

LIFE'S MID-WAY.

Pondering on the years that are not,
Thinking of the years to be,
Standing now betwixt the limits
Of life's sad, tempestuous sea;

LAUREL VALE'S LOVE.

There were only a few people at the
Dolphin House—it was late in the season.
The maple woods made a low line
of deep red against the autumn sky;

The heiress, Miss Vale, who had
come late, remained later. She liked
the cold breath which crisped the surf,
turned the maples red, and made her
horses dance over the smooth floor

Her faultlessly beautiful face, and
the more world-loving one of her aunt,
daily met the view of the loungers as
her sleek bays champed their silver
bits down the shore road.

She had gone out that day after the
storm to see the sea dash and roll in its
strength. The sun shone brilliantly on
its dancing white caps as they settled
gradually into a calm.

There was no one but Peri to see how
beautiful Laurel Vale was as she sat
against the ragged black rocks, her
dress of steel-gray kirtled from her
slight feet, her graceful shoulders and
arms huddled in a soft crimson shawl.

The sunshine struck her perfect pro-
file under a black soft-plumed hat,
warming her cheek, and bringing into
relief her firm dimpled chin, and those
who had called her cold would not have
accused her thus then, so happy the
smile of her red lips, so warm the light
of her brown eyes.

She glanced around. A little behind
and just below her stood a gentleman—
a blue-eyed man with a fair beard, a
great tawny dog fawning at his feet.

He met her startled gaze with one
equally startled—then instinctively lifted
his hat. After an instant he came
slowly up the rocks, almost reluctantly
it seemed. He, too, was pale now.

"Laurel," he said gently.
You might have understood then
why people called Miss Vale cold.

Her fair, mobile countenance seemed
to harden over her spirit like a mask.
She had but one thought—that after
five years' suffering she had come to be
happy, when here, before her again,
stood the destroyer of her peace.

She made a swift, involuntary ges-
ture, as if to keep him off. A quick
pathetic sadness swept across his face
as he saw it.

"And so you hate me?" he said,
slowly.
She caught her breath.

"I don't know," she gasped.
The great tawny dog snuffed at the
hem of her steel-gray dress, and then
looked up in her face, wagging his tail.

"No," she cried, bending over the
handsome creature. "He used to love
me."

Baron Alverton looked at her with
his blue eyes and groaned.

"Laurel," said he, with a fine ap-
pealing gesture, "I used to love you,
yet to-day you would not touch me
with your beautiful hand as you touch
that brute! And I deserve it!"

She seemed to look at him then for

the first time, though only for an in-
stant. If she saw how his face had
changed in five years, and was stirred
to pity, she gave no sign. She
turned her head aside and seemed to
watch the two dogs frolicking down the
beach.

"No excuse could be invented for
me," he went on. "You were one of
the sweetest, truest women that ever
breathed, and my promised wife. Not
a shadow stood between us when I met
Nellie Dimpleton. But I knew less of
women than I do now. I could not
measure you, appreciate you as I have
done since. I was a fool to be won
from you by a pretty face, though that
face had set the artists crazy. Ah,
well, you do not even care to listen to
me!"

She had gathered up her gloves and
parasol to depart, but paused.

"Laurel," he continued, "in the old
days you were never revengeful or vin-
dictive. If you were both now, you
might gloat over the misery of my let-
tered life. I am utterly wretched. I
miss this just decree repay you for my base
desertion."

"Baron! where are you?" called a
querulous voice.
A dumpy figure in blue had paused
at the foot of the rocks, and a pair of
lackluster blue eyes now looked up at
them, the owner apparently not caring
to ascend. It was a blonde, faded
sickly face, fretful and careworn,
though Mrs. Alverton had evidently
once been very pretty.

Lifting his hat to Laurel, Baron Al-
verton turned, went down the rocks
and joined her. A few sharp words
followed, which Laurel overheard.

The following winter develops a
strange surprise at Nutwood, Miss
Vale's home. Her aunt, Mrs. Pardon
Ardley, the most well-meaning of dis-
agreeable persons, chose to engage her-
self in marriage to Mr. Abel Crabtree,
the sourest of bachelors and Baron
Alverton's uncle. Laurel was speech-
less with surprise.

"Why do you marry him, Aunt Par-
don?" she asked at last. "Are you not
happy here?"

"Because he is rich," answered Mrs.
Pardon, "and I want a home of my
own. I've no doubt you mean well,
Laurel, but I don't always approve of
your ways."

Her niece was silent; and the prepara-
tions for the wedding commenced.
If Aunt Pardon did not approve of
Laurel, she had no hesitation in de-
manding her attention, her carriage,
her servants, for this momentous occa-
sion.

With great patience Miss Vale al-
lowed herself to be set on one side in
her own house while the arrangements
for her aunt's marriage went on.

"So vexation!" cried Aunt Pardon.
"That disobliging Miss Trimmings ab-
solutely refuses to come out here and
make my dresses, but says she will un-
dertake them if I will come to town for
a few days. I suppose I must do it;
and Mr. Crabtree proposed last night
that we come to his place, a very nice
private boarding-house, quite exclusive,
in fact."

She stopped, beaming; but Laurel,
who felt really too tired for any new
exertion, hesitated to respond.

"Wouldn't some one else do?" she
asked at last. "Some less important
person than Miss Trimmings might be
found to come here."

"No, indeed! There's nobody so sty-
lish and high priced. We must go,
certainly we must, Laurel! But, by the
way, Mr. Crabtree says his nephew,
your old beau, Baron Alverton, and his
wife are staying there now."

"Where?" asked Laurel, bewildered.
"At his boarding-house. People say
his marriage didn't turn out well,"
Mrs. Pardon rattled on, not heeding her
niece's silence, "for his wife acted like
a crazy woman when he lost some of his
money last year—rated him so, it was
really quite scandalous! Did you see
her on the beach last fall? Such a
white faced thing! They say she takes
arsenic for her complexion. I don't
call her pretty, though she was all the
rage five or six years ago. I believe
she's lost her health—too much dissipa-
tion. I've heard that she's awfully
jealous of her husband though he don't
give her the least cause and bears it
like a lamb."

Laurel and her aunt were at Mr.
Crabtree's boarding house—certainly a
quiet and luxurious retreat enough.

Laurel had been loth enough to
come; but here she was, and Mrs. Par-
don, at least, was satisfied, for the
mornings were endless rounds of shop-
ping and the afternoons momentous
periods of trying on the new dresses.

As for her niece, her greatest ap-
prehension was that she should encounter
Baron Alverton; but a little dissimila-
rity in meal hours warded off this event
until the very last night of her stay in
town.

She had been restless and could not
sleep. At about 11 o'clock she thought
she would go to her aunt's room, as
that lady did not retire early, and get a
certain book, which might divert her
mind and quiet her nerves. As she
passed along the rich halls in her vel-
vet-shod feet a door was flung open and
a wild-eyed maid rushed out.

"Oh," she cried, at sight of Laurel,
"won't you come in a minute? I'm
afraid she is dying!"

Amazed, Laurel stepped within the
door. A little figure in blue writhed

upon the floor, yet evidently Mrs. Al-
verton was partially unconscious.

"Call her husband—a doctor—quick!"
exclaimed Laurel.

With incredible strength she lifted
the helpless woman in her arms laid her
upon the bed.

In the next moment of horror she
saw that Mrs. Alverton had ceased to
breathe.

As she turned to hasten from the
sounds of coming feet which she heard
she encountered Baron Alverton.

White and shocked, he gazed at the
pallid face upon the pillows.

"It has come as I feared," he cried,
clutching his hand upon his harassed
brow. "She is dead upon an overdose
of arsenic."

And in a few moments at the house
was startled by the sad truth.

The last of March Mrs. Pardon Ar-
dley became Mrs. Abel Crabtree.

It was a strange mockery of flower
symbols and lover's vows to Laurel
Vale. Indeed, so strange a shadow
seemed upon all the world that she
would clasp her hands over her eyes
sometimes and ponder as if in a night-
mare that must break soon or she would
lose consciousness forever.

Ever since that autumn day by the
rocking sea peace seemed to have de-
serted her. Outwardly she had been
calm, but inward unrest now searched
her brain and burned away her
strength.

All summer she dropped alone at
Nutwood. In the autumn her physi-
cian declared that she must go down by
the sea.

"Go down to the Dolphin House for
a few weeks with my family," Dr.
Stone said. "Victor will be there and
will take care of you," referring signifi-
cantly to his son, who had long openly
admired Miss Vale.

But she went only with her maid and
Juba, though she found the doctor's
family congenial company.

The sea received her kindly. It blew
its salt breath in her face, brightened
her beautiful eyes, quickened her
strength. The hurried pulsations began
to beat more slowly and evenly.

But there was a secret want.

"Oh, for some one to love me—some
one whom I could love!" she cried one
day, dropping her face in her arms upon
the ragged rocks.

"I love you, Laurel, but it is too late
for you to love me," syllabled a voice
at her side.

She lifted her head. She and Baron
Alverton looked into each other's
eyes. His sad gaze read all her strug-
gle.

"Oh, tell me the truth!" he prayed.

Perhaps the sea, sounding its grand
thunder in her ears, helped her to raise
above all pettiness.

"I love you, Baron," she said, simply;
and both were happy.

The Cause of War.

The technical question at issue
between Russia and Great Britain is a
disputed boundary. The frontier
claimed by Afghanistan and recognized
by Russia from 1881 until the recent
advance was a line running from the
Hamrud a little south of Sarakhs to the
Oxus. The fertile section between the
Turcoman desert and the Paropamisus
was conceded to be Afghan territory
even after the Russians had secured
control of Merv and established an out-
post at Sarakhs, about 200 miles from
Herat. The boundary now claimed by
M. Lessar passes through Akrobat and
Bala Murghab. Within this disputed
belt the Russians have occupied impor-
tant points sixty miles south of the old
frontier. Pul-Khatam and Sari Yazil
have been garrisoned and advance
guards have been stationed at Zuldicar
Pass, Akrobat and Pul-Khisti. Some
of these outposts have been maintained
by Turcoman allies, but the Russian
commander has been responsible for
the military advance in the valleys of
the two rivers. The chief stronghold
held by the Afghans in this contested
zone is Penjshir. It was occupied by the
Ameer's troops about a year ago upon
his receiving assurances from the Brit-
ish Government that his dominions ex-
tended as far north as the Sarakhs line.
Bala Murghab, Garlin, Robot Pass and
other points south of the frontier now
claimed by Russia are also garrisoned
by his soldiers.

Dynamite.

The Rhenish dynamite company
which has factories in Cologne and
other German cities, produces over
2500 tons of dynamite annually. In
Great Britain and Ireland three factor-
ies turn out about 2000 tons of the ex-
plosive annually, and smaller concerns
in England, France, Germany, Italy
and Spain produce nearly 3000 tons
more. A ton of dynamite in Europe is
worth about \$850, although at one time
during the past year the price reached
as low a notch as \$530. The manufac-
ture of the explosive is controlled by a
strong commercial association whose
members regulate the price to suit
themselves. Since the recent explo-
sions in London the dynamite kings
have seen fit to increase the price of
their output from \$500 to \$650 per ton.
Most of the dynamite used in this
country is imported from England and
Germany.

A secret is too little for one, enough
for two, and too much for three.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT.

Silence is the severest criticism.
It is a double pleasure to deceive the
deceiver.

The stoutest heart loses hope under
repeated defeat.

No man can be successful who neg-
lects his business.

No rank can shield us from the im-
partiality of death.

Wit is a merchandise that is sold but
can never be bought.

Better bend the neck promptly than
to bruise the forehead.

He who proposes to be an author
should first be a student.

Our deeds determine us as much as
we determine our deeds.

Manners require time, as nothing is
more vulgar than haste.

Flowers, leaves, fruit are the air-
woven children of light.

Discontent is the want of self-reli-
ance; it is infirmity of will.

Every one is eagle-eyed to see ano-
ther's faults and his deformity.

When credulity comes from the heart
it does no harm to the intellect.

Imputations, however unjust, sully,
if they do not stain, a character.

Certain acts can be rendered legal,
but can never be made legitimate.

What seems to us but sad funeral
tapers, may be Heaven's distant lamps.

If you would succeed in life, rise
early and be an economist of time.

I always think the flowers can see us
and know what we are thinking about.

The qualities we possess never make
us so ridiculous as those we pretend to
have.

Suspicions among thoughts are like
bats among birds; they ever fly by twi-
light.

The first and worst of all frauds is to
cheat one's self. All sin is easy after
that.

If the power to do hard work is not
talent, it is the best possible substitute
for it.

With patience sour grapes become
sweetmeats, and mulberry leaves turn
to satin.

One who is never busy can never
rest, for rest implies relief from pre-
vious labor.

Little do we care for the speech of
people if conscience will not whisper
approval.

Seeing much and suffering much and
studying much are the three pillars of
learning.

What we charitably forgive will be
recompensed as well as what we chari-
tably give.

Make friends with your creditors if
you can, but never make a creditor of
your friend.

The worship of the Lord from charity
can never differ, however externals may
be changed.

To educate the mind and let manners
and heart run wild, curses humanity
with a mildew.

As any man may be compelled to eat
his words, he should never indulge in
bitter speeches.

Do not believe one-half that you
hear, but make sure that you believe
all that you say.

It would be easier to endow a fool
with intellect than to persuade him that
he had none.

He who labors with the mind governs
others; he who labors with the body is
governed by others.

NEWS OF THE WEEK

The state of affairs on the Isthmus
continues so unsettled that Secretary
Whitney has decided to send an addi-
tional force to Aspinwall.

The Legislature of New Jersey
adjourned sine die on the 4th. After
the adjournment a Constitutional Con-
vention bill was placed in the Govern-
or's hands. It provides for a commis-
sion to revise the State Constitution
and suggest amendments to the Legis-
lature at a special session to be held in
October.

The elevated railroads of New
York city carried during the first six
months of the present fiscal year 2,582,-
067 more passengers than the same time
last year, and the increase in earnings
was \$141,268. The total number of
passengers carried from the opening
to the 1st inst. was 526,078,804.

During a wind gust in Pittsburg on
the 5th, a large sign on the roof of a
book store was blown, together with
several hundred bricks, to the pave-
ment below. Miss Bella Conley, who
was passing along the street, was struck
on the head by the sign and killed.
Miss Agnes Johnson was dangerously
injured and an old man named McCar-
thy was slightly bruised.

The improvement in General
Grant's condition continued on the 6th.
He rested well, took nourishment, and
seemed to be free from pain during
the greater portion of the time.

Secretary Lamer says that he has
taken no action in the case of Miss Ada
Sweet, Pension Agent at Chicago.

C. D. Walker, First Deputy Com-
missioner of Pensions, has resigned, his
resignation to take effect on the 15th
inst.

The President on the 6th signed
the commissions of John G. Searey, to
be Internal Revenue Collector for the
Third District of Texas, and Nathan
Gregg to be Internal Revenue Collector
for the Second District of Tennessee.

The usual joint session of the Illi-
nois Legislature was held on the 6th.
Thirty members were present, and
twenty-one scattering votes were cast
for U. S. Senator.

Returns of the elections in Colum-
bus, Ohio, indicate the choice of Wal-
cutt, Republican, for Mayor, by over
500 majority. This is a Republican
gain of nearly 400. It is thought the
whole Republican ticket is elected.

George W. Hanson, Democrat, was
on the 6th, elected Mayor of Calais,
Maine, by 29 majority. He is the first
Democrat elected Mayor since 1871.

The city election in Evansville, In-
diana, on the 7th, resulted in the elec-
tion of the Democratic ticket by largely
increased majorities.

The New York Daily Commercial
Bulletin estimates the losses by fire in
the United States and Canada during
March at \$9,000,000, which is one-third
larger than the average of any previous
March for which statistics have been
gathered.

The cash and door factory of O. C.
Stromberg, at Fond du Lac, Wisconsin,
was burned on the 6th. Loss, \$35,000;
insurance, \$12,000. A fire at Maryville,
Tennessee, on the same day, destroyed
seven stores and two dwellings, causing
a loss of \$30,000.

On the 7th, it was declared that
Harrison, Democrat, had been elected
Mayor of Chicago by a plurality of 334.
Later in the day it was stated that
Smith, Republican, had probably been
elected by 2000 plurality. It was
charged that great frauds were com-
mitted in some wards.

Returns of the municipal election
in St. Louis, held on the 7th, give about
1200 plurality for Francis, the Demo-
cratic candidate for Mayor, over William
L. Ewing the present incumbent and
Republican candidate. The vote for
Filey the bolting Republican candi-
date for Mayor, is about equal to the
plurality for Francis.

Captain Joseph Atkins, Democrat,
was elected Mayor of Galveston, Texas,
by a plurality of 86. By a recent
amendment of the city charter the Board
of Aldermen were elected at large
instead of by wards. This resulted in
the defeat of N. W. Cuney and J. H.
Washington both colored, and the only
two Republicans on the citizen's ticket.

General Grant was much better on
the 8th, and the improvement continued
throughout the day. Shortly before
midnight Dr. Shradly said he would not
send out any more bulletins during the
night unless something unexpected
should occur. He thought the General
would have a quiet night.

Twenty-five Senators and eighty-
one Representatives answered roll call
in joint convention of the Illinois Leg-
islature on the 8th. One vote was cast
for U. S. Senator.

The Iroquois Club, of Chicago,
passed a resolution on the 7th calling on
all the Democratic members of the Illi-
nois Legislature to vote for Morrison for
U. S. Senator. S. Corning Judd, a
member of the Democratic National
Committee, said that "he knew that
President Cleveland earnestly desired
Colonel Morrison's election."

The Commercial Block at Martin's
Ferry, Ohio, containing the Commer-
cial Bank and several stores, was
burned early on the 8th. The losses
aggregate \$43,000, the insurances about
\$22,000.

Postmaster General Vilas on the 7th
completed his first month in office.
During that period he commissioned
450 postmasters and prepared more
than 100 presidential commissions for
approval. His First Assistant, Mal-
colm Hay, has been ill ever since his
appointment.

On the evening of the 6th, in relation
to General Grant Dr. Douglas said that
"the end was near." A bulletin issued
at half-past ten o'clock reported the
General "in a comfortable condition,"
he having slept well. His pulse was
84. He had just taken nourishment
without pain.

The municipal election in Chicago
was held on the 7th. Returns received
at eleven o'clock indicated an unusually

large vote, and that 113 out of 194
voting precincts heard from give Har-
rison, Democrat, for Mayor, 24,455,
and Smith, Republican, 24,743. Smith's
majority, 288. Both parties claimed the
election.

Full returns of the municipal elec-
tion held in Cincinnati on the 6th, give
Smith, Republican, 3893 majority for
Mayor. The only Democratic candi-
date elected were J. M. Fitzgerald for
Police Judge by 1255 majority, and
Vincent Schwab for Magistrate by a
majority of 1423.

Josiah W. Wright, Democrat, was
on the 7th elected Mayor of Princeton,
New Jersey, by 25 majority. The rest
of the officers elected are Republican.

Commander Kane, of the U. S.
steamer Galena, telegraphs Secretary
Whitney under date of the 6th inst.,
from Colon: "There is nothing new to
report. The Panama Railroad Com-
pany is getting the road in order. The
Government troops are anxious about
their prisoners. The Railroad Com-
pany and the Galena are feeding the
troops. All are in need. There is
great anxiety among the foreigners at
Panama."

The session of the Legislature of
New Jersey, lasted twelve weeks. Al-
together 688 bills were introduced—
469 in the House and 219 in the Sen-
ate. About 225 bills passed both
Houses and went to the Governor.

The Governor of New Jersey, on the
7th issued a proclamation designating
Friday the 24th inst., as Arbor
Day in that State.

In the joint convention of the Illi-
nois Legislature on the 7th, Morrison
received 23 votes, Logan 4 and 4 were
scattered.

The President on the 7th signed
the commissions of Alexander McCue
to be Solicitor of the Treasury, and
David Settle to be United States Mar-
shal for Western North Carolina.

It is said that the President will
probably appoint Andrew Jackson
Gross to be United States Marshal for
Tennessee. Mr. Gross is recommended
by the Attorney General.

In Newport, Kentucky, on the 7th,
a man named McMillen boarded a street
car in which John L. Cummins, a clerk
in the First National Bank of Cincin-
nati, was a passenger, and, saying "I
have you now," fired three balls into
his body, causing instant death. McMil-
lan immediately gave himself up. It
is said he acted in revenge for the be-
trayal of his daughter.

Pennsylvania Legislature.

SENATE

The Senate met at 9 a. m. on the 6th.
The session was confined to the first
reading of fifteen bills. A message
from the Governor announced his ap-
proval of the bill relating to the study
of physiology and hygiene in the public
schools. A message from the Govern-
or announced the appointment of
Charles Porter, of Erie, as State Fish-
ery Commissioner.

In the Senate on the 7th a large num-
ber of bills were reported with favor-
able recommendations. The House bill
amending the law regulating the hunt-
ing and killing of web-footed wild fowl
was amended and passed finally.

In the Senate on the 7th the calendar
of bills on final passage was considered
without decisive action, several meas-
ures being amended in immaterial
details. Mr. Harlan, of Chester,
moved an executive session for action
on nominations of notaries public.
Mr. Humes, of Crawford, moved to
amend by requiring action on all pend-
ing nominations. Mr. Cooper, of Del-
aware asked Mr. Humes to withdraw
his amendment, as he was apprehensive
that the requisite two-thirds vote might
not be obtained in consequence of the
number of absentees. He did not wish
to endanger the confirmation of Dr.
Hiebe for Superintendent of Public
Instruction by a lack of affirmative
votes. Mr. Humes insisted on his
amendment, stating that he intended to
object to the nominee just mentioned.
The amendment was then voted down,
and Mr. Harlan's motion adopted.

HOUSE

In the House, a resolution was adopt-
ed making the bill dividing cities of
the State into three classes a special or-
der for third reading on the 8th.

The following bill was read for the
second time: Providing that the com-
pensation allowed to pilots for construct-
ing vessels from the capes of the Dela-
ware to Philadelphia shall be, for every
one-half foot of water which any vessel
shall draw up to 12 feet the sum of
\$1.87; over 12 and up to 15 feet, \$2.08;
over 15 and up to 18 feet, 2.25; over 18
feet and up to 20 feet, 2.50; over 20
feet, \$2.75. After the first reading of
a number of bills the House adjourned.

In the House on the 7th, the consid-
eration of the Senatorial and Represen-
tative Apportionment bills being post-
poned for the present, the House pro-
ceeded to the consideration on second
reading of the Congressional Apportion-
ment bill. The pending amend-
ment, making the Fifteenth district
out of Bradford, Tioga and Lycoming
counties, was agreed to—yeas 77, nays
50. The Senate Senatorial apportion-
ment was passed—yeas 113, nays 44.
Adjourned.

In the House, a bill requiring hotels
to provide external fire escapes passed
third reading. Senate bill was finally
passed—yeas 120, nays 22—providing
for an additional law judge in the Fif-
teenth Judicial District (Chester coun-
ty). A bill was finally passed repealing
an act relating to appeals and writs of
certiorari and of error. [The act which
is repealed provided that no appeals
shall be entered from the judgment or
order or decree of any subordinate Court;
and that no writ of certiorari or error
to such Court should be delivered until
the party entering such appeal, or pur-
chasing such writ, shall have entered
into a recognizance with sufficient sur-
ties in double the amount of costs.]
The Congressional Apportionment bill
came up, the pending question being on
Mr. Foot's amendment to place Lycom-
ing with Bradford and Tioga coun-
ties. Pending action the House ad-
journed.