

THE COLUMBIA SPY.

SAMUEL WRIGHT, Editor and Proprietor.

"NO ENTERTAINMENT IS SO CHEAP AS READING, NOR ANY PLEASURE SO LASTING."

\$1.50 PER YEAR IN ADVANCE; \$2.00 IF NOT IN ADVANCE.

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COLUMBIA, PENNSYLVANIA, SATURDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 23, 1858.

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Brooklyn. I was invited to the house-warming, and a more delightful evening does not often check the dull business of life than we passed. There were not over a dozen of us, male and female; but we were all old cronies, and intimate enough to be as free and pleasant together as we would be at home.

The party broke up at twelve, and Mrs. Dick and myself trotted home, as satisfied with our evening's enjoyment as need be. Just one week after that my wife told me, with tears in her eyes, that John Wolfe's book-keeper had been quite unwell for two days past, and not an hour before, had suddenly expired, while sitting by the bedside, with scarcely a spasm or a pang. A disc of the heart had carried him off thus unexpectedly, and his wife was in terrible affliction.

I did not lose a moment in running around to his house and offering what little sympathy and assistance it was in my power to bestow; and of course, took upon myself to do whatever was necessary upon so sad an occasion. The young widow was terribly cut down, and at such a distance from her own friends and relatives, seemed more than usually forlorn. We did all we could to relieve her afflictions, and after the funeral had taken place, succeeded in calming her grief to some small extent.

I then took the liberty of inquiring a little into her affairs, and discovered that my poor friend had involved himself considerably in debt to furnish his house for his young wife's comfort, having purchased every article of their household goods upon credit. This matter I undertook to arrange for her; and, by going around among the various creditors, persuaded the most of them to take their goods back by my paying them a small per centage for their trouble in packing and fixing. This, however, required the outlay of a couple of hundred dollars; the funeral expenses were one hundred and fifty more, and she had not twenty dollars in the world towards it.

The next morning, therefore, saw me at John Wolfe's store; he had just returned from a business tour South, and was quite shocked to hear of his book-keeper's death. I briefly related to him the situation in which the young wife had been left, and the arrangements I had made with creditors, and awaited his answer.

"Call as you go home this evening," said he, "and I will attend to it. I am very busy now."

When I called in the evening, he handed me a letter for the widow, and, begging me to let him know if he could be of any service in the future, he started for home, and I did likewise.

I left the letter with the widow as I went home, and after supper, Mrs. Dick and myself walked over to see her, a little curious, I must say, to know the contents of John Wolfe's letter.

I confess I had never entertained a very favorable opinion of John Wolfe; he had always seemed to me overbearing and proud, and looked, I thought, as many young men do, who have never known anything of walking a living for themselves, and are very apt to think that they are made out of rather superior stuff to the rest of us, and must be looked up to and smiled upon by all the rest of the world.

But I tell you I got a new insight into the human heart when I read that letter. It was without exception, the kindest, most feeling, most consoling letter I ever read—so full of deep sympathy for her sudden loss, so overflowing with expressions of esteem and regard for her husband, and winding up with sentiments so divine and heavenly a trust in an overruling Providence, and the sweet consolation of religion, that I declare I could scarcely think the letter could have emanated from a man so wholly engrossed in himself, as he seemed to be. The letter, moreover, contained his individual check for one thousand dollars, to meet, he said, the expenses incidental to so sudden and unexpected a bereavement.

"Well, John Wolfe," said I, "after this I will never again judge a man from appearances."

"I should like to know," said my cynical friend, interrupting me, "what this has got to do with John Wolfe's rich wife?"

between them. It happened, also, that the widow's father, who was a retired lawyer, living on the frugal savings of a frugal life, was able to confer a very considerable favor on John Wolfe's house, by saving them from a severe loss by a dishonest customer who had suddenly taken it into his head, after a lifetime of honesty, to turn rogue, sell his goods to a cash customer who presented himself just at the right time, and slip off to California with the proceeds.

A friend of the old lawyer was employed to draw up the bill of sale, who mentioned to him casually, that so and so was selling out and going to the land of promise; and knowing that this individual was largely indebted to Wolfe's house, he quietly slipped him off to New York, by the first stage, without mentioning to any one but his wife and daughter, where he was going. Arrived in New York, he introduced himself, personally, to John Wolfe, and then proceeded to inform him of the important business which brought him to the city. As the nasal creditor was expected to take the next California steamer, no time was lost in getting matters fixed, and just as the gentleman was depositing himself, carpet-bag and plunder, on board the steamer for Aspinwall, he found himself rather unexpectedly obliged to relinquish his journey and pay a visit to John Wolfe's store, where after paying over his full indebtedness, he was released, only to be carefully attended to by the rest of his rather anxious creditors.

The whole affair proved a most successful one, and highly creditable to all parties concerned, but especially to the young widow's father.

"You see, Mr. Cynic," said I, addressing my friend, "how one courtesy begets another?"

For all this important service, the old lawyer would only accept his expenses from home and back—said the jaunt had been worth something to him in the excitement and life it had given to his stagnant blood, and would not take a cent in cash on any account. John Wolfe managed, however, to be upside with him for all that. The old gentleman had hardly been home a week when a package arrived by express from New York, duly addressed to his wife, which upon being opened, disclosed a very handsome silver tea-service, with an accompanying letter, begging her acceptance of the same, as a mark of respect and distinguished consideration for important and disinterested services rendered to sundry firms whose names were all attached, headed of course, by the respected and respectable house of Wolfe, Waterford & Co.

Things went so for about two years, perhaps a letter passing between the parties once a month, and John Wolfe and the young widow almost began courting by letter, without either one having yet seen the other.

At last, one warm July, business being somewhat slack, John Wolfe took a trip to the White Mountains for a week or two, and while there, became acquainted, as traveling bachelors often will, with a party of five young folks—three ladies and two gentlemen.

The two 'eldest couples were men and wives, not very long past the honeymoon; the third lady was called cousin Jane, and like other cousins we can all remember, was about one of the liveliest, most piquant little creatures you ever saw. Dark sparkling eyes seemed to dance and laugh all the time above the most blooming cheeks, and darlingest little nose, and sweetest mouth, and roundest chin that ever belonged to a bewitching woman. John was quite smitten; he danced with her at the evening ball; he rode with her up the steep mountain paths; he went fishing for brook trout, and nothing delighted him more than, when they came to a deeper pool or more rugged path than common, to lift the little thing in his great brawny arms, and carry her like a child.

For three days and nights, John Wolfe was in a paradise; on the fourth morning he woke up and found his happiness gone; a letter had been left on the dressing-table, stating that the Pinkertons—the name of his new friends—had been obliged to depart by the stage, at an early hour in the morning, having received news of sudden illness in their family; should be most happy to renew acquaintance with him at a future day, &c., &c.

Our friend had a great mind to start off at once for New York, perfectly disgusted with the whole world; but as one of his purposes in coming East was to pay a long promised and often desired visit to the young widow's family in Vermont, he felt rather ashamed to back out of his determination, although all of a sudden the long cherished wish to make her personal acquaintance had vanished, for a certain Jane Pinkerton, as he called her, had played the very dickens with the platonic affection he had been secretly nourishing for the last two years.

"I declare, Dick," said my friend Cynic, "your story is getting to be rather a long-winded affair, for I have got to the end of my third cigar, and you have hardly commenced the story."

"Well," said I, "if you will only have patience a little longer, you will find that I have nearly got to the end of it."

John Wolfe was a happy man that evening, as he sat at tea, where the handsome silver service was duly displayed in his honor; and the young widow was as happy as he was, I guess, and the father and mother were running over with gratified pride, as they did the honors of their humble home to the young New York merchant, who had shown himself such a true gentleman, in all their intercourse with him.

A delightful evening was passed by all parties; and when John Wolfe was ushered by the old lady to the state bedroom, and had laid himself between the whitest pair of sheets that were ever bleached on Vermont snow, he was so full of pleasant fancies and joyous hopes that he could not go to sleep for hours. However, toward morning he dozed off; and, as will happen at such times, his day-dreams turned themselves into night-dreams, and he found himself again traveling up the rugged paths of the White Mountains, with laughing Jane Pinkerton at his side, joking and jangling together, lifting her sometimes over some rough obstacles in a path, and then again fairly carrying her across some big drift of snow which the summer sun had not been able to penetrate near enough to wake up; and so on, and on, until wearied they stood to gaze upon the magnificent prospect below and around them. Suddenly John thought he was on his knees before her, pouring out a torrent of passionate words, declaring that life and hope, and happiness dwelt only where, &c., &c., when, before he could get an answer or know whether the dear girl smiled, or frowned, he beheld he woke up. He was dreadfully mortified at first, but presently reflecting where he was, and seeing it was broad daylight, he jumps out of bed, makes his morning ablutions, and dresses himself in great haste, determined to wait no longer an answer than it would take to find the object of his dream. Down stairs he goes and into the parlor, she