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Poetry.

At The Last.

The stream is calmest when it nears the tide,
And the flowers are sweetest at the eve of the day.

Morning is holy, but a holier charm lies folded close in Evening's robe of bath.

She comes from Heaven, and on her wings doth bear
A holy fragrance, like the breath of prayer.

All things are hushed before her as she throws
O'er earth and sky her mantle of repose.

Until the evening we must weep and toll—
Plow life's stern furrow, dig the weedy soil.

Oh! when our sun is setting may we glide
Like summer Evening down the gold and tide.

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house: and for upwards of a week she had no sleep.

Our food was very nearly gone—it could not last more than another day. My father was growing worse every hour.

I can now see my poor mother kneeling beside the bed of her sick husband, imploring the Great God to have mercy upon us.

"Do not worry so, my poor wife; all will go well some day; if not in this world, let us hope it will be in the next," said my father.

"What will become of us?" cried I in great distress. "Come here, my son," said my father, "and let me look at you, and give you some advice before I am called away."

"Now, remember, Samuel," he pursued, "as long as you live do what is right and just. Never drink any intoxicating liquor, always tell the truth and read your Bible daily."

"Oh, dear husband, do not talk in this way! You may outlive both of us," said my mother, in a tremulous, sobbing voice.

"No, my dear wife, I feel that death is not far off. If I knew you could get along after I am gone I could feel more resigned to my fate."

Putting my trust in Him who sees and knows all. Get me the Bible Samuel that I may read the word of Lord, Blessed are they that keep His God before my spirit passes away from my body."

Taking the Bible, my father opened it to the 119th Psalm and read as follows: "Blessed are the undefiled in the way who walk in the testimonies and that seek Him with the whole heart. They also do no iniquity; they walk in his ways."

"There, my son," he resumed, "take the good book and keep it; and learn what I have just read; and once a day, through life, repeat it for your dying father's sake."

At that moment we were all startled by yells of Indians, and a minute after the door was burst in with a tremendous crash. Three savages rushed into the room, and with their tomahawks brained my poor father and mother.

While two of them commenced scalping my parents, the third caught me, and taking me outside led me to a tree. He then returned to the house.

"In about ten minutes they all came out, with their arms loaded with whatever they thought of value. One of them went into the house again, and in a few minutes I could see had set fire to it.

There I was tied to a tree seeing the house burning and knowing that all that remained of my dear parents was being consumed. Oh, what I suffered then, no language can describe! The agony of death in its worst form, would have been nothing to compare to it.

"No, sir; I answered.

At this he laughed and said, "Make you like him." Then they built a fire and prepared their supper, which consisted of bear's meat.

Each one cut a slice off, and putting it on the end of a stick, held it in the blaze until it was done enough to suit.

I was handed a slice and a stick and told to do the same. Boy like, grief did not take my appetite away, and I ate it with a relish—for after my long walk I felt very hungry.

After supper they lit their pipes and smoked for about an hour. Then the fire was left burning, and all laid down to sleep, myself between them, with my hands and feet tied.

The next morning was clear and beautiful. There was not a cloud to be seen in the sky. After we had eaten our breakfast, which was about the same as last night's supper, we started on our journey.

We traveled until noon, when a halt was made for rest and dinner. So things went on until the fourth night after my capture.

I appeared to be reconciled to my fate, and made them think I rather liked it than otherwise, which had the effect of giving me more liberty. They did not bind my hands and feet now, but made me sleep between two of them, and the other one slept at my head.

Should I get up I would have to do it with the greatest care, for the slightest noise would cause them to start; even the snapping of a twig would waken them.

For some reason or other I could not sleep that night, but lay awake looking at the stars and thinking of father, mother, and that once happy home that I would never see again.

The idea then struck me for the first time that I might escape. I cautiously raised myself to a standing position, and was about stepping over one of the Indians when he gave a start. Instantly I laid down and closed my eyes.

The Indian raised himself up, and put his head so near mine I could hear him breathe. I think he was looking to see if I was asleep.

Coming to the conclusion that all was right he laid down again, and by his hard breathing I knew that he was asleep himself.

Waiting some fifteen minutes longer, I again got on my feet, and this time stepped across the Indian and was about to go further, when I heard a movement. I stood still, and my heart beat so fast and hard that I could hear it.

Cautiously and gently I picked my way, stopping every step I took to listen, and then putting my foot down quietly, not daring to bear the whole weight of my body on it at once, but little at a time until I was sure I made no noise.

As I was thus resting I heard a great rustling close by, and not knowing what it was, thought it best to climb a tree.

I had no sooner reached the first branch, than to my terror I saw a large bear come up to the very tree I was on.

I placed as great a distance between him and myself as I could. While he was growling and looking up at me, I heard the crack of a rifle, at the same time the bear fell over dead.

In a few minutes a couple of white hunters came up, and while they were examining the bear I descended the tree.

After hearing my story they promised to take care of me and deliver me safe to my people, which, in the course of a couple of weeks they did, and thus I was provisionally saved.

REBEL PRISONS.

The shops of the city had mostly been closed, and one of the guard told me that every house in Richmond was either a prison or a hospital.

Though this may have been exaggeration, it was no doubt a fact that all the dwellings of Richmond had their spare rooms occupied by Confederate sick and wounded.

In this city the infantry guards were relieved, and a cavalry escort furnished, who showed their confidence in our desire to reach our lines by letting us straggle as we had a mind to.

During the day we marched without food, and finally, late in the afternoon, a feeble cheer went up from the advance, which told that the flag on our transports was in sight.

Need I say how wildly our hearts beat at the sight of that dear old flag which we had followed in battle, and which had floated among the peaceful scenes of home.

The feeling was too deep to be expressed in words or cheers. Tears of joy rolled down the cheeks of many a stout man, whose eyes were unused to weep; the voice that attempted expression was lost in choking sobs.

Men sat quietly down, tears coursing their dirt-furrowed cheeks contented to look up and see the "old flag" floating over them.

I sat in this manner, having, without knowing it, a quiet, joyful cry, when a comrade came along, inquiring "what are you blubbering about old fellow?"

I looked up, and saw he hadn't much to brag of, and replied, that I was crying because folks were such fools as to live under a flag with thirteen stripes, when they might have one with thirteen stars.

The Newer Arithmetic.

A citizen whose gas bill was \$7 for the month of January shut his house up for two weeks in March and his gas bill was \$7 75. How much did he make?

If a butcher-cart going at the rate of a mile in three minutes strikes an Alderman who is walking at the rate of four miles an hour, what is the resisting power of each?

A County Treasurer knows of a dead sure thing in wheat, and he puts in \$3,000 of the people's cash. The distance from his town to Canada is 180 miles, and the average speed of a railroad train is thirty five miles an hour. Find—but they never find 'em.

A lady bought some tape for eleven cents, and some thread for two cents, and worked off a quarter with a hole in it on the peddler. How much did she save to buy tracts for the heathen?

A stone weighing twenty-two pounds is concealed under an old hat, and a man kicks it with such force as to send it nine yards. As it takes two and one-half pounds of active pressure to move one pound of dead weight one foot, what force did he exert?

A man spends eighteen cents for lager, ten cents for tobacco, twenty cents for cigars, fifteen cents for street car fare, and loses \$1.50 at poker; he then permits his wife to purchase a button book for three cents, and figures that her extravagance will ruin him in three years. What is his capital?

A man has ninety-one sheep, eighty-seven calves and thirty-five pigs, and he desires to divide them among three sons and a daughter, so that the daughter shall have nine more head than the boys. What will be the share of each, providing three sheep are stolen, two calves get lost and five pigs follow a circus away?

A citizen desires to move a cook-stove twenty-four feet and put up sixteen feet of stove-pipe without using either axe or hammer. Find the exact divisor.

Q. What is reduction of fractions? A. Breaking a dish and then jumping on the pieces. Ask us something hard!

Q. What is a prime number? A. No. 1. A boy having lost half of his kite string added forty-five feet, licked two boys, clubbed a dog and fell off a fence. The string was then one-half its original length. What was the original length?

A man gives an order for seven tons of coal and finds that he has received only six tons and 100 pounds. How much more is due him, and what'll you take to convince the dealer that he must send it?

Q. What is dry measure? A. Measuring sawdust on a hot day. Q. What is short division? A. Letting the other boy have the worm hole for his share.

Ready maid: The girl who is willing to be kissed. A man who was formerly a night watchman refers to it as his late occupation.

"If I rest I rust," is a German proverb. "If I trust I bust," is the American version. "Die content," said the fly in the baker's dough; "Somebody will take me for a currant."

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CAUTION! Notice is hereby given that I have purchased one horse, Buggy, Organ, and set of harness which I have left in the possession of Robert Binghamman and all persons are hereby cautioned not to meddle with the same at my peril.

PIMPLES. I will mail free the receipt for a simple Vegetable Balm that will remove the Pimples, Freckles, and Whiteheads, leaving the skin soft, clear and beautiful.

ERRORS OF YOUTH. A GENTLEMAN who suffered for years from Nervous Debility, Premature Decay, and all the effects of youthful indiscretion, will for the sake of suffering humanity, send free to all who need it, the receipt and directions for preparing and using the same.