

The Altoona Tribune.

McCRUM & DERN,

[INDEPENDENT IN EVERYTHING.]

EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS.

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THE ALTOONA TRIBUNE.

McCRUM & DERN, P. O. DERN,
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Choice Poetry.

AUTUMN MUSINGS.

BY MRS. M. F. AMES.

Leaves are falling, falling, falling,
To the ground where'er I go.
Every step the seem claiming—
Of the winds that laid them low.

Knitting, rustling, oh! how sadly!
Like dead hopes in memory's hall;
Leaves of spring and leaves of summer,
Wearing their own funeral pall.

Far away, in sunny Southland,
Are they dropping this to-day,
O'er the graves, where lightly buried,
Sleep our dead from battle's fray!

Fitting type of their own falling,
When the leaden storm swept past,
Thus they sank, with dying murmurs,
To their rest, so drear—their last!

Strew them gently, leaves of Autumn,
Leave no space 'twixt friend and foe;
Cover up the broken surface
Close and warm, ere comes the snow.

And when next the leaves are falling,
May it be on peaceful ground;
Stilled forever, this wild tumult,
Healed for aye, this needless wound.

Select Miscellany.

A LESSON OF THE WAR.

"A new caller! I wonder what she can want of me?" said Ellen C.

as a solemn-faced footman brought her a card on a salver.

"Who is it, my dear?" said Mrs. C.

"Anna Graves, a classmate of mine. I have not seen much of her. They are rather common, I believe."

Mrs. C. smiled a sensible little smile, for this word "common" was the severest sentence of condemnation that her gentle and lady-like daughter was ever known to pronounce.

"I am glad your friend has called," she replied. "Make her welcome, by all means, and do not, my dear child, limit your sympathies to so narrow a circle. I am not in the least afraid that you will receive injury from one who is receiving the same excellent instruction with yourself."

It will readily be surmised that Miss Ellen claimed some social distinction; but it may be so easily believed that this arose from a simple-hearted ancestor who, only eighty years ago, had been foremost in the overthrow of a kingly government, and the maintenance of the rights of man against the privileges of a class.

Yet, if Ellen had been "the daughter of a hundred earls," she could not have been more proud of her separation from the "common" herd than she was now of her relation to that radical, republican old gentleman, who risked life and fortune upon the assertion that "all men are born free and equal."

To do Ellen justice, she bore her honors meekly. Innate good feeling and, perhaps, Christian principle kept her from intentional unkindness toward anything that breathed. Moreover, she very justly held that gentle manners are the best proof of gentle birth, and the superiority which needs to assert itself seemed to her of very doubtful order.

She never outshone her companions by wearing her brilliant array of jewelry; for in these days of shoddy, diamonds are "common." She even insisted on the etiquette of the simple prints and cambrics for school attire, for, over-dressing is the surest mark of mushroom aristocracy—

which any young lady with a revolutionary grandfather must of course regard with supreme contempt. In short, Ellen was, as I hope you will admit, a favorable specimen of her class; and, though our young readers who are so happy as to live in the country may not recognize the class, and may think this description entirely borrowed from fancy, I fear that our little city friends, down to the very youngest, will know the picture too well, even if some do not chance to find their own portraits drawn.

Of late a new cause for pride had brought with it a great suspense and sorrow. Ellen's only brother was in the foremost ranks of our brave Union army, proving his birthright by serving the good cause, "all for love and nothing for reward." He had declined all distinction; for, while careless of danger to himself, he had feared the great responsibility of commanding others. For months no word had been received from him, and suspense was deepening into a fearful certainty. Still, under all the chastening influence of sorrow, habit was strong with Ellen, and grief itself only added to her exclusiveness. It will readily be believed that Ellen's self-imposed barriers were respected, and her visitors were strictly within the charmed circle which she defined as "our set."

Therefore, it was with some surprise that she received the name of Miss Anna Graves, a daily associate at school, but somewhat less favored than herself in pedigree and position. A slight improvement in costume—for Ellen felt the need of being, on this occasion, even more impressive than usual—and she descended to the parlor.

After a very few simple words of salutation, Anna said, rather eagerly, "I called, Miss C., because I have good news for you, which you might not otherwise receive. Your brother"—she went on, not observing Ellen's slight movement of surprise—"your brother, who was a prisoner at Richmond, has escaped with several others, and is coming home as fast as he can bear the journey."

"My brother!"—Ellen's dignity was melting away in the fast-flowing tears of joy and thankfulness—"my dearest, only brother! Pray tell me all about him.—How did you learn?"

"My brother is with him," Anna replied: "they were captured together; your brother wounded seriously, though not fatally. He is improving, Alfred writes me, and all the more rapidly now that he hopes to see home in a few days."

The talk was long, but it need not be chronicled. How many of us can fill out the hour's rapid interchange of question and reply, fearful doubt and reassurance; and we know why, when Ellen returned to her sitting room, it seemed to her that weeks had elapsed, and a heavy cloud had passed away since she had left it.

Two days only, and by slow and safe journeys, the invalid might reach his home. Of the joy in the household, the useless preparations, the quiet, lonely tears of mother and sister, sweeter than all rejoicing; I need not write. Each reader shall have the pleasant task of filling up the blank from memory.

Have we not all noticed that, when a great joy becomes habitual, its inspiring power is destroyed? The first great wave of gladness sweeps out of sight all selfish passions, and the emotion is pure; but too often the receding tide leaves to view all the ugly remains of former faults. So it was with Ellen. In the first great shock of joy, she included in her love and gratitude all who were concerned in its cause; but as the certainty of her brother's return took possession of her mind, her thoughts centered on him alone, with selfish exclusiveness. She was jealous of any one who even named him with stranger lips; still more of the faithful comrade who was privileged to be with him, to care for him, and who had so far a nearer place in the sufferer's regards than herself.

At length the slow hours of the last afternoon had worn away; the happy evening came; there was the clatter of hoofs, the roll of a carriage; a thin, trembling form supported up the steps by a young sol-

dier in a much dilapidated uniform; a pale, eager face at the door; and then there were tearful embraces and half-whispered words of greeting as to one returned from the dead, and warmest of thanks from all except Miss Ellen to the brave and tender comrade, who slipped away at the earliest possible moment, to carry happiness to another home.

Then followed long days of assiduous watching. Black Sambo found his occupation gone, for no hands but Miss Ellen's were fine enough to minister to the invalid, and almost no one but herself was allowed to approach him. At first, a few words were spoken, for sickness and starvation had almost completed their fearful work, and to breathe the blessed air of home was all the joy that was left within the power of the victim. It was hard to recognize in the sunken, lusterless eyes the gay young spirit which had once made the life of the dwelling. But, as strength began to revive, there were long stories to be whispered of capture and almost fatal wounds, and of painful sickness in that darkest of all earthly abodes, a traitor-prison. The picture was relieved only by the generous, self-sacrifices of the comrade who had periled his own chances of escape to encumber himself with a helpless burden.

Harry never wearied of dwelling upon the brotherly devotion of Alfred, until once he detected an expression of uneasiness on Ellen's mobile features.

"You are tired of my soldier's yarns, little sister," said he.

"No, Harry, dear, I shall never hear enough of your adventures; but, really, do you know that I am more than half-jealous of your favorite comrade? You forget home and the rest of us while talking of him."

"That reminds me," said Harry, absently: "I thought you were a schoolmate of Al's sister. Why does she not call? and why, I wonder, does he stay away from me so long?"

A flush of something like shame covered Ellen's face, as she perceived it was too late to avoid an answer, "Anna is a very nice girl," said she: "but we do not visit much."

"Ah! why not?"

"Oh, you know I have a large number of calling acquaintances; more, indeed, than mother thinks best for me while I am still at school."

"I am going to beg for one more in your behalf, I believe you will help me, little sister, in paying off my debts—I mean in acknowledging them; for, indeed, they can never be paid. I owe life itself, and my restoration to you, entirely to Alfred; and I want, at least, that our families should be acquainted, that we may have opportunities of expressing the obligation."

Ellen made no reply.

"You will second me in this, won't you, Ellie?"

"Certainly." But Ellen's voice made a different answer from her words, and her brother's quick ear caught the one as well as the other.

"Some school-girl rivalry, I suspect," said he gaily. "Has Miss Anna won a gold medal from you, or did she precede you a week in wearing long dresses? I know she has not surpassed you at the Philharmonic concerts in elegance of attire. Bury the tomahawk, dear, and I will give you two medals and a new dress besides."

"Oh, you provoking boy!" said Ellen. "You're as much of a torment as ever. I assure you, I have not the least rivalry with Miss Graves."

"What is it then? Reply, or we fire."

"Why, to tell the truth," replied Ellen, growing a little red in the face, "you know one cannot visit everybody, and the G's are—not low, by any means—very excellent people, I believe; but—you know—just a little—common."

The hateful word would out, but Ellen would have given the name of her grandfather to recall it. The railway had vanished from Harry's face, and he turned slightly on the pillow. In the side view, the lines of suffering were more sharply defined, and, wanting the light in the eyes, the face looked almost like the corpse to which rebel barbarity

had been trying to reduce it—from which only the tender, heroic efforts of his friend and comrade had been able to reclaim it.

"Your brother is only a 'common' soldier," said he, at length; "but he would be a disgrace to that old blue overcoat, if he could forget the kindness of a comrade. Let me tell you, little sis, I have dug in the trenches by the side of hard-handed fellows from Maine and from Minnesota, from the coal mines and the lumber forests, and there isn't one of them but is like a brother to me, I see they wouldn't fit in here very well—not used to damask curtains and velvet carpets, and have scarcely the manner of society; but they are my comrades, for all that, and if you don't like the company I keep, you must disown your brother?"

"Oh, Harry, Harry! don't talk so wildly. You know I love and honor every one that has been kind to you. Forgive me; indeed I never thought of this before."

"No, dearie, I know you have as yet had no reason to do so. But think with me now, from my lonely watch on picket, or in the mud of the trenches, or still more from that horrid prison, surrounded by fiends who reviled all that we hold sacred. I tell you, any one who loved our flag was more than a brother to me. I forgot those fanciful distinctions that at home we used to recognize. But it did seem to me, Ellen, that we had got right into the tracks of our brave old ancestors, and were fighting the very same battle which they began. And, now, in the midst of our struggle with that hateful aristocracy, which mocks and insults the very image of God, if it chance to appear in ebony or bronze instead of alabaster, it is strange that these shallow distinctions should be more regarded by us than ever. I thought they were forgotten among the other child's toys that used to amuse us before we had any earnest work on hand. But one thing is certain: if ever we are worthy of victory in this war, it will be by living up to our high doctrine that all men are equal, and that our reverence is due to the immortal spirit which is born of God, not to its outward accidents of color or position."

"You know, Harry, that I never thought of that in so serious a way before."

"No, dear, and I never before made so long an oration. Won't you congratulate me on my maiden speech? At least, you must give me the satisfaction of making one convert. We will be thoroughly radical, won't we, in our belief in social equality?"

"Anything you please, Mr. Leveiler. But, really, you are growing quite alarming. Must we admit all sorts of people, without regard to character or culture, into the circle of our intimate associates?"

"No, I did not say that. Make your moral distinctions as clear as possible, and as exclusive, so that you do not grow pharisaical, and exclude charity herself. But I do say, while we make mere conventional badges of more account than essential qualities of soul, we are unworthy the name of Americans, and it is a wonder the shades of our ancestors do not rise in some of our gay and glittering assemblies to disown us."

WHAT WILL MRS. GUNDY SAY.—An exchange paper is jubilant over the fashion Empress Eugenie has lately set, and says her example will commend it to the good sense of all sensible women. "She, upon a recent occasion, appeared in public with skirts shortened sufficiently to display the handsome, richly ornamented garters worn by her."

A modest bachelor says the printer has evidently made a mistake; that garter—not garters—is the height of this new fashion.

A citizen of Washington having contributed one thousand dollars as a reward to the first man of our army who will unfurl the stars and stripes in the city of Richmond, the money has been sent to General Grant for that purpose.

A fifteen pound cannon ball was found recently in a bale of cotton in Lowell, Mass.

SHARP CORRESPONDENCE.

Soon after the occupation of Atlanta by Gen. Sherman, he determined to rid the city of all non-combatants, with a view of making the place a strong military position—sending all who were willing to take the oath of allegiance North, and compelling confirmed rebels to go South—and issued a positive order to that effect. To facilitate the removal of the latter, he sent a note to the rebel Gen. Hood, proposing an armistice of ten days at a point where the rebellious citizens should be delivered to their friends. Hood accepted the offer, but took occasion to denounce Gen. Sherman's order as "unprecedented in the dark history of war for studied and ungenerous cruelty." To this Gen. Sherman returned the following pointed answer:

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI IN THE FIELD, ATLANTA, Sept. 10, 1864.

GENERAL T. B. HOOD, Commanding Army of the Tennessee, Confederate Army: General—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this date at the hands of Messrs. Ball and Crew, consenting to the arrangements I had proposed to facilitate removal South those of Atlanta who prefer to go in that direction. I enclose you a copy of my orders, which will, I am satisfied, accomplish my purpose perfectly. You style the measures proposed unprecedented, and appeal to the dark history of war for a parallel as an act of studied and ungenerous cruelty. It is not unprecedented, for Gen. Johnston himself very wisely and properly removed the families all the way from Dalton down, and I see no reason why Atlanta should be excepted. Nor is it necessary to appeal to the dark history of war, when recent and modern examples are so handy. You yourself burned houses along your parapet, and I have seen to-day fifty houses that you have rendered uninhabitable because they stood in the way of your forts and men. You defended Atlanta on a line so close to the town that every cannon shot and many musket shots from our lines of investment that over-shot their mark went into the habitations of women and children. Gen. Hardee did the same at Jonesboro, Gen. Johnson did the same last summer at Jackson, Miss. I have not accused you of heartless cruelty, but merely instance those cases of very recent occurrence, and could go on and enumerate hundreds of others, and challenge any fiend to judge which of us has the heart of pity for the families of a brave people. I say it is a kindness to those families of Atlanta to remove them now at once from scenes that women and children should not be exposed to, and the brave people should scorn to commit their wives and children to the rude barbarians who thus, as you say, violate the laws of war as illustrated in the pages of its dark history. In the name of common sense, I ask you not to appeal to a just God in such a sacrilegious manner. You, who in the midst of peace and prosperity have plunged a nation into civil war—dark and cruel war—who dared and badgered us to battle; insulted our flag, seized our arsenals and forts that were left in the honorable custody of a peaceful ordinance sergeant, seized and made prisoners of war the very garrisons sent to protect your people against negroes and Indians, long before any overt act was committed by the, to you, hateful Lincoln Government, tried to force Kentucky and Missouri into the rebellion in spite of themselves, falsified the vote of Louisiana, turned loose your privateers to plunder unarmed ships, expelled Union families by the thousands, burned their houses, and declared by act of your Congress the confiscation of all debts due Northern men for goods had and received. Tell this to the marines, but not to me, who have seen these things, and who will this day make as much sacrifice for the peace and honor of the South as the best born Southern among you. If we must be enemies, let us be men; and fight it out, as we propose to-day, and not deal in such hypocritical appeals to God and humanity. God will judge us in due time; He will pronounce whether it be more humane to fight

with a town full of women and the families of a brave people at our back, or to remove them in time to places of safety among their own people and friends.

I am, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

[Signed] L. M. DAYTON, A. D. C.
The Mayor of Atlanta and other citizens, about the same time, waited on Gen. Sherman with a paper in the form of a petition asking him to revoke his order. But he "couldn't see it," and sent the troublesome citizens to their friends with the following unanswerable letter:

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI IN THE FIELD, ATLANTA, Ga., September 12, 1864.

James M. Calhoun, Mayor, E. E. Rawson and S. C. Wells, Representing City Council of Atlanta:

GENTLEMEN: I have your letter of the 11th, in the nature of a petition to revoke my orders removing all the inhabitants from Atlanta. I have read it carefully, and give full credit to your statements of the distress that will be occasioned by it, and yet shall not revoke my order—simply because my orders are not designed to meet the humanities of the case, but to prepare for the future struggles in which millions, yes, hundreds of millions of good people outside of Atlanta have a deep interest. We must have peace, not only at Atlanta, but in all America.

To secure this we must stop the war that now desolates our once happy and favored country. To stop war we must defeat the rebel armies that arrayed against the laws and Constitution which all must respect and obey. To defeat these armies we must prepare the way to reach them in their recesses, provided with the arms and instruments which enable us to accomplish our purpose. Now, I know the vindictive nature of our enemy, and that we may have many years of military operations from this quarter, and therefore deem it wise and prudent to prepare in time. The use of Atlanta for warlike purposes is inconsistent with its character as a home for families. There will be no manufactures, commerce or agriculture here for the maintenance of families, and sooner or later war will compel the inhabitants to go. Why not go now, when all the arrangements are completed for the transfer, instead of waiting till the plunging shot of contending armies will renew the scenes of the past month? Of course I do not apprehend any such thing at this moment, but you do not suppose this army will be here till the war is over. I cannot discuss this subject with you fairly, because I cannot impart to you what I propose to do; but I assert my military plans make it necessary for the inhabitants to go away, and I can only renew my offer of services to make this exodus as easy and comfortable as possible.

You cannot qualify war in harsher terms than I will. War is cruelty; and you cannot refine it; and those who brought war on our country deserve all the curses and maledictions a people can pour out. I know I had no hand in making this war, and I know I will make more sacrifices to-day than any of you to secure peace. But you cannot have peace and a division of our country. If the United States submits to a division now, it will not stop, but will go on until we reap the fate of Mexico, which is eternal war. The United States does and must assert its authority wherever it has power; if it relaxes one bit to pressure it is gone, and I know that such is not the National feeling. This feeling assumes various shapes, but always looks back to that Union. Once admit the Union, once more acknowledge the authority of the National Government, and instead of devoting your houses, and streets, and roads to the dread uses of war, I, and this army, become at once your protectors and supporters, shielding you from danger; let it come from what quarter it may. I know that a few individuals cannot resist a torrent of error and passion such as has swept the South into rebellion; but you can point out so that we may know those who