

THE SKEIN.

BY ROBERT BUCHANAN.

Slip, yes, slip your skein, my Kitty,
O'er my hands, and wind, and wind,
All the while with little pity,
Tangling, tangling heart and mind;
Kitty! eyes upon the wool?
Not on me my beautiful!

Now you drop your eyes completely,
Winding, winding, dressing me;
Wherefore, wherefore smile so sweetly
On a thing that cannot see?
If you must smile, smile this way:
I will bear it as I may!

Ah! the rebead fingers sitting
Swift about the colored ball!
How my heart beats time whilst sitting,
Still I try to bear it all!
Kitty, do you know or care
'Tis my heart you're winding there?

Kitty, I am in a vision!
All the world to mist doth die;
Only, in an airy Elysium,
Little fairy fingers fly;
Surely, if they fit too near,
I shall catch and kiss them, dear!

Tangled! pout not, frown not Kitty!
Though I gladly bear the pain,
For your anger is so pretty,
It may make me sin again.
There! 'tis well! Now, wind and wind,
Tangling further heart and mind!

Now, 'tis done! the last thread lingers
Sadly from me slow to part;
Can't thou see that in my fingers
I am holding up my heart?
Wind and wind! I do not care!
Smile or frown! And I will bear!

Ah! so fast and quick you wind it,
I no more can keep it mine;
Do you wonder that you find it
Tangling now, close, close to mine,
Tangled, tangled are the twain;
Kiss, kiss, kiss them free again!

[Written for the WATCHMAN,
The Chronicle of Tattletown.

BY VIRGINIA.

CHAPTER III.

THE COMPTONS.

Blistering, disagreeable March had come and gone, and April had come, bringing her offering of flowers and sunshine to gladden the earth. 'Twas a beautiful day that welcomed Claudia Henry to her new home, the beauties of which Daisy was never tired talking about. Mrs. Compton stood on the portico watching the approach of the carriage which had been sent to town for the young travelers, and which was only visible as yet through the lower gate of the plantation. Near her stood a sable group consisting of the important heads of the kitchen, butlers, and housekeeping departments, the most important of which was "Aunt Esther," or "mammy" as she was more familiarly known, who from being head nurse, had, on returning to the Hall, been installed as housekeeper, and who wore the dignity of her position with as much grace, as she did the turban of snowy linen, the spotless apron, and bright colored "Viginy cloth" dress, and which contrasted strongly with the good natured black face, that now wore its most shining aspect. When the family misfortunes had rendered it necessary to dispose of almost all their servants, "Aunt Esther," "mammy Mollie," the cook, and her son Alfred had stoutly declared their intention of remaining, and Mrs. Compton had consented only too willingly, as they were, faithful, and valued dependants, to whom she, and her children were sincerely attached. It was doubtful if Mrs. Compton and her family had felt the loss of family fortunes more than these afore mentioned dignitaries; certain it is, their return to the Hall was hailed with equal delight, and "mammy" had resumed her sceptre with as much ease as though she had not been for some years a maid of all work in the little cottage in the village, while old Mollie ignored as well the scanty suppers, and plain dinners of the same period; never alluding to them except to her colleague Alfred, who held the responsible position of chief butler of Compton Hall.

As the carriage entered the upper gate of the avenue it halted, and Daisy sprang out, glided lightly over the lawn, and was in her mother's arms, had been kissed and caressed to her heart's content, and had been welcomed by the sable group ere the carriage had completed half the circle that led to the steps of the portico.

As Mrs. Compton folded the motherless Claudia in her arms, none would have noticed any difference in her greeting, and that she gave her own daughters, save a tenderness that Claudia alone felt, and which assured her that her position would be that of a loved and honored inmate of the family, holding equal honors and affections with Augusta and Daisy, and her heart went out in that hour to meet the mother love bestowed on her.

a brief one; but it was much shorter than he expected it would be. As he threw the reins over his horse's neck on dismounting he glanced at the sitting room windows; but the face beaming with welcome that was wont to greet his arrival could no where be seen, and on inquiring for the ladies, the obsequious servant ushered him, not as usual, into the family sitting room, but the library where soon after Ellie joined him. She excused her mother on the plea of being engaged in some domestic matter, and seated herself. Her greeting was formal, almost cold, and Charlie detected it in a moment; but came at once to the object of his visit, determined to notice it as little as possible.

"My mother would be pleased to see Mrs. Burke and yourself to-morrow at the Hall," I saw Will in town, and received his acceptance of the invitation for himself. Shall I say as much to mama for your mother and yourself?" "Yes, I know of no previous engagement, and shall accept it for us both. I presume the girls came to-day?"

There was a formality on her tone that worried him excessively; but he would not permit her to see it. "You will meet Miss Henry, or I should say Claudia, to-morrow, and I know you will love her as she deserves to be. This is additional inducement for you."

"It needs no inducement save the pleasure of seeing the girls again, and visiting the Hall to induce me," said Ellie if possible a little more stiffly.

"I hope not Ellie, yet you will love Claudia very much when you know her. Her very desolate orphanage appeals to your sympathy, and we must try and replace the tenderness she has lost, if possible. I know you cannot help loving her. She's very beautiful!"

"I have heard so," replied Ellie quietly, not in the least interested in the ecstatic admiration of Miss Henry's charms. Charley had intended to remain the entire half hour at "Briery Knove," but he changed his mind seeing that the visit was entirely unwished for on Ellie's part. Heretofore when he made a morning call she had received him so informally, occupying herself with her embroidery, or discussing with him the comparative merits of some new book, perhaps idling the time away over some new piece of music, in which Charles took a prominent part—accompanying her with the flute. Now she sat dignifiedly on the sofa, playing with the tassels of her coquettish silk apron. He might have been a very stranger, for the old affectionate welcome that she failed to give. A few commonplace remarks more, and he rose to leave. There was no invitation to remain, and she accompanied him only as far as the library door, dismissing him with a bow. Once he thought of turning back, and demanding an explanation, but the library door had closed, and he went out, mounted his horse, and rode off. Heretofore she would accompany him to the door, and a thousand little forgotten nothings would be recalled, protracting the leave taking to many pleasant moments. As he rode through the gate he turned and looked back; but no smiling face greeted him, nor a kiss thrown from a fair hand sent him with a proud happy heart away, and he muttered to himself as he flew along the road towards home, "Confound it all what ails the girl? I would be angry with her if I could; but upon word she looked queerly! Dignity becomes her wondrous well! But I'll know the reason of such treatment to-morrow, or my name is not Compton. I cannot imagine what change has come over her. She's no coquette, or I might account for it easily. But no! in spite she's a queen, any way you fix it—and queen of my heart she is, I know, and proud am I of it."

The ride did him good, it acted as a nervous valve for his feelings, and by the time he reached home his equanimity was entirely restored. Every one had gone to their rooms to dress for dinner, and he took himself off to the library, where he smoked away all his unpleasant feelings, meeting them at the dinner table with a smiling and hearty welcome.

ple white merino, relieved at the throat and wrists by coral breastpin and bracelets. On her left was Claudia whose black, lustreless silk was relieved only by the fair face, and beautiful dark auburn hair. The deep violet eyes, looked almost black beneath the shadow of the dark lashes that swept the white cheek, and the beautiful lips alone contradicted the idea of ill health, for she was very slight, and seemed taller in consequence. It was a beautiful face, and the occasional smile would brighten its loveliness like sunset on a rare picture, giving it the only beauty it lacked—that of animation.

Near her, and on the right of her brother sat Daisy, the spoiled pet of the family, a petite maiden of fourteen summers, whose dancing eyes would bewitch you into the belief that they were brown, and yet the next moment swear they were blue, but Daisy said they were grey, "honest grey eyes." Soft brown ringlets fell about a sunshiny face, and dimples played hide and seek in the rosy cheeks, and round white arms. A soft white muslin, and violet ribbons completed the attractions that had enslaved the handsome Eugene Mason, who sat opposite her, and who with Charlie kept up a battery of small talk at that end of the table.

"I think Charles told me you were acquainted with the Burkes," said Mrs. Compton to Eugene. "You will meet them to-morrow."

"Yes madam. Will and I were college mates, and I have frequently met his sister in Richmond at her sister's, Mrs. Gray's, I remember her well, and shall be pleased to renew the acquaintance."

"I'll give you fair warning, Mr. Eugene, not to fall in love with her, or there will be coffee and pistols for two, in consequence. She's brother Charlie's specialty, if I'm not mistaken!" said Daisy suspending the sly feeding of a pet spaniel under the table.

Charlie colored; "Daisy you are ridiculous to speak so! Ella and I are friends—nothing more, and Eugene is at liberty to enter the list of suitors for her favor, at least as far as I'm concerned."

"Thank you," said Eugene, "but I shall endeavor to submit to the infliction of Miss Daisy's society, and leave Miss Burke to more aspiring mortals," and he laughed provokingly at the embarrassment his words caused Daisy, who vented her ill humor by the most charming pouts, and would be revengeful glances.

when he said she had not yet put off childish things.

"Well," said Daisy resignedly "if you make dignity a sine qua non of young ladyhood, I fear you will never see me enjoying its benefits. There, brother Charlie what do you say to my latin?"

"It's vulgar," said Augusta, "to make use of a foreign language in general conversation. But you really know so little of any language, little sister, that we may excuse the airing you give it occasionally."

"I don't want to be a young lady if it makes me ridiculous and disagreeable, for ridiculous it is Augusta to make people believe I love to show off my accomplishments."

"Which do not speak for themselves," said Mrs. Compton. "You are paid off for your impertinence, Miss Daisy," and he tweaked slyly her little ear.

"You ladies are generally affected!" finished off Daisy, as they rose from the table, "I do not intend to enter that intermediate state at all. When I assume dresses with trains, and tuck my hair with a comb, I shall be a married woman."

"Whew!" exclaimed Charlie, "that's a modest declaration for a little child like you! But joking aside, dignity will add materially to your moral stature, if it does not to your physical appearance." "Does not it seem natural mama to be at the old place again?" asked Augusta as she stood beside her mother in the drawing room, after dinner. "Everything is almost just as we left it."

you, you can arrange it to-morrow, and I'll not take these out."

"That's darling!" said Daisy kissing her, "and now we'll go, and break up the smoking party in the library, and have a little walk before tea; but perhaps you feel tired, and would prefer lying down?"

"Yes dear, if you don't mind, I'll go up to my room, and lie down. Will you please send Aunt Esther to me, and excuse me to the gentlemen?"

"I don't know if they'll take any excuse Claudia, you had better come with me, and make your excuses in person."

"Never mind, darling. Mr. Mason will excuse me if you say so, I'll venture to say. Now run off, and get your hat. Mr. Mason will decide the propriety of my remaining at home."

"Who's that deciding any matter for me?" asked Mr. Mason opening the library door near which Claudia and Daisy stood.

"Claudia" answered Daisy promptly. "We concluded to let you decide if it was not too pleasant out of doors to resist the temptation of a stroll before supper time."

Sheep Raising in Texas.

The advantages offered by this one business is bringing a large number of emigrants to Texas. We have occasionally given facts showing that the profits to be derived from even a small investment in this way were greater than could be realized in any other department of industry; and we have many other facts much more favorable than any yet published. We have also published statements to show that bad management and neglect will make even sheep raising unprofitable; but the details of these cases only made it more plain that, while all the carefulness and attention that can be brought to bear on the business will pay, one-half the trouble necessary to attain and apply correct methods in many other enterprises, will cause a flock to double, treble and quadruple the original investment more rapidly than anything else.

Here, for example, is a statement on which our readers may place implicit reliance, not only as being true, but as giving nothing more than a fair indication of profit. Col. Shepherd, of Washington county, bought \$900 worth of sheep five years ago. From the sale of mutton and wool he has improved his stock, which now numbers three thousand head, valued at twelve thousand dollars. Two clippings—the last and the one previous—amounted to about two thousand five hundred pounds which he sold in Galveston, which is the market, for \$4000. His stock now, and what he has realized from sales of sheep and wool, are estimated at \$30,000, derived solely from his investment of \$900.

If any country or legitimate business can beat this, we should like to hear from the same. And, we repeat, this no isolated case. Hundreds have done as well as Col. Shepherd, and many have no doubt done better, even though their names may not be quite so appropriate to their business. Texas has everything that the flock requires, and those who have not looked into the rate of increase which is common under such circumstances, would be surprised at its extent. There is nothing occult, or exceptional, about the matter. All that is necessary, in such a climate, and with such pasturage as ours, is to make the start and watch the business for a few years, and a large fortune is certain to be the result.—Galveston (Texas) News.

THE PIANO-FORTE.—In the present advanced state of society, few things are more indicative of its elevation than the musical education of the people. It marks its progress, and, as a matter of course, the piano being the household instrument, forming the nucleus around which the family gather, its importance cannot be over rated. Indeed its presence in the parlor is a convincing proof of the culture and refinement of the family. Formerly, nearly all amusements were from home, and to get a little music it was necessary to go to the theatre or concert-room. Now, with the more educated portion of society, the family is gathered every evening around the piano, the domestic virtues are cultivated and a home-feeling created which improves the taste of society, and renders the public sentiment happier and healthier. In the more fashionable circles, private concerts increase year by year, and in them the piano, is the principal feature. Many a man engaged in commercial and other active pursuits, finds the chief charm of his drawing-room in the intellectual enjoyment afforded by the piano.

It also enables those who have a prejudice against the opera, to become thoroughly acquainted with the choicest dramatic and musical compositions.

THE VIRTUES OF GLYCERINE.—Hall's Journal of Health asserts positively that glycerine is a perfect cure for diphtheria and membranous croup, when applied with a soft camel's hair brush to the interior of the throat. The penetrating qualities of the glycerine enable it to separate the granules of which the membranes are formed in both these diseases and not only destroy them but prevent their further formation. These are two most insidious and terribly fatal diseases and if in this simple and harmless remedy will cure them, it should be generally known. Glycerine is a most valuable medicine, and should be kept in every house. It is a perfect remedy for chapped hands, lips, or other chafed, raw surfaces, curing them by simply applying a small quantity to the part affected.

CURE FOR KARACH.—Take a small piece of cotton or wool, make a depression in the centre with the end of the finger, and fill it with as much ground pepper as will rest on a silver five cent piece, (provided you know what that amount coin looked like you when it was in use) or the point of a small table knife, gather it into a ball and secure it so that the pepper will not get out, dip the ball into sweet oil and insert it into the ear, covering the latter with cotton or wool, and use a bandage to keep it in place. Immediate relief will be experienced, and the application is equally successful for hives that are inflamed, not being injured by it. Try it in all cases from that most disagreeable and annoying disease.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

INDUCEMENTS TO MARRY.—Bachelors, especially the young ones, will be happy to learn that their condition is to be ameliorated by a new movement in Boston, which takes the name of the "Marriage Fund Association." This society has issued a grave circular, which sets forth the alluring programme of a marriage portion of five hundred dollars for every member of the organization who has paid one hundred dollars, a gift of one hundred dollars for every child born when father and mother are both members, and an award of another hundred dollars annually for the support and education of each child until it is ten years old. It is reported that ten thousand dollars have already been subscribed in aid of this project. "If the growing tendency of our young men toward celibacy" is mourned by the projectors, who added that they intend to do all they can to apply the remedy.

A good story was recently told at a temperance meeting in New Hampshire.

A stranger came up to a true Washingtonian with the inquiry:

"Can you tell me where I can get any thing to drink?"

"Oh, yes said the other, 'follow me.'"

The man followed him two or three streets till he began to be discouraged.

"How much further must I go?" said he.

"Only a few steps further," said the Washingtonian; "there is the pump!"

The man turned about and moved his boots.

"When cock-fighting was in fashion, a gentleman having a match in the country gave two serjeants in charge to his Irish servant to carry down."

"Put them together in a bag, on opening which on his arrival, he was not a little surprised to find one of them dead and the other terribly wounded. Being scolded by his master for putting them into the same bag, he said he did not think there was any danger of their hurting each other, as they were going to fight on the same side."