

American Home

BY JOHN B. BRATTON. CARLISLE, PA., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1852. AT \$3 00 PER ANNUM. NO. 25.

Poetical.

THE MODERN BELLE.

The daughter sits in the parlor,
And rocks in her easy chair;
She's clad in her silks and satins,
And jewels are in her hair—
She winks and giggles and simpers,
And smiles down at her feet,
And though she talks but a little,
'Tis vastly more than she thinks.

Her father goes clad in his ruse,
And regards her with a stare;
His coat is all out at the elbow,
He wears a most shocking bad hat.
His hoarding and saving his shillings,
So carefully day by day,
While she, on her beauty and poodles,
Is throwing them all away.

She lies in bed in the morning,
'Till nearly the hour of noon;
Then comes down snapping and snarling,
Because she was called so soon;
Her hair is still in the papers,
Her cheeks still dabbled with paint,
Remains of her last night's blouses,
Before she intended to faint.

She doats upon men unshaven,
And men with "the flowing hair,"
She's eloquent over moustaches,
They give such a foreign air.
She talks of Italian music,
And falls in love with the moon,
And tho' a mouse should meet her
She sinks away in a swoon.

Her feet are so very little,
Her hands are so very white,
Her color is so very violet,
Her hair is so very light;
Her coat is made of comelites,
Though this she never will own,
Her body is made mostly of cotton,
Her heart is made wholly of stone.

She falls in love with a fellow,
Who swells with a foreign air,
He marries her for her money,
She marries him for his hair;
One of the very best matches—
Both are well mated in life,
She's got a fool for her husband,
He's got a fool for his wife.

I WAIT FOR THEE.

The hearth is swept—the fire is bright,
The kettle boils for thee;
The cloth is spread—the lamps are light,
The hot cakes smoke in napkins white,
And now I wait for thee.

Come home love, home, thy task is done;
The clock ticks lustily;
The blinds are shut, the curtain down,
The warm chair to the fireside drawn,
The boy is on my knee.

Come home love, home, thy deep, fond eye
Looks round me wistfully;
As when the whispering winds go by,
As if thy welcome step was nigh,
He crows exultingly.

Thrilling Adventure.

From the Star Spangled Banner.

THE WINDOW IN THE FOREST.

BY GEORGE L. AUBIN.

The inmates of little the hostess gathered without the door, waiting the approach of a horseman, the distant sound of his horse's tread having apprized them of his coming.

He died rapidly up and springs lightly from his saddle, giving his horse in charge of the hostess, who, after receiving his instructions, leads him away to the stable.

The new comer observed the looks of wonder cast upon him, and was a loss to account for the curiosity he excited. He was a man about thirty five years of age, of medium height, well formed, and tolerably good looking. He was attired in the uniform of a dragoon in the German service.

"Well, my good people," he exclaimed, at length, "what do you see in my appearance so surprising that it makes you gaze upon me with open mouths?"

"Is it possible you are alive?"

The astonishment of the host caused this somewhat singular interrogation to escape from him.

"Faith, to the best of my belief, I am so," replied the dragoon, pleasantly. "Do I look like a dead man?"

"No, no—I meant not that," said the host, as he seemed to be revolving some matter in his mind which puzzled him. "You came by the forest road?"

"Certainly, and gloomy enough it is too; a lonely path to traverse when a man has no companion but his own thoughts."

"Better have your thoughts than the fearful companion some have met in the forest?"

"Indeed! what sort of a person is he?"

"We know not. None that have seen him have lived to tell of their encounter."

"This is a strange affair, you are telling me."

"Did you see anything on your way through the forest?"

"Nothing; yet stay—now I think, I do remember noticing the forest a short distance from the road, a small cottage window—"

"Ah a window?"

"Yes, I thought it singular that a cottage should be situated in such a peculiar and lonely neighborhood."

"You did not approach it?"

"No—I should not have observed it but for the glimmering light of a taper which betrayed it to my eyes. I was too hungry to stop and examine it; I knew the locality of your inn, and hurried on, as I wished to pass the night here."

"Ah! I remember you now—is it not Captain Ernest?"

"The same."

"You stopped here on your way to join the army for the last campaign?"

"Yes; the war is now over; the Emperor has concluded a peace, and I am now on my way home. But come, serve me up something in the shape of a repast, and while I satisfy the cravings of nature, you shall narrate to me the particulars of this strange story. What little I have heard has greatly excited my curiosity."

The host led the way into the principal apartment of the inn. A hasty meal was soon spread upon a

small table, and Captain Ernest commenced a vigorous attack.

"You must know," said the host, seeing that his guest was prepared to listen, "it is now nearly a year since that window was first seen."

"Then I presume the cottage was built about that time," interrupted Captain Ernest.

"Cottage? there is no cottage!"

"What, no cottage? Oh, but my good fellow, I saw the window of it myself."

"True, yet still there is no cottage."

"Well, I have heard of houses without windows, but I never before heard of a window without a house!"

"It is a fact. To reverse the road by daylight—carefully examine every portion of it—penetrate a short distance into the forest on either side, and you will find no vestige of any human habitation."

"There is some mystery in this."

"Aye, and a deep one, for soon as the shades of evening begin to fall, the traveler beholds the light shining with sickly lustre amid the dense foliage around."

"Ah, I have it; this is nothing more nor less than a Jack-o'-lantern, a Will-o'-the-wisp."

"You are wrong; the window has been seen—the very number of panes counted, there are six: my boy, Heinrich, there has seen it."

The host pointed to a stout lad of 18, who had been attending to the stranger's wants.

"Ah! that alters the case, though I must say that this light in the window is rather a dark affair—But how cleared it that he could approach so near this dangerous object and not be worse for it, when I understood you to say all others have perished?"

"You shall hear: It must have been through the mercy of Providence. One evening, as Heinrich was returning from the town, some 20 miles beyond here he got belated in the forest. It grew so dark he could hardly see his way by the time he got within five miles of here. Feeling somewhat tired, he stopped near by the road side, when looking up at the forest he beheld a light gleaming from the window—"

"What! five miles from here?" interrupted the captain, "why, where I saw it to night must be all of ten miles from here."

"I have no doubt of it—it is seen at all distances along the road, but he saw it five miles from here, on the right hand side of the road."

"The right hand side? it was on the left hand side when I saw it."

"Oh, for the matter of that, it is seen on either side by different persons: in fact, no two ever saw it at the same place."

"The devil! but go on."

"The moment Heinrich beheld the light, feeling thirsty, he determined to approach the cottage and request a draught of milk; mind, this was before it had become so noted—naturally supposing that it was near the cottage of some woodman. He made his way through the underwood towards it, wondering at the extent of a man who could build his house amid a thick wood of brambles. It seems to be unmeasured distance, for he thought when he could have gained the light, it was as far off as when he first saw it. He continued to press on for about fifteen minutes, yet the light still maintained its position. He paused bewildered; for a few moments it grew more distinct—he could count the panes of glass, and he almost thought he saw a strange wild face gazing out upon him. A sudden terror seized upon him and he turned and fled. That terror saved his life; had he followed the fearful light in an instant longer, he would have been lost. He reached home more dead than alive, and it was more than an hour before he could find breath to tell us what I have just related."

"So you think the fiend himself had something to do with this travelling window?"

"I do not know what to think. You know this inn of mine lies half way between the towns of Waldberg and Moritz. Many rich travelers leave one of these towns for the other, yet one out of every two never reach their place of destination. They are missed between here and Waldberg."

"And a third and a fourth perhaps, by some ruffian who infest the road?"

"Their bodies are never found."

"Have the police investigated these mysteries?"

"Yes, but without discovering any signs of a band of robbers. We told them of the window, they watched for it, but as they could never see it, laughed at us, and told us our light was nothing but a fire-fly."

"Strange that it did not appear to them."

"It was; after the light left the neighborhood the window again became visible, and travelers disappeared as before."

"Was there anything singular connected with the disappearance of these travelers?"

"Yes, one thing; all that were missed had journeyed alone. Strange to say, those who travelled in parties of two or three invariably escaped."

"Well, my worthy host, do you know that a strange fire has shined upon me to penetrate this mystery? It seems that I am the only solitary traveler who has escaped the dangers of this mysterious window; that is a privilege of success. I have passed through some scenes of danger, and may be allowed to remark that I am no coward. This is a promising adventure to a soldier who finds it somewhat hard to sit down in a quiet life after the bustle and strife of a long campaign. So, if my stout Heinrich, rich, there will bear me company, I'll endeavor to find a solution of this enigma."

"With all my heart, captain," cried Heinrich, promptly.

"Then let us set forth at once."

"Aye, to night?" replied the captain; it is scarcely yet dusk, and I am in excellent humor to prepare to start, and we will set forth at once."

The captain examined the priming of his pistols carefully, and then thrust them into his belt; he then buckled on his sabre. Heinrich was ready, armed with a stout cudgel. In this manner they sallied forth.

After proceeding a few paces up the road, the captain paused to give his companion a few instructions.

"Heinrich," he said, "an skilful commander always conceals the number of his force; for the furtherance of my plan of action, it is necessary that we should pass for one man. You are the guide—consequently, you must go first; I will 'slink step' with you, tread lightly, and our mingled footsteps will sound like the tread of a single man. In this manner, I wish you understand, not a bad soldier for a beginning. Now, whatever you see or hear, keep your tongue between your teeth; if you wish to call my attention to anything, nudge me with your elbow; if you see the light on the left, the left elbow; if the right, why the right. Now, then, forward—march!"

They proceeded in silence for over an hour—Heinrich right along with them thrust gently into the captain's ribs; at his whispered "halt," they both stopped. Amid the trees they both saw distinctly a faint, twinkling light, having the appearance of a taper in a cottage.

"Now, Heinrich," said the captain, "if the devil owns that light, he has no power to harm us, if it belongs to mortal man, we shall see which is the strongest. Keep a bold heart in your breast and advance steadily."

They entered the forest; the captain keeping close behind Heinrich, so governed his movements that they seemed but one man.

As they proceeded the light almost imperceptibly retreated. To the eye of an unobservant person the movement would have had the effect of misapprehension in distance, but the keen sense of the captain were not to be deceived, he beheld the light receding slowly and he, and we will see which is the strongest. They entered the forest; the captain keeping close behind Heinrich, so governed his movements that they seemed but one man.

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turning a beaten path through the forest, and he felt a slight shudder thrill over to his stout heart as he reflected that it might have been worn by the foot of the unfortunate travelers who had fallen victims to this mystery.

A quarter of an hour had passed since they entered the forest, and yet they were no nearer the light than before. The captain began to grow impatient. Again the light disappeared; this time it seemed to have gone in reality; they walked silently on—all was dark. The captain was about to relinquish the pursuit, when lo! there was the light quivering as before.

Heinrich stopped briskly forward; there was a crackling sound, as if of breaking twigs. The captain drew back and grasped an overhanging bough—There was the sound of a heavy fall, a cry of pain—then all was still. The captain was standing on the brink of the pit into which Heinrich had fallen. By the aid of a rope he had seized, he drew himself back from his perilous situation. Scarcely had he recovered a firm footing before he saw the light rapidly approaching the pit. With a painful effort he represented his situation. He was standing on the brink of the pit into which Heinrich had fallen. By the aid of a rope he had seized, he drew himself back from his perilous situation. Scarcely had he recovered a firm footing before he saw the light rapidly approaching the pit. With a painful effort he represented his situation. He was standing on the brink of the pit into which Heinrich had fallen. By the aid of a rope he had seized, he drew himself back from his perilous situation. 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