

THE DEMOCRAT.

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The Mother's Dream.

Silently a young and gentle mother sat rocking her only child; her work had fallen from her hands, and partly slipped upon the floor; while the dim light of the long unmeaning candle scarce changed the ruddy hue of burning embers.

"Twas the birth-day of Howard!

A beauteous light scene after scenes of a long life swept in panoramic view before her dreamy eye. They passed, and the mist of darkness rested upon them.

"Oh God! she murmured, 'that such might be my child. Take, oh take, and seal him thine.'

Again she dreamed! Within a lovely cottage, surrounded by the wide-spreading beeches and stately elms, she stood, and heard the breezes playing with the echo of a bounding stream, or, rushing up the mountain side, laughing at the barriers time had placed athwart her way. Daylight had faded, the soft and glimmering twilight gone, and twinkling stars looked out and smiled. A cradle with its holy treasure slowly rocked before her; she looked within—her babe was there! A smothering cloud slowly settled upon the cradle; and then the vision ceased; she slept, and dreamed no more!

A few short months passed rapidly away. In the mother sat beside her babe, but oh, how changed! No more she dreamed; no more her infant sweetly slept, but tossed its little arms in untold pain. She knelt beside her babe, watching its restless motion, hearing its moans, and trembling for its life. Then came a moment's pause—the little arms laid still upon the check sheet.

"Father!" she cried, "spare, oh spare my child: my darling and my only child."

In vain! for a piercing shriek of pain her idol stretched its arms to her; she caught it to her breast; it's head fell back! Her babe was dead!

Two long days in tearless agony she watched her child and then bore it from her to the cold grave. There was no pomp, no ceremony; when a man of wealth or rank is buried; ah no! it was only babe they bore! Few were the mourners, few were the words there spoken; short the prayers; 'twas only a babe they buried.

The Sabbath came. Long and eloquently did the man of God portray the benefits of Christ's atonement; how dark our state by nature is how utterly depraved the heart of man; how bright the gospel, how glorious the Christian's life, how rapturous his home.

"But oh my friends," he cried, "not all shall enter in! then how fearful was the final doom fixed upon the sinner's course. In words terrible he painted their home; he gave them no peace, no light, the lurid flames flashed up, and amid the walls of the damned we hear their piercing cries."

A female voice came ringing through the house of God, like a shriek of despair—the groan of the damned—and they bore the half-crazed mother to her desolate home.

The bright sun sank from the cloudless sky into a sea of gold; the hill-tops became the blushing brides of evening; and as the golden light, dappled with crimson rays faded away the lustrous stars shone brighter than before. The gentle moon poured a richer flood of liquid radiance, and the soft breeze whispered a sweeter song and a mellower note in the weary air.

Beside the silent grave knelt the stricken mother in prayer. Darkness enwraps her! She saw not the tablets of the dead around her, she felt not the little mound before her, she only knew her babe was dead! Time dragged heavily; each second seemed an age, each breathing an eternity. But suddenly a light dawned upon her; the kind zephyr breathed softer, the mellow moon grew more gentle, the pearl stars more lustrous. She heard a chime softer than a harp, and sweeter than the voice of song; it was an angel throng chanting "Holy, Holy, Holy!" and in their melody she saw her child, and heard its voice joining the sweet chorus of the heavenly hosts.

It was enough if her child was safe; she feared no more!

She hastened from the cold and dewy grave with a buoyant spirit unto her home; the clouds still was there when her infant died the playthings lay beside, as if to while the weary hours; at every step she recognized her darling had been there, but now was gone; she felt the loss, but yet she did not mourn.

The morning came, and carefully she gathered up the little things and strewed them away, a smile resting upon her pale cheek all the while.

Friends noticed the great change, but knew not she had seen her child, and learned from its own lips that infants are with God!

SIXTEEN RECOVERY OF STOLEN PROPERTY.

Some two years since, the jewelry store of H. D. Brackett, of Brattleboro, Vermont, was broken open and robbed of a large amount in watches and miscellaneous jewelry—estimated at the value of about \$3,000. From that day no trace of the stolen property has been discovered.

Suspicion however fastened upon an individual who had all this time been closely watched, and as it has proved, so closely that he would not move or dispose of his ill-gotten treasure. A short time since he removed from his residence, and another family entered on possession.

A few days ago, the lady of the new family noticed, in one room, that the paper was loose, and on putting it back to its place, she dis-

turbed the wall, and a number of gold watches burst out upon the floor; and here the whole of the stolen jewelry was found, amounting to the originally estimated loss.

House Ripening Pears.

The practice of gathering pears while hard and ripening them in suitable places under cover, is well understood, and often resorted to by persons who make the culture of fruit a profession, but it is not known to many who may chance to have more or less of this kind of fruit, which they would learn to prize more highly if it were rightly managed. The following is from Thomas's work on Fruits:—

"The following is the result of his work:

"The practice of gathering pears while hard and ripening them in suitable places under cover, is well understood, and often resorted to by persons who make the culture of fruit a pro-

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