

The Montrose Democrat.

"WE ARE ALL EQUAL BEFORE GOD AND THE CONSTITUTION."—James Buchanan.

McCullum & Gerritson, Proprietors.

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Select Poetry.

From the Southern Literary Messenger.
WOMAN.

BY A LADY OF VIRGINIA.

Not thine! not thine! is the glittering crest
And the glance of the snow white plume—
Nor the badge that gleams from the warrior's
breast.

Like a star 'mid the battle's gloom!
Nor is thy place 'mid thy country's host,
Where the proud steeds stamp the rein—
Where waving plumes are like sea foam tost,
And the turf wears a gory stain.

Not these! not these are thy glorious dower!
But a holier gift is thine,
When the proud have fallen in triumph's hour,
And the red blood flows like wine,
To wipe the dew from the clammy brow—
To raise the drooping head—
To cool the parched lips' fevered glow—
And to smooth down the lowly bed!

Not thine! not thine! is the towering height,
Where ambition makes his throne—
The timid dove wings not her flight
Where the eagle soars alone—
But in the hall, and in the tower,
And by the humblest hearth,
Man feels thy charm, and owns the power
That binds him still to earth.

Yes, these are thine! and who can say
His is a brighter doom,
Who wins Fame's gory wreath of bay,
Round an aching brow to bloom?
Oh! to watch death's livid lips depart—
To soothe each pang of woe—
And to whisper hope to the fainting heart—
Is the proudest meed below!

THE WINTERS.

We did not fear them once—the dull gray morn
No cheerless burden on our spirits laid;
The long night watches did not bring us wam
ings.

That we were tenants of a house decayed,
The early mists like dreams to us decuded,
The frost did fire our work on pane and bough;
Beauty, and power, and wonder had not fled—
How is it that we fear the winters now?

Their hours first fill as bright on hearth and
chamber
Their northern starlight shines so coldly clear;
The woods still keep their holy for December;
The world a welcome yet for the new year.

And far away in old remembered places,
The snow-drops rise and the robin sings;
The sun and moon look out with loving faces,
Why have our days forgot such goodly things?

It is that now the north wind finds us shaken
By tempest fiercer than its bit or blast!
And fair beliefs and friendships have forsaken,
Life Summer's beauty, that has tempter passed;
And life grows leafless in its pleasant valleys,
The light of promise wanting from its day,
Till mist meets even in its inward palace—
Not, like the outer mist, to melt away.

It is not thus when dreams of love and laurels
Gaze sunshine to the Winters of our youth,
Before its hopes had fallen in fortune's quarrel,
Or time had bowed them with his heavy hand—
Ere yet the twilight glow on strange and lonely,
With shadows coming when the fire burns low,
To tell of distant graves and losses only—
The past that cannot change and will not go.

Alas dear friends, the Winter is within us;
Hard is the ice that gathers round the heart,
If pretty cares and vain regrets and win
From Life's true heritage and better part.
Seasons and skies together, worship rather—
But serious toll and tremor when we are;
Hoping for harvests they will never gather,
And dreary Winters they may never see.

Miscellaneous.

HENRIETTA GRAY.

BY J. R. ORTON.

CHAPTER I.

There is something lovely in the name of sister, and its utterance rarely fails to call up the warm affections of the gentle heart. The thoughts that circle round it are all quiet, beautiful and pure. Passion has no place with its associations. The hopes and fears of love, those strong emotions, powerful enough to shatter and extinguish life, cheer, and to burn them. The friend is the star, the lifeline of the heart, the distinction above all price, bright and blazing in the no-man's-land; a sister, the gem of the future light, calm as the mellow moon, and set in a coronet of pearls.

It was late in the autumn of 18—, when a party of young gentlemen were assembled at the mansion of Doctor Gray, in one of the principal streets of the city of Boston. The house was large, and well furnished; and all the arrangements for the little fête, and the fête itself were conducted with that simplicity and propriety, which are ever evidences of taste and delicacy. At a moderate hour, the happy guests departed, pleased with their hostess, the entertainment, and with themselves. One only lingered behind, a very youthful gentleman, who stood with his hand upon the drawing-room door, in conversation with Mrs. Gray and her young, cheerful daughter. Mrs. Gray remarked that it was still early, and that Henrietta and her self would sit up for the Doctor; and his own wishes thus seconded, the young man again resumed his chair.

Henrietta Gray, at this period, was thirteen; half girl and half-woman; an age when the maiden joys in her childish epics, and wonders why they have always interested her so deeply; and she, moreover, in the distance, fairy palaces, and green and flowery banks, and smooth translucent rivers—the thorns and the rough waves of the future will blissfully hidden from her. She was not handsome; her features were not regular, her face was too pale, her form too slight. But then the combined expression of the whole was pleasing. Her eyes were a liquid

blue, her countenance intelligent, and above all, kindled in every feature; and when she spoke, her voice was like the soothing ripple of a gentle stream.

Arthur Blane, the youth who had secured a few additional minutes for the enjoyment of Henrietta's society, was about two years her senior; a fair haired, rosy lad, of modest manners; who, as he finally bade her good night, looked into her eyes and trembled; and his voice sunk to a cadence almost as mellow as her own; so true it is, that gentleness begets gentleness, and tends to subdue all things to itself.

And Arthur Blane's footsteps had hardly died away on the stairs, when they were heard again in rapid ascent; and rushing into the presence of Henrietta and her mother, pale and affrighted, in a few broken words, but tenderly as possible, he informed them that an accident had fallen on the Doctor, the brief announcement was hardly ended, when the ghastly person of Doctor Gray, senseless and bleeding, was borne into the house. The explanation of the casualty was, that in returning from a professional visit, in a dark and narrow street, his carriage had been overturned by striking against a post.

The sudden transformation of Doctor Gray's elegant and happy mansion to a house of mourning; the wail of Mrs. Gray; the heart-broken sobs of Henrietta; and the attempts of Arthur Blane, and other friends, to soothe the grief of the bereaved, with consolation pictured in their faces, to administer hope and consolation; the Doctor's gradual return to consciousness; and the doubts and apprehensions of his medical attendants as to the final result; are of a nature too painful to dwell on. Suffice it, that with the morning the family were permitted to hope; and the Doctor entered on a period of slow and painful convalescence.

Dr. Gray was, or had been, one of the most skillful and popular physicians of the city. He was now fifty years old; and, unfortunately, having remained a bachelor until thirty-five, during the period of his single life he had acquired habits of conviviality and late hours, which he had never found the resolution to abandon. He was in the main a kind husband, and an affectionate parent; but as evil habits, if not vanquished, in the end are almost certain to triumph, so the Doctor's habits for his long companionship and the bottle had grown upon him, until it had nearly made its last demand, in a claim for his life.

Another evil still had followed in the wake of the Doctor's course of life. It lost him the confidence of his friends; and for several years, while the expenses of his family had been increasing, his business had been diminishing. His accident and the confinement of several months which followed, tended to the attention of his creditors to his affairs; and he recovered only to find himself a bankrupt, and his wife and children reduced to beggary.

At this distressing period in the history of the Gray family, the Doctor and his three younger children suddenly disappeared; and no trace of them could be discovered. After a time of woe, of grief and despair, Mrs. Gray and Henrietta, the sole remaining members of the household, retired to cheap and narrow quarters in the suburbs of the town, where the mother, overcome by the success of her severe destiny, sunk into a condition of imbecility.

Not so with Henrietta. Though a shadow rested on her pale face, and the sorrows of her young life had runk deeply into her heart, a kind Providence had not suffered her to be broken by their unusual weight. She was still gentle as ever, but misfortune was rapid in the development of character; and to gentleness were now added an unlooked-for fortitude and energy. Her mother, entirely incapable of effort, and herself, were to her the only support. Her feet were to her the only support. Her feet were to her the only support.

Among her kind friends, none were more constant or thoughtful, than Mr. and Mrs. Blane. Neither did Arthur forget her; and, to the great scandal of the prying ones, he divided the leisure of his college vacation pretty evenly between his father's and the humely tenement of the Grays; and as he was an only son, of large expectations, to the father's scandal of the gossip, he conducted with a total unconcern. Indeed, in these visits, his mother was almost his constant companion.

When not diverted with the society of these friends, life, with Henrietta, presented little else than one unvarying toilsome round. Her household duties, her struggle for subsistence, and her care of her half idiotic and often capricious parent, occupied her hands, as in a regular routine; and yet she had her unhappiness. The inscrutable and mysterious fate of her father and her little brothers, was of itself a burden hard to be borne; and yet, with all these causes of depression bearing upon her, the consciousness of a daily effort to perform her duty, and, above all, a humble and sincere reliance on the goodness and care of Heaven, lightened her heart and footsteps, and clothed her brow with serenity. While the ill of life are scattered with great irregularity, its happiness is dispersed with a far more equal balance than is generally imagined.

Nearly four years thus wore away, when the thread of life, which for some months had been growing weaker and weaker, with Mrs. Gray, parted; and Henrietta alone, of all the family, was left. The Blanes were with her in her affliction, and dowered their generous kindness by offering her a home. The sympathies of her own relatives, too, were so far awakened by this last event, and the delicate condition of the stricken orphan, that her aunt Totton, made her a like offer, which, for obvious reasons, Henrietta preferred to accept. Her rooms were accordingly given up, the humble furniture disposed of, and she became domiciled at her aunt's.

About a month after this event, Mrs. Totton's servant, one morning left a couple of letters at Mr. Blane's. One addressed to Mrs. Blane, and the other to Arthur; and they

proved to be from Henrietta. The one to Arthur was sealed, and followed:
"Dear Arthur,—At a moment like this when I am to be separated from you for a time, and possibly forever, no feeling of delicacy must prevent my treating you with the frankness due to your noble and generous nature. That I love you, you will not doubt; and I am ready, so far as my heart is concerned, to become your wife. But I have first another and imperative duty to discharge. My inquiries after my lost father and brothers, have at length, as I have reason to believe, been crowned with success. I must go to them. Do not seek to follow me, or to trace me out; and if Heaven preserve me, the devotion of my life shall repay you. But if this be too hard, dear Arthur, take your pledged troth, and be only my brother again."

When these letters arrived, Arthur Blane was absent from the city; and on his return, he hastened to Mrs. Totton's. From that discreet lady he obtained little additional intelligence. Henrietta's name, however, he had ascertained, and she was in possession of the secret. Mrs. Totton was too guarded to disclose. His enquiries at the several stage-offices and elsewhere, with the view to ascertain the direction she had taken, were equally unsuccessful; and as his hope faded, gradually Arthur Blane's handsome and happy face assumed a lengthened and woe-begone expression. His only relief was in travel; and what excited a much greater amount of remark was his frequent visits to the city, in his old age, was also seized with a mania to see the world. During these peregrinations, the three, often in company, visited most of the towns in New England, explored a large part of New York, and penetrated at several points, the interminable West beyond.

CHAPTER II.

The scene of our little history now changes to the small village of K—, in the interior of the state of New York; the period, about two years after the sudden disappearance of Dr. Gray and his children from Boston. The village was of no great pretension. It lay in a wide valley, encompassed by massive, but not abrupt hills; and the earth and east flowed small meandering rivers. It was of sufficient age to be free from stumps and the immediate encroachments of the forests; possessed an air of thrift and comfort, several respectable tenements, and a goodly number of neat, white cottages, surrounded with ample grounds, and embosomed in shrubbery. But it was laid out absolutely without plan. Its principal streets were those of the old town, and the growth and east flowed small meandering rivers. 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