

# Democratic Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., March 7, 1890.

## HER PICTURE.

Thank God no change or pain can ever come To that fair pictured face on yonder wall, With earnest eyes and lips forever dumb, That loved and trusted me through all in all.

Ful many a time when filled with deep un I watched it in the lamplight's quivering glow. Until it faded from me in a dream.

Sweet, gently curving mouth, that to me left Its last smile in the last kiss that she gave, Then closed, to leave me utterly bereft, Until we meet again beyond the grave.

Soft eyes, within the freight's fitful glow, I scarce can see you, sorrowful and deep; And yet in darkness, 'tis in light, I know That never weary is the watch who keep.

Sweet eyes brown eyes, so tender and so kind; I doubt if love could ever be To all my faults and failures half so blind, Or half so fond or pitiful to me.

Time cannot change those loving, earnest eyes, So wishful for the love in mine they see; Or watching o'er me in their sad surprise And grieving for the grief that came to me.

Can you then, blame me that I love this face, That long ago became my dearest friend? Or that I wish it, with its quiet grace, To watch above me till I reach the end? —*Yorkshire News.*

Ratu Tanito's Wooling.

The Story of the Maiden Ekesa and of the Three Tests of King Katubua.

Ratu Tanito, son of the great King Tui Katubua, dwelt in Viti Levu, which some call Fiji. He was in stature like to the tree mba, and a light shade in his young eyes so that his presence could be known at night. His canoe sped with the wind; his dancing in the war dance brought forth a great shout from the people; his arm broke apart the strongest oarsmen; and men called him "The King's Arrow."

Now when the meke was ended that they had danced on the eighteenth birthday of Ratu Tanito, Katubua called his son to him and said:

"My son, shall my line end with you?"

Ratu Tanito answered: "Not so, my father, for I will marry."

Then the King said: "Ratu Tanito, choose a wife, observing these three requirements. First, that she be young; second that she be strong, and, third, that she be obedient."

"My father," replied the young man, "is it also a requirement that she be beautiful?"

The King answered: "Obedience is beauty."

"Tui Viti," said Ratu Tanito, "I have chosen a wife. She is young; for she was born on the day I first stood erect. She is strong for she can abide the grasp of my hand without flinching. She is obedient, for she has honored her parents. And she is beautiful as the day and lovely as the night. When I see her my heart is as a basin in which the springs surge hotly up and fall back in tumult."

"Who is the maiden?" said the King.

"Her name is Ekesa," the youth replied. "She dwells in Vanua Levu, and is the daughter of Savenaka, its King."

"Have you spoken to her of love?" the King asked.

"No," said Ratu Tanito.

"Go and speak with her concerning her parents," said the King.

Tui Katubua having thus commanded, Ratu Tanito departed by night in his canoe to Vanua Levu. And on a day he returned and his bow was clear; and he came before the King and said: "Tui Viti, I have performed your commands and have spoken with the Maiden Ekesa concerning her parents."

The King received the words of Ratu Tanito and, looking on his son, said: "Abide now with me and at the end of seven days go again to the maiden and speak with her concerning war and combat with the shark." And Ratu Tanito did as he was commanded and returned with a clear brow and said: "My father, I have done according to your commands."

And again the King commanded him to abide for seven days and returning to the maiden to speak with her concerning the gods. And it was done as he commanded.

Then said Tui Katubua. "Go now, my son, and speak with the maiden concerning the government of men." And Ratu Tanito departed and came to Vanua Levu.

But when he returned thence his brow was clouded and his eyes were angry, and as he reached his father's presence he stepped with a firm step. "So now, my son," said the King, "your canoe has come with a mishap and has been dashed against a rock."

"Not so, the young man replied; 'my canoe is safe, oh, father!'

"I grieve, on my son," said the father, "that your safe departure has been opposed by the King of Vanua Levu and that he has sought to make you a prisoner, for our vengeance will fall heavily upon his people."

"Saveka, King of Vanua Levu, has nowise impeded my departure from his island," said the youth, "nor has he known of my presence there."

"And yet anger sits above your eyes," said the King.

Then Ratu Tanito composed his features and said to his father. Forget me, that I have given way to anger because of a tribe. Ekesa, the maiden of whom I spoke, has said a foolish thing, and, reflecting it, my spirit was disturbed."

"And what said the maiden?"

"Truly, she is of opinion that women are of equal spirit and understanding with men, and should divide the government of human affairs with them. I think such were her words, but of a verity I heard not certainly, being much provoked, and having driven my foot against a root as we walked."

"Then you have quarreled with the maiden?" said Tui Katubua.

"No" said Ratu Tanito, "I am not a woman. I forebore to answer her, and after she had spoken for a time, and had sworn she would marry no man who

held himself her superior, I left her."

Then said Tui Katubua: "Go now, my son, and take war canoes, and fetch Ekesa before me."

"The King commands," said Ratu Tanito. "But, father, I no longer wish to marry the girl; and the gods forbid that she should come to any harm at my hands!"

"No harm shall come to her," said Katubua. "Do you I command."

Accordingly, Ratu Tanito took war canoes and went to Vanua Levu and bore away Ekesa by force. And returning to Viti Levu, he brought her before his father, who sat in state, surrounded by his chiefs and priests. And seeing this array about her, as though to judge her, Ekesa's eye flashed, and she looked defiantly at King Katubua.

"Mighty monarch," she cried, "do not fear me; do not surround yourself with your chieftains. I mean you no harm and indeed have come here against my will, being brought a prisoner by this youth, one of your people. Set me free, and chastise him, and my father Savenaka will thank you and be your brother."

"It is my son, Ratu Tanito, who brings you here," said Katubua.

"Are you Ratu Tanito?" cried the Princess, turning to the young man and she exclaimed with double force.

"Then you are the greatest traitor!"

"Maiden," said King Katubua, "be assured. No harm shall befall you. Yet it has come to our ears that in Vanua Levu the women are the equals of the men, and as this seems a strange thing to us we have desired to see it tested, and especially to inquire whether the women of Vanua Levu are the equals of the men in Viti Levu. For that reason we have sent to bring you here. And we will propose to you three tests which if you answer rightly and justly, you shall depart home in safety and we will offer you gifts; and moreover, you shall lead my son home with you to be your slave, as a reparation for the wrong done you. This I swear to you; and he shall compensate with you in the tests."

Whereat the Princess cried out.

"He is ignorant of what they are to be," said the King. "Tis a fair match. Behold, he is as much surprised as you are."

"And if—if I lose?" said Ekesa.

"You shall marry him," said the King.

Then the King said: "Princess, are you ready for the first test?"

"But," said Ekesa, "I have not yet accepted your conditions."

"Ratu Tanito," said the King, "behold your wife."

"'Nay!" cried the Princess, "I am in your power. Propose to me your tests and let your son prepare for a life of slavery."

Katubua thereupon caused two turtle's eggs to be laid before the Princess, and said: "Maiden, of these two eggs which will bring forth a male turtle and which a female. This is the first test that we propose to you."

At that the Princes crossed her arms upon her breast and laughed scornfully.

"This is a test of folly, not of wisdom," she said. "Not all the men in the world could declare of which of these two eggs should be born a male turtle and which a female."

But Ratu Tanito stepped forward quickly and took the eggs into his hand and crushed them. "Or neither," he said.

Then Katubua said: "Maiden, though in truth the question seemed idle, yet the youth is right, for a man must know when to act."

Next there were brought forth two bowls, each covered with a mat of woven grass. And Katubua said: "This is the second test. Of these two bowls choose that which is full of water."

Ekesa trembled, but quickly stretched out her hand and laid it on the nearest bowl, saying, "This is it."

"Choose you, now," said the King to Ratu Tanito.

But Ratu Tanito crossed his arms upon his breast and said, "Not so; for who shall say that both bowls are not empty?"

Then the king drew away the mats of woven grass and both bowls were empty.

"Maiden," said Katubua, "the youth is right, for a man should know when to speak."

Then Ekesa bit her lip and said: "You juggle with me."

"Yet," said Katubua, "the youth has detected our jugglery. But here is the third test and perhaps you will still win her for a slave. Which loves a child best, his father or she who bore him?"

Ekesa's eyes flashed and she drew herself up. "Of a truth, she who bore him," she cried.

Ratu Tanito turned and looked upon the girl, and slowly came into his flashing eyes a tender light, but he did not speak.

At this Ekesa called to the King: "Tui Viti, he does not speak!"

"And he is right," said the King.

"For a man should know when to be silent."

Then Ekesa stamped her foot and cried aloud in bitterness: "It was a trap! You have warned him what answer he should make and have plotted between you to shame me! Shame on you, Tui Katubua!"

Ratu Tanito strode to her side and said: "Go back to your people. I will none of you. You have dishonored my father. Go back to your people. Make a way for the princess," he shouted to the crowd. "Make a canoe ready and set her on the shores of Vanua Levu."

But Ekesa's eyes fell and she did not move; only stood in her place trembling.

Then Katubua said: "Ekesa, my daughter, the Philosopher Ravennize has asked: 'When should a woman desire her husband?'"

And Ekesa lifted her tearful eyes and answered: "Never, oh, my father, save when he bids her leave him."

And the King said: "The maiden of whom I spoke, has said a foolish thing, and, reflecting it, my spirit was disturbed."

"And what said the maiden?"

"Truly, she is of opinion that women are of equal spirit and understanding with men, and should divide the government of human affairs with them. I think such were her words, but of a verity I heard not certainly, being much provoked, and having driven my foot against a root as we walked."

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## Dickens' Letter to His Sons.

Here is a letter from Dickens, addressed to his younger sons on their leaving home, one for Cambridge, the other for Australia, in which the father's heart and the deeper side of his nature reveal themselves: "You will remember," he says to both, "that you have never at home been wearied about religious observances or mere formalities. You will therefore understand better that I now most solemnly impress upon you the truth and beauty of the Christian religion, as it comes from Christ himself, and the impossibility of your going far wrong if you humbly but heartily respect it." Similarly I impress upon you the habit of saying a Christian prayer both night and morning. These things have stood by me through my life, and remember that I tried to render the New Testament intelligible to you and lovable to you when you were mere babes. And so God bless you. Ever your affectionate father.—*Literary World.*

## An Eskimo Love Story.

The frozen wastes about the Pole, where the Eskimo live, have their love tragedies, their Romeo and their Julietas;

Between the cake of ice on which the young sealer had erected his hut and the larger floe which was pre-empted by the parents of his sweetheart, the cold had broken an impassable crevice some hundred feet or more in depth and twenty in width. Save for a single jagged fragment just thick enough to bear little more than his own weight, his home was completely cut off from the world about him. This practical isolation inspired him.

He began storing up in his humble quarters oil, rubber and other eatables sufficient for the support of two for at least six months. He had resolved to steal his bride and knew that if he gained his icefloe with her and broke down the bridge they were safe from trouble or pursuit for the winter season, or until the warmer waters of the summer moved the icebergs to closer contact. By that time he hoped the opposition of the parents would give way to pardon and reconciliation.

The Eskimo sleep together promiscuously on a raised snowbank on one side of the igloo or ice-house. Enclosed in their sealskin night-bags with the huge protecting hood over the head and face, they are as comfortable as their natives require.

The youth waited outside the girl's home until he felt that all within were asleep. Then creeping through the narrow entrance, he made his way toward his darling. He seized the long bag-like mass in which her fair form was encased, bore it triumphantly across the narrow bridge to his strong-hold and the affrighted elders could pursue him, with his axe had cut down the ice bridge, and wasafe.

Not waiting to hear the objections of those on the other side of the abyss, he knelt beside the fluttering form of his heart's devotion, sure of a short period of bliss, at least, and anxiously dragged back the fur hood to catch a glimpse of her sweet face.

He had stolen his father-in-law.

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