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FATHER ABRAHAM

"With malice towards none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nations wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and a lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations." - A. L.

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FURS! FURS! FURS! HAGER & BROTHERS have just received an elegant assortment of FANCY FURS FOR LADIES AND MISSES. Mink, Sable, Siberian Squirrel, Fox, Skimline, Water Mink, &c.

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OVERCOATINGS—Black and Colors all grades. FRENCH COATINGS—Black, Brown, Dablia, SILK MIXED COATINGS—Foreign and Domestic. CASSIMERES—New styles. BOYS' WEAR—in great variety. LANCASTER COUNTY SATTINETTS—in all colors, and warranted strong. Just received and for sale, at lowest prices, at HAGER & BROTHERS. [nov 27-31]

Clothing. JUST OPENED AT BEAU MONDE HALL! PORTICO ROW, 543 PENN SQUARE, 543 READING, PENNA. A LARGE LOT OF BEAVERS, CLOTHS, CASSIMERES, VESTINGS, &c., &c., FOR WINTER WEAR. ALSO, BOY'S CLOTHING, AND GENTLEMEN'S FURNISHING GOODS! LEVI G. COLEMAN, Cutter. BUCH & BRO., PROPRIETORS.

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Hats, Caps, Furs, &c. 1868. 1868. SHULTZ & BROTHER, HATTERS, No. 20 NORTH QUEEN STREET, LANCASTER, PENNA. Latest style Fall and Winter HATS and CAPS in all qualities and colors. LADIES' FANCY FURS, ROBES! ROBES!! ROBES!!! Buffalo Robes, lined and unlined; Hudson Bay, Wolf, Prairie Wolf, Fox, Coon, &c. BLANKETS AND LAP RUGS Of all qualities, to which we would particularly invite the attention of all persons in want of articles in this line. GLOVES, GAUNTLETS and MITTS. OTTER, BEAVER, NUTRIA, SEAL, BUCKSKIN, FLESHER, KID, &c., &c. Ladies' Fine Fur Trimmed Gloves, Gauntlets, Mitts and Hoods. PULSE WARMERS and EAR MITTS. WHOLESALE AND RETAIL. no20-17

GOING TO SLEEP. Come hither, my baby, my darling, My lily, my wonderful rose! The white bosomed flowers in the garden Begin their soft petals to close; The bees have gone home from the clover, The swallows are under the eaves, And down in the eucalyptus the robin Broods over her nest in the leaves.

Come, baby, my beauty, my darling! Your eyes are heavy with sleep; Your little red mouth has grown silent, And scarcely its laughter can be heard; Lay off the white robe from your shoulders, Unclasp the small shoes from your feet— Oh, daintiest blossom of Eden, I kiss you, my lily, my sweet!

Do you feel the cool wind coming softly, And see the young moon in the sky? The clouds sailing over the sunset, The bats flitting silently by? Do you hear how the castle are lowing Along the green lane by the hill? And the brook running over the pebbles, With music that never is still?

Now hush while I sing to you, baby, For the angels above the hill? That come on invisible pinions To watch o'er the children they love. So all through your beautiful dreaming, The voice of your mother shall creep, Least, hearing the harpings celestial, Your soul should fly homeward in sleep!

Miscellaneous. MINNIE'S CHOICE. BY EMILY MACKINTOSH.

"You must come home with me, Minnie."

"No, no! What claim have I upon you Laura, that should make me go to you now? No, I will do something for myself—teach, or write, or sew—something! There is some niche vacant waiting for me."

"The niche my sister's death left vacant years ago. Minnie, darling, we have been sisters in love ever since our school days; let us be sisters still. I am wealthy, you are left poor by this day's sad work; now let me plead for your presence, your love! Come home with me! You may sew, teach, write, anything you will—but let my home be yours. You are too young to live alone; come, brighten my father's life and mine."

And after much pleading the young petitioner won Minnie to her will. The pretty, childlike girl, who that day had buried her father, having been motherless from infancy, was indeed too young, too innocent and lovely to live alone in this cold, censorious world. She had been the petted darling of her father, who had been so lavish of his income, to supply every desire or whim of his child, that his death left her penniless. Laura Goodwin, her chosen friend at school, had come from her own pleasant home to comfort Minnie in her sorrow, and brought her father's cordial invitation to the orphan to make his house her future abode. Widowed herself, with one child, he could readily second Laura's generous desires.

He was waiting at the station for the travelers when they reached the town where he lived; and, in the dim twilight, Minnie could see his tall, erect figure and dignified carriage, but his face was not distinct in the gathering darkness. But when in his own parlor he drew her into his arms and said gently, "You must let me fill your father's place, my child," Minnie saw that the face bending over hers was kind and good, noble and true, and she shared Laura's good night kiss with a sigh of relief, feeling that her new home was second only to her own.

The few days immediately following her arrival she submitted to Laura and rested from grief and anxiety, pleased to let her weak frame and sore heart repose in the love and tenderness of her friend's stronger nature. They were very unlike, these girls whose love bound them so closely together, and their very dissimilarity increased their affection.

Laura, tall, stately and resolute, with her noble, firm nature, was like the Roman matrons in her dignified beauty, her generous impulses and clear judgment; while Minnie, petite, pretty and caressing, timid and gentle, clung to and leant upon this noble nature as the ivy winds round the oak.

Mr. Goodwin, who almost idolized his child, and had given Minnie a place in his heart for Laura's sake, soon learnt to love the winning little beauty for her own. Not many days elapsed, however, before Minnie insisted upon maintaining her independence; and Laura prepared for her, from her own friends, dainty embroideries well suited for such fairy fingers, and for which she was well paid. Whether the sums gained or lost anything by passing through Laura's fingers, Minnie never inquired.

And soon after Minnie's advent into the family there came another change. Laura, the stately beauty, found that her heart had wandered from the home boundary to rest upon another love offered and accepted. Her lover was a gentleman in every way calculated to make her happy—a true, good man; and Mr. Goodwin gave a willing consent to her marriage.

The long evenings following the announcement of this engagement were very pleasant ones for Minnie. Her own mourning kept her from gay assemblies, and Mr. Goodwin was very well pleased to let a younger escort take his place beside Laura. He was getting old, he said, though but little past fifty, felt the cold severely, and was apt to come home languid after the business of the day was over.

Minnie soon learnt that it was pleasant to her kind protector for him to hear her read, sing and talk; and as these long evenings drew them more closely together, she found her chief pleasure was to listen to the words of advice, wit, or wisdom that he gave her. She was to him a sweet, loving child, to be guided, taught and petted; he, to her, became a hero, a man to revere, honor and love.

It wanted but a month of Laura's wedding day when, one afternoon as the girls were sitting in the parlor waiting the summons to dinner, a heavy fall overhead startled both.

Mr. Goodwin's library, which was directly above them, was evidently the room from whence the noise came, and, after a moment of silent consternation, the two ran swiftly up stairs. The friend and father lay upon the floor, where he had fallen after leaving his chair, struck down with paralysis, insensible.

It was many days before speech was restored, more before motion came to any limb; but in the long illness Minnie threw off all timidity, and Laura herself was not a more tender or careful nurse. The appointed wedding day was over, when one morning Laura beckoned Minnie from the invalid's room and took her into her own chamber. Her face was pale but resolute, her eyes full of suppressed pain as she said, "Minnie, will you do a painful task for me?"

"You know that I will do anything for you, Laura."

"Then you will see Herbert for me and tell him this—Dr. Holmes said to-day that my father will never regain the use of his lower limbs. His mind is now clear and he can use his arms and hands; but from the lower limbs the power to move is gone for life. He will be crippled, almost helpless, and I, his child, can never leave him!"

"Does he know about all this?"

"Who? papa do you mean? Yes, Dr. Holmes told him."

"But of your decision?"

"Not yet. I will tell him while you tell Herbert. Tell him not to try to see me, for I cannot bear it! Herbert!"

It was a wailing cry of parting, but Minnie's lips smiled as she drew her friend's hand to her bosom to caress her and soothe the unspoken agony.

After a long silence she said, "Come with me to your father and tell him now;" and Laura complied.

Mr. Goodwin heard the resolve silently, though his bowed head and grieved face showed how deeply he felt the necessity of such sacrifice; but as Laura bent caressingly over him, Minnie's voice, low, sweet and clear, broke the sad silence.

"I will not tell Herbert, Laura, nor must you break your engagement. You will not hesitate to leave your father in my care; my hands will minister to him as tenderly as yours; my feet shall fill the place of his; my—"

"Stop! this must not be," said Mr. Goodwin. "I cannot consent to bind your youth to my infirmity, your activity to my helplessness."

"You would keep Laura?"

"She is my child; her own love keeps her."

"Her love!" The child's pleading face was gone and she stood erect before them a woman speaking her heart. "Her love calls her to Herbert as truly as mine—Oh, spare me! she cried, covering her hot blushes with her hands, "do not force me to tear away from my heart its veil! Do you not know," and she crept close to the bedside to whisper, "that as Laura loves Herbert I love you! Do not turn me away; let me be your wife—happier, far happier in ministering to you than I could be in any freer, gay life."

It was a strange wooing where all the pleading came from the woman's lips, the reluctant admission of love returned from the man's; but the tall, stately bride, who gave her hand to her young lover was not happier than the young bright maiden who bound her life to the crippled invalid's.

A REMONSTRANCE FROM VIRGINIA. The President of the United States Senate presented on Friday a remonstrance from Chas. King, D. D., a resident of Staunton, Va., against the removing of the disabilities of rebel officers. He says:

"The rumor of it creates a panic among Union men. If you relieve these rebel judges who are politically ruined, for God's sake interpose and prevent this. It is false to say that we have not Union men to fill the principal offices, and if not, let them remain vacant until they can be filled with good men from the loyal States. Save us from the tender mercies of wicked, persecuting rebels. The restrictive measures in the reconstruction acts and the fourteenth amendment, and in our proposed constitution, are our only hope. If you will hold the rebels in check until we can adopt the new constitution, then, perhaps, as they bring fresh fruits for repentance, they may gradually and individually be relieved from the curse of a broken and violated law. But for the present we are unwilling to make a course for them."

HON. EDWARD McPHERSON. The following from a Washington correspondent of the Independent, pays a high compliment to Mr. McPherson, and will be read with pleasure by his numerous friends in this locality:

"The organization of the next House will soon occupy the politicians. Having expressed myself heretofore upon the question of speakership, I will not mention it again. There can be no doubt, I think, of the re-election of McPherson, the present Clerk. He is by far the best Clerk the House has had in a dozen years—a pure, efficient, courteous, and ever-to-be-trusted man. It is of the utmost importance that a thorough Radical should have the place, as upon the organization of a new House the Clerk is the presiding officer. McPherson has been repeatedly tried and never found wanting."

Father Abraham's Chips.

THE Fifth Avenue Hotel, New York, pays an annual rental of \$96,540. GEN. GRANT has been spending a pleasant time in Baltimore. MORE than \$2,936,900 worth of one cent revenue stamps were sold last year. M'PARRISON is writing the life of Thad. Stevens.

FOUR inmates is the extent of the population of the Westmoreland county jail. THREE hundred and sixty paupers are now in the Chester county almshouse. HEAVY losses from flood and storm reported from different sections of the country.

IN Chicago during 1868, \$278,421 worth of property was stolen, \$180,532 of which was recovered. BARNUM'S hotel, in Baltimore, took fire one day last week, and was damaged to the extent of about \$2,000.

A LETTER from General Sheridan to General Sherman announces the substantial close of the Indian war. THE Editorial Convention of Pennsylvania, will meet in Harrisburg, on the 2d of February.

THE Beaver Radical hoists the name of Gov. Geary, as its choice for re-nomination for Governor. WESTON, the pedestrian, is again on "the travel"—the journey this time being 5000 miles.

IN Charleston, S. C., all the hogs found running at large are killed and distributed among the poor. MR. HAYARD, of Pana, Illinois, is said to be the largest landholder in the United States, and he owns one slice of 60,000 acres in Nebraska.

THE Cops talk of taking up Cowan—the renegade—for Supreme Judge. We hope they will—he just suits the party and the people want a lick at him.

THE Ohio Legislature, at the present session, it is said, will probably pass a law submitting woman suffrage to a popular vote. BETS are already being made about the length of General Grant's inaugural message. It is said that it will be the shortest ever delivered.

SECRETARY SEWARD gave a dinner party to General Grant on Saturday, and a reception after dinner, at which General Grant was present, but very few called. THE gallant Gen. Kilpatrick, on the evening of the 21st inst., delivered his lecture on "Sherman's march through Georgia," to a large audience at the Academy of Music, Philadelphia.

A PAIR of salmon, weighing 11 1/2 and 15 pounds, were recently speared in the Susquehanna river, below the Shamokin dam. The lucky fisherman sold them for twenty-five cents a pound in Sunbury.

THE lower house of the legislature of Dakota has passed a bill conferring upon women the elective franchise and making them eligible to office. The senate is expected to ratify this action.

HON. ALEXANDER RAMSEY, has been re-elected U. S. Senator from Minnesota. He is a Pennsylvanian, and a Radical in whom there is no guile. Lebanon county has the honor of producing him.

GOV. BROWNLOW, of Tennessee, has issued a proclamation calling on the people of the State to enrol themselves in the militia for the purpose of protecting themselves from the Kullucks.

A LARGE vein of iron ore has been found in Maiden Creek township, Berks county. It is found within a few feet of the surface, and covers an area of over thirty acres.

IN 1868 seven hundred and seventy-seven boys, six hundred and twenty-three girls, four hundred and twenty-three men, and four hundred and twelve women, died in New Ark, N. J.

THE last witticism credited to Grant is as follows: "I have been reading the papers to get help in making my Cabinet; but, as no two of them seem to agree, I think I might try my own hand at it."

THE York papers say that the prices of horses and cattle at the country sales recently held, ranged considerably lower than last year. Produce of all kinds sells at much lower prices.

IN a French town a man was lately tried for manslaughter, having smothered his wife by hugging her too rapturously. The event gives an opposition paper a chance to liken it to the love certain governments show for liberty.

THERE is a general desire among members of Congress to take action at once upon the amendment to the Constitution regulating suffrage. A Washington despatch says there can be no question as to its passage by both Houses of Congress.

GEN. GRANT is shortly to be presented by the Republicans of the Tenth Ward, Philadelphia, with a magnificent specimen of the American eagle. It was captured near Reading, and is a kindly bird, measuring nearly seven feet from tip to tip of the wings.

A CORRESPONDENT writes to a city paper that Colonel A. K. McClure and a few of his friends had an interview with General Grant a few days ago, in which the subject of Pennsylvania politics was freely discussed. The General gave them to understand that no prescription of Republicans upon the part of Senators would be tolerated by him, and the wishes of the workmen of the Republican party would be looked to in the selection of any Cabinet officer that may be taken from Pennsylvania. Right.

Fox, the Copperhead Mayor of Philadelphia, could not find one of his party fit for Chief of Police, and has appointed Gen. Mulholland, a Republican, to the place.

THE Pennsylvania Railroad Company, having previously purchased the West Branch Canal, has recently bought the line up to the North Branch, and, we understand, purpose deepening it, and otherwise increasing its capacity for business.

IN these days of progress it is ridiculous that railroad companies, which should be most progressive, still cling to the stove fires in their cars. The danger of this system of warming has been fully demonstrated time and again.

GENERAL SHERMAN reports that the back-bone of the "Indian rebellion" has been broken.—The final blow having been given on Christmas Day in the destruction of a Camanche village.

THE Harrisburg State Guard says that a number of noted thieves, burglars, and pick-pockets, have arrived in that city, and warns the citizens to be on the lookout. Is that a reflection on the Legislature?

ATTORNEY GENERAL BREWSTER is a faithful public officer. The expenses of his office last year amounted to only \$5,939—less than two per cent. of the collections made and paid into the State Treasury.

A FARMER in Michigan, finding that his sheep were disappearing mysteriously recently, placed a wolf trap in the field. A few days afterwards he found it sprung, and now one of his neighbors is lying with a sprained ankle.

A GENTLEMAN of Washington has lately purchased 55,000 acres of land in Tazewell, Buchanan and Prince William counties. A number of Northern capitalists are examining lands in Virginia, with a view of purchasing. Good land is selling at \$4.50 per acre in Virginia.

THE decline in the price of stove coal, in New York, within two months, has been \$2.45 per ton, in consequence of which collieries which were standing idle at the close of the year to settle up, are in a hurry to start, hoping thus to bring down the stock and run up the price.

THE people of Waterbury, Conn., drank 41,961 gallons of wines and distilled liquors, and 127,148 gallons of malt liquor during 1868, not including such fluids brought by express or manufactured in town. This cost the consumers \$369,684, while the flour used for the same period was worth only \$240,000.

HON. GALUSIA A. GROW, chairman, has called the Republican State Central Committee to meet at Harrisburg on Thursday, the 4th day of February next, at two o'clock, for the purpose of fixing the time and place for holding the next State Convention; and for the transaction of any other appropriate business.

A COUNTRYMAN wishes to know whether ladies wear horse-tails at the back of their necks. He don't understand that they crimp their nape locks, and let them descend in the style of the Angora goat or the Peruvian lama, over their shoulders—the pet lambs!

THERE is reasonable ground for hoping that our State Legislature may this session abolish spring elections and authorize all officers heretofore voted for at that time to be selected at the fall elections. A due regard for public convenience, as well as economy, calls for the proposed change.

GEN. GRANT has a quiet and efficient way of dealing with difficulties, small as well as great. Certain parties were very anxious to have an inauguration ball given in the Capitol, to which certain other parties were opposed. Gen. Grant, hearing of this, wrote a note, requesting that no ball be given at all, and the great question is thus settled satisfactorily.

MAYOR FOX, the new Copperhead Executive of Philadelphia, has a good time making policemen. The sealwags, burglars, thieves, and such cattle, who make up the voters of his party, are applicants. He tries to get good men, but can't find them. On Monday of last week he appointed a man in the 17th District, in place of a good officer, and on Saturday he was brought before him in the shape of a highway robber!

PUBLIC interest is rapidly centering on the postal telegraph reform. That the movement for cheap telegraphing will very soon assume practical shape, we may now take for granted. It is one of those things which only needs agitation to insure their triumph. The people are moving against a class privilege, a monopoly, and the result can not be doubtful.

A TERRIBLE murder was perpetrated at Fifteenth and Chestnut streets, Philadelphia, late on Wednesday week. Two men named Joseph Donahue and James Dempsey got into a quarrel, when the former seized the latter, and a desperate struggle ensued. Donahue finally drew pocket knife and cut Dempsey's throat from ear to ear, causing death in a few minutes. The homicide was promptly arrested and confessed his crime, but insisted that the act was done under provocation and in self-defence.

JUDGE LAWRENCE, of Ohio, chairman of the special committee to investigate the alleged frauds practiced at the late Presidential and gubernatorial election in New York, has nearly finished taking testimony, and as soon as the evidence is put in print, Mr. Lawrence will begin the preparation of a report. Mr. Dickey, of the committee, was detailed to visit the cities along the Hudson as far as Troy, and prosecute investigations at all points where fraud was charged. The testimony secured is of the most damning character, and will show up Copperheadism in all its beauty,