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POETICAL

FIRST GRIEVE

The following poem was written by James Hetherwick, a Scotch poet, but little known in this country. Who could tell us if his sister could read these lines written after in the voice or tear in the eye?

They tell me first and early, love  
Quijly all old dreams,  
But the memory of the first great grief  
To me more lasting seems.

The grief that makes our drawing youth  
To tremble every clinging,  
And on the path of future years  
A lengthened shadow hangs.

On my mind recalls the hour  
When to my father's home  
Death came an uninvited guest  
From his dwelling in the tomb.

I did not see his face before—

I shuddered at the sight;  
And I shudder yet to think upon  
The anguish of that night.

A youthful brow and ruddy cheek  
Became all cold and wan;  
And like a moon another dead;  
Who would have died for him!

I know not if 'twas summer then;  
I know not if 'twas spring;  
But the birds sang in the trees,  
The sun was fixed and dim;

And like a moon another dead;

Who would have died for him!

I know not if 'twas summer then;  
I know not if 'twas spring;

But the birds sang in the trees,

All eyes were dim and overcast;

And every voice was low.

And from each cheek at intervals  
The blood appeared to start;

As if it had in sudden haste  
To aid the sinking heart.

Softly we trod, as if afraid  
To mar the sleeper's sleep;  
And stol' last looks of his sad face  
For memory to keep.

With him the agony was over;  
And now the pain was ours;  
As thoughts of his sweet childhood rose  
Like odors from dead flowers.

And when at last he was born afain  
From the world's weary strife,

How oft in thought did we again  
Live o'er his little life.

His every look, his every word,  
His very voice's tone;  
Came back to us like things whose worth  
Is only prized when gone!

The grief has passed with years away,  
And joy has been my lot;

But one is long remembered;

And the other soon forgot.

The gayest hours tip lightly by;  
And leave the faintest trace,

But the deep track that sorrow wears

No time can e'er efface.

Miscellaneous.

The Law of Homicides.

You may repel force by force in the defence of your person, habitation, or property, against any one who manifestly intends or endeavors by violence or surprise to commit a known felony; such as rape, robbery, arson, burglary, and the like." But to justify killing a man, there must be actual danger; the bare fact of any of these offenses, how well grounded, is not sufficient without some overt act.

If, therefore, you kill a man who is merely lying in wait, you will not be exused.

You must not, in fact, make an attack upon others unless you can justify a full conviction, on your own mind, that if you do not do so your own life will be in more danger.

In the course of a sudden brawl, you may protect your person by killing your assailant, provided he had no other probable or possible means of escaping from him.

If you are walking along a dark lane, and are attacked by robbers, it is your duty to make your escape from them if you can; you should retreat as far as you conveniently fit, safety, and before you turn upon them; and if you cannot retreat, or cannot yield a step, without manifest danger of your life, or enormous bodily harm, then you may shoot the villain at once.

You may kill a robber while he is committing the offence, but you must not shoot him after the fray is over, when he is running away, for that is revenge, not self-defence."

And you should bear in mind that you cannot kill a man for a crime unless it is accompanied by force or violence; you are not justified, for instance, in killing a man found in the act of robbing your pocket. "If a man break open your house at night (that is between nine p.m. and six a.m. of the following morning) you may kill him; but if a man breaks open your house in the daytime, you must not kill him unless the offense is accompanied by robbery also; and it is not essential that a actual felony is about to be committed to justify the killing, as is well to know these things."

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