

# THE REPUBLICAN.

CLEARFIELD, PA.  
WEDNESDAY MORNING, APRIL 21, 1869.

"FATHER, COME HOME."

A SERMON IN A SONG! THRILLING EFFECT.

A correspondent gives the following account of the singing of "Father, Come Home," in one of the music halls in London, and we gladly transmit the scene, for such we term it, to our columns. It is a most beautifully touching appeal, and the effect on all who read it must, to some extent, be the same as that produced on the London audience. Despair, love, hope, and reform are all set forth in the most vivid colors:

Having reached the hall, we paid an admission fee of six pence. There was a very neat stage, with a gaudy drop scene, side wings, and a tolerably good orchestra. In the seats sat the chairman, to keep order over as noisy an audience as ever was seen out of the gallery of the Victoria Theatre. "Costers" seemed to predominate. All appeared plentifully supplied with porter, and all were enjoying their pipes to such an extent as to make the place almost suffocating, for their mirths have been an audience of nearly five hundred. A bigger "walk around" was just being finished, and the shouts of encore, whistling and stamping of feet made the hall perfectly bewildering. A name was announced from the chairman which we could not catch, and amidst clapping of hands and stamping of feet there was a burst of, "This is the song!" The waiter called loudly, "Any more orders?" and these being taken and duly executed, all seemed to settle down quietly to listen to the song. There was the symphony and another burst of "This is it," and we began to feel anxious. Presently a female came in front of the curtain, amid great applause, and commenced "Father, dear father," etc. Every word was distinct and she sang the ballad with great feeling. In order, however, to fully describe the scene which followed each verse, it is necessary to give "Little Mary's" song:

"Father, dear father, come home with me now,  
The clock in the steeps strikes one; [going]  
I'm promised, don't fail me;  
Come home, come home, come home;  
Come home, dear father, come home."  
Having reached the half, we paid an admission fee of six pence. There was a very neat stage, with a gaudy drop scene, side wings, and a tolerably good orchestra. In the seats sat the chairman, to keep order over as noisy an audience as ever was seen out of the gallery of the Victoria Theatre. "Costers" seemed to predominate. All appeared plentifully supplied with porter, and all were enjoying their pipes to such an extent as to make the place almost suffocating, for their mirths have been an audience of nearly five hundred. A bigger "walk around" was just being finished, and the shouts of encore, whistling and stamping of feet made the hall perfectly bewildering. A name was announced from the chairman which we could not catch, and amidst clapping of hands and stamping of feet there was a burst of, "This is the song!" The waiter called loudly, "Any more orders?" and these being taken and duly executed, all seemed to settle down quietly to listen to the song. There was the symphony and another burst of "This is it," and we began to feel anxious. Presently a female came in front of the curtain, amid great applause, and commenced "Father, dear father," etc. Every word was distinct and she sang the ballad with great feeling. In order, however, to fully describe the scene which followed each verse, it is necessary to give "Little Mary's" song:

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The clock in the steeps strikes one; [going]  
I'm promised, don't fail me;  
Come home, come home, come home;  
Come home, dear father, come home."

At the conclusion of the last line the drop scene drew up, disclosing the father sitting at the door of a public house, in a drunken bemuddled state, with a pipe and pot before him. Little Mary was trying to drag him from his seat, at the same time pointing to a curtain behind, as she took up the refrain from the lady, and touchingly sang, "Come home," etc. The other curtain was now drawn aside, disclosing a wretched room, in which was the mother, with the poor, sickly-looking boy on her lap, and in the act of feeding him with a spoon. Simultaneously with the drawing of the curtain, the dim light was brought to bear upon the tableau, giving them a truly startling effect. After a moment or two, the act dropped down, and the lady proceeded:

"Father, dear father, come home with me now,  
The clock in the steeps strikes three; [going]  
The night has grown colder, and Penny is worse,  
But he has been calling for you.  
Indeed he is worse, mother says he will die,  
And I am afraid he won't live long;  
Come home, dear father, come home;  
Come home, dear father, come home."

The act drops rises again, and now the child holds the hand of the peevish pot, trying to take it from the drunken parent, and, as she continues the last two lines, "Come home," etc., the other curtain is drawn aside, and we next see the child stretched out on its mother's lap, as it just raises its little head and falls back with a gasp, with the lime light reflecting strongly upon it, there was a reality about the whole terrible to view. Soothe were heard coming from all parts of the hall, from the female portion of the audience, while tears trickled down many a winsome cheek. They have seen "Susan Hopkins," "The Stranger," "Jane Shore," "East Lynne," and other affective pieces played, but never before did we witness a scene of such general crying. The principal feature called to mind the picture of the "Sister of Mercy," with the dying child in her lap, and the death was fearfully natural. Even the lady who sang the song was affected, and could scarcely proceed with the third verse:

"Father, dear father, come home with me now,  
The clock in the steeps strikes three; [going]  
The night has grown colder, and Penny is worse,  
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Again the drop rose, disclosing "little Mary" on her knees appealing to her father, who with the pot elevated, as in the act of striking her with it, as she sings "Come home," and then the curtain drawn aside, showing the mother praying over the child's coffin. But now the sobes burst more freely, and two females are carried out fainting. The scene was truly harrowing, and we turned glumly our eyes away.

An additional verse was sung about "Poor Penny" being with the angel above. The drop rose with the father, now sober, is weeping over the coffin with the mother, and little Mary on her knees singing "Home, home, father, dear father's come home." At this moment the curtain is drawn aside, and little Penny is suspended over the coffin with wings smiling up to them and pointing upwards. The father falls forward on his face, the act drops down, and for a few minutes all is hushed save the sobs of the females.

"There," said a workingman by our side, as he leered a sigh of relief, "Mr. Spurgeon never preached a better sermon than that," an expression to which we assented, and then left the hall.

Here is a whole sentence printed with four types. Who among our readers can read it without looking at the explanation below?

B. D.  
EXPLANATION.—Here is the proper version of the above. A little dark (darkey) in bed, with nought (or nothing) over him.

John G. Saxe says that "Gaws, like sausages, cause to inspire respect in proportion as we know how they are made."

Price.

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