



BY DAVID OVER.

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Select Poetry.

From Moore's Rural New Yorker.
THE ANGEL OF THE PINES.

BY MRS. MARY J. HOLMES.

DARKNESS was over all the south land,
O'er the land of flowering vines,
While the night wind moved faintly
Through the music-breathing pines,
Red and fiery were the heavens,
Hill and dale all ablaze;
For the splendour which wasteth
In the bonfire light was there.

All day had its dark-browed victim
Fell before its angry power,
Till at last its terrible shadow
Fell upon a beautiful flower.
She, who, in the Saviour's presence,
Now, a white-robed angel shone,
She, the gentle blue-eyed lassie,
She, the Angel of the Pines.

In the cabin, rude and lowly,
She had soothed the bed of death,
While the stricken ones had slept,
With their last expiring breath.
And when now, upon her pale face,
Shed the light of heaven's grace,
Broken was the midnight slumber,
With the angel's mournful wail.

Men with strong hearts, dusky maidens,
Matrons, with kindling eyes,
Children, too, with tear-stained faces,
All for her, where she lay,
But in vain, for where she lay,
In the bright green pastures flow,
There a countless throng of children
Wait for her, and she must go.

And as she heard them calling
"Sing to me," she faintly whispered,
"Till the morn'g sun be lowly,
Softly, then, the tale I tell."
Rushed in the evening breeze,
While the mourning-doves' sad notes
Echoed through the distant trees.

And amid the south wind's sighing,
"Mid the wondrous night bird's lay,
"O! the tears and lamentations,
"Passed from the earth away,
From her white and blue-veiled forehead
Faded the golden hair,
And the mother's heart with anguish
As she felt the death-dew there.

Ere the morn'g sun had risen,
Ere the darkness night had fled,
A little grave beneath the pines,
Made for the early dead,
Where the whistling pines sing to her,
Where the moonlight softly shines,
There they lay—there we leave her,
Jeane, Angel of the Pines.
Brookport, N. Y., 1857.

HARD TIMES COME AGAIN NO MORE.
Let us pause in life's pleasures, and count its
many tears.

While we all sit sorrow with the poor;
There's a song that will linger forever in our ears,
Oh! hard times come again no more.
Chorus—"Tis the song, the song of the weary,
Hard times, hard times come again no more;
Many days you have lingered around my
cabin door.
Oh! hard times come again no more.

While we seek mirth and beauty, and music light
and gay,
There are faint forms fainting at the door,
Though their voices are silent, their pleading looks
will say
Oh! hard times come again no more.
Chorus—"Tis the song, &c.

There's a pale, drooping maiden, who works her
day away,
With a worn heart, whose better days are o'er;
Though her voice would be merry, 'tis sighing all
the day.
Oh! hard times come again no more.
Chorus—"Tis the song, &c.

'Tis a sigh that is lawed across the troubled wave,
'Tis a will that is wavered across the shore;
'Tis a dirge that is murmured around the lowly
grave.
Oh! hard times come again no more.
Chorus—"Tis the song, &c.

AGRICULTURAL.
**TO MAKE SYRUP AND SUGAR FROM
THE SORGHO.**

FROM Mr. H. S. Olcott's new work on "Sorgho
and Ample, the Chinese and African
Cane." We extract the following directions
for cutting and grinding the stalks, now ripe,
and boiling down the juice into syrup or even
into sugar.

These directions are so simple and clear, and
the machinery they require so easily procured
or constructed, that we trust every one who
has raised a patch of Sorgho this season will
try to make at least a few gallons of syrup.
They will of course understand that the canes
are only sweet when fully or very nearly ripe,
and that such as do not perfect their seed will
afford but little or no sugar. Still we would
urge even those whose plants are killed by frost
before perfecting their seeds to give them a
trial and report their success or failure for the
guidance of others. They can easily tell, by
cutting a stalk and tasting its pith, whether it
will afford sugar or not. The mere killing of
the leaves by frost will, we presume, de-
stroy the saccharine properties of the stalk.
But let us hear Mr. Olcott:

**CHEAP AND SIMPLE PROCESS FOR MAKING SU-
GAR OR SYRUP ON A SMALL SCALE.**

The first thing to be done is to cut the stalks
up in that condition it makes the best
syrup, and will be free from the grassy flavor
complained of in previous experiments. This,
as has been previously said, is known by the
seeds becoming black and hard. When fully
ripe, then, with a corn-cutter, a large carving
knife, or what is better, a small hatchet, cut
the canes off close to the roots, strip off the
leaves as far as the joints extend, and chop off

the rest of the stalk, saving the seeds for fu-
ture planting; if the cane proves to be of good
quality, if not give them to the chickens.

The next thing is to extract the juice from
the stalks or canes. This must be done by
pressing them between rollers. If there is a
cider mill on the premises, it will be all suffi-
cient; pass those through it, just as you would
crush apples, catching the juice in some clean
vessel with as few chips of dirt as possible.

A VERY CHEAP MILL.

If there be no cider mill in the neighbor-
hood, must make a shift to construct one your-
self, or get the nearest carpenter to do so,
nothing but wood being required for all you
have to do. The way to get about it is as fol-
lows: Choose some straight pieces of any hard
wood, twelve or fourteen inches across, and saw
one piece off 30 inches long, and the other 48
inches. These are to make your two rollers,
and as nearly round as you can get the log, so
much less trouble will there be to fashion the
work. Having got your wood, take the blocks
to the nearest carpenter, and tell him to make
you two journals on the ends of the shortest piece
two and a half inches larger in diameter than
the block will be when made perfectly round.

If he has a turning lathe, he will be able to do
it all in a couple of hours. Let him make the
axles or journals seven inches long each. You
have now one roller finished, the other is like
it, only after making a journal on one end, in-
stead of making the same length as the other,
roller, which will be sixteen inches, and then
cut into the block another journal like the
others, leaving beyond it eighteen inches of
solid wood to spare, of the same girth or di-
ameter as the roller part. Through this eight-
teen inch piece you have left over, cut a square
hole or socket, large enough to put a good stiff
wooden lever in or through it, so that when
your rollers are set up on end in frames, like a
windlass, you can walk round with the lever,
and so turn the mill. If there is a blacksmith
in the neighborhood, it would be well to get
him to put an iron hoop around and below the
lever hole or socket, to prevent the strain, which
will be considerable, from splitting the top.

You have now the roller complete: the next
step is to make the frame that holds them to-
gether. Take two pieces of timber nine feet
long and nine inches square; if you have them;
if not, round balked timber will do; dig two
holes in the ground six feet deep and four apart
wherever you wish your mill to stand. Put
the posts into them, and fill the earth in again,
beating it down so as to hold these upright as
stiff and immovable as possible. These are the
supports of your mill, and have to bear all the
strain, so you must see that they are strong and
firm. Now get a slab of wood, six feet long
sixteen inches broad and eighteen inches thick,
set your two rollers on it, standing upright and
close together; mark the two holes for the
lower journals, and cut them out six inches
deep.

You must now cut a couple of notches at the
ends of the slab, fit these two notches between
the two posts and pin them tight. Now you
have the bed plate of your mill. Set the rollers
upright on it, with the journals in the holes
you have cut for them, and proceed to cut the
upper frame plate in the same way, except that
it must be made in two halves, owing to the
socket part where the lever goes, preventing
your slipping it over both journals, as was done
in the other case. For the upper frame plate
taking two pieces, six feet long, nine inches
broad, and eleven inches thick, fit them nicely
round the journals, and fix as before. To
keep the two pieces from spreading when the
strain comes, either clamp them together with
wooden clamps or wedges, or hold them together
with a dove-tail tie. The mill is now complete
put in the lever, and you are ready to crush
the canes. Cut a small gutter round the rollers
in the wood of the bed plate, leading to a
spout, to prevent the juice from running all
round and being lost. The above need not
cost a farthing more than where wood is plenty,
is sufficiently strong, and will crush a hundred
gallons of juice per day if required.

Of course it will be understood that a mill
like that described above is merely a make-
shift for experimenting with, for you could only
get half the juice by it that an iron one of the
same construction would yield.

CRUSHING OUT THE JUICE.
Having brought your cane to the mill, and
adjusted your lever, either a man walk round
with it, or attach a horse or pony. Pass the
cane through two at a time, till you have
sufficient juice for boiling, say ten or fifteen
gallons, which should be crushed out in half an
hour. Now build a fire place with stones, or
set up two forked poles, and put another across,
on which sling your pot, which may be of sheet-
tin, but had better be of cast iron. Let it
hold say ten gallons. Get a small tin skimmer
at a tinsmith's shop, and you are prepared to
commence boiling.

BOILING AND CLARIFYING.
Everything being ready, slack a tea-spoon full
of lime, mix it to the consistency of cream and
set it by for use. Light your fire, with charcoal
if you have it, for it makes no smoke, but if
you have none, use dry kindling wood. It
possible so arrange your rods and place as to
let the fire reach no more than half way up
to the sides of the pot. Put five or six gallons of
juice into the pot, set it on the fire, and when
it becomes quite warm, add one large tablespoon-
full of cream of lime, and mix it thoroughly
through the juice. Now take the vines of
two fresh eggs, beat them up with a teaspoon full
of the juice from the pot, and when thoroughly
mixed, pour back and stir them well through
the mass, bring it to the boil as soon as possible
but the moment you see the first signs of
boiling lift the pot off the fire, set it on the
ground, and let it remain quiet for fifteen or
twenty minutes. You will then be provided that
after adding the cream of lime and eggs, as
the skimming went on, a thick scum began to
rise; this you must not disturb, but allow to
gather on the top, till you take the pot from

the fire as directed, and allow it to settle
fifteen or twenty minutes. At the end of this
time carefully remove the scum, and you will
find if you have carefully followed these di-
rections, that the juice has become clear and
bright, ready to boil down to the consistency
you require, whether of syrup or sugar.

Having removed the scum, empty the contents
of your pot into some clean vessel, which have
convenient. Fill up the pot again with the
raw juice and proceed as before. This is the
process of clarifying or defecating, and is abso-
lutely necessary, if you do not wish to have a
dark dirty syrup, tasting of cane stalks and
almost unfit for use.

After clarifying and skimming the second
pot full, as directed, set it back on the fire
and boil down as rapidly as possible. As the
quantity reduces by boiling, keep adding fresh
juice from the first clarification, so as not to
let the syrup get too low in the pot, or it will
get burned. If any scum rises, remove it with
your skimmer, and by following these direc-
tions you cannot fail to make a good syrup.

The preceding remarks suppose that you
have only one pot to operate with; but it is very
much better to have two, as it will save twenty
minutes time, and fuel, with each kettle of
syrup you make; because as I have shown you,
you have to wait twenty minutes after taking
the pot from the fire to allow the scum to rise
and settle, so, if you have not another pot on,
it is so much time and fire wasted. With two
pots in use you replace the first on the fire as
soon as you take the other off, and proceed to
boil down.

SYRUP OF AN EXTRA QUALITY.

Should you wish to make a very extra syrup
for table use, get a flannel bag, of almost any
shape, sufficient to hold two or three gallons,
and filter the juice through it after you have
clarified it, then boil it down as before.

**HOW TO KNOW WHEN THE JUICE IS BOILED
ENOUGH.**

It is a matter of importance to those who
have never boiled syrup, to know when the
juice is boiled enough. There being nothing
like experiments, I would advise such to get
a cup full of molasses, heat it, and, taking a
small quantity on a spoon, to watch how it runs
down, and when the drops come, how they
clunge and break in the middle, the upper
half springing back with a jerk, and the lower
forming a ball and falling back into the cup
again. Three cents in money and the experi-
ence of five minutes time, will go farther in
educating the eye to a good judgment than an
elaborate series of directions.

I will give one other method, however, of
knowing when syrup is cooked enough. Dip
your skimmer into the boiling liquid, take it
out and allow the syrup to run off it; a few
drops will remain on the edge, falling at inter-
vals. If these break with a long string be-
hind, which at the break jerks back to the
dipper again, and which, when taken, between
the finger and thumb, feel like molasses, it is
fair to suppose your syrup is sufficiently boiled
and you may take it from the fire.

REDUCING TO SUGAR.

For making sugar it will be necessary to boil
this same syrup down, till the steam escapes
from it in little puffs, and when the skimmer
is dipped into it, the falling drops break short
and fall solid. These simple tests, and a few
failures, will enable one to make good sugar.
When enough has been boiled, pour it into a
wooden box or tub to cool slowly, standing it
in a warm place. Let the box be large enough
to allow of the sugar standing only 14 inches
deep; boil another lot, and pour over the top
of the first, and a third over the top of the second,
mix them altogether, and allow the con-
tents to cool. If by the next morning there
should be no signs of crystallization, take a handful
of raw sugar and stir it in; in all probability it
will start crystallization; but if it should not
do so immediately, do not despair, for it may
stand for an entire fortnight and then sudden-
ly strike into sugar.

A HIDING PLACE OF ROBESPIERRE.

A curious discovery has lately been made,
while repairing the house formerly occupied by
the Jacobin Club, during the great revolution,
and now known as the Hotel de Londres, in the
Rue St. Hyacinthe, St. Bonaparte. The Club
which guided the destinies of the revolution dur-
ing some few years had often boasted of al-
lowing the ambition of Robespierre and other
leaders to progress so far, and no farther; and
the members by vote had passed a law which
entitled the majority to extend from any par-
ticular session any particular member whose in-
terests might lead him away the opinions of the
club. Robespierre, whose ambition had been re-
fused him an object of suspicion had often been
voted out of the assembly; and it has been a
matter of surprise to the historians of the time
that he could so long have maintained his influ-
ence in spite of the violence of the opposition
thus permitted. The secret is now revealed.

A small room—a hiding place in the thickness
of the wall—has just been discovered, opening
by a trap door into the very hall where the de-
liberations were being carried out, and whence
he could listen to the measures to be taken
against him, and thus forewarned, have power
to defeat them. It is evident that this hiding
place must have been occupied by Robespierre;
and when first entered by the workmen, the
traces of his presence were still visible in the
journal which lay upon the table, and the writ-
ing paper, from which had been torn a small
portion, as if for the purpose of making a map
of the place was a volume of Chaudron. It was covered
with stuff, which had evidently been shaken
from the reader's shirt-front, and bore testimony
to the truth of history. Robespierre's sim-
plicity of the literary tastes of Robespierre.

His eyes glowed like fire for an instant, then
his countenance assumed its usual calm and
placid look, and to our amazement he rose and
walked across the apartment to the player, who
had just been left by his companion, and cour-
teously proposed to try a hand with him, if agree-
able, and if we, his friends, would excuse him
for a short time. Of course we assented—
so did the gambler, who appeared at first
somewhat surprised at the proposition, but
probably resolved to try his skill on the new
comer.

recently trodden through the mud, were still
visible on the tiles with which the flooring is
composed.

**THRILLING ADVENTURE IN A GIM-
MING HOUSE.**

It was in the spring of 18— that I found
myself gliding upon the waters of the mighty
Mississippi, and bound for the Crescent City,
New Orleans.

With a single exception I found no travel-
ling acquaintances on board the boat, although
I had been two days upon my journey, which
was becoming quite monotonous. The individ-
ual with whom I singularly enough, fratern-
ized, seemed like myself, to have little inclin-
ation to extend his acquaintance among the
passengers, though he continually seemed to
be on the lookout for some one, and from his
operations of two or three individuals, whose
profuse display of gold chains and jewelry, and
proficiency of cards at the table in the saloon
betrayed their profession, I more than once set
him down as a police-detective in disguise.

He called himself George Thorn, of Ken-
tucky; so his card read, which he gave me in
exchange for mine. In truth he was a noble
specimen of that State. Full six feet in height,
a clear, intelligent blue eye, broad forehead,
a light olive hair, muscular arm, and a chest of
a Hercules, he challenged the admiration of
more than one of the passengers, as with his
serious and never smiling face he paced the
promenade deck, or sat buried in thought in
the saloon.

"Do you ever play cards?" said I to him, as
he left a group that were standing about a table
of four players, and noting the progress of
the game. I had frequently seen him invited,
but he invariably, like myself, refused to partici-
pate in the game.

"Oh yes," said he; "that where is the use of
playing here? These fellows (nodding toward
the players) know every card in the pack by
the backs, and they are trying to pluck some
poor pigeon from among the passengers, but as
yet with indifferent success, beware of them, sir."

I thanked him for his friendly warning, and
at the same time expressed my astonishment at
his affirmation. To convince me he called the
steward of the boat, and ordered him to bring
a fresh pack of cards, which were brought, and
he handed the pack to me, bidding me shuffle
them. I did so, when he immediately selected
nearly every ace and king from the pack, without
looking at the face of them. Next he dealt them
in two packets, when, upon examination, I
found that all the cards of real value in the
game were in his hand, although I could not
detect the least unfairness as to his dealing them.

"You see," said he smiling at my look of as-
tonishment, "the other is an expert in these
matters has even over a skillful player."

"I do, indeed," I replied, astonished at my
fellow traveler's dexterity, and beginning to
think that he might be a reformed gambler, or
one playing the possum for some purpose or other,
but as he had not urged or even invited me to
play, nor had played with any one else, and
three the cards aside with an expression of
disgust too natural to be assumed, I came to
the conclusion that my travelling acquaintance
was a riddle yet to be solved.

Early the next morning the boat arrived at
New Orleans, and amid the hurry and bustle
of disembarkation, I lost my friend, the Ken-
tuckian, not seeing him to bid him adieu. The
same evening however, after visiting the thea-
tre, I was enjoying the cool air and the frag-
rance of a Havana, in the rotunda of the St.
Charles Hotel, and conversing with a friend
from the North, whom I had fortunately met,
when whom should I encounter but my steam-
boat friend!

After the usual greeting our conversation
turned upon our trip down the river, our fellow
passengers &c. when my fellow traveler remark-
ed if I could like to witness the interior of a
gambler's house or "hell," as it is sometimes
more appropriately called, he would be pleased
to show it to us as one of the sights or "rions"
of the city. Never having witnessed anything
of the kind, both I and my friend assented; and
after a short walk found ourselves within the
premises of one of those glittering and gorge-
ously furnished establishments—vestibules
to the infernal regions—where men were en-
gaged in various games at hazard.

The interior of gambling houses has too fre-
quently been described to need a repetition.—
The Faro Bank, with its crowd of betters—the
Rouge et Noir table, with its anxious circle,
and groups of players at other games of which
I was ignorant of the name, were all busily
engaged as we entered. We had passed through
two apartments, and had reached a third, in
which were but four players, playing in pairs
at different tables. As we entered we sat at
an unoccupied table for a moment, when as we
did so, we heard one of the two men nearest us
say to his opponent:

"That's the last dollar, look it yours, and
I'm cleared out."

"But you wear a good ring," said his oppo-
nent. "See! I give you a chance for revenge.
I'll back my ring against your's on the next
game. It's a ring I won at play from a Ken-
tucky boy, who came to New Orleans to see
the sights," said he carelessly.

How little did he know those words so light-
ly spoken had sealed his doom!

"No," said his opponent, rising. "I'll meet
you to-morrow night. I won't pledge my jew-
elry yet."

As the player who was sitting with his back
partially toward us, mentioned Kentucky in his
conversation, I saw Thorn listen with eager-
ness, and as he twisted the ring he offered to
bet upon his finger, I saw the Kentuckian turn
deadly pale.

had just been left by his companion, and cour-
teously proposed to try a hand with him, if agree-
able, and if we, his friends, would excuse him
for a short time. Of course we assented—
so did the gambler, who appeared at first
somewhat surprised at the proposition, but
probably resolved to try his skill on the new
comer.

The cards were dealt and the game proceed-
ed. We were sufficiently near to see that the
pieces of gold which constituted the first stake
were won by our friend's opponent; so, also,
was the second. The third stake Thorn gained
and thus they went on, alternately winning
and losing, till at last Thorn carelessly said:

"That's a pretty ring you offered to bet
awhile ago, stranger. Will you sell it?"
"Well, as to that, said the other, 'it's pretty
enough; and cost me enough, for a young fellow
pledged it to me about three years ago as a
sort of note of hand, which he promised to
redeem with five hundred dollars that he owed
me—a debt of honor, sir, but he never paid it,
so I retain the ring. No, stranger, I guess
that I will not sell it."

"But the owner, you should have made him
pay. Five hundred dollars is a dear price for
such a bauble."

"Why as to that," said the player, as he
gathered up his cards for the next hand, "he
couldn't come to time very well; for he paid
the debt of nature, as they say, the same night
that he canceled my obligation. Ah! the
stake's mine, there's always lack in this ring,
sir, I believe," said he, as he drew the money
toward him. "Suppose we try a large stake,"
and he prepared to shuffle the cards again.

"As you like," said Thorn.

"Well, what shall it be?" said his opponent,
"anything from one to five hundred;" and he
threw a bank note of that denomination care-
lessly upon the table.

To our surprise, Thorn drew out a wallet
from his pocket, and produced an equal amount;
then sweeping the cards they had been using
from the table to the floor, he dealt for a fresh
pack; and as the attendant brought them, he
passed them rapidly through his hands, and
gave them to his adversary, remarking to him,
as he did so, to "mind his deal this time," fixing
upon him a searching glance as he went
through that operation. The game was known
as bluff or poker, I know not which, but at any
rate one in which the players bet on the cards
they hold. Thorn and his opponent having
glanced at the cards commenced the game.

"I'll go one hundred," said Thorn, commen-
cing.

"Two hundred better than that!" said his
opponent.

"Another hundred!" continued Thorn.

"H'm! three hundred better!" said the
gambler, producing his notes.

"Three hundred more!" said Thorn quietly.

The game was getting exciting to us as spec-
tators; three hundred dollars lay upon the
table to be decided by the cards held by the
players, each of whom seemed from his bet to
be confident of success, though their counten-
ances betrayed not the least emotion.

"One hundred more," said the gambler
again.

"I'll call you," said Thorn.

"Ah! three kings and an ace!" said the
sharp.

"Three aces and a king!" said Thorn quietly,
as he displayed his own cards, and with his
eyes fixed steadily upon his opponent, folded
up the money.

"Fortune favors you," said the gambler,
socially, too well schooled to betray any emotion
or chagrin at the result.

"So it seems," said Thorn.

"But I hope to meet you again, sir, for I
must have my revenge after so heavy a run of
luck as this," said Thorn's opponent; "and I
have no doubt your friends will join us in a
social sit-down, for if you are as good at
cracking a bottle, singing a song or telling a
story, as holding a hand at cards, those who
are your friends are fortunate."

"I must confess," said Thorn, "that I am
not of a convivial or musical turn, though I
can occasionally tell a good story. I have a
little history now, sir, upon my tongue's end
that will be of uncommon interest to you."

"To me! Pray tell it sir," said the gambler
with a laugh. "It will be a good wind up to
the evening's entertainment."

It was now past midnight absorbed in the
excitement of the game, we had scarcely noticed
the flight of time, or that the adjoining rooms
were nearly deserted by their occupants, at the
other end of the apartment in which we were.

The other players had finished their game long
since, and been spectators of that between
Thorn and his opponent.

About three years since a young man in
Kentucky, the confidential agent of a large
business firm, was entrusted with a sum of
money, and commissioned to transact some
business in New Orleans, it was his first visit
to that city; he started happy, leaving behind
him a young wife and a lovely infant. Un-
fortunately, upon one of the Mississippi boats
or immediately upon his arrival at New Orleans,
he fell in with a "professional"—a man of play
—you understand.

"By the management of the 'professional,'
the young man was enticed to a 'hell,' induced
to play, plied with wine, stripped of his money
—in short, to use a 'professional' word
—'plucked.'"

"It's his, the old story," said the gambler;
"the fate of all pigeons!"

"But I have not finished; that which most
interests you is yet to come."

"Indeed, go on."

"The young man was perfectly sobered at
his loss; he returned to his hotel; stung with
remorse and half crazy with excitement, he
placed a pistol to his head and blew out his
brains, leaving a tarnished name as an inheri-
tance to his wife and innocent child."

"But what is all this to me?" said the gam-
bler, now pale as ashes beneath the flashing

eyes of the speaker; "Is it a moral lesson you're
about to read here, or a sermon you have to
preach?"

"What is it to you?" continued Thorn, his
voice quivering with excitement. Ah! I'll tell
you what it is to you. This meeting of you
and I to-night, which for three long years I
have sought, is not mere chance. The hand of
Heaven is in it. 'Twas three years ago, this
very night—aye, this very hour!" said he,
glancing at his watch, "that the young man
&—poker of rushed madly into eternity—no by his
own hand, but his opponent at the card table
is he that should be accountable for the deed
of blood. The amount of money he lost is just
the amount I have won this night from you,
that very ring upon your finger is his—I AM
HIS BROTHER AND YOU ARE HIS ASSASSIN!"

Thorn pronounced these words in a clear,
ringing voice, and as he concluded, brought
his hand down with a blow upon the table at
which they were sitting, which was instantly
overturned, as he and his opponent started
simultaneously to their feet. They were scarce-
ly six paces apart springing from their chairs,
and both drew their weapons as they rose.

"Die! har!" shouted the gambler, discharging
his weapon the moment he gained his feet.—
The bullet ripped upon Thorn's waist coat, and
his watch flew into fragments from his pocket,
dangling by his chain, at the same moment his
arm, slowly rising, became rigid as that of a
statue—the pistol he held exploded, and the
gambler fell back a corpse upon the carpet.—
This all passed so suddenly we could in-
terfere, that we stood almost paralyzed for an
instant—the servants alarmed by the noise
—and the police came rushing into the apart-
ment. Thorn quietly surrendered himself, mere-
ly turning to us and the other two who
were in the room, saying as he did so: "Gentle-
men bear witness that I fired in self defence,
and that I received the villain's first shot
here," and he pointed to his shattered watch
with a smile, and turning, left the room with
the officers.

He was tried and acquitted, as it was clearly
proved that his adversary fired upon him first.
The fact that the gambler was a notorious
rascal, whom the community could well afford
to spare, might have had influence with the
jury. I have not met Thorn since, but the re-
collection of that fearful scene is yet fresh and
vivid in my mind, though many years have
passed since it was enacted.

The Lady Who Wears No Hoops.

We saw her on the street. She was of me-
dium height, with large, black, brilliant eyes,
and an intellectual face. Her garments were
plain, but neat and tidy, and she wore no hoops!
This lady had a large bundle on her arm.—
It was work, "shop work," containing many
thousand stitches, all made with her own fin-
gers. The load was heavy, and bore hard on
her delicate frame. But she walked fast and
slid easily through the crowd, for she wore no
hoops!

We glanced at the hand which grasped so
tightly the bundle which she carried. It was
delicate, yet browned by exposure and labor.—
No silken glove protected it from the rays of
the sun, and though almost featureless in shape,
it presented evidence of hard usage in the
world. Yet it was a hand that would have
looked lovely on a fashionable skirt, but that
it will never do for this lady wears no hoops!

We watched her carriage. Despite her bur-
then, it was graceful. Her step was regular
and elastic, her head erect, and her tread soft.
There, thought we, is natural grace