

Poetry.

The Bore in the Sanctum.
Again I hear that cracking step!
That rattling of the door!
That thumping of the floor!
That rattle of the chair!
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Getting in at Night.

"The door was locked when I got home," said Tom, "and how to get in I know not. I know I gave my particular fits if he knew I was out after, and the clock had just struck one. The backyard was an impenetrable thicket, but the pie has never been recovered. On oath I could have given very material testimony as to the disposition of the stolen property, but the case died before a court and I remained quiet."

Catching a Widow.

Obadiah Barton was going to be an old bachelor, so all his friends and acquaintances said, and they all felt an interest in his welfare—at least all who had female-relatives of a marriageable age.

The Modern Idea of Hospitality.

The poetry of the world is fast dying out. Love makes a good bargain. The burglar steals a good deal in the morning on comfortable Sundays, and hospitality—well, we are forgetting what that does mean. It is a tradition, the rounding period of our grandmothers' epiphany.

The Mute Detective.

"No dogs admitted, sir," said the porter to a gay assemblage, as a young man and his dog appeared at the entrance; "you must leave him behind if you go in."

Miscellaneous.

The Freedmen.
General Steedman's Mission in the North is the subject of a long and interesting article in the New York Herald.

A Good Burlesque.

The Committee on Reconstruction still persists in supporting the most important testimony elicited before it. Dan Rice has recently been on a circuit through the lately rebellious States, and has returned with a mass of affidavits afforded to free for observing the condition of the Southern people as to loyalty.

The World is Full of Beauty.

There is beauty in the forest,
Where the trees are green and fair;
There is beauty in the meadow,
Where the flowers smile in air;
There is beauty in the sky,
And the soft blue above;
There is beauty in the heart,
When the heart is full of love.

Girls were so glad.

Girls were so glad, he said, and loved to dress extravagantly, and to go to balls and concerts and theatres. That would never do.

A Widow was the one.

A widow was the one. He concluded that they had experienced in housekeeping, and would not be so careless or extravagant; so he began to look around sharp for some young widow.

Japanese Uses of the Fan.

Neither men nor women use the fan except as a protection against the heat; the fan is deemed a sufficient guard from the sun, and perhaps nothing will more strike the newly-arrived European than this, which will be seen in the hand of the girl of every household.

Notes of Overwork.

Unwise as many is the man who considers it necessary to rest, and does not find her sewing. We once heard a man advise that a book of some kind be carried in the pocket, to be read when the eyes were tired.

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Literary.

Gaspar Morgan's Remission.
Cold, hungry and ragged, Gaspar Morgan as he stood looking at a famous book-shop in Boston. His little cold nose was flattened against the great window-pane, his blue fingers were thrust into pockets that had seen better days, and his bare toes just touched the frosty pavement, as he stretched up, gazing anxiously at the tempting array of "goodies." Within, John, the baker's boy, was busily dealing out loaves and nice, fresh looking cakes to the crowd of customers.

John Thornton.

"Oh, ain't them cakes jolly?" cried Gaspar, in his delight, forgetting himself and speaking loudly. "Wouldn't I like to be a baker's boy! Oh my! see the feller cram down the gingerbread! If 'twas my own, Crackle!" and Gaspar executed a gymnastic in anticipation, and then put his face to the window again. He was so busy talking to himself, that he did not notice a little old man, almost hidden in a huge fur overcoat, who was standing in the shadow near by.

John Thornton.

"Oh, dear!" sighed Gaspar, as he saw a servant loading a basket. "Wouldn't it be nice to carry home some of these goodies? I'd like to see the would cry, and Sue would eat like a house afire!" and Gaspar took his nose away from the window to watch the servant and basket descend the steps. But just then a portly man with a market basket on his arm came puffing clumsily up the steps, and, running up to the servant, unceremoniously snatched the basket and nearly capsize his bearer.

John Thornton.

"I'll teach you better manners, you great lumbering lubber!" cried the servant furiously picking up his scattered purchases.

John Thornton.

"Ho, ho!" said the great man matter-of-factly, "nearly all the good to me, they're well, don't lose your temper!"

John Thornton.

"Lose my temper?" exclaimed the other, fiercely. "You'll pay for that!" and he rushed after him into the shop.

John Thornton.

Gaspar was a highly amused witness of the scene, and he gazed at all himself by the large window, when the caught sight of something white on the pavement, and with a cry of joy, picked it up.

John Thornton.

"Crackle! if it ain't a whopping big loaf of bread! I warn as an oven, too! Won't mother and Sue have a feast!" and the little fellow trotted for joy. All the contentment he felt, and he looked so jolly, that he had been told that he was a good boy.

John Thornton.

"I wonder if Thornton left her his property?" he soliloquized. "Must be he has no children; anyhow there's a chance for it."

John Thornton.

The next evening he called at Mrs. Leroy's next door to his, and was introduced to Mrs. Thornton, who was dressed in a plain, but neat calico dress, and very industriously sewing on a vest for Mrs. Leroy.

John Thornton.

"Industrial and economical," thought Mr. Barton.

John Thornton.

He cleared his throat for a while, when one of Mrs. Leroy's daughters spoke of a new play at the theatre the previous evening.

John Thornton.

"You ought to have gone, Mrs. Thornton," said he.

John Thornton.

"Oh I do not approve of the theatre; besides I can never find time to go," said she.

John Thornton.

"You sensible woman!" thought Obadiah who shortly after.

John Thornton.

His calls became frequent. At length he proposed to the widow and was accepted. They were quietly married, and the next day his spouse proposed a short trip to Niagara.

John Thornton.

Obadiah demurred somewhat, saying he could not very well leave his last, and jumping from his bed to point, and inwardly groaning he appeared readily to consent.

John Thornton.

He began a series of uncomfortable reflections when he beheld his wife's travelling costume—silk dresses, velvet cloaks and hats and rich jewelry began to appear on her trunk.

John Thornton.

Her trip of a week somehow lengthened into three.

John Thornton.

One day, shortly after his return, when he came home supper, he found three little girls, from the age of eight to twelve, seated with his wife.

John Thornton.

"Who are these children?" he inquired.

John Thornton.

"They are my daughters by my first husband, Mr. Lane—Adeline, Josephine, Angelina, arise and salute your new papa."

John Thornton.

"But—where—where do they live?"

John Thornton.

"Why, here, my dear! Where should they live but with their new father?"

John Thornton.

Obadiah was dumfounded. Here was something more than he bargained for.

John Thornton.

A further investigation proved that Mr. Thornton had left all his property to a younger brother. In vain did Obadiah expostulate; the children had gained a foothold and they kept it.

John Thornton.

"Confound the luck! they are all girls!" was Obadiah's last soliloquy.

John Thornton.

"If they were boys, I could have employed them to some purpose, but as they are girls! Why didn't I follow the advice of old Weller? Herry the widows! Why didn't I marry an old maid?"

John Thornton.

"I hope I shall never do so again," said Gaspar, confusedly.

John Thornton.

"I'll take you to my home, and I'll help you, or my name isn't Nicholas Grahm!"

John Thornton.

Gaspar told his new friend his sad story, how his father had died and left

John Thornton.

him a large property, and how he had squandered it all, and how he was now a beggar.

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