THE THREE LITTLE CHAIRS.

They sat alone by the bright wood fire,
The gray-haired dame and the aged sire,
Dreaming of days gone by;
The tear-drops fell on each wrinkled cheek,
They both had sought but what they could not speak,
As each heart uttered a sigh.

For their sad and tearful eyes descried
Three little chairs placed side by side,
Against the sitting-room wall,
Old-fashioned enough as there they stood,
Their seats of flag and their backs of wood,
With their backs so straight and tall.

Then the sire shook his silvery head,
And with trembling voice he gently said—
"Mother, those empty chairs!
They bring us each sad, sad thoughts to-night,
We'll put them forever out of sight,
In the small, dark room, up stairs."

But she answered, "Father, no, not yet,
For I look at them and I forget
That the children went away,
The boys come back, and our Mary, too,
With her apron on of checkered blue,
And sit here every day.

Johnny still whittles a ship's tall mast,
And Jessie's dolls in fashion's fashions dress,
While Mary her patchwork sews;
At evening time three childish prayers
Go up to God from those little chairs,
So softly that no one knows."

Johnny comes back from the billow deep,
Willie wakes from his battle-field sleep,
To enjoy a night to me;
Mary's a wife and mother no more,
But a little child whose play-time is over,
And comes to rest on my knee.

So, let them stand there, though empty now,
And every time when alone we bow
At the Father's throne to pray,
We'll ask to meet the children above,
In our Saviour's home of rest and love,
Where no child goeth away.

Mrs. E. J. Ferry, in Evangelist.

LIPPINCOTT & CO. AND HARPER & BROTHERS.

Some time ago we copied from the London *Athenæum*, of January 16th, 1869, a letter from Messrs. J. B. Lippincott & Co., dated Philadelphia, January 1, concerning the course of Messrs. Harper & Brothers in printing Dilke's "Greater Britain," after it had been announced by them, under an agreement with Mr. Dilke, that Messrs. J. B. Lippincott & Co.) should be his American publishers. We invited a reply from Messrs. Harper & Brothers, and we have received from them an advance copy of one that is to appear in the next *Harper's Weekly*. Omitting the letter of Messrs. J. B. Lippincott & Co., which our readers have already seen, we copy the reply of Messrs. Harper & Brothers, as follows:

The avowed object of this letter is to place the authors "right before the public;" in other words, to present themselves to public attention as scrupulously honorable persons in contrast with the Messrs. Harper, whom the letter accuses of violating the courtesies of the trade, and that the public judgment may be fully informed, we subjoin the whole correspondence.

From this we think it appears:

First—That when the Messrs. Harper began the printing of the book they were ignorant of the intention of Messrs. Lippincott & Co. to publish it.

Second—That Messrs. Lippincott & Co. did not make use of the ordinary and recognized channel of the trade to announce their intention.

Third—That the Messrs. Harper did not persist in the delivery of the publication, but offered to withdraw upon condition that the edition of Messrs. Lippincott & Co. was printed in the country, and upon payment of the small expense already incurred.

The allusion to Bulwer's novels in the letter of the Messrs. Harper is due to the fact that, notwithstanding the mutually satisfactory arrangement between Lord Lytton and the Messrs. Harper, his works have been republished by Messrs. Lippincott & Co.; a proceeding in plain violation of the courtesies of the trade, and the necessary tendency of which is to destroy the remuneration of the foreign author.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 4, 1868.—*Messrs. Harper & Brothers*—GENTLEMEN: The *Nation* of yesterday announces that you have in press Mr. Wentworth Dilke's "Greater Britain." We would respectfully apprise you that by arrangement with Mr. Dilke's English publishers we have early advance sheets and electrotypes of the illustrations, for the purpose of reprinting the book. We have stereotyped the book, and will publish it in a few days. We are copyright on our sales.

We are, dear Sirs,
Yours truly,
(Signed) J. B. LIPPINCOTT & CO.

FRANKLIN SQUARE, New York, Dec. 5, 1868.—*Messrs. J. B. Lippincott & Co.*—GENTLEMEN: We have yours of yesterday. We duly announced "Greater Britain" on the 25th of November in the *Commercial Advertiser* of this city, which has been for many years conducted by our Trade Journal for the announcements of reprints, so as to prevent the occurrence of difficulties of this character.

We presume that your announcement "as long ago as May 1st" was made *before* the work was received by you, and *not* in the organ we have referred to.

Under the circumstances we think that our suggestion of the 5th is the fair solution of our present mutual misunderstanding.

We frankly say that your explanation in regard to your edition of BULWER does not, in our opinion, justify the act of discourtesy towards us on your part.

Yours truly,
(Sgd.) HARPER & BROTHERS.

The correspondence here ended.

That Messrs. J. B. Lippincott & Co. may be regarded still further "in place themselves right before the public," we subjoin some extracts from a correspondence, which will show:

1st. That in September last the Messrs. Harper arranged with Messrs. Macmillan & Co., of London, to publish from early sheets and electrotypes Sir Samuel Baker's "Cast up by the Sea."

2d. That in October Messrs. Lippincott & Co. were informed of this arrangement by Messrs. Macmillan & Co.

3d. That, by an error of shipment, the electrotypes were sent to Messrs. Lippincott & Co., instead of the Messrs. Harper.

4th. That in December Messrs. Lippincott & Co. received them, and, knowing that they were intended for the Messrs. Harper, opened one of the work, withdrew them, and in January published the book themselves, at a low price.

5th. That not until a month after the issue of their edition did Messrs. Lippincott & Co. inform the Messrs. Harper that they had in their possession electrotypes which they knew, when they received them, were intended for the Messrs. Harper, to enable them to fulfill their engagement with Sir Samuel Baker's English publishers.

From Messrs. Macmillan & Co. to Messrs. Harper & Brothers, Sept. 30, 1868.

In reply to your letter of the 24th, proposing to advertise Messrs. Lippincott & Co. as your agents, we have to inform you that we have arranged with Sir Samuel Baker's "Cast up by the Sea," we choose the entire control of the early sheets and electrotypes, at our expense and sufficiently in advance of English publication to admit of simultaneous issue in America, and a royalty of 10 per cent. on your retail price for all copies of the work sold for five years after publication.

In conformity with this arrangement you shall very shortly have some of the sheets and electrotypes, which are for full-page illustrations, will follow.

From Messrs. Harper & Brothers to Messrs. Macmillan & Co. Jan. 14, 1869.

* * * * Though "Cast up by the Sea" has been reviewed in London, we have as yet no advice from you of the shipment of the electrotypes. Your last letter on the subject (Nov. 30, 1868) says, "We hope to send you the electros early next week." Since then we have heard nothing of them.

The result of this delay and inattention has been the prior publication of the book by J. B. Lippincott & Co., of Philadelphia, whose advertisement, from this morning's paper, we inclose herewith.

From Messrs. Macmillan & Co. to Messrs. Harper & Brothers, January 30, 1869.

We have heard with much annoyance that the parcel of electros of engravings of "Cast up by the Sea" has been sent to Messrs. Lippincott instead of to you. * * * We can only say that we regret the accident very much, and the delay it has caused.

From Messrs. J. B. Lippincott & Co. to Messrs. Harper & Brothers, Feb. 13, 1869.

Some time since we received, without advice, a box containing electrotypes. Believing it came from Messrs. Macmillan & Co., London, we advised them of its arrival, and asked them to give us no further trouble in the matter. We are now advised by them that the box was intended for you.

From Mr. George Little Crosby to Messrs. Macmillan & Co.) to Messrs. Harper & Brothers, February 27, 1869.

My partner is writing to you to-day, and will give you the particulars you ask about Lippincott's receiving the electros of "Cast up by the Sea." The business has waited and annoyed us much. Lippincott was well aware that we had arranged with you months before; and we cannot believe that there could have been any doubt in their minds about it being an accident, the electros being so them. I blame Lippincott—having had direct information, on the 28th of November, that we had arranged with you—that he did not act fairly and transfer to you at once a package obviously intended for you.

In the words of Messrs. J. B. Lippincott & Co., "We refrain from comment on the facts now presented."

There will probably be a rejoinder from Messrs. J. B. Lippincott & Co., to this reply of Messrs. Harper & Brothers; and until it appears, we refrain from comment upon the case as it now stands. The Philadelphia house is quite able to defend itself against the charges of the New York house.

LITERARY ITEMS.

LUCREZIA BORGIA.

Modern history is written with—whitewash. The chroniclers who have just flourished their charitable material over Nero and Henry VIII are now followed by Mr. William Gilbert, who applies its efficacy to Lucrezia Borgia. His epithet for her most compromising letters is "imprudent:"

"We wish (says the *Pall Mall*) that Mr. Gilbert had given us more of his notes instead of talking about them in his almost meandering strain. Of the three hundred and odd letters dispersed among various public libraries in Italy, he has given us a bare three or four in the appendix to his book. Only a few others he has rendered into bald narrative in the third person, which has lost much of its expression, and, we think, not particularly heartbreak in substance. They are addressed either to her husband, to her sister in law and confidant, the Marchioness of Mantua, and deal in a graceful and self-striking manner in his treatment of his heroine's character. For instance, where he says that Alexander, in one of his statements he has so completely overshot all bounds of probability as not only to show himself perfectly capable of invention, but to cast a reasonable doubt over many of his narratives, we feel we are sure that we can not go with this, but that it does go with M. Michelet when he says in his brilliant way:

"'Such is the cold and simple account of the master of the ceremonies, Burchard, a merely German man. Strasburg, whose phlegm never fails, who sees everything without surprise—murder and rape, poisonings, banquets of naked girls, massacres by way of wedding festivity, prisoners put to death by the hand of the Pope's son for the amusement of the Court, &c., &c.

"Burchard has that character of candor, of truthful simplicity, which reassures at once. I have seen and read a multitude of Italians. This is not the way men lie.'

"What is most interesting (and, it should be added, what fills most room) in Mr. Gilbert's book is the picture of the manners and history of the time which he draws from contemporary chronicles. These supply him with details of Lucrezia's millinery and jewelry work was received by you, and *not* in the organ we have referred to.

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