

The Altoona Tribune.

EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS

[INDEPENDENT IN EVERYTHING.]

ALTOONA, PA., THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 1862.

NO. 9.

MCCRUM & DERN,

VOL. 7.

THE ALTOONA TRIBUNE.

H. C. DERN, PUBLISHER AND PROPRIETOR.

THE TRIBUNE, (publishable invariably in advance,) \$1.00 per annum, (payable at the expiration of the time) and all papers discontinued at the expiration of the time.

TERMS OF ADVERTISING. 2 do. 3 do. 4 do. 5 do. 6 do. 7 do. 8 do. 9 do. 10 do. 11 do. 12 do. 13 do. 14 do. 15 do. 16 do. 17 do. 18 do. 19 do. 20 do. 21 do. 22 do. 23 do. 24 do. 25 do. 26 do. 27 do. 28 do. 29 do. 30 do. 31 do. 32 do. 33 do. 34 do. 35 do. 36 do. 37 do. 38 do. 39 do. 40 do. 41 do. 42 do. 43 do. 44 do. 45 do. 46 do. 47 do. 48 do. 49 do. 50 do. 51 do. 52 do. 53 do. 54 do. 55 do. 56 do. 57 do. 58 do. 59 do. 60 do. 61 do. 62 do. 63 do. 64 do. 65 do. 66 do. 67 do. 68 do. 69 do. 70 do. 71 do. 72 do. 73 do. 74 do. 75 do. 76 do. 77 do. 78 do. 79 do. 80 do. 81 do. 82 do. 83 do. 84 do. 85 do. 86 do. 87 do. 88 do. 89 do. 90 do. 91 do. 92 do. 93 do. 94 do. 95 do. 96 do. 97 do. 98 do. 99 do. 100 do.

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Choice Poetry.

THE OLD FAMILY CRADLE.

Laid in the garret, where darkness and dust
Are the sole witnesses of many a trust,
Silently standing amid its comers,
Misty memories of many a score years,
Shapely and homely, a cast-aside thing,
Thus the old family cradle I sing.

Once with a vermillion coating was gay,
Now all its brightness is faded away;
Worn is the paint from the sides and the head,
There no soft coverlet longer is spread,
And the stiff rockers creak over the floor,
Like a rheumatic limb weary and sore.

Yet there are thoughts full of goodness and grace
Brightening with beauty and homeliest face;
Speak to us now of the years that are fled,
Changed are the living and peaceful the dead;
What are thy memories mournful and glad,
Family histories, mirthful or sad?

Once a young mother bent over her side,
Fair, as a maiden, and blent, as a bride;
There were warm kisses and tears of delight,
And the kind angel looked pleased at the sight.
While the old cradle rocked gently away,
Seeming in mused murmurs to say,

"To and fro, to and fro, little one, sleep—
Angels their watch over thy cradle shall keep;
To and fro, to and fro, thus as we rock,
Softly and solemnly ticketh the clock.
And the sweet moments, while hurrying by,
Lullably, lullably, sing as they fly."

But the light moments bear years on their wing—
Summer and Autumn and Winter and Spring
Quickly succeeding, pass quickly away,
And the young parents are careworn and gray,
Children are gathered by table and fire,
Blessing and honoring to mother and sire.

Still the old cradle rocks steadily there,
Still there are treasures to trust to its care,
He who its pillow in infancy prest,
Soothed by the song of a mother to rest,
Now in his manhood stands proud at its side,
Watching the slumber with fatherly pride.

And the old cradle as lovingly still
Guards like a caress its jewel from ill.
Gone are the aged ones now to repose,
Sleep which nor dreaming nor weariness knows—
Gone are the children who grew by their side,
Far from the home of their childhood and wide.

And the old cradle, forsaken, forlorn,
To its long rest in the garret is borne.
Yet not forever its usefulness o'er,
In age it is summoned to service once more.
Another new-comer, bewitched, array,
Would sleep in its bosom its trouble away.

But alas for the love that its sorrows would share,
Alas! for the ceaseless and wearisome care,
A guardian sterner is sought in its room,
And the sleep of the cradle exchanged for the tomb.

Rest, then, old friend, in a quiet profound,
Stirred not or startled by movement or sound,
Or, if the wind, with its deep, mournful sigh,
Bring to the memories long since gone by,
Softly as one who may murmur to sleep,
Rock in thy dreams, and thy solitude keep.

When fully satisfied that the soldiers
Had gone, young Ruggles had attempted
To return into his mother's dwelling
By the way he had left, but in again displacing
The bricks for the purpose, one of
Them slipped and went down through an
Open trap-door, upon the floor below,
Making a loud noise. Immediately after,
A light flashed up through the opening, and
A timid female voice demanded "who was
there?"

Here was a dilemma. Should the
young soldier reply, he would be exposed;
and should he keep silence, a search would
be made, which might prove more serious
in its consequences. What was to be
done? A sudden inspiration seized him.
It was a woman's voice, and women are
seldom stealer to pity. He would make
himself known to her, appeal to her sym-
pathies, and throw himself upon her mercy.

"Lady," he began, in a gentle tone,
calculated to reassure his fair hearer, "be
not alarmed. I am a friend in distress,
the son of your next neighbor. I am
hunted as a spy by the British soldiers,
and if found my life will be forfeited. If
you cannot pity me, for God's sake pity
my poor mother, and assist me for her
sake!"

He presented himself at the opening to
the loft, and boldly descended the loft lead-
ing down from it directly before the lady,
a sweet beautiful girl of eighteen, who stood
with a light in her hand, and seemed dumb
and motionless, with a commingling of fear,
surprise and curiosity. The young man
continued to speak as he descended, and
hurriedly went on to narrate all that had
occurred, concluding with the search of
the soldiers, and his escape into the loft
above.

"Thank God, it is in my power to aid
you, sir!" were the first words of the girl,
spoken with a look and feeling of sym-
pathy that made the heart of the young
soldier bound with strange emotions.

She then went on to tell him, that a
cousin from New Jersey, about his size
and build, and looking not unlike him, was
then on a visit to the family, having a pass
from General Howe. This pass she had
been looking at, and by accident it was
out with the rest of the family and for-
gotten it.

"Take it and fly, and may God pre-
serve you," she said; "I can arrange it
with my kinsman. I can have lost it, and
he can easily procure another."

She hurried him down stairs, throwing
a cloak on his shoulders on the way, which
she insisted upon his wearing, saying that
it had belonged to a deceased brother, and
he could return it at any future time.—
She then hastened to get the pass, which
she placed in his hand and urged him to go
at once.

"If I could but see mother for a mo-
ment," he said.

"No, no—leave all to me—I will ex-
plain all to her—go while you can, before
it is too late."

"God in Heaven bless you, sweet lady!"
he said, impulsively seizing her hand, and
touching it to his lips; "I will never for-
get you."

The next minute he was gone. He es-
caped. And true to his declaration, he
never did forget the sweet girl who be-
friended him in his hour of peril. Years
after, the honorable wife of General Ruggles
was many a time heard to tell of her
first romantic meeting with him she loved,
then a hunted fugitive from the Continen-
tal army.

TRUTH.

The following beautiful illustration of
the simplicity and the power of truth, is
from the pen of S. H. Hammond, formerly
editor of the Albany State Register. He
was an eye-witness of the scene in one of
the higher courts:

"A little girl, nine years of age, was of-
fered as a witness against a prisoner who
was on trial for a felony committed in her
father's house.

"Now, Emily," said the counsel for the
prisoner, upon her being offered as a wit-
ness, "I desire to know if you understand
the nature of an oath?"

"I don't know what you mean," was
the simple answer.

"There, your Honor," said the counsel,
addressing the Court, "is anything further
necessary to demonstrate the validity of
my objection? This witness should be re-
jected. She does not comprehend the na-
ture of an oath."

"Let us see," said the Judge. "Come
here, my daughter."

Assured by the kind manner and tone
of the Judge, the child stepped forward
toward him, and looked confidently up in
his face with a calm, clear eye, and in a
manner so artless and frank that it went
straight to the heart.

"Did you ever take an oath?" inquired
the Judge.

The little girl stepped back with a look
of horror, and the red blood mantled in a
blush all over her face and neck as she
answered:

"No, sir."

She thought he intended to inquire if
she had ever blasphemed.

"I do not mean that," said the Judge,
who saw her mistake; "I mean were you
ever a witness before?"

"No, sir; I never was in Court before,"
was the answer.

He handed her the Bible, open.

"Do you know that book, my daugh-
ter?"

She looked at it and answered, "Yes,
sir; it is the Bible."

"Do you ever read it?" he asked.

"Yes, sir, every evening."

"Can you tell me what the Bible is?"
inquired the Judge.

"It is the word of the great God," she
answered.

"Well place your hand upon this Bible,
and listen to what I say," and he repeat-
ed slowly and solemnly the oath usually
administered to witnesses.

"Now," said the Judge, "you have
sworn as a witness, will you tell me what
will befall you if you do not tell the truth?"

"I shall be shut up in the State Pris-
on," answered the child.

"Anything else?" asked the Judge.

"I shall never go to Heaven," she re-
plied.

"How do you know this?" asked the
Judge again.

The child took the Bible, and turning
rapidly to the chapter containing the com-
mandments, pointed to the injunction, "Thou
shalt not bear false witness against thy
neighbor." "I learned that before I could
read."

"Has any one talked to you about your
being a witness in Court against this man?"
inquired the Judge.

"Yes, sir," she replied; "my mother
heard they wanted me to be a witness, and
last night she called me to her room and
asked me to tell her the Ten Command-
ments, and then we knelt down together,
and she prayed that I might understand
how wicked it was to bear false witness
against my neighbor, and that God would
help me, a little child, to tell the truth as
it was before Him. And when I came
up here with father she kissed me and told
me to remember the Ninth Commandment,
and that God would hear every word that
I said."

"Do you believe this?" asked the Judge,
while a tear glistened in his eye, and his
lip quivered with emotion.

"Yes, sir," said the child, with a voice
and manner that showed her conviction of
its truth was perfect.

"God bless you, my child," said the
Judge; "you have a good mother. This
witness is competent," he continued.—
"Were I on trial for my life, and innocent
of the charge against me, I would pray
God for such witnesses as this. Let her
be examined."

She told her story with the simplicity of
a child, as she was; but there was a direct-
ness about it which carried conviction of
its truth to the heart. She was rigidly
cross-examined. The counsel "plaid" her

A moment after the door was thrown
open.

"Yes, ma'am—thank you—don't care
if I do," as if in answer to an invitation
to come in, at the same time crossing the
threshold with an appearance of deep hu-
miliation.

The moment the door closed behind him
the man dropped his crutch, and flung his
arms around the other, fairly sobbing—
"Mother! dear, dear mother!"

"Mother! dear, dear mother!"
"William!" exclaimed the other, press-
ing the ragged mendicant to her heart;
"oh, my dear, dear William! what is the
meaning of this? and how is it that I find
you in this sad plight?"

"I have passed the British lines in this
disguise, playing the fool to the sentries.
But tell me how you are, dear mother, and
how you fare in these troublesome times?"

"Indifferently well, my son. The British
are our masters here; but so far I have
little to complain of in the way of per-
sonal treatment. Provisions are very scarce
and high, and only by the strictest econ-
omy shall I be able to live through, if they
continue to retain possession of the city
any considerable time. Your sister Mary
is at your uncle's in Delaware, and will
deeply regret that she has missed this op-
portunity of seeing you."

"Are you alone, mother?"

"No; two English gentlemen are board-
ing with me."

"Do they belong to the army?" inquired
the young man, quickly, uneasily; "and
are they in the house?"

"No, they appear to be private gentle-
men of some means, and neither is within
at present. But you look troubled; have
you anything to fear, my son?"

"If detected, I may be hung as a spy."
"Good Heavens!" exclaimed the mother,
in alarm; "you terrify me. Are you here
without permission? without a pass?"

"Yes—did I not say I played the fool
to the sentries, and got past them?"

"But I thought that was for your own
amusement. Oh, William, if you should
be discovered. Why did you venture in
this desperate manner?"

"I could not get a pass, and I was so
anxious to see you and Mary, that I re-
solved to risk all."

"Quick, then, come up stairs, and let
us fix up a hiding-place at once, before
anything happens. Oh, William