

NO DEATH.

There is no death; the common end Of life and growth we comprehend...

When wastes the seed, the sower sows, Beneath the clog of winter snows...

When Science weighs and counts the strands In economic Nature's hands...

They do not die; our darling ones: From falling leaves to burning suns...

When stills the heart, and dims the eye, And round our couch friends wonder why...

THE UNWILLING GUEST.

The old Baron did not require much pressing, but soon began his story:

I think, my friends you have all heard of the Countess Repey—the younger, of course—the bewitching little sprite, my little black-eyed princess.

Minel I only wish she were mine. You must all know her. I suspect you have all lost your hearts to her, as I have done; yet I, insignificant as I am, have been most favored.

With these words she walked up to the door.

For a moment I reflected that it would be wisest to leave her here, and to betake myself to the forest; but it would not have been right to forsake her, and, besides, I had no choice, for Mile. Cesarine, the chaperone, had seized my arm, which she would not relinquish.

She immediately ordered her carriage. I was the private person near at hand.

"Please, dear Baron," she cried, "escort me to the Arad."

"Dear Baron, dear Baron!" what answer could I give her?

"Countess, ma dessee, it is dark as Erebus; the carriage will be upset; we have to cross three rivers—it will be a wonder if even two have safe bridges.

We shall be drowned, Countess; our road lies through a forest of vast extent, lonely as the grave, and infested with thieves and murderers.

Let us have an early cup of tea, and set out in the morning; we shall reach Arad by noon, and you will have the whole afternoon for your toilette.

My representations were futile—she would start instantly. You know how obstinate she is.

"Well, we shall be lucky if we ever leave this den alive," thought I.

When the fellows saw us they paused in their dance, and stared at us with great sparkling eyes.

My little Countess advanced into the room, and with a bewitching smile addressed them as follows:

"Pray forgive us for having disturbed you in your entertainment; we have lost our way, and as the darkness prevented us from driving farther, we beg you to give us shelter for the night."

One of the five bandits advanced towards her—he was the handsomest and slimmest of them all.

The truth will out; it was devilish pleasant; I was almost oppressed with marks of the Countess's favor.

Countess Repey, residing in your immediate neighborhood.

"I have the good fortune to know the name. The old Count once sent a bullet after me, but missed his aim.

Here was a pleasant acquaintance! The Countess sat down on a bench, Fekete seated himself beside her.

"Where were you driving at such a late hour?" he inquired.

"Don't tell him! Don't tell him!" I telegraphed with my eyes.

"To Arad, to the casino ball."

"Indeed! It was a lucky chance for us that brought you here.

"Without another word the barefaced fellow, as soon as the music began slipped his arm round the waist of the fair Countess and swung her into the middle of the room.

Another impudent fellow rushed up to Mademoiselle Cesarine, who was half fainting from fright and agitation.

"That's no affair of his."

"Or that the horses—"

"Well, that's his lookout."

"That there are some poor devils in this forest who try to get their living by—"

"Folly! Isn't our coachman a poor devil himself?"

"Yes, yes; but he means those poor men who are in the habit of relieving one of a horse, and not infrequently of a carriage, too.

"Look? What am I too look at? It is pitch dark, I cannot see anything."

"Nothing? Is not that a light gleaming under the trees yonder?"

My blood curdled. We were close to the robbers' den.

the robbers' den. The coachman had also desecrated the light; he now said, in a voice which resembled that of a man who was being hanged:

"That is the inn, my lady, frequented by the poor men."

"Capital! Drive to the inn, coachman, for we have no other refuge for the night."

I was in despair. "For heaven's sake Countess, what are you going to do? This is a notorious den of thieves, where we shall all be assassinated; the host is a confederate; many travelers have already met their death.

"These are only old women's tales," she said; "who is afraid of such imaginary bogeys? If there were a hotel anywhere near, we should of course drive to it.

"So saying, she told the coachman to follow her slowly with the carriage; she meant to advance on foot, to show him the way.

"Thank you, I cannot dance."

"Indeed, that alters the case." He turned away to the Countess: "Pardon us, your ladyship, for not being duly prepared for the reception of distinguished guests.

"I feared all the time that the unblushing rogue would, in his excitement, be rude to the Countess.

"Nothing of the kind occurred. Fekete led the Countess to her seat, reverently kissed her hand, and then turned to me.

"And you, old gentleman, you are not dancing."

"Thank you, I cannot dance."

"Indeed, that alters the case." He turned away to the Countess: "Pardon us, your ladyship, for not being duly prepared for the reception of distinguished guests.

He alluded to the supper. It was a sumptuous banquet, I can tell you!

"Eat away! eat away, old gentleman; this will fatten you—stolen meat is very nourishing."

"Thank you," I answered, "it is too highly seasoned for me."

The wine of course was served in a kaleska—such people know nothing of glasses.

"Thank you," I answered, "it is too highly seasoned for me."

"Thank you, I am not allowed to drink; I live homeopathically."

"Ah!" laughed he; "I understand, similia similibus."

I felt sure that they wished to intoxicate us first, and then take our lives.

"Well, well, old gentleman!" "Devil take you, your 'old gentleman!'"

"I have the good fortune to know the name. The old Count once sent a bullet after me, but missed his aim.

He took a pack of cards from his pocket.

"Now," thought I, "he wants to find out how much money I have."

"I don't do that either," I answered; "I have never played."

"No matter. I'll soon teach you a game—it's very easy. Look here! I put one card here, and another there.

"What! do you want to play for coppers with me? Whom do you take me for, sir? Here is the bank."

He threw a whole pile of brand-new ducats on the table.

"I hastened to the card-room, 'I am in luck to-day,' I thought.

She was the belle of the evening. She did not dance, however, and thus failed to follow up her latest triumph.

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over her, as if about to embrace her; suddenly stopping, he would throw back his head and turn aside with wonderful grace, the bewitching little fairy floating towards him at one moment as it about to throw herself into his arms, then drawing back and luring him hither and thither in pursuit of her, the glance of their eyes alone showing that they formed one couple.

"What do you take me for, sir? Put your money into your pocket or I will throw you and it out of the window."

"Good God! what was I to do with this money, which had doubtless already been the cause of bloodshed, and would probably lead eventually to my own destruction?"

In my trepidation I threw it, large sum as it was, to the gipsies. I regretted the act at once; it betrayed the fact that I was rich, and that money was no object to me.

"Thank you, I cannot dance."

"Indeed, that alters the case." He turned away to the Countess: "Pardon us, your ladyship, for not being duly prepared for the reception of distinguished guests.

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with a laugh, putting the remaining pieces of money in his pocket.

"Tremblingly I ventured to offer him the sum which I had won. Proud as a Hidalgo, he cast a glance of withering scorn at me.

"What do you take me for, sir? Put your money into your pocket or I will throw you and it out of the window."

"Good God! what was I to do with this money, which had doubtless already been the cause of bloodshed, and would probably lead eventually to my own destruction?"

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The American Soldier.

On entering the office and making his wishes known, says an intelligent United States soldier, the recruit is taken to a side room, stripped and examined by the doctor, after which an outfit of clothes, consisting of blouse, cap, drawers, stockings, shirt, shoes, pants, and blanket is issued to him.

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but the driver cursed himself loose. Then he charged up the street, scattering people right and left, and making a hot race for two blocks.

"Buy a bckay, mister? All fresh flowers, ten cents each."

"Oh, no, this is just the time to sell them. There is lots of fellows and their girls out now, and I catch nearly all of them. Hold on now, and see me do it. Here comes a dude and his girl now."

The couple referred to came up twenty-second street, and turned up Broadway. They were just rounding the corner when the flower boy made his assault.

"Oh, you oughtn't to have such a good-looking young lady if you cannot even buy her a ten-cent bouquet when she wants one," said the boy, with a tone of well-assumed disgust, and the young fellow cut short further comment on his generosity by reducing the number of bouquets in the basket by two.

"That's the way we catch them," said the little fellow, as the couple passed on.

"Do you make much money on the bouquets?"

"Oh, that depends on how many we sell. I made a dollar and five cents to-day, and I've only been out since I o'clock this afternoon. Sometimes I make a good deal more."

"What is the most you ever made in a day?"

"Twenty-nine dollars, clear money. That was two years ago at the fair. I made \$13 one day on an excursion up the river. You know I go out on the excursions all the time, and that's the best place to make money."

"Where do you get your flowers?"

"Buy them of the flower dealers, and make the bouquets myself. Pretty soon flowers will get cheap enough to sell the bouquets for five cents a piece, and then we will make more."