

The Altoona Tribune.

[INDEPENDENT IN EVERYTHING.]

McCRUM & DERN,

EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS.

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THE ALTOONA TRIBUNE.

McCRUM & DERN, PUBLISHERS AND PROPRIETORS.

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Choice Poetry.

SCHOOL OF THE OLDEN TIME.

The school—the school of other days!

Those were the schools for us,

When, in a frock and trousers dressed,

I learned my A B C.

When, with my duster in my hat,

I trudged away to school,

Nor dared I stop, as boys do now,

For school-ma'am had a frow.

And if a traveler we met,

We threw no sticks nor stones,

To fright the horse as they passed,

Or break poor people's bones.

But with our hats beneath our arms,

We bent our heads low down,

For so the school-ma'am failed to ask,

"Boys, did you make a bow?"

And all the little girls with us

Would courtesy full low.

And hide their ankles with their gowns—

Girls don't have ankles now.

We stole no fruit, nor tied the grass,

We played no noisy games,

And when we spoke to older folks,

Put hands to their names.

And when the hour of school had come,

Of bell we had no need.

The school-ma'am's rap upon the glass,

Each one would quickly heed.

That school-ma'am! Heaven bless her name!

When shall we meet her like?

She always wore a green calash.

A calico rindash.

She never sported pantaloons:

No silks on her did wear,

Her dress being gracefully around—

She never wore a bustle!

With modest mien and loving heart,

Her daily task was done,

As true as needle to the pole.

The next one was begun.

The days were all alike to her.

The evening just the same,

And never brought a change to us.

Till Saturday forenoon came.

And then we had a "spelling match."

And learned the sound of A.

The months and weeks that made the year.

The hours that made the day.

And on that day we saw her smile—

No other time so sweetly.

'Twas then she told us learnedly

That next "loop year" would be.

Alas! kind soul! though loop year came

And went full many a time,

'Tis single blessedness she toiled,

Till far beyond her prime.

But now, indeed, her toils are o'er,

Her lessons are all said.

Her rules well learned—her words all spelled,

She's gone up to the head.

"The same," says Dan. "Now let her rip."

"Well, Mr. Marble, in 1831 I was worth thirty thousand dollars. I didn't owe a red cent in the world. One day, sir, I went down to the basin to see a friend out to Norfolk."

"Good bye," says I. "Take care of yourself, Jim."

"Good bye," says he. "But no sooner had I got 'take care of yourself' out of my mouth, than down I went heels over stomach, off the wheel-house on to the wharf—backward into a wheelbarrow—that tilted into the dock, and my first recollection after what was a sensation as though I had been converted into a pin cushion, and forty women jabbin' in the pins."

"I smelt a hot stove, red flannel, and apple jack. I heard a jumble of voices."

"Rub away. He's coming to."

"Tain't no use. He's a goner. Burnt brandy won't save him."

"Send for the doctor."

"Coroner, you mean?"

"What's in his pockets?"

"Take care of his watch, gentlemen."

"That part of the conversation," says Dan, "sort of revived you, I reckon."

"Mr. Marble," replied the narrator, putting his hand emphatically upon the comedian's shoulder—"Mr. Marble, that brought me to."

"Where am I?" says I.

"In my shop," says somebody.

"What's the matter?" says I.

"I saved you; me—I'm the man!" shouts the fellow.

"Saved me?"

"And then, as I felt for my pocketbook and watch, I found I was damp—wet as a drowned rat."

"Well overboard, by thunder!" says I.

"Well you did, and no mistake," says the fellow. "I pulled you out, or you'd been crab bait afore now."

"Call a carriage, if you please," says I, tossing up about two gallons of pure Chesapeake. Call a hack."

"I've got a small bill agin you, my friend," says the shopkeeper. "They have used a gallon of my sperets in fetching you to."

"I paid the man a dollar."

"Then says some fellow standing by: 'Mister, I spose you'll trott the crowd for rubbing at you, and a rolling out the water.'

"I invited the whole party up to drink, and handed around the cigars and crackers."

"I then called again for a carriage."

"I went for the doctor, Mister. Of course you'll gin a fellow something for going for the doctor," said another blood sucker.

"I gave the rascal a dollar."

"Now," says I, "for God's sake bring me a carriage."

"I was edging through the crowd towards the door, when a nigger got before me, hat in hand."

"Boss, you broke dis child's barrow all to pieces. Guy, must hab a quarter or free leben penny bits for mendae, shuah!"

"I didn't kill the nigger, but gave him half a dollar, and rushed for the door—"

The carriage drove up—a doctor's gig at the same time.

"Stop sir," says the doctor; "I shall charge you for coming here."

"Charge and be—!" says I jumping into the hack.

"Insolent puppy!" says the doctor. "I'll make you smart for this before you are a day older."

"Do if you please," I shouted, as the hackman drove off.

"For some minutes I was unconscious of all around me, even the wet and brazen fellow by my side, but who did not long allow me to repose in such happy oblivion—rot and blast him."

"What a cursed set of blood suckers they were," says he.

"Umph!" says I, not exactly knowing whether I was a dead or living man.

"Them fellows down at the shop," he continued, "I pulled you out."

"What do you want here? What are you following me for?" I gasped, almost tempted to jump out at the window of the hack.

"Well," he replied, "I'm a poor man—got dreadful wet—almost lost my life—me, I saved you."

"I heard no more—my lifeless body was taken out of the hack into my lodgings. When I came to, there stood the fellow, telling my friends how I fell in—like double distilled thunder it fell upon my ears."

"Me, I saved him." I again elapsed into a spasm. I was sickly and fast in my bed for twelve long months. My business was neglected—my friends paid the fellow who 'saved me' handsomely—the doctor prosecuted me—my friends comforted him—and when I got out of my bed I was a ruined man."

"Yes, Mr. Marble, I was a ruined man—involved—in feeble health and beset by a fiend. For, sir, I had no sooner got about than I met—met—blast him, he froze to me—dogged me like a shadow, and wherever I went, morning, noon and night, he hawled into my ear:

"Me, I saved you!"

"I tried to close up my affairs and clear out. Couldn't do it; and between you and I, Mr. Marble, I took faro for diversion, and gin and bitters to keep my spirits from deserting me."

"Well," says Dan, "is the fellow still about?"

"I hope not—wouldn't for fifty dollars see him again. He stole a nigger a year ago, was caught, and I heard no more from him. I was becoming tranquilized and happy, when I learned, last night, that my ghost was seen sneaking around town again."

They parted, and Dan saw no more of his haunted friend; and about a year after this occurrence, while in the city of Memphis, Tenn., Dan heard of the ex-merchant. He had emigrated from Baltimore to escape the fellow who had 'saved him,' went to Kentucky, and was hung for a fellow gambler. Just before leaving, he called out in a loud voice:

"Let me go—don't anybody save me!" and he went.

A YOUNG MAN'S FIRST LESSON.—Timothy Titcomb is guilty of uttering many very blunt truths, and here is one from his letters to the young.

"I take it that the first great lesson a young man has to learn is that he is an ass. The earlier this lesson is learned, the better it will be for his peace of mind and his success in life. Some never learn it, and descend into the evening of their existence, their ears lengthening with shadows as they go. Some learn it early, get their ears cropped and say nothing about it; while others sensibly retire into modest employments, where they will not be noticed. A young man reared at home and growing in the light of parental admiration and paternal pride cannot understand how any man can be as smart as he is. He goes to town, puts on airs and gets snubbed, and wonders what it means; gets into society and finds himself tongue-tied; undertakes to speak in a debating club, and breaks down or gets laughed at; pays attention to a nice young woman, and finds a very large mitten on his hands, and in a state of mind bordering on distraction, sits down to reason about it. This is the critical period of his history. The result of this reasoning decides his fate. If he thoroughly comprehends the fact that he does not know anything, and accepts the conviction that all the world around him knows more than he does, that he is but a cipher, and whatever he gets must be won by hard work, there is hope for him."

GOT MORE THAN HIS SHARE.—An Irishman employed on a farm, was told by the farmer that one of his duties would be to feed the chickens. This he did daily; but he observed, with much concern, that when he gave them their corn-meal pudding, an old drake that was among the flock shovelled it in with his broad bill much faster than the chickens could do. At last an idea struck him. One evening, as usual, while Pat was distributing pudding to the fowls, he commenced soliloquizing in the following manner: "Arrah, bedad, an' here ye are agen, ye devilish spoonbill quadruped; ye lay under the barn all day; and when I say chiky, chiky, be St. Patrick, ye are the first one here, and ye pick up three mouthful all in one, and now, be jabers, an' I'll fix ye for that, an' so I will. Sure enough, Pat called the drake close to him, and made a grab and nabbed him. "An' it's welcome ye are blast yer ugly picter; when I'm done ye'll not pick up more than yer share." With that Pat got out his knife and trimmed the drake's bill off sharp and slim, like a chicken's, and then exultingly threw him down, saying, "Now, be jabers, ye can pick up the feed 'long side the bob-tail rooster."

IT IS DARK.—The following beautiful sentiment is taken from "Meister Karl's Sketch Book," entitled "The Night of Heaven." It is full of touching tenderness:

"It is dark when the honest and honorable man sees the result of long years swept cruelly away by the knavish, heartless adversary. It is dark when he feels the clouds of sorrow gather around, and knows that the hopes and happiness of others are fading with his own. But in that hour the memory of past integrity will be a true consolation, and assure him, even here on earth, of gleams of light in Heaven."

It is dark when the dear voice of that sweet child, once so fondly loved, is no more heard around in murmurs. Dark when the light, pattering feet no more rest without the threshold, or ascend step by step, the stair. Dark, when some well known melody recalls the strain once oft attended by the childish voice now hushed in death. Darkness, indeed; but only the gloom which heralds the day spring of immortality and the infinite lights of Heaven."

A common arm-chair is a more comfortable seat than a throne, and a soft beaver hat a lighter and more pleasant piece of head-gear than a crown.

THE ART OF NOT HEARING.

The art of not hearing should be taught in every well-regulated family. It is fully as important to domestic happiness as a cultivated ear, for which so much money and time are expended. There are no many things which it is painful to hear, many of which we ought not to hear, very many which if heard will disturb the temper, corrupt simplicity and modesty, detract from contentment and happiness—that every one should be educated to take in or shut out sounds, according to their pleasure.

If a man falls into a violent passion and calls me all manner of names, the first word shuts my ear and I hear no more.—If, in my quiet voyage of life, I find myself caught in one of those domestic whirlwinds of scolding, I shut my ears, as a sailor would furl his sails, and, making all tight, scud before the gale. If a hot and restless man begins to inflame my feelings, I consider what mischief these sparks might do in the magazine below, where my temper is kept, and instantly close the door.

Does a gadding, mischief-making fellow begin to inform me what people are saying about me, down drops the portmanteau of my ear, and he cannot get in any farther. Does the collector of neighborhood scandal task me as a warehouse, he instinctively shuts up. Some people feel very anxious to hear everything that will vex and annoy them. If it is hinted that any one has spoken ill of them, they set about searching the matter and finding out. If all the petty things said of one by heedless or ill-natured idlers were to be brought home to him, he would become a mere walking pin-cushion, stuck full of sharp remarks. I should as soon thank a man for emptying on my bed a bushel of nettles, as setting loose a swarm of mosquitoes in my chamber, or raising a pungent dust in my house generally, as to bring upon me all the tattling of careless or spiteful people. If you would be happy, when among good men open your ears; when among bad, shut them. And as the throat has a muscular arrangement by which it takes care of the air-passage of its own accord, so he should be trained to an automatic idleness of hearing. It is not worth while to hear what your servants say when they are angry; what your children say after they have slammed the door; what a bear says whom you have rejected from your door; what your neighbors say about your children; what your rivals say about your business or dress.

This art of not hearing, though not taught in the school, is by no means unknown or unpracticed in society. I have noticed that a well-bred woman never hears an impertinent or vulgar remark, or a kind of discreet deafness saves one from many insults, from much blame, from not a little apparent connivance in dishonorable conversation.

There are two doors inside my ears, a right-hand door leading to the heart, and a left-hand door, with a broad and steep passage, leading out into the open air. The last door receives all ugliness, profanity, vulgarity, mischief-making, which suddenly find themselves outside of me. Judicious teachers and indulgent parents save young urchins a world of trouble by a convenient deafness. Bankers and brokers are extremely hard of hearing, when unsafe borrowers are importunate. I never hear a man who runs after me in the street bawling my name at the top of his voice, nor those who talk evil of those who are absent, nor those who give me unasked advice about my own affairs, nor those who talk largely about things of which they are ignorant.

If there are sounds of kindness, of mirth, of love, open fly my ears! But temper, or harshness, or hatred, or vulgarity, or flatulence, shuts them. If you keep your ears shut, your flowers and fruit will be less susceptible to the influence of cold, den-gate shut, your flowers and fruit will be less dependent for its comfort on artificial heat. The periods of the day best adapted to exercise are, early in the morning, and toward the close of the day. Walking is the most beneficial and most natural exercise, because in the greatest position, every part of the body is free from restraint, while by the gentle motion communicated to each portion of it, in the act of walking, free circulation is promoted. Next to walking, riding on horseback is the kind of exercise to be preferred. Many other species of exercise may be considered as contributing to the support of health; such as working in the garden, or in the fields, running, leaping, dancing and swimming.