

# The Lancaster Intelligencer.

"THAT COUNTRY IS THE MOST PROSPEROUS WHERE LABOR COMMANDS THE GREATEST REWARD."—BUGHANAN.

VOL. LX.

THE LANCASTER INTELLIGENCER.  
PUBLISHED EVERY FIFTH DAY, AT NO. 8 NORTH DUKE STREET,  
BY GEO. SANDERSON.

T. R. S.

subscription—Two dollars per annum, payable in advance. No subscription discontinued until all arrears are paid, unless at the option of the Editor, the amount of the arrears, not exceeding one dollar, and twenty-five cents for each additional dollar, will be inserted three times for each additional dollar. Those of a greater length in proportion.

PRINTING—Such as Hand Bills, Posters, Pamphlets, Blanks, Labels, &c., &c., executed with accuracy and speeded notice.

THE LOST BRIDE—A LEGEND.

BY MRS. WELLINGTON BOATE.

It is young Brian's wedding-day;  
The bridegroom scatter flowers of May;  
With floral gifts the walls are hung;  
A harper there, with harp full string;  
To cheer the rural guests, and chime  
The joyous lays of olden time;  
But anguish clouds the bridegroom's brow,  
No Norah there to pledge her vow.

One maiden, bolder than the rest,  
Betrayed the secret of her breast,  
And sighed: "Alas! in sportive glee,  
Poor Norah tried to yonder tree,  
And from that aged, mystic thorn  
Sobs buds for this her bridal morn,  
And well we know that none may dare  
The flowers of haunted tree to wear."

And then the bard, by blazing fire,  
Drew forth his harp, and touched the wire;

And, while its witching echoes rang,  
His faltering voice with pathos sang:

"No more her lovely form will glide,  
Around this place, an earthly bride,  
None has profan'd that haunted plain,  
That e'er to return again."

"Last night a band of elfin men  
Lured me along the haunted glen,  
Beyond the healthy primrose dell,  
Within the caves where fairies dwell,  
To sing the praise of fairest bride  
That e'er was made by mountain side."

"We pause where stands the old white thorn,  
Our leader would his elfin horn;

The echoes pierced the dark hill-side,  
And golden portals opened wide;

And lo! beneath a glistening dome,  
We stood within the fairies' home.

"The walls with costly jewels shone,  
Yet brighter jewels gleamed upon

The queenly form and tranquil bower  
Of her who pledged the bridal vow;

Full well I knew our village pride—  
"Twas graceful Norah was the bride.

"I screamed, and broke the mystic spell;  
At morn, beside the fairy well,

Beneath the sun's first rosy beam,  
I woke, as from a troubled dream,

And 'mid that gloomy, wild pasture,  
Myself and harp alone were there."

The old ones sighed, the maidens wept;  
But dark rose o'er Brian's crest,

He mounts his steed, and torch in hand,

He hied him to the fairy land,

And from the tree, while thus he cried:  
"Enchanted! yield me back my bride!"

The steel stood still, the rider fell;

And, now, beside that crystal well

His grave is made, and Brian's bride

Is said by moonlight there to glide,

Wearing the wreath of snowy flowers

She stily stole, in joyous hours,

From off the fairies' fatal thorn,

To grace her bower on bridal morn.

RUTH FRANKLIN.

BY VARA MONTROSE.

It was a warm afternoon in the month of June, and arrayed in her loveliest garb, fair nature smiled from every hill and vale. A group of children had assembled upon a sloping green, and the clear air re-echoed their shouts of glee.

The largest of them was seated in the friendly shade of a wide-spreading elm, and the others had strown her lap with flowers. Her bonnet was lying beside her, and the breeze played lightly among her crimson curls.

"What are you going to do with all these flowers?" she asked, as she inhaled the fragrance of a half-blown crimson rose.

"We are going to make wreaths for our heads; you know it is Lida's birthday."

"I am to have the biggest wreath; and I am going to give Miss Alice a pretty little bunch, and put that rose in it, which you have in your hand," said Lida Grey, in whose honor the flowers had been gathered. "We will have nice fun, Ruth."

"Is this rose white?" asked Ruth, still holding it in her hand.

"Can't you see that it ain't white?" asked a boy, a stranger in the village.

Ruth turned her dull, roving black eyes in the direction of the voice, and in a tone of mournful sweetness, said,

"I cannot see—I am blind!"

There was a quiet hush over the gay group, and sympathy beamed from every eye. They all knew that Ruth was blind, excepting the stranger boy, but the reality seemed now to strike them with deeper force.

It was a gala day; Lida Grey was nine years old, and all the village children were rejoicing. Miss Alice Hay, the friend of them all, was to give her a party; she was to be seated upon an elevated throne in the grove, crowned with spring flowers, and her companions, with wreaths and garlands, were to sing and sport around her. They were all so happy, it would be such a beautiful sight; but now a dark spot in their pleasure was a thought that Ruth Franklin could not see it; however gay and beautiful the scenes around her, all was darkness to her. She felt the warm sun's rays as they fell upon her head; she heard the spring birds warble their sweetest lays; she inhaled the balmy fragrance of the blossoming flowers. They told her that the sky was blue, that the little birds were of varied forms, and she was blind, and that one word told of the void in her life.

Ruth Franklin was twelve years old, but to look at her, you would have thought her older; she was very slender, and there was a careworn look upon her face, yet she was beautiful, and an angel could scarce have borne a holier countenance. She was born blind and there was nothing visible in her large black eyes to tell of the darkness that veiled them. The beauties of earth were shut out from her gaze, but Ruth had an inner eye that saw holier things than the sparkling orbs of her little companions, and she often startled Alice Hays, who was her cousin and protector, for Ruth was an orphan, by telling her of the visions that had come to her during the dark watches of the night, or when she had been sitting for some time alone.

The children all idolized Ruth, and although she was debarred from joining in their sports, they could not play if she was not sitting near them—her presence made them happier; her gentle voice settled their disputes, and their united devotion for her seemed to make their

love for each other stronger. They all knelt around her to make their wreaths, and Lida whispered:

"Dear Ruth, you cannot see when I put on my white dress and pretty wreath."

"But I know you will look lovely, cousin Alice says you will, and I am very happy for you."

"Ruth must have a lovely wreath on these sweet curls," said one who was twining a ringlet around her finger.

"I will have a white wreath on them soon, Bessie," answered Ruth.

"What do you mean, Ruth?" exclaimed half dozen voices; but Miss Alice came up and said:

"Run, children, and get ready, it is time we were in the grove."

"Don't go and leave me covered with flowers—I won't be a basket any longer," said Ruth, laughing.

The flowers were gathered up, and the children ran away. They soon returned where Miss Alice and Ruth had waited for them, and the bright party of innocence and youth sought the grove where Lida was crowned on her ninth birthday. They danced and sang the merriest songs, while Ruth sat, with a smile upon her lip, listening to them.

"They are very happy, cousin Alice, I am so glad," she said.

"Indeed they are, and they look beautiful."

"I know they must, but, cousin Alice, I do not want to see them; the kind God who made me blind, knew that it was best, and he gives me a great deal of pleasure."

"My precious Ruth!" said Miss Alice, as she kissed her pure brow.

The children now gathered around Ruth, and asked her to sing for them; she had a fine voice, and Miss Alice had taught her the words of a great many songs. At the earnest request of her little companions, she sang the last one she had learned—"The Blind Girl." Sweeter than usual sounded her voice as it lingered upon the last line of each verse, and how truly could she sing it,

"I am blind, oh! I am blind."

More than one pair of eyes filled with tears as she sang, and they all kissed her for a reward. After this, they all walked several times around the grove, partook of the repast which the careful Miss Alice had prepared for them, and then each one returned to their homes, long to remember that happy day. No one enjoyed it more than Ruth, and she could describe each one and every amusement as minutely as if she had seen all.

Walking leisurely along the street, he was all at once accosted by a child of five, who ran up to him exclaiming:

"Father! I want you to buy me some more candy."

"Father!" was it possible that he, a teacher, was addressed by that title? He could not believe it.

"Who were you speaking to, my dear?" he inquired of the little girl.

"I spoke to you, father," said the little one, surprised.

"Really," thought Mr. Brown, "this is embarrassing."

"I am not your father, my dear," he said, what is your name?"

The child laughed heartily, evidently thinking it a good joke.

"What a funny father you are," she said, "but you are going to buy me some candy."

"Yes, yes, I'll buy you a pound, if you'll call me father any more," said Brown, nervously.

The little girl clapped her hands with delight. The promise was all she remembered.

Mr. Brown proceeded to a confectionary store, and actually bought a pound of candy, which he placed in the hands of the little girl.

In coming out of the store they encountered the little child's mother.

"Oh, mother," said the little girl, "just see how much candy father has bought for me."

"You shouldn't have bought her so much at a time, Mr. Jones," said the lady, I am afraid she will make herself sick."

"Yes, yes, I'll buy you a pound, if you'll call me father any more," said Brown, nervously.

It was evening, and the sun was calmly sinking to his night's repose; over the autumn sky were floating clouds of purple and gold, and a single sunbeam penetrated through a casement and fell directly across the marble brow of a dying child, and threw a shade of glorious light over the heavenly countenance and dark brown curl. The sunbeam was not shut out, for its brilliancy, however dazzling, fell powerless upon those dark eyes, for it was Ruth Franklin that lay thus, watched over so tenderly by Miss Alice.

"What time is it, cousin Alice?" she asked.

"The sun is just setting, darling," said Miss Alice.

Ruth raised her hand to her forehead as if to touch the stray sunbeam, then she said:

"It is a lovely sunset; I just know how the sky looks."

"I was groping about in the dark," said Ruth.

"I have no doubt you are a most respectable lady," and Mr. Brown, and I conjecture, from what you have said, that your name is Jones; but mine is Brown, madam, and always has been."

"And do you intend to palm this tale off upon me?" said Mrs. Jones, with excitement.

"If you are not married, I'd like to know who I am?"

"I have no doubt you are a most respectable lady," and Mr. Brown, and I conjecture, from what you have said, that your name is Jones; but mine is Brown, madam, and always has been."

"Mendoza," said her mother, suddenly taking her child by the arm, and leading her up to Mr. Brown, "Mendoza, who is this gentleman?"

"It was a half-blown crimson rose," said Ruth.

"Good heavens! Mr. Jones what has put this silly tale into your head? You have concluded to change your name, have you? perhaps it is your intention to change your wife?"

"Mrs. Jones' tone was now defiant; and this tended to increase Mr. Brown's embarrassment.

"I haven't any wife, madam; I never had any. On my word as a gentleman, I never was married."

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