

Independent Republican



"FREEDOM AND RIGHT AGAINST SLAVERY AND WRONG."

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

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GENEVIEVE.

BY SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE.

All thoughts, all passions, all delights,
Whatever stirs this mortal frame,
All are but ministers of Love,
And feed his sacred flame.

Oh! in my waking dreams do
I see thee again that happy hour,
When midway on the mountain I lay
Beside the ruined tower.

The moonlight stealing o'er the scene,
Had blended with the lights of eve;
And she was there, my hope, my joy,
My own dear Genevieve!

Few sorrows hath she of her own,
My hope, my joy, my Genevieve!
She loves me best when'er I sing
The songs that make her grieve.

I played a soft and doleful air,
I sang an old and moving story--
An old rude song that I had
Mid the fingers of my hand.

She listened with a fitting blush,
With downcast eyes and modest grace;
For well she knew the mountain woods,
But gaze upon her face.

I told her of the Knight, that wore
Upon his shield a burning brand;
And that for ten long years he wooed
The lady of the land.

I told her how he pined; and ah!
The low, the deep, the pleading tone,
With which I sang another's love,
Interpreted my own.

She listened with a fitting blush,
With downcast eyes and modest grace;
And she forgave me that I gazed
Too fondly on her face!

But when I told the cruel story
Which crazed this bold and lovely Knight,
And that he crossed the mountain woods,
No rested day nor night;

That sometimes from the savage den,
And sometimes from the darksome shade,
And sometimes starting up at once,
In green and sunny glades;

There came and looked him in the face,
An angel beautiful and bright;
And that he knew it was a fiend,
This miserable Knight!

And how, unknowing what he did,
He leaped amid the mountain woods,
And saved from outrage worse than death
The lady of the land;

And how she wept and clasped his knees,
And how she tended him in vain--
The soon that crazed his brain!

And that she nursed him in a cave;
And how his madness went away
When on the yellow forest leaves,
A drying sun he lay;

His words would, when I reached
That tender strain of all the ditties,
My fervent love and passing harp
Dissevered soul with pity!

Amidst the soft and sunny glades,
Had blushed my Genevieve,
The music and the doleful tale,
The rich and balmy eve;

And hopes, and fears that kindle hope,
An unextinguishable flame;
I heard her breathe my name,
Subdued and cherished long!

She wept with pity and delight,
She blushed with love and maiden shame;
And like the summer's daisy,
I heard her breathe my name.

Her lipom leaved--she stepped aside--
As conscious of my love, she stepped--
Then suddenly with timorous eye
She fled to me and wept.

She had enclosed me with her arms,
She pressed me with a weak embrace;
And bending back her head, looked up,
And gazed upon my face.

'Twas partly love, and partly fear,
And partly, 'twas a sweet heart
That I might not see thee
The swelling of her heart.

I calmed her fears; and she was calm;
And told her love with virgin pride;
And so we parted, and I thought
My bright and beautiful bride!

A REVOLUTIONARY HEROINE.

From the *Seranton Republican*.

Mrs. SARAH BENJAMIN, of Mount Pleasant, Wayne county, Pa., departed this life on the 20th ult., at the extreme age of 114 years and 5 months.

This remarkable person has at length gone to her rest. Her eventful life has extended through the most stirring scenes of the history of this country, and is worthy of some extended notice.

She was born in Goshen, Orange Co., N. Y., November 17th 1743. Her father, Mr. Mathews, removed from Connecticut to Orange County, at an early day. When she was a child of seven or eight years, he emigrated to Pennsylvania. He crossed the Delaware and settled on the Bushkill. This was but four or five years after the devoted David Bradford closes his eyes; a successful missionary labor among the Indians. Here, upon the outposts of civilization in that day, she spent her youth, amid the dangers and adventures of border life; she developed an active, fearless, and indomitable mind. This cast of mind combined with great cheerfulness and a good share of wit, she retained to the closing years of her long life. It is to this feature of her mind, combined with strong physical powers and a plain regular diet, that she is indebted for her extreme age. An incident related of her mother, will account for these qualities in the child. When a girl of twelve years, she was sent, about sunset, to do an errand. She had proceeded to a few steps from the door, when she called to her mother that a fox was coming out of the swamp, and expressed some fear. But the mother knowing no fear herself would not allow it to her children. She ordered the child to go. But the fox proved to be a panther. As he came up she sprang upon the cow house, and the ferocious animal seized the dog that had accompanied her. But the mother, hearing the cries of her favorite dog in the jaws of the panther, caught a small axe, and, quick as thought, buried its blade in the brains of the animal, and delivered his prey. As the report of this fearless exploit was noised abroad, it staggered the faith of the oldest hunters of the neighborhood. Her youth was spent amid the dangers of wild beasts and hostile Indians. She could recollect the defeat of Gen. Braddock in 1755; through the excitement which she witnessed. She has often spoken of an event which occurred about the same time. A party of Indians invaded the Mitanick settlement, but were boldly resisted by the sons of Mr. Brodhead. She had a distant recollection of the family, and of their stone house, of which they made a fort.

When Brant, the Indian chief, led a party of Indians and Tories through the settlement, scaling the inhabitants, and burning their houses, she was about entering it, on her return from Goshen, and was an eye witness of many of the cruelties of the scene.

On the opening of the Revolutionary war, she entered deeply into its spirit. Such was her temperance that she could be no idle spectator. She was confident of her success, and feared no danger and shrank from no hardship in efforts to secure it. She was then living with her first husband, Mr. William Read, and was 32 years of age. She took great pleasure in seeing him engaged in fighting the battles of her country. He however soon died of a wound received in an engagement while in Virginia.

Her second husband was Mr. Aaron Osborne, of Goshen, N. Y. He was also in the army, and survived the war. During the latter part of the war, she accompanied him in the army. During their marches, she made herself very useful in preparing food, and when not thus engaged, in sewing for the officers and men. She was, however, ready to do any work the occasion and cause required.

Hardship and danger seemed not to have entered her mind. She never quailed before the face of man. Her resolute and indomitable spirit rose above all rank and authority. She could have faced the King upon his throne in behalf of her country, and with the utmost deliberation demanded her rights.

She would have made, had circumstances favored it, a modern Joan d'Arc. Nothing delighted her so much as a military parade. It roused to action all the peculiar qualities of her mind. It would have been her natural element to lead brave men into battle, and to annihilate her enemy. These qualities of mind combined with good humor and ready wit, gave her a commanding influence. It seems that General Washington knew and appreciated her, as will be seen from the following incidents. She has always spoken in very high terms of him. She thought him a very good man, and a very skillful and brave commander. Still she thought he was sometimes too lenient in the administration of justice. She was with her husband in the Army when at Kingsbridge on the Hudson-- they were leading some heavy artillery ostensibly to attack New York. They were in the hands of the English, and it being necessary to do it in the night, sentries were placed around lest they should be taken by surprise. Her husband having been placed as a sentinel, she took his place with overcast and gun, she might assist the man in loading the artillery. Conscious of doing that, and that only which was for the best interests of her country, her brave spirit knew no fear. It was not long before General Washington, with a due caution for the safety of his troops, came round to examine the outposts, and seeing something in one of his sentinels a little unusual, he advanced to her and said, "Who placed you here?" She promptly replied, with a loud voice, in her own peculiar manner, "Then that had a right to, sir." He, apparently recognizing her independent and patriotic spirit, passed on.

She had accompanied the army with her husband to the South, and was present at the siege of Yorktown and surrender of Lord Cornwallis. During the battle she made her husband assist in carrying water to the army, and relieving the wants of the suffering. Passing where the bullets of the enemy were flying, she met General Washington, who said to her, "Young woman, are you not afraid of the bullets?" She quietly and pleasantly replied, "The bullets will never cheat the galleons." She said the General smiled, and without a word passed on.

The writer has often heard her describe the scenes of the battle, the economies of the surrender, the appearance of Cornwallis and his lady, their furniture and equipage, with great minuteness. Even in the last years of her life, she would relate the events of those days with all the vivacity of youth. It seemed impossible that we were conversing with one who had witnessed events of a generation long since passed away. It seemed like a voice from a past age. In her childhood George Washington and John Adams, the first two Presidents of the United States, were boys. Thomas Jefferson, the third President, was born the same year she was. In England, George the Second was King of Great Britain, and Pitt and Fox were just rising to power in the British Cabinet.

What bold and Wesleyan were prominent actors on both continents. Witherspoon, Presidents Davies and Edwards, and David Brainerd, all men who left their impress upon that age, were in the height of their labors. She has been spared to see a little band of brave and hardy people become a great and mighty nation. She has lived to see the most astonishing inventions--the most rapid changes in manufactures, in travel, in commerce, and in secular and religious enterprises, which the world ever witnessed. Methuene, with all his centuries of years, was a stranger to such changes and such progress.

She returned from Yorktown and enjoyed the peace which soon followed. She settled in Mount Pleasant, with her third husband, Mr. John Benjamin, in 1822. There is now living there her great-grandchild, a descendant of the first generation. These generations, in all five, were present at her funeral. She has enjoyed remarkable health throughout her long life. She has never been known to have been confined to her bed with sickness. Hearing of her illness a year or two since, the writer called upon her and found her suffering from rheumatism. On entering her room, she rose from her bed, and said very playfully, as we attempted to assist her, "Don't touch me; I am crockery, and must not be handled." She sat down to her wheel, where she had already spun, during the day, ten knots, and began to spin--soon she suddenly stopped from pain, and exclaimed, "O, why am I here so long! I am waiting to go."

When we were most of all happy to speak of her hopes and joys as a Christian. Her frequent calls she has replied to our inquiries for her welfare, "I am waiting for the Messenger." On one occasion she said, while in conversation, "I wish I did not think so much." "What," said I, "do you think of so much?" "I think much," she replied, "how I may please my Savior." But she continued, "At night I live over years and years long, long past away, and think of a great many long since gone from earth." She then described many interesting incidents of her youth with such distinctness we seemed for the moment to forget we were living in the nineteenth century. She also

THE GAME OF CHECKERS.

From the *Toldeo Blade*.

"Aunt Molly," said Fanny Osborne one evening, "did you ever hear any one pop the question?"

"Why, certainly, child, I heard your uncle Charlie pop it, as you call it."

"Oh, yes, of course," said Fanny, "but I mean, did you ever hear any one else?"

"Well, yes," replied Aunt Molly, slowly, "I did hear one, once."

"O please tell me all about it," cried Fanny, "I would so much like to be a popper myself."

Fanny was just turned fifteen, and it was very natural that she should want to be posted.

"Very well," said Aunt Molly, "get your work, then, for I don't like to talk to an idle listener."

Fanny established herself, and Aunt Molly began, "I was about ten years after I was married, and house keeping, that cousin Will Morris, uncle Benjamin's son, came to live with us that is, he was a partner in your uncle Charlie's store, and boarded with us. You never saw Will, did you?"

Fanny nodded her head, and Aunt Molly went on.

He was a whole-souled, straight-forward, substantial young man, not lacking in polish either; but very bashful, so much so, that I used really to pity him sometimes, when we had young company. Annie Evans was an old school mate of mine, and just after I went to school keeping her parents moved to Oxford, and lived only a short distance from us. Annie used frequently to bring her work, and spend the evening with me, and uncle Charlie would go home with her. Those were rare times, Fanny; and we enjoyed them fully. Annie was a real woman; none of your nonsensical, love-sick girls, whose heads are so full of beaux that they would hold anything else."

Fanny blushed as Aunt Molly said this, but Aunt Molly went very demure, and continued.

And knowing her, and loving her as I did, I felt particularly anxious that she should be well settled in life."

"That means, with a good husband," remarked Fanny, reproachfully.

"Certainly," said Aunt Molly; "and after Will came, and I became acquainted with him, I took it into my head to propose to him, to make a capital match. But, somehow, after he came, Annie did not come so often; and Will, who was very entertaining in his conversation when we were alone, in her presence, was silent, and awkward in his manner, as if under restraint; and Annie took but little notice of him, only so far as to look at him, and to be polite to him. I was very much surprised, and I was very much vexed, especially where two or three respishments necessarily be made. The proposition, I was already traversed, as the land portions by railways; and no one can doubt the feasibility of the canal which will save all reshipment, and make the communication between the Atlantic the Mediterranean, and the Pacific continent water) after the expositions of M. de Lesseps, even if the strenuous opposition of Lord Palmerston for fifteen years is not already made. 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