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[INDEPENDENT IN EVERYTHING.]

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Select Poetry.

A MOTHER'S GIFT.

Lines written by a mother, in a Bible—her gift to her son.

Remember, love, who gave thee this,

When other days shall come—

When she who had thy earliest kiss,

Sleeps in her narrow home.

Remember, 'twas a mother gave

The gift to one who'd die to save.

That mother sought a pledge of love,

The holiest for her son;

And from the gift of God above

She chose a goodly one;

She chose for her beloved boy

The source of life, and light, and joy.

And bade him keep the gift—that when

The parting hour should come,

Thy mind had hope to meet again,

In her eternal home.

She said his faith in that would be

Sweet income for her memory.

And should'st the sufferer in his pride,

Enough that gift to scorn,

And bid him cast that pledge aside,

That he from youth had borne!

She bids him pause and ask his breast,

If he, or she, had loved him best!

A parent's blessing on her son

Goes with this holy thing;

The love that would retain the gift,

Must to the other cling.

Remember, 'tis no idle toy;

A mother's gift—remember, not!

Select Miscellany.

Agamemnon's Trip—Thrilling Narrative.

The London Times, just received

'Ariel,' contains most interesting

account of the Agamemnon's voyage,

from the time she parted from the

Niagara until she reached Valentin Bay.

We extract a few passages of exceeding

interest:

A WHALE, AND CAUSE OF FORMER

FAILURE.—After having left the Niagara

a few hours, and shortly after 6 o'clock,

a very large whale was seen approaching

the starboard bow at a great speed, rolling

and tossing the sea into foam all round,

and for the first time we felt the possibility

of the supposition that our second mysteri-

ous breakage of the cable might have

been caused after all by one of these ani-

mal getting foul of it under water. It

appeared as if it were making direct for

the cable, and great was the relief of all

when the ponderous living mass was seen

slowly to pass astern, just grazing the

cable where it entered the water; but fortunately

without doing any mischief.

PANIC ABOARD.—The next day to the

consternation of all, the electrical test ap-

plied showed the fault to be overboard, and

in all probability some 50 miles from the

ship. Not a second was to be lost, for it

was evident that the cut portion must be

paid overboard in a few minutes, and in

the meantime the tedious and difficult op-

eration of making a splice had to be per-

formed. The ship was immediately stop-

ped, and no more cable paid out than was

absolutely necessary to prevent breaking.

As the stern of the ship was lifted by the

waves a scene of the most intense excite-

ment followed. It seemed impossible even

by using the greatest possible speed, and

paying out the least possible amount of

cable, that the junction could be finished

before the part was taken out of the hands

of the workmen.

EXTRAORDINARY SCENE.—The main

hold presented an extraordinary scene;

nearly all the officers of the ship and those

connected with the expedition stood in

groups about the coil, watching with in-

ALL WELL AGAIN.

In three minutes, however, every one was

agreedly surprised by the intelligence that

the stoppage had disappeared, and that

their signals had again appeared at their

regular intervals from the Niagara.

It is needless to say that a load of

anxiety was removed from the minds of

every one, but the general confidence in the

ultimate success of the operations was

much shaken by the occurrence, for all felt

that every minute a similar accident might

occur. For some time the paying out con-

tinued as usual, but towards the morning

another damaged place was discovered in

the cable; there was fortunately, however,

time to repair it in the hold without any

interference with the operators beyond for

a time slightly reducing the speed of the

ship.

FIRST SAIL.—Stupidity.—During the

afternoon of Monday, after half the voy-

age had been accomplished, an American

three-masted schooner, which afterwards

proved to be the Chieftan, was seen stan-

ding from the Eastward towards us. No

notice was taken of her at first, but when

she was within about half a mile of the

Agamemnon she altered her course, and

bore right down across our bows. A col-

lision, which might prove fatal to the

cable, now seemed inevitable, or could only

be avoided by the equally hazardous ex-

pedient of altering the Agamemnon's course.

The Valorous steamed ahead, and fired

a gun for her to heave to, which, as she did

not appear to take much notice of, was

quickly followed by another from the bows

of the Agamemnon, and a second and third

from the Valorous; but still the vessel held

her course, and as the only resource left

to avoid a collision, the course of the

Agamemnon was altered just in time to

pass within a few yards of her. It was

evident that our proceedings were the

source of the greatest possible astonish-

ment to them, for all her crew crowded

upon her deck and rigging. At length they

eventually discovered who we were, and

what we were doing, for the crew main-

ly, and dipping the ensign several times,

they gave us three hearty cheers. Though

the Agamemnon was obliged to acknowledge

these congratulations in due form, the feel-

ing of annoyance with which we regarded

the vessel which, either by the stupidity or

carelessness of those on board, was so near

adding a fatal and unexpected mishap to

the long chapter of accidents which had

already been encountered, may easily be im-

agined.

EFFECT OF THE GUNS.—To those who

believe, who, of course, did not see the

ship approaching, the sound of the first

gun came like a thunder bolt, for all took

it as the signal of the breaking of the

cable. The dinner tables were deserted in

a moment, and a general rush was made

for the hatches and up on deck, but before

reaching it their fears were quickly ban-

ished by the report of the succeeding gun,

which all knew well could only be caused

by a ship in our way or a man overboard.

ANOTHER AMERICAN VESSEL.—The

weather during Monday night moderated

a little, but still there was a very heavy

sea on, which endangered the wire every

minute. About 3 o'clock on Tuesday morn-

ing all on board were startled by the loud

booming of a gun. Every one without

waiting for the performance of the most

particular toilet, rushed on deck to ascer-

tain the cause of the disturbance. Con-

A Rat in the Cars.

A day or two since, says the Hartford

Times, just after the express train left

Stamford, where it had been delayed a

few minutes, to wood and water, a rat ran

from one corner of the car, amidst the

feet of the passengers. As soon as it was

known that there was a rat on the floor

of the car, considerable excitement took

place amongst the ladies, and crinolines

looked a sudden rise. The passengers

struck at the rat as he dodged from one

side of the car to the other, with their

umbrellas and canes, but without any

effect—the old rat successfully avoided

all their kicks and thrusts, and disap-

peared under the seat of a fat woman,

who sat at one end of the car, half

asleep. A committee of one, self ap-

pointed, backed up by half a dozen

full grown boys, suggested to the fat

lady the propriety of rising, to enable

them to find the rat.

Now, it is no easy matter for a two

hundred and fifty pounder, encumbered

by a huge mass of crinolines, to rise at

a moment's notice; therefore, she de-

clined.—She was duly informed of the

state of affairs, and of the critical posi-

tion she occupied in the eyes of the

public at that moment. Again, she was

requested to rise, but she positively re-

fused—like certain distinguished poli-

ticians, she seemed determined to

maintain her position, till a broader

and more comprehensive platform

was available. Various suggestions as

to the rat's whereabouts were made by

the boys, in audible whispers, which

made the fat woman

and to get her eyes open. Many of the

passengers seemed to have an idea of

their own, which was quite amusing—

lips were compressed—cheeks ex-

panded—teeth, worth from twenty-five

dollars to untold fortunes, were exhib-

ited.

"There was a silence deep as death,

And the boldest held his breath

For a time."

But that time was decidedly short, for

at this point, the lady in question

gave a roll, which made the car fairly

groan, one or two spasmodic kicks, and

the two hundred and fifty pounds shot

out of her seat like a skyrocket, up-

setting babies and bandboxes, crush-

ing crinolines and beavers, landing

about six feet from her seat, upon a

little old man, whom she nearly

smothered, besides knocking off his

wig and otherwise disarranging his

toilet—upon which he remarked to

himself that she had better "simmer

down" and join the circus. After

vigorous shaking her dress, amidst

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