SELECT MISCELLANY.

AN ELOQUENT APPEAL FOR AN HONEST BALLOT.

Senator McClure to Senator White.

The following extracts from the speech of Hon. Alex. K. McClure delivered in the Senate on March 12th., in reply to Senator White will repay perusal:

If the Senator distrusts my earnestness of purpose, he shall see, not merely by my professions, but by my votes and acts, that political partiality will not make me shield any organization that pollutes the ballot. Neither by stealth, nor otherwise shall election frauds be encouraged or sustained by me. And I can say, furthermore, to the Senator from Indiana, without fear or contradiction, either from himself or others, that I have never aided or sanctioned a fraud upon the ballot. I have shared the confidence of the councils of the party for which he assumed to speak. I have been in the innermost circles of its management when it required the most exhausting efforts to maintain its supremacy. I have aided, in an humble way to direct some of its most important struggles, and I challenge the world to stain my skirts with conceiving, executing or even excusing an election fraud. In 1860 I was, without my own elicitator, charged with the direction of the Republican campaign in this, the controlling State of that great National conflict. When it had been fairly won, there were those about me in Philadelphia who were not content with the honest fruits of the triumph, and they stained it with fraud. In the first council held after that result, I not only demanded, but compelled the fraudulent return to be exposed, and the author of it was condemned to the felon's cell.

And, sir, in the later days of the Republican organization, the Senator well knows, that in councils where he was himself a party, I protested against the present registry law, and pronounced it an infamy which the Republican party could not except and live. No man then questioned my devotion to Republicanism. I plead and entreated against its inception. I begged and implored my associates not to enact it. Its purpose was not disguised to him or to me by those who invented its provisions. None of those who were active in its preparation denied that it was intended to accomplish by violence what could not be attained by an honest vote. And the Senator sinned against his own knowledge when he uttered the inuendo that I had been consistent in urging the purity of elections. I need not remind him, that I plead with him several years ago, with all the earnestness I could command, to be honest with the people of Philadelphia. Then this fraud was in its infancy. It had not strengthened itself by possession of all the channels of power, and had he been brave and faithful, he could have destroyed it and spared Republicanism the blistered crown it wears upon one of the noblest political structures. Nor was I alone in the effort. I was seconded in that struggle by the distinguished gentleman now Speaker of the House [Mr. Elliott] and also by other Representatives from Philadelphia who commanded the highest measure of Republican confidence. And I need now tell him by those appeals were made vain.

He well remembers that when honest conviction and sober judgment would have prevailed, those who desired the leadership, and sought to wear the laurels of the Republican organization, dispersed the council and silenced the Senator, by demanding the continuance of the registry law solely because they could not be elected without it. He too was a votary of ambition, and became a willing, supserviceable creature of those who, to gain their own preferment, whispered the story of advancement into his ears. If I had followed him, and looked only to personal promotion and profit, I should have been by his side and facile as himself. I could have been in my place to-night without a contest, and shared the honors and profits of the party. It had offices for the ambitious, plunder for the venal and flattery for fools, while to war against its degradation was to invite its resentments; but with pride, and enjoying the full stature of individual manhood, I have accepted the consequences. I need not tell him who must win in such a struggle. As surely as the day follows the night, so surely will the consistent and faithful advocate of the regeneration of our political system reap the full fruition of justice.

"But," says the Senator, "when the people complain we furnish a remedy." He tells us that the act of 1872 went into operation and no one complained of its results. Does he wake up like some modern political Rip Van Winkle? He must have slept through the winter of 1869-70, for the intelligent of all parties were well advised that at the first election under the registry law, in 1869, deliberately planned fraud controlled Philadelphia, and Philadelphia controlled the State. I do not conjecture—I speak it what is now disputed. I speak of it in the presence of those who know it, and who before me will not question it. Fraud not only controlled the city and the State elections, but it came with its visible pollution into this body and controlled it also. A contest for a seat in this Senate exhausted the tireless ingenuity of the Senator from Indiana, to save a partisan majority in the face of an adverse verdict by the people. A return, with fraud ineffaceably stamped upon it, by reason of the computation of hundreds of votes as cast for Senator which were not returned for any other office in the district, confronted the Senator during the whole of that session, yet he asserts that no one complained of the operations of the registry law. He probably is not complain, for then, as now, he accepted fraud as a power and bowed and obsequious worshipper; but the intelligent and honest of all parties did protest most manfully, but vainly. He admits that complaint was made in 1871, but he boasts that "we modified the act of 1872." If I recollect aright there was some complaint in 1871. A Republican district that in ordinary elections contains the whole Republican majority of the city, and embracing a very large portion of its most intelligent citizens, did complain in terms which the Senator did not fail to hear. In the special election contest of January, 1872, the modification of the registry law was the overshadowing issue, and the Republican organization was squarely defeated by the Republican people. I speak to-night to reflect the majesty of that verdict. He labored earnestly and unscrupulously to rob it of its success, but he failed, and failing to defeat it, he affected to defer to it. Had he done so manfully, he would have spared himself the unequal contest he has been compelled to accept to-night unequal because his position is without defense. But instead of giving an honest amendment of the registry law, he gave the people an ingenious mockery, a fraud, a lie. Another statue clothed in plausible language, cunningly framed to deceive the unsuspecting, was enacted as an amendment, but its studied purpose was rather to increase wrong than to restrain it—to disarm the citizen and then assail him. I stated in my review of the registry law a week ago that it denied the courts all judicial power to maintain the rights of citizenship. I repeat that declaration now. The act of 1872, while appearing upon its face to afford a remedy in the courts for disfranchised citizens, in every way practically denied it. Had the Senator from Indiana, who bore a conspicuous part in that double fraud upon my constituents, presented the whole truth to the Senate, not one could misunderstand it. He points with an air of triumph to the act of 1872, and insists that the law means to protect the citizens of the courts. He knows better, and he knew better when he aided in the passage of the law. To the casual reader he appears to be right, but by the cunning arrangement of words, to be taken and construed in connection with the act of 1869, the whole remedy is practically destroyed. The canvassers can strike off names on the eighth day *before* the election. Under the law they can strike off names from the additional registry without notice, and they have assumed to strike off thousands even in violation of the provisions of the law, for they can do so with impunity.

With canvassers, most of whom are unscrupulous or corrupt, this dangerous and unrestrained power has been most fearfully exercised. And what is the act of 1872? It allows an appeal to the courts, if appeal is made three days before the election, and then twenty-four hours notice must issue to the canvassers. Thousands of names are stricken off without their knowledge, and not until they proceed to the polls do they discover that they have been disfranchised and entirely without redress. Hundreds of disfrancnised citizens came under my own observation last fall, under the act of 1875, and the aggregate in the city of Philadelphia amounted to thousands; but not one name was restored by the courts. I challenge the Senator to name a single case where his boasted act of 1872 afforded a judicial remedy. It is not an accident fraud—it is a master-piece of deception, for it is as false in its appearance of justice as it is absoluie in its denial.

I can give the Senator a very pointed illustration of the operations of the registry law as executed in Philadelphia. I have been a resident of the city for five years, and have lived during all that period within two squares of the place I first resided. I was known, I believe, to every citizen of the precinct, but last fall my name was stricken from the registry. By accident, I ascertained it.

I applied to the board of my old precinct and was certified as a registered voter. Upon it I was registered anew, but before an hour, the new board reconsidered and struck my name off again. I was again advised of it, and made a journey of four miles to have it corrected. They did not dispute my qualifications as an elector, but a grave legal difficulty had arisen. They questioned the right of another board to certify what they knew to be true—that I was a qualified elector. They had learned of the Senator from Indiana that they might quibble where they could not meet the truth, and they proved apt scholars. I ask them to name any judge in the vicinity whose opinion they would respect. Fortunately several judges lived in the immediate neighborhood. They could not, with any decency, refuse the offer, and they named a judge who promptly ordered them to register my name. They then condescended to place my name on the list again, and I left, feeling that I was a free and independent citizen, charged with the right of suffrage. Accordingly, on election day, I went with all the pride and patriotism of an American voter to deposit my vote, when I was met with the request to present my tax receipt. I had never carried such a paper with me, for it had never before been called for. I offered to be qualified that I had paid tax, and a Republican present, who had paid my tax with his own, proffered his sworn testimony that it had been paid within the year, but all was unavailing.

Another journey of six miles enabled me to present a duplicate receipt from the collector's books, and my vote was received. Having performed my duty to my country, I was content, but I was waked up again soon after to discover that I made a mistake in my vote, and that my own vote and ninety-nine others had been transferred from the candidate from whom I had voted for Governor, to the opposing candidate. The return had been correctly announced at the poll, but the return judges seemed to know better how we intended to vote than we did ourselves, and to get the matter right, they just transferred one hundred of us to the other side. Of course the bosom of the virtuous Senator from Indiana will heave with indignation at this invasion of the prerogative of the citizen, and his voice will grow eloquent at what in the better days of the Commonwealth would have been without an apologist; but he must remember that my own case was but a reflection of the arbitrary and violent system of perverting the ballot that he has made possible by violent laws, and still sustains upon the floor of the Senate.

If the Senator from Indiana would study the practical operations of the registry law in the manipulation of election returns, let him take up the Republican papers of last November. He will learn from them, that the return judges, for whom he is so awkwardly battling to-night, not only altered the returns from my own ward, but also altered the returns from many other wards in the city. This is not rumor or common fame. It is an ascertained fact, known not only to every intelligent voter in Philadelphia, but known as well to the Senator from Indiana. He knows that the vote of nearly fifty precincts was deliberately changed, to diminish the party vote on one side, and to increase the party vote on the other side, and he knows also that the details of these wanton frauds were published, and denounced unsparingly by every city Republican journal. He knows, also, that not one officer has been arrested, much less punished, for this crime. These frauds were committed when no party necessity, or even party policy, required it. It was perpetrating fraud merely for the love of making a dishonest return. Why is his voice silent on these wrongs which stand out in the view of all as the stars above us? Why is he forgetful of this systematic and entirely needless corruption of the ballot, that is still fresh in the recollection of all?

One year ago my constituents appealed to this body for redress. They not only asked for a proper law, but they made the Legislature appreciate the earnestness of their purpose by a marked political revolt in the very citadel of Republicanism. Some remedy was deemed a necessity, and a pretence of deference to the demand was given. But the Senator then, as now, mocked them with a statute that proved to be but a falsehood. They asked for bread, and he gave them a stone. They begged for law, and he gave them anarchy in their elections. They plead for the the integrity of the ballot, and he gave them a double fraud. I admit that most of my associates on this floor did not intend to impair the rights of citizenship; and most of them doubtless believed that the supplement of last year afforded an adequate judicial remedy against the arbitrary powers of partisan canvassers; but the Senator from Indiana was in the confidential counsels of those who fashioned the act, and well knew that it was studiedly framed to defeat the very restraints it appeared to grant. It came from those who are experts in fraud and have made crime a profession.

Sir, let me speak plainly in answer to the Senator from Indiana. The issue and the occasion demand it. He speaks for a party in whose nobler struggles I was an humble but an earnest laborer. Am I to understand now that its interests and its success demand that fraud shall be protected by statute in the city of Philadelphia? Is it now a necessity that it shall stain its grand record of the past and dim the lustre of its patriotic achievements, by bowing at the alter of deliberate wrong? I cannot believe that Republican Senators will so decide. I will not believe that they are so forgetful of what their organization has been in the State and Nation; of what it has accomplished in the past, and of what it could yet attain under faithful and patriotic direction. I grant that it is deeply wounded, and that its supremacy is endangered. He who reads the signs of the times, and notes the unrest of its sincerest worshippers, cannot be blind to its probable and even early overthrow. Under its present organization in Pennsylvania its history must soon close, and the political party with the proudest offerings to a free people as its laurels, will end its efforts in dishonor, and go out before the reprobation of the men who once gave it willing homage. Look at its achievements. It has reared the sublimest column to freedom and equal justice that has ever been created by political effort; but the mousling owl now burrows under its once secure foundations; the slimy stains of venal ambition are left indelible on its fair surface, as unworthy men have climed to its highest honors, and the once green laurels with which it was crowned have withered and faded before the poluting atmosphere that now envelops it. And to-night the Senator from Indiana has deepened every wound the Republican organization bears, and exhausted himself to hasten its decline and fall. It cannot survive persistent assaults upon public justice and private rights. It can live only by regenerating itself, by returning to the sincerity of conviction that called it into being. The bad men who have crawled into its temples and defiled them, and who to-night bear its banners and sound its long roll, libel the purposes of the hundreds of thousands of sincere republicans in Philadelphia and in Pennsylvania. They are no less honest men than they were in the past, nor are they any less devoted to their political faith; but when their banners are blotted and their alters shadowed with shame, they will yield their party to save the free institutions for which they have given unmeasured sacrifice.

They are deeply humiliated at the pitable special pleading of the Senator from Indiana, and his mad attempts to drag them down into the lowest partisanship. They blush to see its destiny thus controled, and to hear his insolent order for servile obedience to confessed wrong. They see only its already manifold scars and sores torn open afresh, and by those who should probe and heal. It is staggering under the inordinate greed of its swarms of placemen. It is oppressed with leaders who, like the Senator from Indiana, multiply offices upon themselves which they cannot fill with honor. It is pierced to the vitals by the lawlessness that places more than half a score of political dependants upon the pay rool of this Senate, to plunder the treasury, with the assent of the Senator. And yet, standing in the midst of the demoralization he has aided so largely to bring upon the body politic, and while falsey defending it, and with the refinement of deceit aiming to perpetuate it, he thanks God that he is not as other men. It is this contempt for integrity, alike in the enactment and execution of our laws, that has made Republicanism tremble on the very verge of destruction.

When the Republican organization shall return to its great purpose; to the promotion of faithful men; to the enactment of just laws, and to honest deference to enlightened public sentiment, it shall have my hearty support. Its places I do not seek, and mere partisan favors I hope never to merit. Men like the Senator from Indiana must have parties and he must obey. He would be nothing if not a leader. Leaders must have followers of their own kind, and he has found them. There are those, however, and they are numbered by thousands, who can defy party when it is forgetful of its most sacred duties, and they can survive the mingled fear and hate of the little partisans who must be lifted to distinction. I app al to-night on this question, to the manhood and the statesmanship of Republican Senators, not to the mean ambition that dare not do right because it dare not offend. Are Senators prepared to respond approvingly to a fresh insult that is offered to a long suffering people? If so, they must do it with deceitful lips and malignant hearts, for the fraud is palpable and admitted.

It will avail nothing that laws are framed with fair words, if they are to be executed as engines of oppression. It was Louis XI, I believe, who perfected the tortures of the Bastile by the construction of pits, lined with the most exquisitly polished stone, but so ingeniously fashioned that the victim had no resting place. He had but to languish in protracted agony until he could welcome death. And you have read of the chamber whose walls imperceptibly but surely contracted until they narrowed to the tomb. No sound of threat of danger was heard. No implement of destruction was visible, but with each fleeting moment, with the precision of the hands of yonder dial, the measured tread or death advanced. Thus does the Senator from Indiana, with studied deceit, bring the altar of polluted partisanship before us; and calls it holy, and bids us bow down in adoration and accept its deadly embrace.

Sir, let me admonish him that his partisan harangue falls upon an unappreciative people, whose intelligence forbids the longer triumph of deceit. If he has listened to the whispers of ambition, he has yielded to the Syren song that has left behind it hecatombs of its slain. It teaches forgetfulness of truth and of right, and lures its simple votaries, step by step, until they fade into their original nothingness and are kindly forgotten. It makes him utter sentiments, which, in this age of individual manhood, come like some tuneless bird of night, to hoot in weird and discordant tones, the desolation that reigns in the crumbling columns of the once regal palace of the Cæsars. It comes, as did the cry of old—"not this man, but Barabas," and purity and justice are crucified in our laws, while the robber is released to freedom.

Mr. Chairman, I have done. If I have spoken fervently, it was because my duty required it. If I have wounded the Senator, it was because he made forbearance impossible. I have but vindicated the truth of history, and leave the issue with the Senate.

KILL OR CURE.

A Story of the American Civil War.

"The major is a capital fellow, doctor," I said, as we sauntered out to smoke our cigars in the garden, after an early dinner; "but he ought to be more merciful to us wretched bachelors. What with his charming wife and that exemplary baby, he makes it difficult to respect the tenth commandment."

"You admire Mrs. Layton?"

"Admire her! If she were not Charlie's wife I should fall head over ears in love with her. I have seen fairer faces, but for dear, pretty, delicate womanly ways, I never met her equal."

"You couldn't understand a man's thirsting for her blood."

"Good gracious! A wretch who could touch one of her golden hairs roughly deserves to be crucified."

"And yet for many days she was in deadly peril of her life."

"For her fortune?"

"She had none."

"Don't tell me, doctor, that an innocent creature like that could give any one cause for revenge."

"No; I won't tell you anything of the sort."

"I think I see. Some one was madly in love with her?"

"If you were to guess till this day out you would not find the cause," said my friend. "Let me sit down here and I will explain. It's no secret; I wonder the major has not told you."

"Down here" was on a rustic seat that the major's pretty wife had made at the end of his garden, close to where a little rill, soon to be lost in the blue Hudson, tinkled its way through his grounds.

"During the war," began the doctor, "I served in the army, in the same regiment with an old schoolmate. He was as fine a soldier as ever drew sword. Hale, hearty, and sound in mind and body; eager to see service—and he saw plenty. I thought that he bore a charmed life till one day he was carried into the hospital tent in a bad way. A ball had entered his shoulder, glanced on the clavicle (what you call the collar bone) and had gone—somewhere. That was all we could tell, for there was no orifice; but whether it had passed up or down, or taken some erratic course round about, such as balls will take, we knew not, and no probing could find out. Well, he recovered, went north to regain his health, and for nearly three years I lost sight of him. When the war was over, and I had begun to practice as a civilian in New York, I met him again. But how changed! He was like a living skeleton, and I saw in a moment that he had become habituated to opium. Do you know what that means? No? Well, throw a bucket of water into a piano, and then light a fire under it, and its strings will not be more out of tune than an opium smoker's nerves are out of order. He asked me if he might call on me at my office, and of course, I resented, but it was days before he came, and when he did arrive I knew that he had been preparing himself for a fight with himself. Some foolish patients come prepared to hide the truth, some to magnify their ills. It is part of our business, in serious cases, to examine a man's mind before we ask about his body, and hardened as a surgeon must be, I confess that the condition of my poor friend frightened me. There was an expression in his eye that I had never seen in any sane being; and what made this worse was the calm business-like manner in which he spoke. He told me that soon after he had (apparently) recovered from his wound, he began to suffer from pains in his head, which increased in severity till they became so agonizing that he had resource to opiates to alleviate them. "But I have not come to consult you about this," he said, 'this I can bear—must bear. Would to God that they were always tearing me! The worst is when they are not.'

"They leave you very weak?" I suggested.

"'They leave me,' he replied, quite calmly, 'with a burning, all but unconquerable desire to take human life.'

"I am not generally a nervous man, but I started, and looked round for some weapon of defense. 'Don't be afraid,' he continued, 'the fit is not on me now. I should not have come if it had been. I have been nearly starved once or twice, not daring to leave my room. I can conquer my madness now; the question is how long I can continue to do so. I feel that it is growing upon me. I feel my power of resistance becoming weaker and weaker—the craving for blood getting stronger and stronger. I am like a man who has slipped over a precipice, and feels the earth and shrubs to which he clings, slowly, slowly, surely, surely, giving way with him. I have brought wretched curs out of the street, and killed them in my frenzy, in the hope to exhaust it on them. It is no use. I must have human life.'

"'Any human life?' I inquired, 'or some one in particular?'

"'Why do you ask this doctor?' he cried, getting suddenly excited."

"'No matter,' go on."

"'Sometimes,' he resumed, 'it seems that any life would do; and sometimes—doctor, four days before I saw you I met, upon a New Jersey ferry boat, a young girl. So pretty, so refined, and nice! I followed her to her home—the devil that has taken possession of me, led me. She went in, and soon came out again into her little garden, and tended to her flowers—poor child! Doctor, if I had a pistol with me I should have shot her. You may smile; but some day soon I shall take a pistol on purpose, and shoot her.'

"It was clearly no use arguing with him. The best way with such people is to admit their facts and try to work round them.

"'Then,' said I, 'the only thing you can do is to submit to the restriction of an asylum, till this feeling has passed.'

"'It will not pass. If I were to go to a mad house I should sham sane. Sooner or later their vigilance over me would be relaxed. Then I should murder my keeper, and go straight for that innocent girl.'

"'Then leave the country.

"'Well, that would save her; but doctor, one life is as dear to its holder as another. If I don't kill her, I shall kill some one else.'

"'My dear fellow,' I replied, in as light a tone as I could assume, 'these fancies are curable. Put yourself under skilled medical treatment. You are all to bits, physically. Get sound in body and you'll get all right in your mind.'

"'On the contrary, I am all to bits, as you say, mentally, and my body suffers through my mind. Medical treatment! I have consulted every practitioner of note here and in Europe. Some think I'm fooling them, some look wise, and talk as you do about 'treatments.' All have failed. Doctors are no use to me.'

"'Then may I ask why you have come here?'

"'To ask your advice as a friend,' he answered, drawing his chair nearer to me; 'and,' lowering his voice, 'to ask you one question as a friend and a God fearing man, and to which I pray you to give me a plain yes or no.'

"'Go on.'

"'Feeling as I feel, shall I be justified before God in taking my own life? Will it be a deadly sin for me to do for myself what I would do to a mad dog?'

"'I repeat his words almost as he spoke them. I cannot give you the faintest idea of the solemn deliberation with which he put this awful question. For some moments I could not say a word. Then I started up and told him that I would not answer him yes or no—that it was not fair to ask me to take such responsibility. Then he rose too, and said that he must resolve it for himself, and I saw plainly which way it would go. Give me till to-morrow to think it out, I said, detaining him."

"'To-morrow may be too late,' he replied. The fit may come upon me to-night for all I know.'

"'Come home with me; I'm not afraid. You won't hurt me,' I said.

"'I would try very hard not to do so—but—I know myself. I cannot trust myself. Don't you trust me.'

"'I will trust you; but I'll do more. You are not armed, I suppose?'

"'No,' he replied with a shudder, 'not now.'

"'I'll take care that you shall not be, and I'll carry my Derringer in my pocket. On the first indication of homicidal mania I give you my word I'll shoot—and I'll shoot straight.' I said this to satisfy him, poor fellow! In his weak state I could have laid him down like a child. It did satisfy him, and we went home together. I led him to talk of our soldiering days, and gradually got him back to his wound. I made him describe the first sensations of a pain in his head, and repeat all that his different medical advisers had said. I happened to have a strong preparation of hashcesh by me. I gave him a dose, and whilst under its influence I carefully examined his head. Now the head, you must know does not fatten or waste away in proportion to other parts of the body. Still, his had become mere skin and bone; and this state, perhaps, gave me advantage over others who had made the same examination. At last I felt, or thought I felt, a faint twitching—a sort of abnormal pulsation—about two inches above the left ear. It might be merely nervous; but it might be caused by the ball.

"I then set my mind to work, and thought the whole case over steadily. In the first place was that impulse to take human life, of which my poor friend had spoken, really uncontrollable. For example, suppose that one day he din take a pistol on purpose,' and go to that young lady's garden—would he shoot her? To suppose that the insane mind never changes its purpose, or turns from the fell completion of its purpose, is to say in other words that the insane mind is stronger than the sane mind. If a man with a freshly broken leg were to tell you he was going to run a foot race, you would not believe him, because your common sense revolts against the idea of his running with a leg disabled. But if one with his brain disabled declares that he is going to do something depedent upon the action of his mind, common sense does not always argue so well."

"In the second place, did my poor friend, with his impaired means of judgment, *believe* that the impulse was uncontrollable? Because if he did the end would be the same, so far as he was concerned. He would sacrifice his own life to protect that of others, though they were in no actual danger.

"In the third place, might not this story of the impulse be a mere pretence to excuse the commission of suicide? Now there are no forms of madness more obscure in their origin, more difficult to detect, more persistent, and more fatal than suicidal mania; and as there have been numerous cases in which persons who have destroyed themselves have carefully prepared evidence tending to show that their death was accidental, why should there not be one in which the fatal act was to be (so far as possible) justified?

"In the fourth place, granting that there was either homicidal mania or fancied homicidal mania tending to suicidal, or simply the latter—was there a possibility of cure?

"As the three first questions rested for their solution on one set of facts, and the deductions to be drawn therefrom, I considered them together. A victim of suicidal mania rarely if ever speaks of suicide. When a man says he is going to drown himself, you may generally direct him to the cars which will take him to the riverside with the fullest conviction that he will not breakfast with crabs. If, in an exceptional case, suicide is mentioned, it will either be treated lightly, as an act that is not a crime, or the patient will be very earnest in his assurances that he would never commit it. Remembering my poor friend's manner, I noticed that he spoke of taking his own life with much more emotion than he evinced when he told me of the impulse to shed the blood of others. His words, I must have human life—if I had had a pistol with me I should have shot her—some day soon I shall take a pistol on purpose and shoot her—I should murder my keeper and go straight for that innocent girl,' were spoken as calmly as though he said 'I owe five dollars—I must go and pay them,' and at the same time with a tone of deep commiseration for the predestined victims. They were to die for no fault of their own, but they were doomed to death—if he lived. When, on the other hand, he spoke of saving their lives at the sacrifice of his own, his manner changed. No one afflicted with suicidal mania ever treated self destruction, with the horror, the consciousness of its wickedness and the religious doubts as to its being pardonable under any circumstances with which he considered it. He had never once spoken of murder as a crime.

"After a long and careful consideration I came to the following conclusions:

"His impulse is real, and will have fatal results.

"Confinement in an asylum would have no curative effect.

"Then I took down my books bearing upon the anatoma of the human head.

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The next morning I addressed him thus:

"Before I answer you as to whether you would be justified before God, under the impulse you have told me of, in taking your own life to save that of another, you must answer my several questions."

"'Go on,' he said.

"'When you consulted those doctors did you tell them all that you have told me?'

"'No. I did not dare. I said that I had horrible thoughts and cravings, but without entering into details as so what they were. Once I went so far as to say I feared I was becoming dangerous, and the fool smiled.'

"'Good. Did they ever speak of searching for that ball?'

"'Yes, they said it might be the cause of my sufferings, supposing it had lodged near the brain, but that no one would take the responsibility of searching for it—so to speak—in the dark.'

"'They were right—the operation might kill you, and the ball be not found after all.'

"He looked up, and the dull, dejected look that had become habitual passed from his face.

"'And even if it were found,' I went on, 'its extraction might cause your death all the same.'

"He laid his hand on my arm, and tried to speak, but he could not.

"'Still it would give you a chance—just a chance of more life.' His grasp tightened. 'I could feel his heart beating. 'And submitting to such an operation—almost hopeless though it be—would not be quite suicide.'

"He fell upon his kuees and sobbed like a child. 'You'll do it?' he cried, 'God Almighty bless you! You'll do it?'

"'Well,' said my friend, lighting a fresh cigar, "to make my story short, I did it, with the assistance of a young surgeon whose nerve I could trust. We found that miserable piece of lead near where I had suspected it to be. It was just a case of touch and go. Had my knife wavered twice the breadth of its own edge—had the assistant been unsteady with the forceps—it would have been fatal. I don't want to appear vain of my success, so I'll say no more than this—he recovered."

"'And hasn't killed any body?'

"'No, and dosen't want to.'

"'By Jove! I would't be too sure of that. And so the girl he wanted to murder married the major?'

"'She did.'

"'Then if I were her husband I'd take precious good care that your interesting patient didn't come into the same state with her.'

"'My dear fellow if you were her husband you'd do exactly as her husband does.'

"'Does he know?'

"'None better.'

"'And doesn't care?'

"'Not a bit.'

"'Then he's a brute!'

"'You'd better tell him so—here he comes.'

"'Does *she* know?'

"'She does.'

"'And she's not afraid?'

"'No.'

"'One other question. Does your interesting patient still live in this country?'

"'He does.'

"'In what state?'

"'This state.'

"'Near here?'

"'Very near.'

"'Then, with all possible deference for our friend the Major, I think he is very foolish. Were I in his place I should say, "my good sir, I admit that the ball from which you suffered so long cannot get back into your brains, but I am by no means sure that the ideas it engendered may not return. At any rate your presence near my wife is likely to make her nervous, and I appeal to you as a gentleman to locate yourself in some other part of the country. If you do so I shall have the highest respect for you; if you do not, and ever have the misfortune to pass within a mile of my house, the interior of your skull will become more intimately acquainted than ever with lead in the usual form."

"'Very neatly put,' said the Doctor, "but our friend does not think of committing suicide now."

"'Mercy, Doctor,' I cried, "you don't mean to say that the man who wanted to murder the Mayor's wife is—is—"

"'The Major himself. Yes, sir."

Miscellaneous.

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