

The Independent Republican.

"FREEDOM AND RIGHT AGAINST SLAVERY AND WRONG."

C. F. READ & H. H. FRAZIER, EDITORS.

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Poet's Corner.

PRESENTMENT.

I drew it to its full soft length,
The out of glossy brown;
I said, "There is no queen on earth
Wears such a royal crown."
"Yet give me this one little look,
The time will come," I said,
"You cannot give the smallest trace
Without its silver thread."
She smiled, but gently shook her head,
And said, "Nay, let it stay,
There is no look that looks of mine
Will ever turn to gray."
How can a pang one thought will bring
Into our lightest mood?
I'd give the world had she not spoke,
Or I not understood.

Tales and Sketches.

CASTA DIVA!

"Heigh ho!" sighs Mr. Patron, "what a fortune it is to live alone!" and he drew his chair close to the fire and ensconced himself there, wrapping his tri-colored dressing gown about him. "I wish I were married! I know a lady—boards in the same house too—and I believe she'd have me if I were to ask her. I'm the pretty music teacher. She is young, delicate and amiable; only there seems to be something melancholy about her; she is a widow; I like her though, and I believe she likes me. I'll think this over. I have plenty of money, and nobody to spend it upon. Yes, I think I will ask pretty Madam Victor to marry me."
"Come in—where's the other?"
"Please sir, it's your clean clothes."
"Clean clothes! and pray who are you, you little cherub, and where do you come from?"
"I am Lauretta, sir, and I live with Bridget, who washes your clothes, and she sent me with the basket to-night."
"Yes, I think she did, you little duckling, and the basket is larger than yourself. Come and sit down in this chair by the fire and warm your toes—there, now, I want to talk with you. Are you Bridget's child?"
"Oh no, sir; and a look of care passed over the little face."
"No, I thought not. Washerwomen's children don't have such eyes, nor such broad foreheads, nor such soft hair. Well, bridgie, how come you with Bridget? Have you no parents?"
"I don't know. I only dream I have—Bridget lets me stay with her because I can sing."
"Sing! and what has that to do with it?"
"Oh, sir, I sing my songs in the great houses, and they give me expenses, and I take them to Bridget."
"Ah, you pay your board then. Well, little Lauretta, will you sing for me now?"
"Yes, indeed, sir, and the little one stands up in the middle of the rug, and opening her rose-mouth, she sings Casta Diva."
"Bless my stars, what a voice! I know something about music myself; at least enough to know that such a voice should be a fortune to the one that possesses it. Little one, where did you learn that?"
"Nurse! who is nurse?"
"Nurse indeed! The dark eyes fill with tears, and the ruby lips are quivering.
Mr. Patron walks up and down the room. His curiosity is excited as well as his pity.
"Please, sir, shall I have the basket?"
"Bridget would me if I stay so long."
"No, little one, I will carry the basket; I am going home with you."
"It's up five flights of stairs, sir, and there is no light in the passage."
"All the more reason I should go with you. Now I am ready. Come my little singer, you and I will be better acquainted before long. Don't fall down these steps; keep hold of my hand; here we are in Broadway. Now where do we turn? Down Prince Street, you live! and now down Crosby. What, do you live in this alley? Oh, never fear, little Casta Diva, I shall tread safely enough while this little head leads me. Ugh! how many more flights are there? Only two! Well, I can climb them if you can. So, is this the door?"
"Oh, and is it you, sir, that would be after coming to see a poor woman at this hour? Will you be seated, sir?" said Bridget, wiping a wooden chair by her apron. "Your shirts were not ironed to be sitting ye, may be!"
"Shirts all right, Bridget, I came to bring home your little girl, and to ask you something about her. She has been singing for me. Will you tell me where she came from?"
"Ye take a deal of trouble for a lone bit of a child, indeed, sir; but her story is not so very long. She lived with a farren woman, in the room below, named Theresia. The woman, she was waiting maid in Lauretta's family, in Italy, and she there, and while she was out with the child, there came a big row in the city, and the child's father was in the middle of it, and got kilt; and when she reached the house, all in a fright, sure it was on fire and the mother of it gone, and never was she able to find her. So she kept the child and comes to America with it; for she heard how the streets were paved with gold, and when she came and found nary gold nor food but for the working, she had to go to work, as all we poor creatures do; and she took to standing in the one room down stairs; but nary a bit would she let the child do for itself, but waited on it like a slave, and only taught it to sing, as 's mother did before it." "she said; and last year Theresia died. This poor creature took so bad that I took her myself, only I'll be bringing her up differently, intirely; I'll teach her to earn her bread, at any rate, and so I send her out every day to sing to the great folks, an' make her help me to carry around the clothes, and that is all, sir."

"It was very good in you, Bridget, to take the little orphan; you have saved her from a sad fate; you will be rewarded, you may depend on that."
Bridget raised her eyebrows and dropped a courtesy, while little Casta Diva, as Mr. Patron then, and ever since has called her, hid her face in the bed and sobbed to hear her own story related. The kind gentleman looked at her tenderly, and then continued:
"I have a plan for your poor child, which will relieve you of your charge, and repay you for your goodness of heart. Good night, little one; I'll come to-morrow. Dry your tears, for I will yet make you happy. Here, Bridget, is some money for you, and be sure

you do not send her out to sing again. I have something better for her to do."
Bridget dropped another courtesy, and her mouth opened wide for she was all mystified and bewildered as to what she should do.
An hour later and Mr. Patron is again seated in his easy chair before his bright coal fire with his dressing gown once more folded around him. The only difference is that he is smiling instead of sighing as he did before.
"Ah, yes," he says, "I see my way clear. I can now, without hesitation, call upon Madame Victor in her room, to interest her about my little Casta Diva. I will tell her the story, and engage her to cultivate the voice of my little protegee. I will see her to-morrow morning, and perhaps she will accompany me to Bridget's lodging. Not a very romantic walk to invite the lady of my heart to share, but then the circumstances are peculiar."
"Now I think of it, I must engage my landlady that little bedroom next to mine—I am determined to adopt that singing cherub for my own. I will change her name to Casta Diva Patron. It sounds musical, and she is musical herself. If sweet Madame Victor only sees in her what I do, she shall be an amazing happy family. I declare I feel like a husband and father already. I shall find enough to do with my money after all."
And so he goes to bed, and dreams of his future joys till he fairly laughs aloud in his sleep.
Now it is morning and if you will put your head out of your door, you can see him walking along the ball. He stops at No. 8—knocks gently; but the rich toned piano, touched by a thrilling hand, does not allow a key to be struck. "This time he has locked the door upon me," says the door is opened by a beautiful woman, who smilingly invites him to enter. Well, I don't wonder he'll be in love with her! They closed the door. Let's you and I go and peep at the keyhole, and hear what they have to say. I'll never tell—will you? Hark! Well, after all can't tell what they said now; because I promised I would not; but Patron has said in there a great while, and he don't ask her to sing or play all the time.
Now the door opens again and they come out together; he is in his overcoat and hat, she in her cloak and velvet bonnet. He looks very much excited, and she looks pale and trembles so she can hardly speak. She takes his offered arm, and goes down stairs and out of the street door. I do believe they are going to Bridget's.
And so they are.

Good Mr. Patron walks slowly with the sweet lady, for she has every reason to tremble, she believes she is Lauretta's mother; but she has been telling her friend how her husband was killed in a dreadful mob one day, because he was a great politician, and when they had burned his house they took and threw her into prison, where she remained a whole year, and only made her escape when, during the terrible trouble in Italy, the prison doors were unbarred to all.
Her nurse, who died for her child, but in vain; and believing that both Lauretta and her husband were crucified in the mob that killed her husband, she came to America to try to earn a livelihood among the hospitable strangers by her fine musical education and uncommon voice.
Madame Victor believes that Lauretta is her child, because their stories are so strangely alike. Five years have passed since she left Italy; but she knows that her eyes will not deceive her. Her baby's features are indelibly engraved upon her heart.
Her kind friend supports her up five flights of stairs, and she steps to take breath and to nerve herself for either intense happiness or disappointment.
They are about to enter the room, when a little voice greets her ears, singing with wonderful power and expression an Italian melody, which the lady herself used to sing in her own sunny land. She stops and grasps the arm of her friend.
"Oh, wait," she whispers, "let me try."
With a great effort, she continues and completes the unfinished strain in a voice that an angel's might not exceed.
He opens the door.
Lauretta stands in the centre of the floor, pale and agitated; her great eyes dilated with emotion long repressed. Her mother's voice has reached a spot in her little heart, which vibrates on her memory like a glimpse of Heaven.
Madame Victor sinks upon a chair, and gazes long and earnestly upon the little motionless figure; then she stretches out her arms, and whispers, "Come here."
Lauretta slowly advances, and when she is close to the lady, she nestles her head upon her bosom, and draws a long and deep sigh.
"Tell me your name, sweet one."
"The lady presses the little form still closer."
"Darling, I am your mother."
"I know it," sighed the child.
"You know it, my angel?"
"Yes, I have seen you in my dreams, and always called you 'mother,' and when you sang just now it brought it all back."
Good Mr. Patron went to the window and wiped his eyes.

Once again we see him sitting in his easy chair before the bright coal fire. By his side sits a beautiful lady—one hand lies in his, and the other was tenderly stroking his hair, but her eyes are tenderly resting upon the little fairy who sits at the piano, silently dressing over some of Handel's music which her papa has brought home to her.
The lady is his wife.
The fairy is his wife.
MUTUAL FORBEARANCE.—The house will be kept in turmoil where there is no toleration of each other's errors, no lenity shown to faults, no meek submission to inquiries, no soft answer to turn away wrath. If you lay a single stick of wood in the grate and apply fire to it, it will go out; put on another stick, and they will burn; add half a dozen, and they will blaze. There are other fires subject to the same condition. If one member of the family gets into a passion and is allowed to cool down, and possibly be tempered; pile on the fuel; draw in others of the group; and let one harsh answer be followed by another, and there will soon be a blaze which will sweep all in its burning heat.

A boy, at a recent examination in an English school, was asked who discovered America. "I wish I may die," says a British editor, "if he didn't answer—Yankee Doodle!"

REMARKABLE SNAKE STORY.

I was brought up near the Canada line in Vermont, where my father owned a large farm. Not far from his farm was quite a lake, where we used to enjoy ourselves at fishing and sailing. One afternoon I saw a flock of black ducks fly over the house, and I was sure they lighted on the lake; so I seized my double-barrelled gun and ammunition, and started off. When I reached the landing, I saw the ducks away off by the opposite shore. I at once cut some bows with my knife and having rigged up the bows of a small flat-bottomed skiff we kept on purpose for such work I jumped in and started off. Not far from the farm was quite a lake, where we used to enjoy ourselves at fishing and sailing. One afternoon I saw a flock of black ducks fly over the house, and I was sure they lighted on the lake; so I seized my double-barrelled gun and ammunition, and started off. When I reached the landing, I saw the ducks away off by the opposite shore. 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