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Miscellaneous.

Being in Love.

[From the London Review.]

There are a great many mistakes about Love. Some people think it one thing, and some another:

"'A temple to Friendship, said Laura enchanted,
'I'll build in this garden; the thought is divine.'
Her temple was built, and she only now wanted
An image of Friendship to place on the shrine.
She flew to a sculptor, who set down before her
A Friendship the fairest this art could invent;
But so cold, and so dull, that the youthful adorer
Saw plainly this was not the idol she meant."

This is *one* mistake. But did Moore's Laura want something *in addition* to Friendship, or did she want something totally different? "L'amitie est l'amour sans ailes." Is that true; so that, if we add wings to Friendship, we get love for the product?

In the days when Godwin, declining, as became a republican, the prefix of Mister, was a sage much sought, a lady visitor, of the snuffy, love-in-the-abstract type, asked him for an oracle upon the great subject of subjects. "William Godwin," said she, suddenly, "what is your opinion of love?" Godwin was too absorbed in meditation to answer the question, and continued solemnly puffing his pipe. "William Godwin," said the determined woman once more, "what is your opinion of love?" And still Godwin smoked, and kept silence. Not liking to see a woman snubbed, even in appearance, Shelly, then a young fellow, also in attendance on the oracle, hazarded a jest. "I think," said he, "love acts upon the heart like a nutmeg-grater; it wears it away." Again the undaunted woman put her question. Snuffling at poor Shelly, who was then nobody, she, with raised voice, said: "William Godwin, what is your opinion of love?" Roused at last, the oracle responded: "My opinion agrees with that of Mr. Shelly," said he, and relapsed into his thoughts and his pipe.

This was a case in which the oracle snubbed the votarist, because the votarist was unworthy. Godwin would no more tell a sniffy woman what he thought about love than the Lady in "Comus" would expound to Circe "the sublime notion and high mystery that must be uttered to unfold the sage and serious doctrine of virginity." It is pretty certain that Godwin himself knew nothing about it; or he would never have (for example) published, after her death, his wife's old letters to the heartless father of "our little barrier-girl." But, perhaps, the majority of living men and women think that love is like a nutmeg-grater; that most of us must, in the natural course of things, get our hearts grated; but that, when we find the process agreeable, nature has got us in hand, and the sooner we are out of it the better. At the same time, there is always what Mr. Bain, with such innocent surprise, calls a "heated atmosphere" around the subject, and there is a luminous haze of superstition about love overhanging all the literature of imagination. It is true you now and then come across an essay in which the subject of falling in love is discussed as if it could be treated in the calm scientific province of life as buying a hat, and you are told to be sure and do it wisely, because—because of reasons which might find a place in "Poor Richard's Almanac." "Last night," said a halfman poet and painter, "I came unexpectedly upon a fairy's funeral"—and he proceeded to describe the ceremony as only a poet and a painter could. What wonderfully good advice might be given in an essay on Seeing Fairies' Funerals! He would be a clever seer a fairy's funeral, unless, &c., &c.

There is no thoroughly sincere person, with a grain of spiritual sensibility, who does not, in his heart, rebel when Poor Richard takes upon himself to preach about love matters. What the troubadours called *amour-pour-amour*, love for love's own sake, is what every human creature with a soul above buttons goes in for. And we feel as subtle pang of disapprobation when anything "in the round heaven or in the living air" is put before love, or turned into a cause or a justification of it.—There is a legend of a distinguished preacher's courtship, which relates how he went down into the kitchen, and, addressing his maid servant, said, "Betty, do you love the Lord Jesus Christ?" "Yes, sir," said Betty. "And, Betty," resumed the good man, "do you love *me?*" Similar in spirit is that letter of Governor Winthrop's wife to her husband in which she tells him she loves him for two reasons—"First, because thou lovest God; and secondly, because thou lovest me." The dullest feels that here is a play upon words; and there is. Far better was Rowland Hill's courtship. "*In the first place*," he wrote to the lady, 'I think I can say before God that I *love your person*. Without this, such a union could never be happy." The quotation is from memory, but it is substantially correct, and we feel in a moment that Rowland Hill was straightforward and true, while the Puritan lady, pressed upon by the etiquette of the current talk of her set, and not able to disentangle herself from a fallacy, was untrue to nature and to herself. This was nothing remarkable; most people are untrue to nature and to themselves.

The most plausible and the most common of the fallacies about love is that which supposes it is the friendship that Laura sought, with something added to it, instead of being, as it is, a thing *sui generis*. Coleridge exposed this fallacy in a curious piece called "The Improvisatory," which is included among his poems:

"*Coleridge.*—Love, as distinguished from friendship on the one hand, and from the passion that too often usurps its name, on the other—

"*Lucius* (*Eliza's brother, who had just joined the trio, in a whisper to Coleridge.*)—But is not love the union of both?

"*Coleridge* (*aside to Lucius.*—He never loved who thinks so."

And then follows Coleridge's own account of love, of which it can only be said, that, if he had written it when he was younger, it would probably have been as perfect in form and expression as it is inclusive in what we might call the categories of love:

"*Coleridge.*—But, above all, it supposes a soul which, even in the pride and summer-tide of life, even in the lustihood of health and strength, had felt oftenest and prized highest that which age cannot take away, and which, in all our lovings, is the love.

"*Eliza.*—There is something here (*pointing to her heart*) that seems to understand you, but it wants the word that would make it understand itself.

"*Katharine.*—I, too, seem to feel what you mean. Interpret the feeling for us.

"*Coleridge.*—I mean that willing sense of the unselfingness of the self for itself which predisposes a generous nature to see, in the total being of another, the supplement and completion of its own—that quiet, perpetual seeking which the presence of the beloved object modulates, not suspends, where the heart momently finds, and, finding, again seeks on; lastly, when 'life's changeful orb has passed the full,' a confirmed faith in, that nobleness of humanity, thus brought home and pressed, as it were, to the very bosom of hourly experience."

When you have read this, you feel that it is correct, and even affecting. But yet—

"What wants that knave
That a king should have?"

something is wanted, and in that something everything!

A Man's Body Sawed in Twain.

One of those fearful and sudden accidents that at times happen in all communities and startle those with their dreadfulness, took place a few days since at the saw-mill of E. T. Ross, on Ohio levee, Cairo, Ill., and which resulted in the sudden death of Wm. Butner, a German, by his body being literally sawed in twain. The facts are briefly as follows: As Mr. Butner and another man were handling a piece of timber it slipped from the other man's grasp, and struck Butner in the breast with such force as to knock him backward upon two circular saws, one above the other, and which were running at the rate of 400 revolutions a minute. His body was instantly cut in twain, in a slanting direction, reaching from the left shoulder, from which it severed the arm, down to the navel. The right foot was severed from the leg. The upper portion of his body fell into a pit in which the sawdust was generally caught. So sudden was the accident that persons in the vicinity of the saw could hardly realize the fact that the man who had stood before them but a few seconds before, with life and vivacity, was a corpse—his body separated and bleeding before them. Death was so sudden that he was not even heard to utter a groan.

The Surratt Case.

Innocence of Mrs. Surratt and Her Death by Judicial Murder.

John Surratt and the Conspiracy at His Trial.

Some Strange Revelations

Special Correspondent of the N. Y. World.

BALTIMORE, October 12.

It has just fallen in my way to converse with certain gentlemen in Baltimore upon the subject of the Murder of Mrs. Surratt, and upon matters appertaining thereto. The gentlemen to whom I allude are Mr. John T. Ford, formerly proprietor of Ford's Theatre, in Washington, where Abrahum Lincoln was assassinated; Mr. James Gifford, stage carpenter, formerly at Ford's and now at Mr. Ford's Holliday Street Theatre, in Baltimore; and a Mr. Wiel. These conversations have interested me so much that I cannot forbear, with the permission of the gentlemen, to attempt to sketch them for *The World*. You will please to observe that neither Mr. Ford nor the other, pretend to recite the whole history of the assassination conspiracy (of which they have gained their information, like the rest of the public, from the reports of the trial and the statements of other witnesses); but such facts as came under their own observation, and the opinions they have formed of this business, have considerable value, and are connected together in a colloquial way which has not the precision of a narrative.

Mr. Ford recurred to the morning of the day of the assassination:

"Booth was, as you know, one of the handsomest of men. He had Appollo's own grace about him. When he was in Washington, boarding at the Kirkwood House, the young ladies who were stopping there used to collect at the foot of the stairway on the dining room floor, just to see him come down stairs. He always looked as bright and pleasant as he was handsome, and had a cheery word and facinating smile for every one. He was a great favorite with all the young ladies at the hotel. I think he had been rather depressed since the fall of Richmond, but early on the afternoon—the afternoon of April 14th—he was noticed by the boys at the theatre sauntering up the sidewalk from Pennsylvania avenue, looking his very best, and marvellously at his ease. He was elegantly dressed, was smoking, and walked with that half-conscious, confident, attractive grace which became so irreproachable a presence. He was rather late that day; he had probably breakfasted late. He used to walk to the theatre every morning between ten and eleven, to look to see about his letters. As he came up, my brother Harry turned to one of the others who stood by, and said:

"'There comes the handsomest man in Washington!'

"Both liked my brother, and they were very familiar in their talk with one another. So Harry thought he would plague Booth a bit. It happened that, an hour or two before, a messenger had come from the White House to say that the President and General Grant, with Mrs. Lincoln and Mrs. Grant, would be at the theatre in the evening. Harry, therefore, announced to Booth:

"'John, the President is going to be here to-night, with General Grant. They've got General Lee here as a prisoner, and he's coming too. We're going to put him in the opposite box.'

"At the same moment Harry handed Booth a long letter. Booth broke the seal, remarking:

"'O, no, they haven't got Lee a prisoner; they certainly wouldn't bring him to Washington.'

"Then he sat down and read his letter; it was a long one, as I said, and he seemed absent-minded while reading it. At length he folded it up, put it in his pocket, and suddenly began to converse with interest whether the President and General Grant were really coming; &c.

"'Yes, Harry assured him, 'Mr. Lincoln, General Grant, and both families, are surely coming.' (Harry couldn't deceive Booth about General Lee.)

"Booth, then," continued Mr. Ford, "left the theatre in a kind of hurry, as if he had made up his mind about something to be done. He started down the street, and turned the corner of E Street toward the Kirkwood House, walking quite rapidly. It is my belief that then, for the first time, the thought of assassination entered his head. An abduction had, of course, been long considered. But, in what we may assume to be his then state of mind—his disappointment by the rebel reverses, and his conviction that the rebel cause had become desperate, if not ruined—this unexpected opportunity of Lincoln's and Grant's visit to the theatre was irresistible. I interpret his movements after he quitted the theatre to have been, in part, as follows: Having formed his resolution on the instant, while poring over the letter, he went to the Kirkwood House and wrote the letter to Matthews, which he intended to be published in the *Intelligencer* as an explanation and defence of what he was to do. He subsequently got a horse, and is shown that he hailed Matthews on the sidewalk while riding, and delivered the letter to him with instructions to keep it—I think until the next day at twelve o'clock—and then to return it to him (Booth) in case nothing unusual should have happened. Booth, it would appear, got this horse for the purpose of hunting up Payne, Harold and Atzerot that afternoon. The plan must have been arranged between the four in the afternoon; for Booth was the head and front of the whole conspiracy, and I have already expressed the conviction that Booth never resolved upon assassination until after he had arrived at the theatre that day and learned that the President and General Grant were to be present at the performance in the evening.

"Now it was attempted to be shown that Booth, who called at Mrs. Surratt's house that same day, called there and conversed with Mrs. Surratt *after* he had quitted the theatre; and that therefore he went, fully charged with his scheme, and talked with her about it, and must have known of it and been implicated in it. My conviction, and the conviction of the rest at the theatre, is right the other way. Booth came to the theatre at a much later hour than that at which it was his habit to come to get his letters. The testimony has led me to infer that he had strolled up to Mrs. Surratt's after breakfast, previous to the time when my brother Harry first saw him.

"But, whatever the truth in regard to this particular point might be, it would make no difference in my conviction of Mrs. Surratt's innocence of any knowledge whatever of the assassination plot, and that she was unjustly hung. We were prisoners together, and Mr. Gifford and I here were prisoners in the same building with witnesses who testified at the trial. Neither Mrs. Surratt nor her son John Surratt were concerned in or had the slightest intimation of Mr. Lincoln's taking off before the pistol shot was fired."

"How do you account, on the ground of John Surratt's innocence, for his staying away from his mother during her trial for murder, for which she was to be hung? That apparently cowardly and unfilial course of his did a great deal to prejudice the public mind against him."

"I will account for that presently. First, let me recite some incidents in the course of the conspiracy for abduction, which had existed so long before the sudden idea of murdering the President occurred to its Head. Booth met Arnold in Baltimore, in front of Barnum's Hotel, as far back as August, 1864. Arnold, O'Laughlin, and Booth had been schoolboys together. It was proven that some of the conspirators—Herold, Atzerott and Payne—had boasted that they were to take an important prisoner down South about the fourth of the following March. Booth did not become acquainted with John Surratt until January, when Surratt, too, it seems, was enlisted in the plot, to capture and deliver Mr. Lincoln alive to the Southern authorities.

"In the latter part of March, a man named Howell, a blockade-runner, stopped in Washington on his way from Canada to Richmond. Surratt went for Howell to Richmond, returned to Washington on the 2nd of April. He left on the succeeding day for Canada with despatches. That was the last time, until he was brought back here a prisoner from Egypt, that Surratt saw Washington. He went to Canada and remained several days, keeping up a correspondence with his mother in which he described his visits to Catholic churches, &c. He was in communication with Confederate agents in Canada, and was sent by the Confederate General R. E. Lee to look after some Confederate prisoners at Elmira, New York. While in Elmira, or in Canandaigua, on his way back to Canada from this errand, he heard of the assassination at Washington. In Canada, assured of his own innocence in the matter of murder, he was not frightened save at St. Albans, where a man called 'Surratt' in his presence—a man with a Canadian blouse. He started for Montreal. There, on the 16th or 17th of the month, he registered himself at one of the hotels as 'John Harrison.' In Montreal he was first made aware of the price laid on his head. That startled him, and he left for the country, where he was protected by the priest who testified on the stand. In the meantime he heard of the arrest of his mother, and the terrible charge against her. He was as thoroughly certain of her innocence as he was of his own, and had not a doubt that she would be acquitted. Still, his first impulse was to go to her. But she, who, as you will remember, was kept in Carroll Prison ten days or so before being removed to the arsenal, succeeded in corresponding with some of her friends. She wrote to her son John 'not to be alarmed about her, not to have any apprehensions concerning her own safety, and not to allow himself to be captured.' She was so well aware of the excitement in the country, and of the prejudice against every body associated with Booth, that she desired to keep her son out of the way. She had no need of him which she did not hold subordinate to his safety. She was sure that she would get clear at last from an unjust charge therefore she did not anticipate that she would lack the sad consolation of bidding him a last farewell. Mother-like, her only anxiety was for him; and he, convinced that he could do her no good, but that his own capture and the testimony that might be adduced to show his connection with the abduction plot might be the death of him and tend to injure his mother's chances, stayed away.

"My conviction of Mrs. Surratt's innocence," Mr. Ford went on to say, "is the result, not so much of comparison of testimony of the witnesses at the trial, as of personal observation of and conversation with some of those witnesses, and of what I have known and heard since the trial of Mrs. Surrrtt herself. It is the result also of my belief that Booth had not made up his mind to the assassination until after he saw Mrs. Surratt, and after he had heard the announcement that Lincoln and Grant were to be at the theatre at night, from my brother Harry early that afternoon. It is the result, in fine, of reflection upon all the circumstances I have related to you, of others which I may note as we proceed, and of my study of the character of Mrs. Surratt and that of the witnesses against her."

[Let me here interrupt the course of Mr. Ford's remarks to admit my inability to recollect his thoughtful and well-chosen language, and to convey to you the peculiar impression wrought upon me both by his words and his manner. I apprehend that he had studied this subject with the interest of a fine-hearted gentleman while he was a prisoner, and with a good deal of the interest of a philosopher since he was released, and since the excitement which attended the assassination died away. I remember the impression which he gave me that he had a court which tried the members and alleged members of the assassination conspiracy!

"Payne, while in prison, protested most earnestly that his going to Mrs. Surratt's house had not involved her in the crime. He went there, he said, because he knew only two or three houses in Washington, and because he knew John Surratt as well. When Payne declared that he and John Surratt were talking, in Surratt's house, about the proposed abduction, Surratt discovered his mother at the door and admonished Payne to 'Hush!' As Payne related this little occurrence to his fellow prisoners, it would have been evidence to anybody that Mrs. Surratt had been kept in ignorance by her son, Booth, Payne, and the rest, of what was contemplated. 'If I had two lives,' said Payne, at another time, to General Hartranft, who was in charge of the prison, 'I would give them both to save that woman.' Mr. Ford proceeded to describe Mrs. Surratt and her household:

"It is not very difficult to conceive one aspect of a situation like that at Mrs. Surratt's. Here was a widow, with a grown son—a young man of the world, who might have had to do with his intimate friends in some affairs, less criminal or less serious than this, in which he would never have thought of making his mother a confidant, and in which he could not have dreamed of making her a party. Most young men of our day would hesitate to tell their mothers of all their wild scrapes, and would certainly take good care not to inform them of any treasonable or desperate measures which they should contemplate. Booth intimated nothing to *his* mother; neither was it supposed that any of his associates, except Surratt, disclosed their plans to theirs. It happened that the conspirators used to meet at Surratt's house, in Washington, where his mother dwelt. But to decide, upon the flimsy circumstantial evidence at the trial, that Mrs. Surratt was cognizant of what was going on because she was in the house, is a decision becoming the blind passion of the days of the reign of Terror, when all the members of a family were held amenable alike for the insult or misdeed of a single party. Even this is not an adequate parallel, for in the days of the vendetta the females of the house were excepted from the feud. Mrs. Surratt and her daughter were both devoted adherents of the Catholic Church. Though they may have been strong adherents of the rebel cause, their character and dispositions preclude the idea that either of them could have been parties to a murderous conspiracy. The abduction scheme, to which her son is avowed to have been party, would doubtless have been exploded by Mrs. Surratt's deliberate common sense, if she had been made acquainted with it. The proposal to assassinate the President would have recoiled from her stern indignation, or been melted in her tears. The idea of a woman like her acceding to or considering a proposal like that for an instant, without fear, trembling, horror and dissuasion, is preposterous. John Surratt and his friends knew that it was not well to trust her with a hint of what they may have argued themselves into believing was the fair stroke in war of kidnapping Lincoln and taking him down South. Booth would have been mad, indeed, if he had, in Surratt's absence, gone to Surratt's mother on the very eve of carrying out his more desperate scheme, and told her that he was about to shoot President Lincoln.

"Mrs. Surratt—of whom I had no more knowledge than you had previous to her imprisonment—bore no resemblance to the ideal mother of Brutus. Her manner was that of a matron bowed down by unexpected and undeserved disgrace, and who depended upon her religion for some support under the load. Perhaps you have not heard that she was ironed during the trial. She was ironed about both her ankles—ironed with a bail and chain. She stepped into the room where the Court sat with great difficulty, and one of her attendants behind was observed to stoop, and support her iron burden with his hand.

"Her case deeply interested me, as it did others. Her sentence surprised and stunned her. She had faith, as she had written her son John in Canada, that it was impossible for a Court to find her guilty of what she was guiltless of. To hear herself condemned to be hung from a gallows must have been to her like listening to some horrible strange portent conveyed in an unknown tongue. The sound of it clanged against her brain; the vague terror of it bruised her heart. But it took some time for her to comprehend that it had the distinct, certain, fatal meaning which it had. And only a day and a night were left her to digest its meaning and prepare for her death. All appeals for mercy to her were of no avail. I wrote a letter to the President urging him to remit her sentence, and left it at Mr. Blair's house the morning of the day of the execution. Anna Surratt attempted o see Mrs. Patterson—to see the President, in vain. It was an awful thing to this girl that her mother was to be the victim of such a fate; and it was the more terrible to her and her mother that the latter was to have so short a shrift. It seemed to both these devout Catholics that no soul could so suddenly be shrived clear and fit for the sight of its Maker.

"Of Mrs. Surratt's judges—well, you have read the trial proceedings. But here is one circumstance of which you may not have heard. Mrs. Surratt, whose cell was within hearing of the sound of conversation in the room where the judges met at the arsenal, stated that one day she heard the murmur of a dispute, for and against her, between some persons in that room. And she got the impression that Judge Bingham's was the voice that pleaded in her favor. Judge Bingham, you know, has been accused of having the blood of this woman on *his* hands. You will obtain some idea of the manner of his dealing with witnesses during the trial from Mr. Gifford. I content myself with relating three incidents, the first two illustrating the temper of the time when the arrests of conspirators and others were being made, and the last illustrating how witnesses were sometimes bullied and scared into making inexact statements:

"When Atzerott, Harold, O'Laughlin, Payne, and Arnold were taken on the gunboat and ironed, the officer or officers in charge found that they had, besides these, a sixth man on their hands, though there were only five indictments. They questioned this sixth man (who was in irons like the other prisoners), but he could give them no satisfaction. He had been rather busily employed in getting drunk, and disgracefully treated, and he did not know what it was for. That was all. His name, I believe, was Richter. He was an 'elephant,' which the officials had not the shadow of an authority to carry. Nevertheless, he had to remain all night in irons on the gunboat and ten days in prison before he was released. Because they had him, they suspected, probably, that some reason would 'turn up' for their having him. The wolves' teeth were sharp then; every army officer, and detective, and jailor was hungry for a prisoner.

"So a man named John D. Reamer was arrested in Hagerstown, Md., just after the assassination, for no better reason than that somebody had heard him exclaim at his store: 'I'll be glad when next week comes!' referred by Gail, of Alabama, to any man who will kill Lincoln.' Reamer was in delicate health. Before he left Washington his captors suffered him to go twenty-four hours without food. He had to beg for a bite. One time he saw an ear of corn, as to a horse, with, 'Damn you! that's good enough.' He was brought to Washington and thrown into prison. While he wasted there his son fell ill at his home in Hagerstown—his only son, by-the-by, who had gone and been drafted by mistake. Reamer besought with all his eloquence to be permitted to go and sit beside the boy's death-bed. This was refused him. He was a Democrat, and was not allowed the slightest opportunity of justification, nor the slightest mercy. The news of his son's death arrived and broke his heart. Two months of prison life, and that blow crushed him. He was released, reached his home, lingered three weary weeks. He and his boy sleep together.

"This testimony against Spangler, at the theatre," resumed Mr. Ford, "that he was privy to Booth's design, never deceived me for a moment. Spangler admired Mr. Lincoln, and was the last person in the theatre to become his enemy. He used to stand near the wall that was behind the door the President visited the theatre and entered his box. Remark, in this one instance, the manipulation of testimony against him:—Rittenspaugh—a witness—was brought before Colonel Lafayette C. Baker, at Baker's room, in the Metropolitan Hotel, and what happened on the stage, Rittenspaugh told that when Booth jumped from the box and ran across the stage, after firing the pistol, he (Rittenspaugh) said that that was Booth; and that Spangler turned and said: 'Hush your mouth! you don't know whether it's Booth or not.' Here Baker broke in on Rittenspaugh, saying: 'By God, if you don't testify to what you said to me before, I'll put you among the rest,' (meaning the prisoners.) 'You said to me that Spangler, when you said 'Booth,' said: 'Don't say which way he went.'

"This bullying by Baker was perfectly calculated to shake Rittenspaugh's nerves and cause him to *think* he believed he heard what he did *not* believe he heard. You will perceive that between this and the 15th, when all the members of a family were held amenable alike for the insult or misdeed of a single party. Even this is not an adequate parallel, for in the days of the vendetta the females of the house were excepted from the feud. Mrs. Surratt and her daughter were both devoted adherents of the Catholic Church. Though they may have been strong adherents of the rebel cause, their character and dispositions precludethe