

The Towanda Reporter.

S. W. ALVORD, Publisher. TOWANDA, BRADFORD COUNTY, PA., JANUARY 5, 1871. NUMBER 32. \$2 per Annum in Advance.

VOLUME XXXI. READERSHIP OF DEPRECIATION FROM ANY QUARTER.

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Selected Poetry.

CHRISTMAS CAROL.
By J. O. HOLLAND.
There's a star in the sky,
There's a mother's deep prayer,
There's a baby's low cry,
And the stars rain fire while the beautiful sing:
For the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!

them of the masculine gender, so that I was beginning to look upon myself in the light of an old acquaintance, when our young lady got up to leave me. I was taking next the door as she alighted, and I could not help noticing how pale she seemed all at once to have become. Without heeding the rain that still kept falling, she began to feel for her purse in a trembling, nervous sort of way, first in one of her pockets and then in another.

I cautiously followed up my man when he went on his way from the jeweler's shop. At the top of the case he seemed to hesitate for half a minute, as he took the light, and he went up longed. I still followed cautiously, about a dozen yards in the rear.

"In the hope, my dear sir, that our friendship may be a long and flourishing one," said my unwelcome guest, "allow me, as a friendly preliminary, to present you with my card, that he handed me as he spoke, a very limp and rather dirty piece of paste-board, which he had some difficulty in finding among his multifarious pockets, and on which was inscribed the name of 'Mr. Reginald Tracy.' Of course I could not see to return the compliment.

Dinner was served a few minutes later, and while it was in progress the conversation of Mr. Tracy and myself was the most interesting character. I gathered enough, however, from that conversation to know that he was a man of some education, and must at one time have mixed in superior society. By the exercise of what knavish arts he had contrived to forfeit the position he once held, I could not, of course, tell; but the story of the manner of his fall from the style in which he got through his food, that a plentiful and wholesome meal was what he had not partaken of for some time. At length he laid back in his chair in a state of happy raptures. "Not another morsel, my dear boy," he said, with a benignant smile, "positively I could not. Let good digestion wait on appetite; you know the rest. A beautiful meal! But Providence tempers the wind to the shorn lamb. And now for the pipe and tumbler. Ha, ha! I have not forgotten."

As soon as we were fairly under way with our first tumbler, Mr. Tracy broke ground on the subject that was evidently uppermost in his thoughts. "If, sir," he said, "I would favor you with a hint as to the special class of investment in which you are desirous of laying out your capital, and would also furnish me with some positive data to work upon, I could give you the benefit of my experience in that particular line of procedure which your inclinations may lead you to prefer."

TEACH US TO WAIT!

Why are we impatient of delay?
Longing for the things we see?
For this we live to-morrow in to-day,
Yes, and to-morrow we may never see.

THE DIAMOND RING.

A STORY OF LONDON LIFE.
Few of the habitual dwellers in London have occasion to visit the city very frequently. I have, however, never set foot inside the mansion of the Old Lady of Threadneedle Street in my life. To me the Stock Exchange is a complete terra incognita. Of the thousand and one, different ways by which the members of the company or that countless army which stocks cityward every week-day morning from nine till eleven, I know absolutely nothing. Neither, to the best of my belief, has the "money articles" of my country ever been opened for me by any one.

SLICES ON WOMEN.

At a recent dinner in New York, at which no ladies were present, a man, in responding to the toast, "Woman," dwelt almost solely on the frailty of the sex, claiming that which was in a certain respect better than the worst, the chief difference being in their surroundings.

OUR EVERY LIFE IS A SERMON.

Our every life is a sermon. Our birth is the text from which we start, and our death is the end of our course. During our manhood we lay down a few propositions and prove them. Some of the passages are dull, and some are sprightly. Then come interferences and applications. At seventy years we say, "This is the last time that I shall see the sun." The benediction is pronounced. The book is closed. It is getting cold. Frost on the window pane. Sexton goes home with the key on his shoulder.

GREENWOOD COTTAGE.

This is a new and comfortable cottage, situated in the best part of the city, and is well adapted for a family or for a single person. It is well furnished and has a good view of the city.

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