SEASON.

GIVEN BACK ON CHRISTMAS MORN

A POEM FOR THE PERIOD.

BY TOM HOOD, JR., EDITOR OF "LONDON FUN," ETC.

(A mother watches by her sick babe.) Round about the casement Wall the winds of winter, Shaken from the trozen eves Bany as toy splinter.
On the hillside in the hollow, Weaving wreaths of sacw; Now in gusts of sole on music

Now in gusts of sole on music Lost in murmurs low;— Howling now across the wold In its shroudlike vastness, Like the wolves abour a fold In some Alpine fastness, Hungered by the cold.

(The mother sings.) Babe of mine-babe of mine, Must I lose you?

Dare I weep it the Divine
Wil should choose you?— Ah, to mourn, as I have smiled.
At the thought of you, my child!
Ah, my child- my child!

Babe of mine, you entwine Vith existence! If one strips the clinging vine There's resistance—
Shall not I then—? I talk wild, Ah, my child - my child: —
Ah, my child - my child!

bab; of mine—heart's best wine— Late's pure essence!
Gloomy shadows, that define
Death's near presence.
Dim those dear eyes undefiled
As God's violets—ab, my child!
Ah, my child—my child!

The Imperial purple of the night
Is spread, wine-dark, above,
But glistens with no gems of light,
To hint of heaven's love,
A sombre pall hangs overhead,
Fr.nged with lurid clouds of lead,—
O'ar the algoring earth below O'er the sleeping earth below One long wide waste of silent snow. And the wind means drearily

As it wanders by, And the night wanes wearily In the starlight sky. (The mother sings.) Must the dear eyes close?

Must the lips be still?—

How I love their speech that flows

Lake a wanton rill!

Must those checks, soft-tinged with rose

Pallid grow and chill? Give her back to me, an rel in disguise!— Say your mystery I shall learn—yet with tear-

less eyes
By the pangs, the prayers,—
By the mother's glee!
By her hopes, her lears, her cares,
Give my child to me— Give it back to me!

Quenched the eyes' soft light-Going, darling, in the night? Spare - oh, spare her, Death!
Dying—is it so?
Oh! it must not be!
Can my poor treasure go?
Give her back to me, Give her back to me.

Give her back to me.

Or take me too...leit a one,

Now my little one is gone;

Ah! my child! my child!

Among the clouds that sail o'erhead A yellow radiance is shed; And o'er the hill-tops wrapt in snow, Is born a tinge of rosy glow. Within the air a stir—like wings Of ange's in their minist'rings— A tremulous motion and a thrill Night's sombre clouds are slow withdrawn, And Nature cries "Awake, 'tis dawn."

About the lone v casement Blows tresh the breath of day; The mother, in amazement, Sees death-glooms tade away! The blue eyes open once again, Once more the lips have smiled; Her tears tell like the springtime rain—

God gives her back her child! Footsteps are heard under the window.); Hush! there are tootsteps on the snow. That pause the lattice pane below; While voices chant the carol-rhymes, The Christmas song of olden times. (Carollers sing an ancient carol.)

Aware, good Christians! Long ago The shepherds waked at night,
And saw the heavens with glory glow,
And ange s in the light. Hosannah! sing, do-annah! sing, Hosannah in the height! New life they told to all on earth,

New life and blessing bright, Forewarning of the Saviour's birth, In Bethlehem this night.
Hosannah! sing, Hosannah! sing,
Rosannah in the neight! New life to all-new life to all-

The tidings good recite!
New life to all, which did betall
At Bethiehem this night.
Hosannah! sing, Hosannah! sing,
Hosannah in the height! The voices bushed-the footsteps died

In distance far aloot— It seemed a bles-ing did abide Upon that silent roof-As far away their cheery singing Upon the frosty air came ringing.

Among the clouds that sail o'erhead A yellow glory is outspread; And on the hill-tops crowned with snows, A rosy blushing radiance grows, As wider still the warm light glows; And flooding daylight falls again From cloud to hill-from hill to plain!

A golden sea of swimming light Foured o'er the sombre shores of night, While the glad mother, to her breast Her child yet close and closer pressed—: Her rescued treasure—newly born— Her babe—given back on Christmas morn.

### A FAIRY CHRISTMAS TALE. THE STORY OF THE NOSES.

By M. Edouard Laboulaye, the Eminent French Philosopher, Publicist,

and Friend of America. TRANSLATED BY MISS MARY L. BOOTH, OF NEW YORK.

Dedicatory Letter. "To My Young Friends in America: - Dear Children: - When you are large, and are study ing the glorious history of your country, you will be told that on the otherside of the Atlantic there is an old country by the name of France. You will also be told that almost a hundred years ago, when your grandfathers were fighting for their independence, it was in France that they found sympathizing hearts and devoted It was from France that the friend of Washington came, the brave and noble Lafayette

-a name which also belongs to the history of United States. "Years have passed, and nothing has dis-turbed the friendship of a century's growth between America and France—that friendship which you, my children, I am sure, will preserve. And it is in order to keep up this mutual affection that I send you this tale, which has amused your young triends in France, and which, I hope, will arouse you also. He who writes it is not a stranger to your fathers and mothers; he was heart and soul with them in

the trials which they have nobly passed through. To-day he would esteem himself happy could he make you laugh, or dry up your tears; and nothing would touch him more than sometimes to think that over youder, on the other side of the ocean, there were young gen-tlemen and charming young ladies who forgot the hours in listening to the tales of their friend, the old Frenchman, EDOUARD LABOULAYE."

Story of the Noses.

Etat Dewitz, in the neighborhood of Prague, there once lived a rich and whimsteal old farmer, who had a beautiful daughter. The students of Prague, of whom there were at that time twenty-five thousand, often walked in the direction of Dewitz, and more than one of them offered to follow the plough, in hopes of becoming the son-in-law of the farmer. The first condition that the cunning peasant set on each new servant was this:—"I engage you," he would say, "for a year, that is, till the cuckoo sings the return of spring; but if, from now till then, you say once you are not satisfied, I will cut off the end of your nose. I give you the same right over me," he added, laughing. And he did as he said. Prague was full of students with the end of their nose glued on, which did not prevent an ugly scar, and, still less, bad lokes. To return the same right towards. Story of the Noses.

not prevent an ugly scar, and, still less, bad jokes. To return from the farm disfigured and ridiculed was well calculated to cool the warmest

A young man by the name of Coranda, some-what ungainly in manner, but cool, adroit, and cunning, which are not bad aids in making one's fortune, took it in his head to try the adventure. The farmer received him with his usual good nature, and, the bargain made, sent usual good nature, and, the bargain made, sent him to the field to work. At breakfast-time the other servants were called, but good care was taken to forget Coranda. At dinner it was the same. Coranda gave himself no trouble about it. He went to the house, and while the farmer's wife was feeding the chickens, unhooked an enormous ham from the kitchen rafters, took a buse loaf from the cupboard, and

rafters, took a huge loaf from the cupboard, and went back to the fields to dine and take a nap. "Are you satisfied?" cried the farmer, when he returned at night. "Perfectly satisfied," said Coranda; "I have

dined better than you have."

At that instant the farmer's wife came rushing in, crying that her ham was gone. Coranda laughed, and the farmer turned pale.
"Are you not satisfied?" asked Coranda. "A hum is only a ham," answered his master.
"Such a trifle does not trouble me." But after that time he took good care not to leave the

student fasting. Sunday came. The farmer and his wife seated themselves in the wagon to go to church, saying to Coranda, "It is your business to cook the dinner. Cut up the piece of meat you see yonder, with onions, carrots, leeks, and parsley, and boil them all together in the great pot over the kitchen fire."

kitchen fire."
"Very well," answered Coranda. There was a little pet dog at the farm-house by the name of Parsley. Coranda killed him, skinned him, cut him up with the meat and vewetables, and put the whole to boil over the kitchen fire. When the farmer's wife returned, she called her favorite; but, alas! she saw nothing but a bloody skin hanging by the window.

"What have you done?" said she to Coranda.
"What you ordered me, mistress. I have
boiled the meat, onions, carrots, and leeks, and
parsiey in the bargain."
"Wicked wretch!" cried the farmer, "had you

the heart to kill the innocent creature that was the joy of the house?" "Are you not satisfied?" said Coranda, taking his knife from his pocket.
"I did not say that," said the farmer. "A dead dog is nothing but a dead dog." But he

A few days after, the farmer and his wife went to market. Fearing their terrible servant, they said to him, "Stay at home, and do exactly what you see others d

"Very well," said Coranda. There was an old shed in the yard, the roof of which was failing to pieces. The carpenters came to repair it, and began, as usual, by tearing down the roof. Coranda took a ladder and mounted the roof of the house, which was quite new. Shingles, lath, nails, and tiles, he tore off everything, and scattered them all to the winds. When the farmer returned, the house

was open to the sky.
"Villain!" said he, "what new trick have you played me?" "I have obeyed you, master," answered Coranda. "You told me to do exactly what I saw others do. Are you not satisfied?" And he

took out his knife. "Satistied!" returned the farmer; "why should I not be satisfied? A rew shingles more or tess will not ruin me." But he sighed. Light came; the farmer and his wife said to each other that it was high time to get rid of this incarnate demon. As is always the case with sensible people, they never did anything without consulting their daughter, it being the custom in Bohemia to think that children

always have more wit than their parents. "Father," said Helen, "I will hide in the great pear tree early in the morning, and call I ke the cuckoo. You can tell Coranda that the year is up, since the cuckoo is singing; pay

him, and send him away."

Early in the morning the plaintive cry of the cuckeo was heard through the fields. The farmer seemed surprised. "Well, my boy, spring is come," said he, "Do you hear the cuckoo sing-ing yonder? I will pay you, and we will part good friends. 'A cuckoo!" said Coranda; "that is a bird

which I have always wanted to see."

He ran to the tree, and shook it with all his might, when, behold! a young girl fell from the branches, fortunately more frightened than

"Villain!" cried the farmer.
"Are you not satisfied?" said Coranda, open-

'Wretch! you kill my daughter, and you think that I ought to be satisfied! I am furious. Begone, if you would not die by my hand!"
"I will go when I have cut off your nose,"
sald Coranda, "I have kept my word, do you keep yours." Stop!" cried the farmer, putting his hand

before his face;" you will surely let me redeem my nose?"
"It depends on what you offer," said Coranda.
"Will you take ten sheep for it?"

"Ten cows?"
"No; I would rather cut off your nose." Aud he sharpened his knife on the door-step.
"Father," said Helen, "the fault was mine; it belongs to me to repair it. Coranda, will you

take my hand instead of my father's nose?" "Yes," replied Coranda.
"I make one condition," said the young girl.
"We will make the same bargain; the first of us that is not satisfied after marriage shall have

his nose cut off by the other."
"Good," replied Coranda. "I would rather it was the tongue; but that will come next." Never was a finer wedding seen at Prague, and never was there a happier household. Coranda and the beautiful Helen were a model pair. The husband and wife were never heard to complain of each other; they loved with drawn swords, and, thanks to their ingenious bargain, they kept for long years both their love and their noses.

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