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TERMS.

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## THE SIREN BELL,

I dreamt that I heard a siren bell, With a silvery echo clear, And a musical cadence soft and low, And a chime of tunes 1 did not know, And I held my breath to hear.

Marvellous sweet was this siren bell, And my dreaming soul lay still,
As the sound of the bell came over the lea,
Chiming ever joyously,
Came chiming over the lea.

It puts me in mind of my distant home,
With the willows hanging low,
And the tinkling brook that ran in the shade,
And the trouts that fied from the shadow I made
To the darker gulfs below.

And it called to my mind a fair little maid. With a sweet little merry blue eye, And a flood of streaming yellow hair Falling down her shoulders bare, As she looked up into the sky.

A sudden fall in that siren bell, In a grave-yard by the sea.

But ah! fond Memory, coase thy spell,
For sadness dims the dream,
And hush the voice of that siren bell
As it rings its music down the dell
And floats it on the stream!

But still rings on that siren bell, A choir of angel-voices seem
To mingle strangely with my dream
Of LEONORE the fair.

[N. Y. Knickerbocker. PAIRED, NOT MATCHED.

This is an amusing matrimonial sketch of Hood's. from which we take a few stanzas:

Of wedded bliss
Bards sing amiss,
I cannot make a song of it:
For I am small, And my wife is tall,
And that's the short and long of it.

When we debate It is my fate
To always have the wrong of it;
For I am small,

And that's the short and long of it. And-when I speak

But hers—she makes a gong of it;
For I am small,

And she is tall, And that's the short and long of it

She has, in brief.

Command-in-chief, And I'm but aid-de-camp of it; For 1 am small,
And she is tall,
And that's the short and long of it.

Two Hours with a Madman. It happened one time that in traveling across a tract of country where I had business, I got benighted, and about 8 o'clock,

pretty nearly worn out, I drew rein before he door of a comfortable looking farm house, and dismounting, knocked at the door with the handle of my whip. It was opened by a little girl who stood in the doorway, holding a candle in one hand, and keeping back her thick curly hair with the other, while she looked at me half shy, as if demanding my business.

My dear.' I answered to that questioning look, 'is there any one in the house besides yourself?

'Yes, there is,' she answered : 'father and mother, and the boys.'
'Well, ask your father to come here

moment, I want to speak to him.' She retreated and entered the room behind her, and in about half a minute the farmer came out. I made known my busi-

nesss, explained that I had been overtaken by the night, that my destination was several miles distant, and that both my horse and myself were unfit for further traveling till we had procured food and With the hospitality common to all farmers, especially American ones, my host

for the night bade me welcome, conducted me into a large kitchen, with a floor so white that you involuntarily pitied the hands and arms that had brought it into such a state of cleanliness, and bade me seat myself before the blazing fire while supper was being got ready; and then, not forgetting my horse, he told one of the boys to feed him and take him to the stable. After supper, as I felt unusually tired, I asked to be shown the place where I was to pass the night, and was conducted to a

comfortable room with a downy bed, white counterpane and curtains, upon the second floor, by my host himself; after bidding me good night, he left the candle with me and departed, closing the door after him.

Tired and sleepy as I was, I hurriedly undressed, went to bed, and in five minutes was soundly sleeping. A grinding grating sound awoke me-at what time I don't know-but the moon, which did not rise till very late, was fully up, its bright rays streaming in through the window, from which I had purposely looped back the curtain, that the first streak of daylight might wake me, as I was anxious to proceed on my way. There, sitting full in the moonlight, was a man with a long carving knife in his hand, which he was sharpening upon a piece of grindstone, and which I now perceived made the sound that had awakened me. I thought surely I was dreaming; or, if I was awake, what in the name of heaven meant what I saw? And still the man leisurely ground the blade of the knife, and in a perfect stupor of amazement I lay perfectly quiet with

wide open eyes looking at him. In a few minutes he stopped grinding, and passing his finger carefully along the edge of the knife, he nodded and shook his head knowingly, to intimate to himself that he had brought the blade to a proper degree of sharpness. My blood ran cold; a kind of panic seized me when I saw that action, and the cool, calculating smile with which he held the knife up between him and the moonlight, looking at it with the air of a connoisseur. Then he leisurely got up, stepped over the table where I left the candlestick, and commenced looking around for something-a match, I con-

While his back was turned, the idea of slipping from the bed and bolting out the be dead, or as mad as my companion, if door suggested itself to me; but before I some deliverance was not soon opened up. tal vow never to sleep with my door unhad time to act upon it, the match was I never prayed much—God forgive me! found, and holding the candle in one hand, but just then, I breathed something, I placed so that I should be obliged to crave the match in the other, and the handle of scarcely knew what, for aid, for deliver- the hospitality of strangers, to make parthe knife between his long, wolfish teeth,

THE LANCASTER INTELLIGENCER | ing at him, wrenching the knife from be- | if I called aloud, I might not awaken any such an insatiable curiosity possessed me to know what he was about to do, for as

yet I could only conjecture that his purpose was to murder me.

He struck the match against the wall and lighted the candle, and then took the knife from between his teeth, and took firm hold of the candle in his hand. I felt faint and sick, when I fully realized then that my last chance of escape was gone. He bent over me, flashed the light full upon my eyes, and perceiving that I was awake, exclaimed; with a wild kind of

'Ha! ha! Awake, eh ?-Ha! ha! Glad of it, sir; I meant to awake you, if you, hadn't done it yourself. I consider it cowardly to kill a sleeping man.'

And he laughed at me again, and peered into my face with his red-hot burning eyes. I could see at once that he was mad, and I saw the horror of my situation was increased. At first, I had thought him a died from the fright? robber, or-I hardly knew what I thought -but now, I knew that he was a madman. From his own words, heintended to murder me, and I felt that little short of a miracle

could save me. After he had taken a good look at me, he sat down upon the bed, and to my intense horror began slowly running his finger, with great care along the edge of the knife—evidently he had no intention of suffering by the experiment. And then

he said,—
'I don't intend to kill you just nowperhaps not for an hour-but I guess that's about the longest you have to live. First, I mean to have a talk with you. Do you know where I came from ?

I did not, indeed, and I told him so wishing within myself, with all my heart, that he would take it into his crazy brain to find his way back there and leave me, to sleep in peace. 'You don't know, eh? Well, I don't

mind telling you. Don't you see that spire away there to the left? N , I didn't see the church spire, nor anything else in the world at that moment but the burning eyes of the maniac. So

I told him I didn't see the object he spoke Don't see it eh? How blind? Why see there ?' And to aid me in discerning this imaginary object, he rose and went toward the window and looped back the blind still father back. There-see it

now ? 'No,' I said, 'I don't see it yet;' and I hoped he would try to pull the curtain still further back, or pull it down, or something-anything to divert his attention from me a moment longer, that I

I was already sitting up, and to glide down upon the floor was the work of an my horse and myself being tired and instant; but at that moment the madman, annoyed that I couldn't see the church spire, dropped the blind, turned around instantly comprehending my intention to escape, bounded toward me with a spring like a wild-cat, and catching hold of me with his bony hand, waved the gleaming knife over me in such close proximity to my face as to be anything in the world

but pleasant.
Oh, you will, will you? Just lie down there-still now-still, or I'll kill you before even the half-hour is up. down!

And with herculean strength he lifted me up with his one hand-and I was no feather in weight, I can tell you-and bounced me down with a force that shook the whole bed.

I did lie down, and seeing that I was inclined to obedience, he directed my attention to the window again, by inquir-

Do you see the church spire now ?' I didn't see it any clearer than before, it being slightly impossible, as no church spire existed within ten miles. But I saw that the maniac was getting irritated at my want of capability to see what did not exist; so I thought it might be as well to keep upon good terms with him, and to his question this time I admitted I did see the spire.

'Ah, good, good. Well, under that spire is a church, and around the church s a grave-yard. There I live, and there I came from. It's very lonesome sleeping there in the damp, cold ground; and the grave worms-ugh! to feel them creeping along, over one's skin-so slimy, and slip pery, and cold, banqueting upon the warm flesh of the dead! They say the dead are cold; it's a lie, sir, a lie! Feel my flesh; is it cold?

He bared his skinny arm and forced me to lay my hands upon it.

'There, is that cold ?' I told him no.

'Is it warm ?' I replied that it was, and he continued-'They make it cold—the grave worms lo. They make it cold and slimy as they crawl over it. Did you ever feel the grave-worms on your flesh ?' I shuddered with disgust as I told him

'You didn't eh? Lucky dog, lucky dog! But your're not dead yet; wait a while, and you'll feel them, just as I do, pretty soon.'

And he whirled the carving-knife round and round his head, and then brought it down with a sudden swoop till he grazed my throat.

With a groan of agony, not for the slight scratch, but the horror of mind grazed it, and I shuddered to think how under which I was, I recoiled from the nearly my thread of life had been out in nine or ten inches in height, and weighs glittering blade, shuddering as if I would have sunk down through the bed-down, through the floor. How I wished in my soul that I could have done so-down anywhere out of that horrible presence With a loud laugh the maniac observed

my terror. and then he said, 'Frightened, eh? frightened! I won't kill you for half an hour yet. I'm going to experiment upon you. I think I'll bleed you to death, just to try how long it will take you to die, eh? what do you think of it?

What did I think of it? My God! I thought nothing, only that I would soon ance. I knew that I dared not attempt ticular inquiry whether any mad person, I might have attemped to escape by rush- been the signal for my death-blow; and house.

tween his teeth, and so getting the advan- one in the house, but merely infuriate the tage; but even that I was not capable of, madman to such an extent that he might imso overcome was I by the surprise and mediately butcher me. What under heaven

horror of my situation, and through all, to do I knew not, and if the maniac, in his desire to 'experiment,' should open a vein, I must inevitably bleed to death .--Meantime he was waiting for an answer to his question, which he repeated, rather

angrily,What did, I think of his proposal to bleed me to death?

I was about answering something deswas my idea, which as yet, only heaven knew whether it would be successful or not; I would tell him stories, and beguile his fancy till morning, and then surely, I would have some means of escape. answered his question by another.

Suppose I tell you a story about bleeding to death-or rather about a man who

'Died from the fright, eh? Let us hear it.'

Very gladly I began, making it long, and adding as much as I possibly could to the original, which was something I recollected long ago to have heard about some one who wished to 'experiment,' and had a man blindfolded, his arm bandaged, and gently pricked, but not sufficiently to circuses. He immediately took his pole, bring the blood, and then heard the regu- trotted with a man on his rope-indulged lar, drop, drop of blood—or what he supposed to be his own blood, though in reality only water, till he died from the cating his arms and spine, and congesting mere supposition that he was being bled to death. I forget the story now, but it rope suspended from the middle of his is familiar to every one. When I concluded, I suggested to the maniac that he should try this model experimenting, and thread to a circle of the slack rope, and see how long I would take to be frightened tried to make the boiling flood ashamed of

'Yes, yes,' he answered, with a sly, destruction. cunning laugh; 'very good, very good,' and seeing through the device, with the cunning of madness, he laughed again as he said-'Very good, sir, very good. ground in any other place, which in our And you would take till morning to die, opinion, on the principle of centrifugal and meanwhile I want a companion in the projection, distributed his brains equally church yard yonder; down among the at both ends of him-though you could grave-worms. Come, bare your arm, and not tell one end from the other while he let me do as I said. I'll bleed you. I was revolving. He sprang hurriedly up intended to have taken your head off first, the "twine," arrived safely at the rope, but I've changed my mind. because I and went at quarter horse speed to the

ion. Bare your arm.' God! what was I to do! I felt my brain tude. seethe and whirl, as though I, too, were calm, I said :

might leap from the bed and bolt out of flow too,' I said, with an effort to refrain &c., mounted Blon from shuddering.
'True, true,' he said. 'Well, let's

hear your story—quick, begin.'

I waited for no urging. I was too glad to find him in the humor to listen; so I began and related every story I could quickly, muttering,- blind, blind; and think of-as soon as one was done beginning with another-and in this manner nearly two hours passed. As I was about to begin another story, he stopped me

peremptorily—
'No more; no more! I won't listen! head off as I first intended, disagreeable his programme. as it is to have a headless companion?

tually trembled at the unearthy sound.— and strength.

No wonder! I tremble this moment my- At night (we had no report of Blondin's No wonder! I tremble this moment my-self, when I think what an awful cry it performance,) M. Farini, dressed in his

shudderingly look back to the hour. man was strange and almost incredible .--The knife remained uplifted, and the hand know it. in which it was held seemed suddenly petrified and unable to move. He cowered beneath the gaze of the farmer, as a

the farmer and his son. Then, when I was left alone, the reaction after all my terror, horror and excitestill, awaiting what was to follow. I felt that there was no farther cause for alarm, and in a dreamy sort of way, I tried to account for the adventure. I looked me back to the realities of all that had transpired, there was still the light burning upon the table, and I knew I had put out the light before retiring; and another proof that I was awake, and had been for upon my throat, where the knife had pany on this perilous journey was Mr.

Presently the farmer and his son returned, and I was informed that my terriunfortunate brother-in-law of the farmer, who had been crazed for some years past; that phase in which the moon then was, at other times harmless. Unfortunately night, and instead of being locked had been left open. I listened to all these explanations, and received my host's apologies and expressions of regret for my disturbance and peril, by making a menlocked in a strange house, and if ever

From the Buffalo Republic, August 30.

ROPE-WALKING MADNESS. Of course the city, and all the neighboring villages and towns, as well as the hamlet of Rochester, were all agog yesterday, in consequence of the announcement that Blondin and Farini were to cross the gorge of Niagara on their respective cables, each with a respective man on his back. The trains towards the Falls and

Suspension Bridge, as a consequence, were crammed-twenty-eight car loads going perate, and giving myself up for lost, from here, besides those, amounting to when a bright idea flashed across my many hundreds, who preferred Capt. Kingmany hundreds, who preferred Capt. Kingtroubled brain. Oh, how devotedly I man and the Clifton, to the smoke and thanked heaven that I had read the dust of the cars, while Rochester sent forth 'Arabian Nights' in my boyhood! There crowds, as well as every town along the line of railroad and the canal, (we are informed privately that a great many from Lockport, Medina, and Albion, swarmed down to take part in the recklessness of these two dare-devil men,) to see the performance that had brought so many people

together. Suspension Bridge was crowded with pedestrians and carriages—not less than eighteen hundred people occupied it, while the enclosures on each side were inconveniently full, all waiting, anxious, dis-

contented, yet curious. At four o'clock precisely, Blondin, the immortal, appeared in his suit of clothes, resembling that worn by the individuals who put themselves out of joint for a compensation in peripatetic exhibitions called in such luxuries as standing on his head, such delicacies as disjointing legs, dislohis brains a little, cantered on to a slack cable over the frightful torrent beneath and then in the most culpable style slid down a its efforts to involve him in a rope-walking

went through all the performances which wouldn't like to have a headless compan- | Canada side, where he was received with "four times four" by the assembled multi-

Blondin remained at the Canada side of going mad. With a desperate effort to be the river about twenty minutes, when it was seen that he was preparing to return, Suppose I tell you another story first?' | and, almost immediately with his appear-'Oh, no, you can tell while you bleed.' ance, Harry Colcord, with his usual every But I shall want to watch the blood day dress, felt hat, patent leather boots, menced his frightful walk across the river, where the slightest step was death-the merest trepidation perdition.

But confident, self-reliant, and determined, Blondin bore his burden, which, together with his pole, in gravitation, equaled over a barrel of flour, across that thread of recklessness, calmly and certainly, and resting for awhile (Colcord alighted just over the centre of the frightful river beneath, and relieved for a moment Blondin of his immense burthen,) he proceeded I've listened toollong already, and I've no on, fearless in his skill-obstinate for time to bleed you, either ! I may take your success-fixed in his purpose to carry out

He did carry it out. Cheer upon cheer Around and around his head again went | saluted him and Colcord, who had risen the glittering knife, coming down in a di- from a sick bed, pale and dispirited, to rect line with my throat; and then as the carry out his part of the programme, as edge, sharp as a razor, touched my skin, I they reached the American side of the forgot the prudent considerations that had river, and many a fair lady and gallant hitherto kept me silent, and gave vent to gentleman sprang forward to grasp the my horror and terror in a cry so loud and hands of the heroes of the rope, and long, so shrill and ear-piercing, that the testify their admiration of their almost maniac started back in affright, and ac- supernatural fearlessness, skill, courage

was; and I almost fancy I can still hear usual costume, in the presence of a thousthe sound of it, when I close my eyes, and and people, appeared on the American side. He went across surrounded with a The effect upon the madman was not of blaze of fireworks. His crossing was acong duration. A third time he waved complished briefly and consummately. the knife around his head, and was just After the fireworks had exhausted, he dis preparing for a spring forward, when the appeared in the darkness, and through the farmer and his eldest son burst into the misty and dark improbabilities of that room. The effect that these new actors thread of suspension, he emerged, staid, upon the scene produced upon the mad- quiet, nervous and triumphant. It was a wonderful thing, and he and all the people

FARINI'S EXHIBITION.

Owing to a one-ness of person and singleness of individuality, it was impossichild might do under the eye of a master, ble for us to be at the Suspension Bridge and without the slightest resistance, al- and at Niagara Falls at the same time. lowed the knife to be taken from his hand and himself quietly led from the room by report of Farini's feats on the cable. We, therefore, let the Niagara Falls Gazette tell the story for him. The Gazette says We heard it frequently remarked that ment, overpowered me, and I sank back M. Blondin would not undertake to perupon the bed almost insensible. I thank- form such a feat on a rope as slack as ed God for my escape and hardly conscious Farini's, and it is no discredit to him if of my own feelings or actions, I lay quite such is the case, fer it is a frightful operation with everything prepared in the most favorable manner. The Signor's cable is not strictly a tight rope, but it is very slack, and not only settles as he steps on around upon the room, and all seemed so | it, but has a lateral motion, which renders like a dream that I could almost have it extremely difficult, and of course hazardpersuaded myself that I was the victim of ous to walk on it. Now most people wonder an unpleasant illusion; but then, to bring why he persists in walking on such a slack rope. The fact is he prefers to do so, because it shows greater skill and daring.

After spending some time in fixing the couple of hours past, was the scratch man. The man selected to bear him comrather over 150 pounds. This added to the weight of his balancing pole made a turned, and I was informed that my terri-ble and most unwelcome visitant was an barrel of flour. Adjusting his burden, he started out over the frightful chasm. Cautiously, yet fearlessly, he traveled, that during certain seasons, especially at while the crowd who witnessed him were under the most intense excitement. After he was quite mad and dangerous, though proceeding a short distance, he experienced great difficulty from his balancing for me, his door had been neglected that pole catching under the guys. This, with the lateral swinging motion of the cable, made the performance one of the most fearful we have ever witnessed.

Whatever sensation might have pervaded the people, the bold performers showed no signs of fear. After proceeding a short distance McMullen got down on the rope, and both sat down and rested. They soon resumed their journey, however, and he came over towards the bed. Even then to escape. My first movement would have brother-in-law or other, dwelt in the intervals. In walking he merely placed for variety, McMullen walked and rode at his hands on the Signor's shoulders and

isfied with his hard and well-earned laurels, and never undertake to repeat such a daring and truly frightful performance.'

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