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COLUMBIA.

BY WILLIE EDGAR PABOR.

"Lives there a man with soul so dead
Who never to himself hath said,
This is my own—my native land?"
BYRON.

My country! 'tis of thee I sing;
I clasp my harp—I touch its string
And bid it send its sweetest strain,
And give to thee her best refrain.
I love thee—land of Liberty,
My country—nation of the free,
When tyrant's law and freedom's name
Alike we spurn—alike we claim.

Oh! never shall I cease to pay
My tribute to her glorious sway;
And if in other lands I roam,
I never will forget my home—
Where WARREN bled and PUTNAM fought,
The home by Patriot's heart's blood bought,
Where FRANKLIN tamed the fiery fire,
MORSE bade it tread the electric wire.

The classic scenes of other times,
Or sea-girt isles in tropic climes,
ITALIA'S land—the SWITZER'S plain,
And GREECE, with her immortal train,
Or ALBION—each may for an hour
Hold o'er my heart impassioned power;
But like the needle to the pole,
My thoughts will back to country roll.

Aye, may my lips be ever mute—
Benumbed, the senses now acute,
If ever I forget the land
By freedom's sacred breezes fanned.
No! louder wake, my harp, thy strain
More glorious be thy glad refrain—
In honor of my native land
In memory of her patriot band.

Adventures of a Man as a House-maid;

Matrimonial Engagement; Feats of Agility; Robbery; Arrest and Exposure.

A few months ago a robust looking person, dressed in the becoming garb of a female domestic, made application at Burt's Intelligence Office, in this city, for a situation in the country to do ordinary housework. Soon after a lady of Schoharie county applied for "help;" but those she selected were unwilling to leave town.—The "domestic" above referred to, however, expressed her willingness to engage, but the lady did not like her appearance. But finally she was reluctantly compelled to accept of her services. She accordingly ordered her to appear with her trunk at the Mansion House, at 8 o'clock the following morning—where she found her, in time, but quarrelling with the carman, whom she offered a sixpence—all the money she said she had—for conveying her box to the place of rendezvous. The lady settled the difficulty, placed her protege in the stage and proceeded with her to her pleasant mansion in Old Schoharie.

Nothing transpired for several days to disturb either mistress or servant. The latter took hold with most wonderful industry—rising at 4 o'clock every morning and working so long as there was any work to be done.

The first remark on her eccentricities, was made by a little girl, who entered the parlor, with open mouth and eyes, exclaiming: "Oh! gramma, what do you think, that new girl goes down the cellar stairs at a single jump!" But this was not deemed sufficiently strange to excite any other remark than that she was a "smart girl." New developments were in reserve. A few evenings after, when all the workman were at supper—fifteen or twenty in number—the household was startled by the boisterous laughter of the men. On inquiring the cause, it appeared that "Elizabeth" had, on a banter, jumped square over the broad table, dishes and all, at a bound, and offered to wager a new bonnet that she would do the same thing if a chair were placed on top of the table—only stipulating for a single step backward. No one, however, accepted the wager, but all concurred that "she was a little the smartest critter in the diggins."

In the course of time, a fellow servant girl (with whom the strange girl roomed) informed her mistress that she could not remain any longer in the family if "Elizabeth" did not leave. She refused to assign any reason for this intimation, but "Elizabeth," when arraigned, said the other servants were angry with her because "she refused to contribute a dollar to the priest." As this was known to be true, "Elizabeth" was told to go to her work and the other girl to leave if she persisted in her demand.

"Elizabeth" continued to grow in favor with all hands, in spite of her apparent stupidity; but particularly so with one "Patrick," with whom she often took evening rambles. Her mistress chided her for this intimacy, warning her against all "gay deceivers;" but she closed all reproof by the very unexpected piece of information *"that she and Patrick were engaged to be married!"*

No one suspected anything amiss in "Elizabeth," until one morning, on the return of the gentlemen of the house, after several weeks absence. The family were quietly seated at breakfast, with "Elizabeth" serving the table. The gentleman scrutinized her pretty closely, when, as she retired, the breakfast table was startled by his throwing down his knife and fork and exclaiming, "that girl's a man—didn't you notice her beard?" "Now don't be boyish with your nonsense," from his wife, and a hearty laugh from the group was all the response he received for his wonderful discovery. "Elizabeth" continued to work with greater vigor and effect than any girl ever did work before and the family resumed their congratulations at their good luck in having picked up so "good a girl."

In a week or two, the gentleman of the house had an occasion to leave home for a time, and was about to get into his carriage, when it occurred to him that there might not be money enough in the safe for household and business purposes until his return. He looked through the account book, and found that there should be some $375 in gold in the safe, besides some paper money. On looking to see whether he was right, he found the paper money but the gold had disappeared. Here was "a go." "Who was the robber?" was the next question. He decided in his own mind that there was but one servant in the house with wit enough to get hold of the keys and remove the money unobserved. And she was the favorite and trusted nurse of the grand-children, whose mistress was then absent. It was determined therefore that she should be arrested, her trunk searched, &c. A search warrant was accordingly obtained, with directions to the officer to be in readiness when sent for.

As if to confirm the justice of these suspicions, the girl informed the son-in-law, whose children she had nursed, that she would leave in a few days—although she had frequently expressed a desire to always live with the family, who had uniformly treated her with great kindness.—"What do you mean, Mary, by this sudden determination?"

"Because there are those about the house who are stealing everything they can get their hands on; and I cannot stay where they are." "Why did you keep this information from us?" "Because when I went to tell Mrs. ——, she said she would not listen to any complaints from servants about each other, and compelled me to be silent." "To whom do you refer?" "To 'Elizabeth' who has been stealing something every day." She then proceeded to name several articles which she knew "Elizabeth had stolen, and to justify herself for the course she had resolved upon.

This revelation changed the aspect of affairs, and the fact that the same day "Elizabeth" announced her determination to leave next morning, did not render them any the less interesting, but promised a more speedy *denouement* than was anticipated. It was against her trunk that the search warrant was now directed, just as it was ready to be placed on the stage. She demurred, but the law, at this stage of proceedings, knows no demurers, and the trunk was uncovered. And such an uncovering! Reels of linen, chemise, fine dresses, pieces of cotton clotch, dressing gowns, lace, one man's linen shirt, big enough for "daddy Lambert," and sundry other commodities, indicating the wardrobe of an heiress, rather than that of a cook.

In spite of her protestations she was hurried of to jail—the officer believing that when in bars she would relent and confess. But not she! On entering the cell, she looked round rather complacently and ordered up her baggage. This was refused her, but she persisted so resolutely that her request was complied with, on the ground that she should only take out what she required for her use while in prison. On doing so *a razor strop and razor fell out of the bundle*, and on being told that she could not retain articles so useless to her, she begged piteously for them as *"the only things left to her by her dear, dead father."* Of course no humane officer of the law could disregard such a plea, and she was allowed to retain them.

Her trial came on, when her counsel advised her to plead guilty. This at first she refused to do: but finally consented—not, however, until she had remained over night in custody of the under Sheriff at his house. He persuaded her to this course, and took so much interest in her case, that very unkind suspicions found utterance, how unjustly the sequel will show. In consideration of her plea of guilty, the Judge was very merciful and sentenced her three months to the Albany Penitentiary. Here she arrived a few days ago, and the worthy matron received her kindly, introduced her to the female department; and from thence to the bathing room, from whence a series of loud screams for "Mr. Pillsbury" were soon hear; and on his appearing, the matron hid her blushes, and requested him to "TAKE THAT MAN AWAY!" Mr. Pillsbury like a gentleman, as he is, complied with this very reasonable request—had the lusty rascal cropped and attired in proper garments, set him to work among those of his own sex, where he now is, with as proper a crop of beard as any man could desire, and such a crop as he could any day have had while a *housemaid*, and as he would have had but for the semi-daily application of the razor left him by his *"dear, dead father."*

The rascal refuses to own to the stealing of the $375, being determined, doubtless, to get hold of it as soon as he is released from his present quarters. This *denouement* has wonderfully stirred up the blood of the Schoharie Dutch, and greatly disappointed those who had a promise of an opportunity to "dance at the wedding" of Patrick and Elizabeth!

Re-Appearance of the Plague in London.

A story has been circulated in this country of the frightful re-appearance of the London plague, which ravaged that city a hundred and fifty years ago, the contagion having been derived from bones disinterred in carrying a new sewer through Argyle street, by digging to an unusual death. It is asserted that physicians have pronounced that the disease is not the cholera, but that it is undoubtedly the plague, and that it is propogated by contagion, and is even more speedy in its fatal effects than the cholera. The writer in an article without date, which is copied from the *Home Journol*, says that "The disease, in a week from the time at which it broke out, had completely ravaged the streets in Soho and its immediate vicinity. At the present moment Poland street, Argyle street, and others, are closed against all passers. Half the shops in Regent street are shut up. The remainder are rapidly closing. At two o'clock in the day, scarcely a dozen persons may be met with in that great thoroughfare. In those streets which the disease is most speedily depopulating, the dead bodies are placed in the open air, immediately that life has departed from them, so great is the fear of contagion. I have seen in two instances, half a dozen bodies being carried off in black sacks, like bales of goods, for burial. You will easily judge how great a fright this has created. Every one who is able to do so, has fled. London, generally at this time just emptying, is now half depopulated.

The London papers do not contain anything to countenance this story, beyond the fact which has been repeatedly stated, that the cholera has prevailed in London to a greater extent than in any year since 1849. The deaths from cholera in that year to the 23d of September had carried off 12,264 persons, This year there has been in ten weeks to the same date, 8953. The latest santitary report published in the *London Time* of Sept. 27, says "the cholera is slowly retreating from London, but it destroyed last week 1284 lives, and 19 persons died from the allied disease diarrhœa." The deaths from cholera in the next preceding week were 1549, and in that next preceding 2050. The number of deaths from all causes during the last week in London, in a population of 2,362,236 wss 2504.

There was a district in London in which the cholera prevailed for a short period so fatally, that a sewer in the vicinity obtained the designation of "The plague pit."—the disease in that quarter being attributed, in articles which appeared in some of the papers to the openings into the streets in that vicinity for the ventilation of some newly constructed sewer. At a meeting of the Metropolitan Sewer Commission, on the 26th of September, a long report was made, upon a thorough investigation of the cases of the particular virulence of the cholera in that locality.

It seems to have been fully accounted for by the excessively crowded and filthy state of the houses, and the want of drainage communicating with the sewers recently constucted, and which had been charged with being the cause of the disease. The report of the engineer, who had inspected 207 houses, represents them as in the most disgusting state of filth from the attic to the cellar, and entirely without drainage, and no intimation is given that the disease is different from that which prevailed elsewhere. No panic in the city, or any unusual suspension of business, or desertion of the city by any portion of the population, more than in any odinary season.

A SHIFTY JUDGE.—A short time since they had a queer case for a Circuit Judge in the Western District of Tennessee. He was a good lawyer, but cared nothing for appearance, and less for dress. The latter he knew nothing about, it being left entirely to Betty, his wife. His Betty was absent from home once when he started around on the circuit, leaving the judge to pack his clothes for the trip. He did so, but instead of finding his shirts, he seized a pile of his wife's what's-you-call-'ems, used for a like purpose. A learned brother, who roomed with him was much amused a few mornings afterwards at the appearance of the Judge, nothing being in sight but his head, arms, and feet—his look of bewilderment and his soto voice reflections, which were, "I wonder what on earth made Betty cut off my sleeves? I don't see." It is probable that he heard the reason the next time he saw Betty, but not before, as the bar kept dark on the matter (to him) that round.

LOSS OF BRIG HORACE GREELEY AND ALL ON BOARD.—The brig Horace Greeley, Capt. Smith, which sailed from Georgetown, S. C., on the 5th September, for Philadelphia, was upset during the gale of the 9th of Sept., and all hands were lost. The wreck drifted on Pauley's Island, 20 miles northward of Georgetown, on the 12th inst., bottom upwards, with a portion of her cargo, which consisted of timber and naval stores, in her hold. Capt. Smith and his mate were natives of Boston—the former leaves a wife and family.

From the Observer.

Narrative of the French Sailor who was picked up from the Wreck of the Arctic.

My name is Jassonet Francoise; I am from Caucale, a village situate 3 leagues distance from St. Malo; I generally employ myself every year in fishing at St. Pierre. I embarked on board the Vesta to return home; when about noon on the 27th, I chanced to be on deck, I heard the men in charge of the watch, and who were in the fore part of the vessel, sing out—"Luff, luff, there is a ship bearing down upon us." I think, to the best of my opinion, that not more than half a minute elapsed before we receivud the shock. Our ship struck the Arctic in the starboard bow, near the wheel; our forecastle was swept away by the blow. When we saw this accident, a general confusion ensued and a man ascending from the hold cried out that the vessel was filling with water, which created a general panic among the passengers and crew. To lower a boat, and precipitate ourselves into it to the number of seven or eight, was the work of a minute, and we proceeded towards the American vessel, which continued its route towards land. Our intention was to save ourselves on board the American vessel, for our idea was, that our own would go down immediately. We rowed for some time before we could reach the bow of the vessel, but a wave sent us to a distance again. We then approached the wheel, and, owing to some accident which I cannot explain, the boat was caught in it and upset. I alone was able to reach a rope, and got on the deck of the American vessel, where a general confusion and panic reigned.

I soon learned that the vessel was in danger, and I cast my eyes around me to find some means of safety. There were near me about thirty bottles; I got a rope and attached them to my person, but one of them being broken I soon saw that it would not be possible to throw myself into the sea with them; that is why, finding a box near me, I fastened myself on it with strong cords and cast myself into the sea. By good luck there happened to be close to the vessel a floating piece of the wreck, which I seized hold of, and abandoned myself to the mercy of the waves. In company with me on this raft was a young American of from twenty to twenty-two years of age; this young man died on the on the morning of the 28th, from the effects of cold and hunger. The cold had taken such a hold of him that it became impossible for him to utter a single word. I took him in my arms and supported his head on my shoulder. When he breathed his last sigh he gave me such a violent shock that he was near upsetting me into the sea. I attached him to the raft with cords, and I kept him for about twenty hours, at the expiration of which time, finding that he was really dead, and apprehending the visit of some large sharks, I threw myself into the sea. After being at the mercy of the waves for a couple of days and nights, that is to say fifty-two hours, on the 20th, towards ten in the morning, I perceived to the west a sail, which seemed to be approaching me; then with the small plank which served me as an oar, I was enabled to make some signals, which did not seem to be noticed by the vessel, I continued to swim for another hour, and I then became convinced that the vessel was steering directly towards me. This gave me a little courage, for my strength had began to abandon me.—I made a fresh signal, and I saw that they perceived me, for the vessel came straight towards me. I was hoisted on board, and I gave them to understand, as well as I could, by signs and a few words of English, that there were to the leeward a great number of persons awaiting help, and the captain accordingly changed his course and steered in that direction. We picked up eleven persons, who had got on floating pieces of wreck, as also Captain Luce. We then made sail, and proceeded to Quebec. It was in this way that I escaped the waves, which threatened to engulph me every instant. I was in the sea fifty-two hours, without food or drink of any sort, with the exception of one small sailor's biscuit, which my companion in misfortune gave me before he expired.

WHOLESALE MURDER AND SUICIDE.—By the late foreign arrivals, we have the following sanguinary item from Italy: A military man was in love with a young lady whom he could not obtain in marriage. Incensed at her refusal, he resolved on vengeance. Arming himself with four revolvers, he repaired to the mansion of the fair one. The first person that appeared was her mother—he shot her; the next was her father—he shot him; then came the young lady herself—he shot her; then came the uncle and aunt—he shot them; and then he shot himself.

THE COBBLERS "LAST" WORDS.—"I feel that I *wax* weaker each succeeding day, and that I am fast approaching my *end;* a few more *stitches* and *awl* will be over; in heaven there is rest for my weary *sole;* earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot *heel.*" Having said *awl* he wished, he calmly breathed his *last.*

THE COMMON SCHOOLS.

Decisions of the Superintendent.

be nNewly elected directors are held to certificates as soon as they receive their at a meeting of ntion, or claim their seats dence of their elected with proper evi- supplanted have no authority the directors their successors are elected. after

2. There never is a *new* board of directors where the law takes its regular course, except when new districts are formed.—Debts legally contracted by a board of directors in any year, and left unpaid, must be liquidated by the board in succeeding years.

3. Directors may, in their discretion, require the schools of their district to be kept open every day of each calender month, except Sundays. The most general rule is to keep them open twenty-six days per month, but some districts limit the school month to twenty-four days.—But the directors should require the schools to be closed every Saturday at noon, to be opened again on Monday morning, or in lieu thereof, to be closed every alternating Saturday, and thus the time given to the pupils for recreation should not be deducted from the teachers.

4. School directors have the abstract right to compel pupils to go to either of the schools within the district of their residence, if they go at all; but this right or power should not be arbitrarily exercised. Where a pupil can be more conveniently accommodated in an adjoining district the directors should make such arrangement as is provided for in the ninth paragraph of the twenty-third section (page 8) of the school law.

5. If the school directors do not keep all the necessary schools of their district in operation at least four months in each year, they are indictable for misdemeanor in office.

6. Public meetings have no power to discharge school teachers, nor to employ them. Directors must perform the duties required of them by law, but in performing them should, as far as practicable, consult the wishes of the people of their district. The latter, however, cannot control the actions of the former against their consent.

7. School directors have the power at any time to dismiss a teacher, "for incompetency, cruelty, negligency or immorality," and should be prompt in the exercise of this power whenever either of these charges are established against a teacher.

8. The directors are not personally liable for the salary of the teacher legally contracted.

9. A pupil cannot be suspended or expelled from school unless "found guilty, on full examination and hearing, of refractory and incorrigibly bad conduct" *in school.*

10. Four directors constitute a quorum, and acts of a majority of these are as legal and binding as though all were present and voted on the same side, except that the annual school tax must be levied by the votes of not less than a majority of the members of the board.

11. If a teacher receives pupils knowing that they have been ordered to another school by the directors, he is guilty of an act of insubordination—he "neglects" his duty in refusing to carry out the requirements of the board—for which the directors can discharge him.

12. A verbal discharge of a teacher by a director, authorized by the board, is sufficient, but it is recommended in all cases to notify the teacher of discharge in writing.

13. School directors are not required to be sworn on entering on the duties of the office.

14. If the school directors neglect to organize within twenty days after the election, as specified by law, they may do so at any future time, and such organization will be strictly legal, if no steps were taken in the meantime to remove the directors elect from office by due course of law.

15. School directors are not entitled to compensation for any services they may render as such.

16. "A vote of the citizens" can neither authorize nor prevent the directors from levying a specified amount of tax—the school law regulates them in that regard.

17. Where costs are imposed by the court upon a board of school directors in a civil action against them in their official capacity such costs may be paid out of the school fund of the district, and cannot, except in cases of willful neglect of duty, be collected from the directors personally. But when the directors are prosecuted for misdemeanor, and the costs are imposed upon them, they must pay the same out of their own, and not out of the school funds.

18. Any necessary expenses of a civil action, not imposed by the court upon other parties, such as attorney fees, may be paid by the directors out of the school fund.

19. School directors have no authority to appropriate any portion of the school funds to Sunday schools, nor to cause the common school to be taught on Sunday.

20. If the directors illegally appropriate the school funds to unauthorized objects, they can be compelled by law to refund the money.

21. The clause in reference to the discharge of a teacher, in the blank agreement between directors and teachers, printed in the pamphlet copy of the school law, is intended merely to enable the directors to terminate the agreement at the end of a month, or quarter, and does not, in any disner qualify their power and duty to competent teacher *at any time*, for "in- ality." -elty, negligence or immor-

22. If a board of ... ganize, because no one of them fail to organize, a majority of votes for president, to obtain neglect of duty as will justify the Court of Quarter Sessions, upon the complaint of six taxable citizens of the district, and, upon due proof thereof, to declare their seats vacant, and appoint others in their stead.

23. When two directors are to be elected, and three persons have an equal number of votes, there is no election, and such vacancies therefore exist as authorize the board to fill them by appointment until the next election.

24. If any citizens establish a school without authority of the directors, and if such school is not directly approved of by a majority of the board of directors acting in their official capacity, the former cannot compel the district to pay the expenses of such school.

25. While the law does not in terms authorize it, the Superintendent does not see that there can be a reasonable objection to directors making such arrangement as is provided for in section twenty-third of the school law, with adjoinning States; but in such case it is necessary that the consent of all persons directly interested be given.

26. School directors have power to establish schools of different grades in their respective districts, and to require the pupils who have obtained different degrees of advancement to attend such school as is best suited to the course of study of each. Every branch of English education may be taught in Common Schools.

27. The law does not authorize a teacher employed by the directors to collect additional compensation from parents, guardians, &c., of pupils, nor can the directors authorize him to do so, nor do it themselves.

28. Where it is desired by persons sending pupils to a school to pay a teacher a higher salary than the directors are willing to pay him, they may either make a direct contribution to the teacher, or pay the same in to the school treasury of the district, and the directors can appropriate it to the purpose designed. But no person can be compelled to make such payment and the school must in every respect be governed as other common schools are and conform in all things to the requirements of the school law.

29. If the president of a board of school directors engages a teacher without authority, the contract is not binding on the district; but if the directors in any manner recognize the contract, by paying the teacher, or permitting him to go on with the school, knowing that he has been thus employed, &c., the district is bound to pay him the salary agreed upon, until he is legally discharged.

30. School directors are not authorized by law to admit pupils from an adjoining district into the schools of their own, except in the manner provided in division ninth, section twenty-third, of the school law. If, without authority of law, they permit pupils from other districts to attend their schools, they cannot recover compensation from those districts, or from persons whose duty it is to educate the children. In the absence of such arrangement as the law provides, no implied contract exists upon which an action can be maintained and compensation recovered.

31. Under no circumstances can school directors be justified in paying the collector more than five per cent for collecting school tax, or he in receiving it; and this cannot be done even where the directors had agreed to do so, for they have no authority to make such agreement, so far as the public funds are concerned. Both parties would be acting contrary to express provisions of law, and both would therefore subject themselves to prosecution and penalty.

☞A story is related of an honest farmer, who, attempting to drive home a bull, got suddenly hoisted over the fence. Recovering himself, he saw the animal on the other side of the rails, sawing the air with his head and neck, and pawing the ground. The good old man looked steadily at him for a moment, and then shaking his fist at him, exclaimed, "Darn your apologies; you need'nt stand there, you 'tarnal critter, a-bowin' and scrapin'; you did it a purpose."

☞Nature is shockingly immodest. Till children are taught "what is what," they would as soon run around with nothing on but their arms and legs, as they would in breeches and petticoats. Blushing is an artificial commodity, and came into the market with knowledge and mantua-makers.