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Miscellaneous and News

THE GIPSY'S WIFE

I live in an old tumble-down house, not a great many miles from London, and on the borders of a busy com-

mon. Before the age of steam locomotion, this was considered the country; and even now, there is one solitary spot, where, from mossy knolls and retired and wild scenes, we overlook a perfectly retired and wild scene.

A sparkling stream, like a silver thread, winds its way amid rich pasture land and thick beech plantations; an ivied spire, furnished with a peal of soft musical bells, peeps forth from a distant village; and in the summer evening time it is pleasant to rest on those mossy knolls, and listen to the sad distant music.

The ruins of the old church may be traced from this point; wild roses and glingham are around us, with violets and bluebells; a sweet honeysuckle porch is leaning to a lowly-thatched hut; and there are growing kine and bleating flocks by our side and in the distance.

In this there is nothing wonderful; but only turn back not many hundred yards, and seek another point, from whence to view a very different and more widely-extended panorama—the vast wilderness of London, St. Paul's Westminster Abbey, hosts of steeples, myriads of chimneys, armies of masts and shipping clustering on the almost choked-up and hidden river, good old Thames; in fine, smoke, fog, and misery without end!

Seen from this common, there the sun sets; but the holy moon rises behind the tall trees and the old church, which I can reach in less time than I have taken to go up to it. Royalty for many years found a secluded and peaceful home on this ancient common, famed alike in history and legend; but I know not if the cars of royalty were ever assailed by the same unceremonious and rude as the descriptions we have read of the war-whoops of the Indian savages.

The explanation is, that there are several stables of donkeys, where these animals are let out for hire, on different parts of the common; and the general assemblage, or grand emporium is close to the garden wall which bounds the domain once honored by a royal presence.

One evening during the past summer, as I was returning from a ramble by the side of a dear invalid, who was drawn about in a hand-carriage, two ragged little girls loitered around our gate idly curiously, to watch the occupant of the pretty green chariot assisted into the house. I was struck by the appearance of the elder of the two; for although with a quantity of matted black hair, a very fair face, and still dainty habits, I could trace a singular loveliness both of form and feature.

She had large, languishing, blue eyes, shaded by long, black, silken lashes; but notwithstanding this, the gipsy physiognomy was decided; and as there were many of that tribe in the neighborhood, I doubted not that these vagrants were wanderers from their tents. After regarding the poor little things with some tempting cakes, I asked the beauty her name, when she answered with distinctness and propriety, "Mazelli Lee, please ma'am."

"And what is your father, my dear?" I said. "Father's a gipsy, please ma'am." "And your mother is a gipsy too, I suppose, my dear?" "No, mother's a lady, and drives donkeys, please ma'am."

She declared that the pure air, and the untrammelled freedom of her mode of life, was suitable to her taste; and we pressed her no further, poor creature!

Such was the tale I heard; too singular and improbable for a fictitious narrative, too extravagant for invention. It induced me to pay a visit, after the hour of donkey usage was over, to Mr. Johnnie Lee's hut, the "cave."

I knew by previous observation, that "the cave" contained wretched huts, and still more wretched inhabitants; but the one I now entered was worse than I had ventured to anticipate. It consisted of only two rooms; the under one with a mud floor, with the ceiling broken and the upper floor projecting through. I did not ascend the ladder leading to that, for I saw like things below to surprise and bewilder me.

A scene like this is not my own comfortable home, and in the midst of the rigorous proprieties of the conventional life—and a woman of nearly the same grade, originally, as myself, of nearly the same bringing up, thus outraging the common decencies of life!

How far beyond the saddest tales of romance or the wildest visions of fancy! Her three children were around her, supping on potatoes; but there was no snowy cloth on the tettering board, no clean basins of new milk, no fresh flowers in wicker baskets, nothing as it would have been were I relating a fiction.

Outside there were no honey-bee or garden-plots, where sweet thyme, and mint, and sunflowers grow; nothing but foul donkey sheds adjoining, where, amid damp stables and noxious steams, rested the weary animals ere they were turned out on the common to shift for themselves during the night.

The gipsy husband was not there. I did not ask for him; for I guessed his haunt too well. It was an "ovre true tale" I had heard, and this was the moral.

Johnnie Lee's wife opened a chest which stood in one corner, containing the rags of the family, and amidst them lay concealed her sole earthly treasure: her father's miniature, some school-book, with her maiden name inscribed in them, which I forbear recording; and some torn and yellow-looking music—the music which had once offered the loan of her acquaintance.

She gave me no further explanation; made no comments; but she did confess, that if it should please God to afflict her with sickness, she knew not what would become of them. To her father and family she had been the same as dead since her disgraceful elopement. She had indeed pursued pure air and untrammelled freedom at a fearful price!

Poor thing! with a smile on her lip, but with a tear in her eye, she added, "I do wish my children to receive a Christian education, and when I look on them, particularly on my little Max, I remember their inheritance, I dare not think. But I have chosen my way. My husband does not beat or ill-use me; he has given up many bad practices for my sake; and if he is rather fond of the shelter of the public-house, ought I to complain of that? Do not shed tears for me; I have no feeling for myself!"

By Magnetic Telegraph

Dispatches for the Tri-Weekly Observer

BEAUFORT MARKET, June 5, 1845. Saturday was rather active than otherwise. We heard of the sale of 6000 lbs. of raw cotton, at 4 1/2 to 5 1/2 cents.

NEW YORK, June 5—P. M. The story of the new revolution in Mexico, and the repudiation of the Treaty was a hoax.

A dispatch from Petersburg says the Delta contains fair peace news. Orders had been issued calling in the outposts of the army, which expected to march for the coast between the 1st and 15th of June.

Gen. P. Smith has been appointed superintendent of the embarkation at Vera Cruz. Gen. Worth's division is said to have been ordered to California.

Later accounts from the French West Indies, Guadalupe and Martinique, represent things in a diplomatic state.

The greatest vigilance was necessary to prevent an insurrection among the slaves, who believed that they were to be emancipated. The new Governor appointed by the Provisional government of France had arrived.

One of the towns of Guadalupe there had been a continual scene of riot and drunkenness for three days.

The steambot Andrew Kennedy, Capt. Miller, exploded on the Tomlinson river, Sunday week. Thirty persons were killed or mangled, twenty badly wounded, and two dreadfully scalped.

The steamer Clark was burned on the Mississippi, on the 27th ult. The Captain and crew, eight or ten in number, and thirty deck passengers, perished. The cabin passengers were saved.

MARKET.—The demand for good wool, and the supply of good brands is moderate. Sales at 5 1/2 to 5 3/4 for common and good medium; 5 3/4 for good Green. Corn is held at 4 1/2 to 4 3/4 for round; 5 1/2 for firm.

THE undersigned would respectfully inform the gentlemen of the South side of the Public Square, in the County of Erie, Pa., that he has opened a TAILORING SHOP.

ARRIVING IN LARGEST QUANTITY... A large quantity of the best quality of... It is of the highest quality, and will be found to be the most durable and useful of any ever used.

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