

I WISH HE WOULD DECIDE.

I wish he would decide, mamma, I wish he would decide; I've been a bridesmaid twenty times— When shall I be a bride? My cousin Anne, my sister Fan, The nuptial knot have tied; Yet come what will, I'm single still— I wish he would decide.

DRIVEN TO BAY.

"Miss Cherry, Miss Cherry, it is time to come in. The old stable clock struck six as Nurse Nancy stood with her hand shading her eyes—the sun was sinking behind the fringe of willows that outlined the river, and the dead leaves fluttered to and fro upon the brick paved walk that extended beneath the espalier pear trees. And Cherry Fountain, sitting in a low rustic chair on the river bank, never stirred. "Miss Cherry," reiterated the old nurse, "Miss Cherry! If you're determined to catch cold yourself, you might have some consideration for Master Wilfred." "Nancy, don't interrupt," cried Cherry, petulantly. "We are happy here, Willie and I. Why can't you let us alone?" "But your papa is asking for you. Miss Cherry listened with a curl of her lip, but little Wilfred jumped up and pulled eagerly at his sister's dress. "Let's go in, Cherry," said he. "I love papa. And I want to see my new mamma." Cherry rose slowly and reluctantly—but before she could pick up her books and shawl, a light figure, dressed in some glistening white material, came running out to the river shore. "Where are the children," said a soft voice. "I want to see the children." Willie, an affectionate little fellow of eight years old, ran into the arms of his young step-mother, and overwhelmed her with kisses which were most cordially returned, but Cherry hung back with defiant glances. "Come here, darling," said Mrs. Fountain. "Why, you are nearly as tall as I am. Papa," turning archly to the bridegroom who had followed more slowly her flying footsteps, "you never told me that this Cherry of ours was almost a young lady." "Because I didn't realize it myself," said Col. Fountain, caressing one of Cherry's long brown curls, and thinking, even at this auspicious moment, how much like her dead mother she was growing. "Cherry, this is your new mother. You must be great friends with her!" The tears brimmed into Cherry's eyes—her lips quivered. Mrs. Alice Fountain's quick eye saw it all, but she had too much tact to interfere. She only kissed Cherry and clasped her hand tenderly, and then began to talk about the beauty of the river, all reddened in the sunset glow. "They are beautiful children," she said to her husband that night. "I am sure I shall love them, if only they will let me." "I don't think there will be any trouble about that, darling," said the colonel fondly. Nor would there have been, if Cherry's frank, generous soul had been left to its own impulses. But the neighbors had condescended with her too sympathetically. Miss Darling who would herself have been glad to console the handsome widower, had said, plaintively: "You, dear Cherry, must remember your mother's memory although your father seems to have forgotten it." And Aunt Frederica, the elder sister of the deceased lady, had ostentatiously come to the house to remove all the personal belongings of the late Mrs. Fountain, during the absence of the colonel on his wedding tour. "I dare say your new ma will be for flinging all these in the fire," she said. "I only hope she will be kind to Willie, poor child!" "If she is not," flashed Cherry, "she will have me to settle with!" But Aunt Frederica only groaned and shook her head. And it was in this spirit Cherry was prepared to meet her father's second wife. Small wonder that Alice Fountain found it well nigh impossible to win her love. "This is your dear mamma's favorite flower bed, Cherry," said the bride one morning. "Willie told me so. You and I must make it our care to keep the place always bright and lovely." Cherry blushed a little as she glanced down at the weed-grown parterre. "There is no occasion for troubling you," said she. "I can take care of it myself." "But I should like to help you, dear," pleaded Mrs. Fountain. "I am so fond of gardening!" "I prefer to do it myself," said Cherry, stiffly. Mrs. Fountain looked at her wistful-

ly, but said nothing more just then. In the afternoon she came to the little boudoir where Cherry sat reading. "Where are your books, Cherry?" said she. "Your papa thinks I could read French and German with you, and help you in practicing." "Thanks," said Cherry, suddenly straightening herself up. "but I don't want any help. I would rather go on with my daily governess, Miss Murray, just as I did before." And once more Alice found herself repelled. Aunt Frederica came daily to the house, and sat solemnly in judgment on the bride's new theories of household management. Miss Darling glided in and out like a shadow, attaching herself markedly to Cherry. There was a decided counter-current in the house which Alice could feel rather than see—and as the days went by, she began vaguely to fancy that even her husband was different from what he had been. One morning, sitting at the window, she saw an express wagon loaded with trunks drive up. "Dear Felix," she cried, running to where her husband sat in the library, "have you invited company?" Col. Fountain reddened a little. "Company!" repeated he. "Oh, yes, I see. I intended to have mentioned it before. The fact is, dear, my sister Frederica is coming here for a few months. You are so young and inexperienced that I thought that perhaps it would be better for her to take charge of the housekeeping, for the present at least." "Alice's damask-rose complexion deepened in scarlet. "Have I in anyway failed to meet your wishes, Felix?" said she, in a stifled voice. "No, no, but Frederica thought—" "I do not want to know what Frederica thought," said Mrs. Fountain, quickly. "And Cherry is getting so lawless, and Willie is positively ungovernable, and Frederica says that the house needs a firmer hand to rule it," went on Col. Fountain. "Do you really think so, Felix?" "I? Well, no, not exactly, but you know, pet, that you are young to be at the head of a household like this." Alice bit her lip. "Why did you not think of that before you married me?" said she. "Now you are getting childish, Alice," said her husband gravely. "I shall begin to believe that Frederica is right about your temper!" Mrs. Fountain could endure no more. She turned and left the room. Colonel Fountain looked earnestly after her. Like most men, he hated scenes, but nevertheless his conscience pricked him a little. He half rose, as if to follow her, and then sat down again. "Frederica says I ought not to give way to her in everything," said he. "And perhaps she is right, Frederica thinks that the children should receive a little more of my attention. I'll go and walk through the garden with them now. Of course the poor darlings ought not to be neglected because I have married again." Half an hour later Alice looked out of the casement and saw her husband coming out of the green house with Cherry fondly clinging to his arm, Willie trotting on before, and Aunt Frederica following, with both hands full of the rare white grapes which the old Scotch gardener parted with so reluctantly. "They are happy enough without me," she said to herself, with a sharp pang at her heart. "I am only an intruder here." When Col. Fountain came upstairs to dress for dinner he found the room empty, but a little note lay on the bureau. "DEAREST FELIX," was what he read, on tearing it open. "I hope you will not blame me for leaving your house. But I have decided that I cannot like where I am not loved and trusted thoroughly. If you and Cherry can be happier with Miss Frederica than with me, I cheerfully abdicate in her favor. One thing is certain—there cannot be two mistresses in a home. And I will try to be as happy as possible with my Uncle Willoughby in the meantime. And please do not forget that I am still your most loving ALICE."

Col. Fountain's first impression was that of hot anger, his second a dull despair. But Aunt Frederica pursed up her lips. "Depend on it, Felix," she said, "the girl is tired of you. I despise these chits that never know their own mind!" "Be silent!" said Fountain, hoarsely. "You have ruined me! Is not that enough?" A week of Aunt Frederica's rule completely disenchanted the whole family. Cherry burst into tears one day, when the old lady was especially exacting. "I wish I had my mamma back again, said she, impetuously. "Your sainted mother, dear child," groaned Miss Frederica, "is in heaven." "But I mean my mamma Alice," sobbed Cherry. "I do miss her so dreadfully! I believe she really loved me. And—and I do love her, and I wish I had not behaved so horribly to her. There!" "Can't we bring her home?" shouted Willie. "Nobody remembers to help me with my sams, or to cut out paper ships for me, now that mamma is gone!" "We will bring her home said Felix, who was just then particularly exasperated at discovering that Miss Frederica had been transforming Alice's boudoir into a bedroom for some fourth cousin or other who was contemplating an uninvited sojourn at the house. And Alice, sitting solitary and alone, like "Mariana in the Moated Grange," was astonished that very day by the unexpected vision of Cherry herself. "Mamma," said the girl, half bashful, half eager, "dearest mamma, will you forgive us all, and particularly me? Will you come home to us again? We are so lonely without you, and papa says—" But Alice had sprung to her feet and clasped her repentant step-daughter in her arms. "Will you really love me, dearest?" said she. "Oh, Cherry, Cherry, if you could but know how I have pined for your love!" So she came home again, this time to an undivided kingdom. For Frederica and her sisters had been politely turned out of doors, the boudoir was itself again, and Felix was waiting on the threshold to welcome her back. "My dear," said he, "I have made a fool of myself. I see it all now. It shall not happen a second time." "Did I do right, Felix?" she said, timidly. "But, oh, I was so wretched!" "Sweetheart," said Colonel Fountain with limitless loyalty, "you are always right!" "Mamma is always right," echoed Cherry and Willie, showering caresses on their recovered treasure. For, by some magic spell, Alice had contrived to convert the whole family at last. It was never my "step-mother" again it was always "mamma" Alice.

Lincoln as a Gentleman.

Prentensions to technical gentility Lincoln had none, and with a fine manliness disclaimed any. Apropos of his deficiencies from the point of view of conventional high breeding, he once took occasion to remark in the course of the joint debate with Douglas: "I set out in this campaign with the intention of conducting it strictly as a gentleman, in substance, at least, if not in outside polish. The latter I shall never be, but that which constitutes the inside of a gentleman I hope I understand, and I am not less inclined to practice than another." The fashions of politeness change, but we imagine that men like Abraham Lincoln will never go out of fashion. It was while Lincoln lived at New Salem that he managed to buy a second-hand copy of Blackstone's Commentaries and began to study law. Other books, however, he had none, nor would he have had any means of getting any had not an old friend and fellow soldier in the Black Hawk war, who had been a successful lawyer at Springfield, offered him the use of his collection, which, for a new country, was respectable. In order to exchange one book for another; however, he had to walk from New Salem to Springfield, a distance of fourteen miles, and it is said, would often master thirty or forty pages on his way home. He was often seen seated against the trunk of a tree or lying on the grass under its shade, poring over his books and changing his position as the sun advanced, so as to keep in the shade.

Stanley's Soudan Plan.

The celebrated African traveler, Henry M. Stanley, thinks that the Soudan was a useless possession, and that "for any body to reconquer it and hand it over to Egypt would be an iniquity," he meant to refer to the present condition of that country. General Gordon's real opinion, Mr Stanley says, which was often expressed, was that attempts at permanent occupation would be useless until a railway had been constructed connecting Suakim with the Nile. The Government of the Soudan would then become much easier. Mr Stanley expresses his belief in the soundness of this opinion, and says:—If you want to make something of the Soudan give the people of that country a chance to rest. Stop taxation, stop the courbash. Garreduced by equitable division; when ancient privileges are no longer the prize of the few, and when emigration ceases to be with many the sole alternative of starvation. If the Kohnoor brings destruction, it is to the few who have dominated over the many, thus insuring final order out of immediate chaos.

May not the brain be from time to time liable to some sickness which, while it lasts, makes all things distorted and discolored? Iron becomes magnetized by the magnet against which it grinds, and the soul becomes assimilated to that on which it thinks continually. It is strange that men will talk of miracles, revelations, inspirations, and the like, as things past, while love remains. This best material for constructing a sloop, according to the decision of the Essex (Mass.) Agricultural society, is stone and cement, and the best material for weighing down the ensilage is stone. "It is hardly fair of you to steel my thunder," as the cloud remarked to the lightning-rod. "Oh, I shall draw it mild," the rod replied.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT.

Ten noes are better than one lie. God keep you from "It is too late." The great obstacle to progress is prejudice. Lying and gossiping go hand in hand. Waste brings woe, and sorrow hates despair. From a little spark may burst a mighty flame. It is easy to say grace, but not half so easy to possess it. A woman ceases to charm when she makes herself feared. He only is a well-made man who has a good determination. Suffering is the surest way of making us truthful to ourselves. Stand firm and immovable as an anvil when it is beaten upon. Time divided is never long, and regularly abridges all things. In almost everything experience is more valuable than precept. Those who plot the destruction of others often fall themselves. The greater our dread of crosses, the more necessary they are for us. Whosoever is delighted in solitude is either a wild beast or a god. The greatest of all faults, I should say, is to be conscious of none. Satirists gain the applause of others through fear, not through love. If you wish to remove avarice, you must remove its mother, luxury. Every noble crown is, and on earth will forever be, a crown of thorns. We had better appear what we are than affect to appear what we are not. The bread of life is love: the salt of life work; the sweetness of life, poetry. The doorstep to the temple of wisdom is a knowledge of our own ignorance. A wise man will neither speak nor do whatever anger would provoke him to. Philosophy is a good horse in the stable; but an arrant jade on a journey. Nurture your mind with great thoughts; to believe in the heroic makes heroes. To correct an evil which already exists is not so wise as to foresee and prevent it. The bell never rings of itself; unless some one handles or moves it, it is dumb. A life spent worthily should be measured by a nobler line, by deeds—not words. The most important part of every business is to know what ought to be done. Where love exists not, even though it be in a palace, happiness can never come. Those sentiments of love which flow from the heart cannot be frozen by adversity. Envy is blind, and knows nothing except how to depreciate experiences of others. He who prays without confidence, cannot hope that his prayer will be granted. Next to an effeminate man, there is nothing so disagreeable as a mannish woman. The best heads can but misjudge in causes belonging to the jurisdiction of the heart. Very nice scruples are sometimes the affect of a great mind, but oftener of a little one. It is excellent to have a giant's strength; but it is tyrannous to use it like a giant. From the knowledge of what you should not do, you may easily judge what you should do. 'Tis greatly wise to talk with our past hours, and ask them what report they bore to heaven. The very nature of love is to find its joy in serving others, not for one's own benefit, but for theirs. Bacon says that labour conquers all things; but idleness conquers more people than labour does. Do not feel proud at having supported your misfortune. How could you not have supported it? One gains courage by showing himself poor; in that manner one robs poverty of its sharpest sting. To be successful, have confidence. Fields are won by those who firmly believe in the winning. To the generous mind the heaviest debt is that of gratitude, when it is not in our power to repay it. To all men the best friend is virtue; the best companions are high endeavors and honorable sentiments. To most men experience is like the stern light of a ship, which illuminates only the track it has passed. Friends should be weighed, not told; who boasts to have won a multitude of friends, has never had one. There is no one else who has the power to be so much your friend or so much your enemy as yourself. He who comes up to his own ideas of greatness must always have had a very low standard of it in his mind. Our attention to little things is the index to our character, and often the balance by which it is weighed. The life of a mere worldly man is like an African river that wastes itself by soaking into the desert sands. Some persons follow the dictates of their conscience only as a coachman's follow's the horses he is driving. Conduct is the great profession. Behaving is the perpetual revealing of us. What a man does, tells us what he is. It is always well to wait the development of his dealings with us rather than complain at our own disappointments. A man's strength in this life is often greater from some single word, remembered and cherished, than in arms or armor. All men must admire a frank and open honesty of purpose, though few are ready to seek to possess it themselves.

NEWS OF THE WEEK

—Jefferson Davis is reported to be so sick that his recovery is doubtful. He suffers from rheumatism and from the breaking out of an old wound received in the Mexican war. —The candle works of Emery Bros. at Cincinnati were on the 1st, damaged by fire to the extent of nearly \$100,000. The loss is covered by insurance. D. M. Snider's sawmill at Shidler, near Muncie, Indiana, was burned on the 31st ult. Loss \$35,000. The Ohio Valley Gas Works at Bridgeport, Ohio, were burned on the 1st. Loss \$30,000. 150 hands are thrown out of work. —Near Winesboro, Texas, on the 30th, six masked men went to the house of A. H. Cline, "a quiet, peaceable planter," and took him out of bed and severely whipped and otherwise abused him until he was nearly dead. Through the pleadings of his wife Cline's life was spared, but the maskers notified him that unless he left the country within forty-eight hours he would be killed. The cause of the outrage is a mystery. Cline is protected by officers. —The battle between the forces of Barrios and those of San Salvador, began on the 30th ult., was continued on the 31st. The Guatemalan forces were completely routed with heavy losses. —The rebellious Indians in the Northwest Territory made an attack on Battleford on the 31st ult., killed two instructors and sacked and burned the town. The Stony and Cree Indians joined the other bands in the attack on Battleford, and it is expected that Big Bear's band and the Fort Pitt Indians will also join in the rebellion. Big Bear with 800 warriors, is with Riel, who is now said to have 2000 armed men, but no field pieces. —It was stated on the 1st by a Government official in Montreal, that a message from Lord Wolseley has been received by Lord Lansdowne, asking if he could get one or two regiments from Canada for the Soudan. —The State election of Rhode Island on the 1st, brought out a light vote as compared with that of 1884. The State officers elected are as follows: Governor, G. P. Wetmore, Rep.; Lieutenant Governor, L. B. Darling; Secretary of State, J. M. Addeman; Attorney General, Samuel P. Colt; General Treasurer, Samuel Clark. In a few towns there was no election on a part or all of the Legislative ticket, but the next General Assembly will be practically the same politically. —General Grant sank rapidly on the 1st, and it was feared several times that the end was near. He was still living last night, and, it was thought, might survive for some time. —In the Illinois House of Representatives on the 1st, Speaker Haines created much excitement by saying that, "as there has been dissatisfaction regarding employes of the House, he had come to the conclusion that the best thing he could do would be to dismiss all those who had been appointed by him, and he did so." —The public debt statement for March shows a decrease of \$483,747.

FORTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS.— SECOND SESSION, SENATE.

The President on the 30th, sent to the U. S. Senate the following nominations: To be Ministers—Alexander R. Lawton, of Georgia, to Russia; Anthony M. Kibbey, of Virginia, to Italy; Thomas J. Jarvis, of North Carolina, to Brazil; Rufus Magee, of Indiana, to Sweden and Norway; Isaac Bell, Jr., of Rhode Island, to the Netherlands; Edward Iarke Curtis, Lewis, of New Jersey, to Portugal; Rasmus B. Anderson, of Wisconsin, to Denmark, and George W. Merrill, of Nevada, to the Hawaiian Islands. To be Consuls General—Thomas M. Walker, of Connecticut, at London; Edmund Jussen, of Illinois, at Vienna, and Frederick Raine, of Maryland, at Berlin. To be Consuls—A. Haller Gross, of Pennsylvania, at Athens, and Even P. Howell, of Georgia, at Manchester. The President also nominated Alexander McCue, of New York, to be Solicitor of the Treasury; Joseph E. Johnston, of Virginia, Commissioner of Railroads; David Settle, U. S. Marshal for Western North Carolina; Lewis McMillan, Appraiser at New York, and William Caldwell, Surveyor of Customs at Cincinnati. The Senate confirmed the nominations of seventeen postmasters, among them Aquila Jones, Sr., to be postmaster at Indianapolis. In the U. S. Senate on the 31st ult., the president nominated Henry G. Pearson, present incumbent, to be postmaster at New York. William R. Roberts, of New York, Minister to Chili; Charles W. Buck, of Kentucky, Minister to Peru; Richard B. Hubbard, of Texas, Minister to Japan; William T. Lang, of Texas, Consul at Hamburg, Charles T. Russell, of Connecticut, Consul at Liverpool; Norman S. Coleman, of Missouri, Commissioner of Agriculture, and Henry P. Kernshaw, Naval Officer at New Orleans. It is understood that immediate changes are also contemplated in the offices of the Registry of the Treasury, Commissioners of Customs and Deputy First Comptroller. It is also intimated that Assistant Secretary Coon will resign shortly to engage in private business. The Postmaster General has decided to remove J. F. Crawford, Superintendent of the Foreign Mail service, and appoint Nicholas M. Bell, of St. Louis, his successor. In the U. S. Senate on the 1st after the reading of the journal, the Chair presented several communications which he had received in regard to General Grant's condition, and asked if it was the pleasure of the Senate that the Secretary should read them. Several Senators responded affirmatively, whereupon the Associated Press bulletins were read from the Secretary's desk. The nomination of Henry G. Pearson to be Postmaster at New York was formally reported to the Senate, but not acted upon. The Finance Committee has reported

favorably upon all the nominations referred to it, the most important being that of John T. McGraw, to be Internal Revenue Collector for the District of West Virginia, vice Samuel P. McCormack, to be removed. There is a possibility of a contest in the Senate over this nomination, as McCormack has been in office but a short time. The office has no fixed term. There is also an inclination to make a contest on the nomination of Lewis McMullen, to be Appraiser for New York, as "inconsistent with the spirit of civil service reform." Some of the Republicans, however, think it better not to make a contest in case of removal without cause from offices to which there is no term fixed by law. The President nominated A. Leo Knott, of Maryland, to be Second Assistant Postmaster General. He also nominated a number of postmasters Adjourned. HOUSE. In the House on the 27th, on motion of Mr. Sponsler, of Perry, a resolution was adopted making revenue bills a special order for Thursday morning sessions, until disposed of. On motion of Mr. Morgan, a resolution was adopted granting the use of the hall of the House to Captain R. H. Pratt, of the Indian training school at Carlisle, on the evening of April 8th, for an exhibition of the system of training used in said school. A resolution was adopted making the bill for the prevention of the adulteration of dairy products a special order on third reading for April 7th. A large number of bills were read the first time and then the House adjourned. In the House on evening of 30th, Mr. Stubbs, of Chester, offered a resolution providing that the bill relating to physiological and hygienic instruction in the public schools shall be read the third time to-morrow at noon. After debate the resolution was rejected—yeas 66, nays 46, not the necessary two-thirds in the affirmative. Mr. Stewart, of Philadelphia, introduced a bill appropriating \$5000 for the Pennsylvania Asylum for Widows. A large number of bills (including the Legislature and Congressional Apportionment bill) were read the first time. Adjourned. Pennsylvania Legislature. SENATE. In the Senate on the 27th, the following measures were ordered to third reading: Authorizing the election of assessors for a term of three years. Requiring the names of principals doing business through agents, and the names of the agents, to be registered in the office for the recording of deeds in the county wherein their place of business is located. Amended so as not to apply to brokers or "factors." Amending the corporation act of 1874 by relieving the full paid capital stock from liability to further assessment. Adjourned. In the Senate on the 31st ult., bills were introduced by Mr. Thompson, of Dauphin, declaring the Commonwealth a single District for the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, and designating the city of Harrisburg the place for the holding and sitting of the same. By Mr. King, of Schuylkill, regulating the granting of wholesale liquor licenses in boroughs and townships. After discussion Mr. Humes made the point of order that the bill was not in order, because the amendments had changed its original purpose. The President pro tem. (Mr. Grady temporarily in the chair) sustained the point, but after discussion, the decision of the chair was overruled without a formal vote, and the bill was ordered to be prepared for third reading. Adjourned. In the Senate on the 1st bills on second reading were taken up and on motion of Mr. Kennedy the vote on the so called bullitt bill for Pittsburg were considered, and the amendments then offered by Mr. Sutton, of Montgomery, and negatively, were withdrawn by Mr. Sutton. The amendments were to postpone the act until after the incoming of a new Mayor, and to make the act conditional upon a vote of the people in favor of it. The withdrawal was to permit them to be again offered if asked for by the people of Pittsburg. The consideration of the bill was then postponed for the present, and five hundred extra copies of it, with five hundred extra copies of the Philadelphia Bullitt bill were ordered to be printed. The bill relating to marriage licenses, etc., (intended to secure protection to the person solemnizing the marriage; providing for a record of all marriages, whether contracted in the presence of a minister, an official or otherwise, and, imposing a penalty for a failure to make a proper return to the Court) was considered on second reading. Adjourned. HOUSE. —Bills were reported favorably from the Committees; as it was expected that the Temperance bill would be debated the ladies' gallery was filled with temperance advocates. Messrs. William B. Morrison, of Lawrence, and Theodore Hart, of Luzerne, appeared at the bar of the House and took the oath of office as Representatives, to fill vacancies occasioned by death. The first bill of the calendar was the Senate bill relating to the study of physiology and hygiene in the public schools. The bill was finally passed—yeas 131, nays 29. Adjourned. In the House, on the 1st, Senate Congressional Apportionment bill, as amended by the House Committee, being next considered, Mr. McGowan, of Philadelphia, moved to amend by transferring the Second Ward of Philadelphia from the First to the Third District. This, he explained, would not alter the political complexion of the bill but would tend to equalize the population of the districts. Mr. Brooks, of Philadelphia, did not consent to the apportionment proposed in the bill, and thought it outrageous that the Third District should only have 109,000 inhabitants while the Fifth District has 230,000. Mr. McGowan's motion was lost—yeas 36, nays 108. Mr. Foote, of Tioga, offered an amendment transferring Looming county to the Fifteenth district and Wyoming and Sullivan counties to the Sixteenth District. Pending action the House adjourned.