

THE HERALD OBSERVER.

A. P. DURLIN & CO., Proprietors.

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VOLUME 21.

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Eric Weekly Observer.

A. P. DURLIN & CO. PROPRIETORS.

D. F. SLOAN, Editor.

OFFICE, CORNER STATE ST. AND PUBLIC SQUARE, ERIE.

TERMS OF THE PAPER.

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Portey and Miscellany.

JENNY LIND.

BY MISS L. S. HOBBS.

Bliss must their vocation be,
Who with tones of melody,
Calm the discord and the strife,
And in earthly ruck of life,
And with Orphean more
Things impart to life and love.

But there's one, who doth inherit
Angel gifts and angel spirit,
Bidding streams of gladness flow
Through the realm of want and woe,
Mid lone and glad misery's throes,
Kiss the pleasure long forgot,
Seeking minds oppressed with night,
And o'er darkness shedding light,
She the seraph's lore doth know,
She hath learned their deeds below,
So, when o'er this busy strand
She shall step their waiting hand,
They will hold her to their breast,
More sister than a guest.—*West. Lit. Messenger.*

THE MISER'S DEATH-BED.

BY AN ENGLISH PARTISAN.

The physician sees many strange death-bed scenes.—
We may remember to a certain extent callous to these
sights which would appal the stoutest heart; but still, in
the course of a long practice, even he must encounter
some death-bed scenes, the recollections of which will
cling to him and which he may be years in shaking from
his imagination. Such was that which I am about to
narrate.

For ten or eleven years a bent and miserable old man
had been in the habit of clinging each morning to my
apartment to beg of my servants broken victuals. His
appearance was so haggard, and his tone and manner
bespoke such a depth of misery, that I gave orders to
my maid to bring him anything that I had come from the
table; so that, at last, he grew into a regular pensioner upon
me, and we used to expect him regularly every morning
at our breakfast.

The name of the old mendicant we never knew, nor
where he resided. In fact, he seldom spoke a word to my
servants; but he would come in the heat of summer.—
Then the warm genial sunshine even lit the worn
features into beauty, and clinging to the iron rails, looking
the only miserable, or at least the most miserable object in
creation. In the depth of winter, too, when the bleak
north-east wind blew fiercely and the blinding snow
drifted through the air, he would come, and still clinging
to the rails, while his rage fluttered around him, wait for
his daily dole.

This had gone on so long, that one morning, when he
did not come, I felt quite uneasy, and there was a general
enquiry through the house as to whether any one
had seen the old man. The next morning passed away,
and still he came not. I began to think he must be ill
or dead, and wondering at the usual hour for another
week, we began to forget the old beggar that had visited
us so long. One morning, however, he was brought to my
recollection again, somewhat singularly.

I was told that a young girl was waiting in my hall
to see me, and going out to her, she told me Mr. Temple
wanted me as soon as I could go to him.

"Who does he reside?" I asked.

She named a low, wretched street in Soho; and wondering
at the address, I said—

"Who is Mr. Temple?"

"I don't know, sir," said the girl. "His lodgings with
my mother, sir."

"You are quite sure he sent for me?"

"Yes, sir. We didn't know his name till this morning,
and he's lived with us since I was born."

"Indeed, that's odd enough. Is he very ill?"

"Oh, very, he's groaning so."

"Well, run back, and tell him I'll call as early as I
can in the course of the morning."

The girl departed, and about half past eleven I found
myself reluctantly diverging to call upon my new
patient—street, Soho. The house was miserable and
dirty in the extreme; and upon asking for Mr. Temple,
a slipshod, grinning-looking woman screamed up the
kitchen stairs—

"It's three pair back!"

"The what?" I said.

"The three pair back," replied the woman,
still showing her head on a level with the passage.

"Can't you show me his room?" I said.

"Who are you, I wonder?" screamed the woman.

"Holy-to-day! Show you up, indeed! Perhaps you'd like
a mole-catch, too?"

Positively declining the candle, I ascended the stairs,
surmising that the three pair back must be up three
flights of stairs, and a back room somewhere.

When I arrived at the landing place at the very top
story of the house, I heard a low moaning sound
proceeding from a room to my left, and pushing open a
low black door, I entered one of the most miserable rooms
that I had ever seen.

Furniture, it had none. A cracked water-jug was
upon the floor, and by its side an earthenware saucer, such
as are used for garden pots. In one corner sat at what
at first appeared to be a mass of old rags, but the grating
that proceeded from amongst them told me that a human
being was there.

"He's come!—he's come!" cried a thin voice,
as if struggling with pain.

"Did you send for me?" I said.

"Thieves, murder, help!" suddenly cried the same
voice, and from among the mass of rags and filth, a long,
skinny arm protruded, grasping a pistol.

I saw I was a little alarmed, and said hastily, "I am
Dr. —"

"You—you have come to rob me, then?"

"No, no! Certainly not."

"But—but you know if you had—I have nothing—"

"Mind, nothing—nothing!"

"Is your name Temple?" I said.

"Ha!" he screamed, how do you know that? No, no
—I am a beggar."

"A Mr. Temple sent for me."

"Stay, stay! Fasten the door; place the leg against it.
We—we shall be robbed here. Not that I have anything
to lose. No, no; I am miserably poor, wretchedly poor."

"Then you should apply for assistance, where you have
a right to demand it. If I was to give you a prescription
you could not get it made up for nothing, you know."

"No, no," he replied. "I—I know. Look at me—
look, doctor, look."

He raised himself on his arm, and in the thin, emaciated
face of my strange patient I recognized the old beggar
that used to cling to my area rails.

"I do recollect you," I said.

"You do now?"

"And your name is Temple, is it not?"

"Temple!" he screamed; "who says my name is
Temple?"

"Your own messenger."

"Then—then—I must have raved."

"What complaint have you?" I said.

Slowly he drew his hand from under the rags, and
holding an old tarnished guinea drop from his clenching
fist, he said with a deep sigh—

"There—there is your fee."—
"I do not require it of you?" said I.
"You—you are sure?"
"Quite sure."

"Then, I—then I will keep it. Don't tell any one
you saw it, or I shall be robbed!"

He clutched the coin again, and withdrew his ghastly
attenuated hand and arm. I could see by his whole ap-
pearance that he was suffering from want of nourishing
diet, and I said—

"You must spend, that guinea to-day, in some wine
and arrow-root."

"Guinea!" he cried, "what guinea? I have no gold.
Do you want to rob me? I am ill, I know I am ill. Tell
me what's the matter with me; but mind one thing—"

"What is that?"

"I—I am not dying—dying. Mind that—I am not dying.
No, no—not dying!"

"You will, though," said I, "if you do not take some
nourishing drink."

"He fixed his glassy eyes on my face in a hurried
glance, and then he said, "I have a pistol in my pocket."
"Do you think I had a pistol of porter is really necessary
for me?"

I laughed and said "a bottle of good port wine, you
mean."

"What?" he cried, "and I so wretchedly poor—so
miserably poor!"

"Do you know," said I, "if you make such a noise."

"What—what?" he cried.

"That you are not so poor as you affect to be. Have
you not some secret hoard, now, that freely used would
make the remainder of your life comfortable?"

"What, gold?" he shrieked, "you do not think I have
gold?"

"Yes I do. You are a miser."

"A miser?"

"Yes."

He fell back on the bed with a gasp; then, suddenly
springing up, he screamed—

"Thieves! thieves!—help, help, help, robbers!"

"I shall leave you," said I, "if you make such a noise."
The door now opened, and a coarse man put his head
into the room, with the polite inquiry—"What's the
matter?"

"Nothing," said I, "the old man is ill, and raves."

"Oh, that's the ticket, is it? He's a going all far to
assault the bucket at last, is he? There'll be a nut for
Old Nick!"

Having delivered himself of this elegant opinion the
man withdrew his head, and shut the door. When I
turned again to the old man, he lay in a swoon on his
miserable bed.

I am never without restoratives about me, and I very
soon succeeded in restoring my patient to his former
state. With a long drawn sigh he opened his eyes,
and fixed them upon my face with an expression of mourn-
ful intensity.

"How are you now?" I said.

"Better—better," he muttered.

I saw that it was not so, for a change had come across
his face, and there was a peculiar glow about his eyes
that told me he was dying. Imposed as I was with
the conviction that he had never secreted, which might
be of service to some one claiming kindness with him, I
did not hesitate to tell him his real condition.

"Do not deceive yourself," said I, "you are dying."
He sprang up in bed with a shriek, as if he had been
stabbed.

"Dying!" he cried; "no, no, not dying! Let me live
—live on, though it be in pain. Why should I die? No,
no, I cannot—will die!"

I told the whole story to my wife and she had at once
suggested an inquiry at the workhouse, to ascertain if the
child had lived or died, as the parish must have been
cognizant of the whole affair. We soon rattled up to the
workhouse door, and I was ushered into the master's
room.

"Good God! a horse and a well paid position do wonders.
As we were," I called to the driver—

"Is there a workhouse at —?"

"A workhouse?" he cried. "No! I think as there isn't,
there is at —. A workhouse!"

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workhouse door, and I was ushered into the master's
room.

"I am, Dr. —," said I. "Have you a child here
of the name of Darham?"

"Yes, sir," was the immediate answer.

"Thank Heaven," said I. "What is it, a boy?"

"No, sir, a girl."

"About eleven, sir. You see we had to bury the
mother, and the father drowned himself."

"Will you trust the child to me?"

"I will hold you harmless," said I. "You know me
by name."

The master hesitated a moment, and then said—

"I will trust you. Will you please to take a seat a moment?"

He was scarcely two minutes gone, when he returned,
leading by the hand a little girl dressed in a blue stuff
gown of five centuries ago, and a little pinched up white
cap. She was a beautiful little thing, with solid blue
eyes, and a look of earnest simplicity upon her face,
which I admired very much.

"Thank you, sir," said I to the master. "You shall
hear from me to-morrow."

He bowed, I took the little orphan by the hand, and
led her to the chaise. The moment I appeared at the
workhouse door, a great crowd that had the assembled,
greeted me with a loud hurrah.

I handed the child into the chaise, and followed my-
self.

"To London," said I.

"Hurrah!" shouted the crowd, and away we went.

I had been five hours exactly when I entered the mi-
serable room with my daughter's child. He was asleep,
and the nurse told me he had been quite delirious. I
felt certain that it was his last sleep, and I mentioned the
child, who was a sweet-tempered, tractable little thing,
to stand quietly by the bedside, while I waited for his
awakening. There was a dead silence for about a quar-
ter of an hour, and then he muttered in his sleep—

"Yes, darling—yes, kiss me, my little Emma! Kiss
me—kiss—kiss—"

"Are you better?" I said softly.

"That's Dr. —," he said.

"Yes," I replied.

I am much better, thank you," he said; "in fact, quite
strong and well. I had a pain, but it's gone; and it's
still night."

I saw by some infallible sign that he was dying.

"I—I," he said, "your daughter had a child, it would in-
herit all you have!"

Swallows.

Swallows in Sweden, at the approach of cold weather,
plunge into the lakes, and remain there asleep, and
buried under the ice, till the return of spring. Then,
awakened by the retreating heat, they leave the water, and
resume their usual flight. While the lakes are frozen,
if the ice be broken in certain places, which appear
darker than others, the swallows are found in large quan-
tities, cold, asleep, and half-dead. If they are taken out
and warmed by the hands, or before the fire, they soon
begin to exhibit signs of life; they stretch themselves out,
shake themselves, and soon fly away. In other places,
they retire into the crevices, and under the rocks. Between
the town of Coon and the sea along the banks of the
Orne, there are many of these caverns, where, during
the winter, clusters of swallows have been found sus-
pended like bunches of grapes, from the roof of the cavern.
The same thing has been long ago observed in Italy.

The Constitutional Convention of N. Hampshire
has voted to strike out of the Constitution the clause im-
posing a religious test, and the clause requiring a prop-
erty qualification for office. It is about time.

"I had a wife whom I loved, and a little blessed
child, with a sweet laugh, who was as happy as the
day is long, and we called her Emma. My wife, the
companion of my young days, wasted away before my
eyes, and died. Then I was alone with my child, my
little one; but there came a chilling shadow across my
heart, and I was unhappy.

"At last it shaped itself into a form, and avarice be-
came my passion—I hoarded—hoarded all, but still I
wanted, in misery and privation, my little child—long to
see, and loved me. The pleasure of childhood she never
knew; playmates she had none; yet she clung to me;
and she grew in beauty, too, till she was sixteen; then
one day she hung upon my neck and told me she was
loved by a more youth. I knew him. His guinea was
his only possession, and I scorned him. Then one day
he came to me; and she, my child, my Emma—it was
her mother's name—they knelt at my feet, and asked for
my blessing."

He passed, for his tears choked his utterance, and the
scene he had conjured up was too much for his feelings.
I gave him some wine and he proceeded.

"I turned them from my door—and saved my
gold."

"And what became of them?"

"Left the place, and came to London; but a man met
me in the street, and told me—"

"What?"

"That my child—my little Emma—you know—"

"Take time," I said.

"He—told me that she was dead—the little thing who
used to nestle in my breast; he said she had died of want
in giving birth to a child—she was dead."

"Can that be true?" I said.

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me in the street, and told me—"

"What?"

"That my child—my little Emma—you know—"

"Take time," I said.

"He—told me that she was dead—the little thing who
used to nestle in my breast; he said she had died of want
in giving birth to a child—she was dead."

"Can that be true?" I said.

"He—told me that she was dead—the little thing who
used to nestle in my breast; he said she had died of want
in giving birth to a child—she was dead."

"Can that be true?" I said.

"I turned them from my door—and saved my
gold."

"And what became of them?"

"Left the place, and came to London; but a man met
me in the street, and told me—"

"What?"

"That my child—my little Emma—you know—"

"Take time," I said.

"He—told me that she was dead—the little thing who
used to nestle in my breast; he said she had died of want
in giving birth to a child—she was dead."

"Can that be true?" I said.

"He—told