

THE MOUNTAIN'S JOURNAL,

AND POTTSVILLE GENERAL ADVERTISER

IT WILL TEACH YOU TO PIERCE THE BOWELS OF THE EARTH AND BRING OUT FROM THE CAVERNS OF THE MOUNTAINS, METALS WHICH WILL INVESTMENT TO OUR HANDS AND SUBJECT ALL NATURE TO OUR USE AND PLEASURE.—DR. JOHNSON.

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FOR THE MINERS' JOURNAL.

How sinks the glorious orb of day,
Far, far, in yonder western sky;
Behold, the beauties of his ray,
As on the world it faints, and dies;
That glorious orb shall rise again
With majesty and grace divine,
O'er nature's darkness, he shall reign
The prince of light; divinely shine.

Thou brightest orb, of glorious light,
That opens wide the gates of day,
With all thy beams, angelic bright,
Drive far the gloom of night away.

At thy presence, inferior orbs
Recede, will shun thy purer light,
Till darkness o'erleaves the mystic chords,
That hide their glories from thy sight.

The sun, and moon, and starry Heaven,
Together with thy globe, must die;
Like valleys sink, and mountains rise,
In moral dissolution lie.

The scenes of nature being closed,
And death-like stillness reigns around,
Call'd up again from their repose
In the new Heavens, with God be found.

ORLANDO.
Port Carbon, Dec. 22d. 1838.

ENGLAND.

Exchange at New York, on London
93 to 10 per cent. premium.

Explosion.—Forty lives were recently lost by an explosion in a coal mine belonging to Henry Carwen, Esq., at Lock near Whitehaven. The overseer imprudently used a candle instead of a Davy Lamp in examining the workings while the men were waiting at the bottom of the shaft. Any miner in our vicinity having friends working in these mines can ascertain their late by calling at our office.

The respected minister of Darlington, the Rev. Mr. May, and his brother, have given the very liberal sum of £2,000 towards the endowment of the new church.

Two copper coins, one of the reign of Gallienus, Roman Emperor, and our own Edward III. have lately been found in Lancaster church yard.

Ludicrous Mistake.—A great restraint is placed on the expression of public opinion throughout the Austrian dominions, but more successfully in Austria Proper than in Hungary. Here politics are freely discussed; notice there. At Vienna, an Englishman, at a cafe, was speaking to a friend about his party, and he observed in the language of the country, "Ich liebe thee," "I love of thee." One of these address police, catching indistinctly the last three syllables, immediately accosted him, saying, "Sir, liberty is a word not to be uttered in Austria." In fact, as Napoleon decreed impossible to be excluded from the French language, so liberty is declared not to be in Austria.—Elliot's Three Great Empires.

IRELAND.

Mr. O'Connell and the Irish Tithe Bill.—Mr. O'Connell, in a letter to his constituents, published last week, gives a defence of himself for having supported the Irish Tithe measure;

Increase of Belfast.—There are, at present, in course of erection, or ready for occupancy, in Belfast and its suburbs, upwards of 120 dwelling-houses, many of them of the first class, exclusive of several large stores, for the provision and other trades, and two extensive weaving factories. Belfast, within the last 20 years, has not only doubled its population, but its extent—a rapidity of increase not surpassed, if equalled by any other town in the United Kingdom.

Good Fortune.—A countryman while raising stones some days ago in a farm in the barony of Knocknity, in this county, was fortunate enough to find under a heavy flag, an earthen vessel containing a large number of gold coins of various kinds, some of them of great antiquity and all in kinds, some of them of great antiquity and all in perfect preservation. Among them were observed guineas of the reign of William III. some large Portuguese, and small Roman coins, all bright and of the purest gold. There was an aperture under the stone large enough to admit a hand to reach the treasure.—ib.

An extraordinary fish was taken out of Lough Foyle, near Mull, last week—its head and body were nearly of equal size, presenting an appearance something like a section of a misshapen hour-glass—its colour was muddy grey, and looked like a mass of thick gelly; it was washed with eight tails, along the gills, it was washed with a number of recurring it by suction. It has been pronounced by a scientific gentleman a very curious specimen of the cuttle fish—though some argue in the contrary, on seeing it so well furnished in the tail-way, denominated it as a "Dan."

SCOTLAND.

Temperance.—The number of adherents in Edinburgh to the principles of total abstinence from all spirituous liquors has, we are credibly informed, been increased to 8,000.

The Advantage of being Tall.—A young Scotchman, who the other day was a private in the 92nd regiment, now stationed at Edinburgh, so remarkably tall that he was unable to stand upright in a sentry box, in consequence promoted to the rank of corporal.

Glasgow, Paisley, and Ayr Railway.—From the half-yearly report of this railway, we learn that the directors have resolved on completing the whole of the through line from Ayr to Glasgow in the first instance, by which means an immediate dividend will arise, and the whole expense of construction will, owing to the economical arrangements of the directors, not amount to above 350,000, or certainly under 400,000.

The Edinburgh papers contain a letter from the Duke of Egin, suggesting a colonial state of the Duke of Wellington should be erected on the summit of Arthur's seat.

Political Feeling in Scotland.—A Scotch correspondent, who "lays little stress on public meetings and their acclamations," but is well acquainted with the "under current" public feeling in North Britain, informs us that there is scarcely a village in the Lowland district but has its local association of the "Universal Suffrage" or "Charter" principle. He is convinced that the time is not far distant when the effect of these operations will be formidable. There are many enthusiasts among the agitators, and as he truly observes, "enthusiasm always tells," and these struggles will not be without result. The age of "whams" is rapidly passing away, and men who believe their ordinary routine of existence necessary and eternal, will be startled some fine day from their dream.—Scotsman.

WALES.

Roman Antiquity.—On Saturday, the workmen employed upon the railway from Chester to Crewe, found at the depth of seven feet under ground, in a recent pit of lead, the weight of which is 170 lbs.; the length, twenty four inches; width, six inches; thickness, four inches; and upon the upper surface of it, in raised characters, is the following inscription:—IMP. VESP. VII. T. TAR. III. COS. II. IMPERATORE VESPASIANO SEPTIMUM TITO IMPERATORE TERTIO CAESARE, which answers to the year 73 or 74. A. D. Of one side is the word SECTANI. The place in which this curious antiquity was found, is near Tarncliffe Bridge, on the road from Chester to London, about two hundred yards on the north side of the turnpike gate. The field is very near the ancient Roman road from Manuceium (Manchester), by Kellall and Holme street, to Chester, and but a short distance from the place where the Roman altar (dedicated to the 20th legion to the nymphs and fountains) was discovered, A. D. 1821. Similar pieces of lead have been found at different periods, in various parts of Britain, and some of them very minutely described by Mr. Pennant, in his tour in Wales, vol. 1st, page 56, quarto edition. He says, "I am satisfied that the ore which produced this lead, was dug and smelted either in that part of Flintshire, anciently called Tegangle, or from the summer's residence of Cangri or Ceangri; or from the residence of the same order of people either in South Wales, or some neighbouring country." It is now in possession of Mr. Gardner of Eastgate street, Chester.

Telegraph Despatch.—The official log book of the telegraph office furnishes the following astonishing record of the celerity with which communications by the telegraph are made between Liverpool and Holyhead. It is the practice in the office to communicate precisely at one o'clock, in order that the different signal stations may regulate their time pieces. This is done by a peculiar signal, made precisely at one, notifying the time, and asking the question, "Is there any thing to report?" An answer is returned, either "Yes," or "No," as the case may be. The distance between one place and the other is 72 miles, and this signal, and the answer back (making a journey of 144 miles), are considered unusually long if they occupy one minute. The average time indeed, is little more than half that period, and on one recent occasion the signal passed, and an answer returned, in the wonderfully short lapse of twenty five seconds. When it is taken into consideration that there were eleven different stations on the line, and only one man at each, such rapidity of correspondence, is truly surprising.—Courier.

Rowland Hill had no respect for hereditary business, and he had a humorous way of describing how a Peer provided for his family. "The heir apparent," said he, "swallows down all the landed property of the other sons; the lad of courage must be taken to fight; the lad of courage is ordered to the law; and the other lads, for all that are not gifted with sense, may do for the Church."

Singular Robbery.—A robbery, effected by means not to be found in the catalogue of numerous ingeniousities in that line of record, is reported in the Semaphore of Marseilles. M. Labuttut, of that city, had left his residence, not long since, intending to be absent a few days. The day after his departure, his house-keeper and a female servant left in charge of the premises, were much surprised at the visit of three individuals, one of whom exhibited a tri-colored sash as the insignia of his office, and stated that M. Labuttut had suddenly died of apoplexy, and they must proceed to put the seals on the property. Having proceeded to make out an inventory of the Furniture, they asked for the keys of the drawers, and found in a desk 1500 fr. besides some articles of plate. This they requested the house-keeper to take charge of, and on her appearing unwilling to undertake the responsibility, they gave her a written and stamped receipt for all the money found in the house, which they said was to remain deposited with the Judge de Paix, according to custom, adding to it the plate, jewelry, &c. which it would not be prudent, they said, to leave in the house. They then took their departure. What was the astonishment of the servants when, two days after, their master made his appearance, hale and strong! The Police have been endeavoring to find the robbers who, it is known, had set off for Antibes, but it is supposed that they have crossed the Italian frontier.

From the National Gazette.
LETTER
From NICHOLAS BIDDLE, Esquire, to the Hon. JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

To the Honorable John Q. Adams
Washington D. C.
Philadelphia, December 10th, 1838.

My Dear Sir—
The general resumption of specie payments presents a fit occasion to close our correspondence with an explanation of the course of the Bank of the United States in regard to that subject. This shall be done briefly and finally.

On the 10th of May, 1837, the Banks of New York suspended specie payments, and their example was immediately and necessarily followed by other Banks in the United States. The difficulty from which it could be extricated only by instant and vigorous measures for its protection. The dangers were—the total prostration of its credit and character abroad—the depreciation in price of all its public securities and its staple productions—and, last and worst, that the defensive remedy of suspension might be so manifestly calamitous that it had outgrown the capacity of mere politicians—that the country must take care of itself; and rely upon itself—and in times of peril, the voice of the humblest citizen may sometimes be heard above the tumult, my own personal position seemed to justify the assumption of instant and deep responsibility. Accordingly, at the very moment when the national misfortune occurred, immediate measures were adopted to mitigate and to repair it. Of these in their order.

I am aware that the first intelligence of the suspension would degrade the character of the country, and subject us to the reproach of bad faith and insolvency. I addressed a published letter, which went to Europe at the same time with the news of the suspension, in which I venture to pledge myself for the fidelity of our country. I had that letter of the 13th of May, 1837, and in the meantime two great dangers devolved on the Bank and the country. The first regards foreign nations—the second, our own. We owe a debt to foreigners, by no means large for our resources, but disproportionate to our present means of payment. We must take care that this late measure shall not seem to be an effort to avoid the payment of our honest debts to them. We have a war, a pestilence, and the price of their industry—too much of all things—but that is our fault—not theirs. We may take less hereafter, but the country is dishonored unless we discharge that debt to the uttermost farthing.

For this purpose—the early and total discharge of our debt to foreigners—the whole power of the Bank of the United States was devoted. In such a crisis it was evident that if resort was had to rigid restraint, the ability to pay would be proportionally diminished;—while the only true system was, to keep the country as much as possible as consistent with its safety, so as to enable the debtors to collect their resources for the discharge of their debts. For the same purpose the Bank, through entirely out of its course of business, and in some degree of collision with its own exclusive interests, assumed an active agency in collecting the debts of the Bank of England—giving facility for the recovery of all debts and stimulating our countrymen to this duty by earnest and constant appeals to their honor and their true interest. With what a generous emulation that appeal was answered you well know—for it touched a chord which lies deep in all American hearts. If the universal distress which pervaded the community could not be witnessed without a painful remembrance, it is not to be forgotten that by the high and manly spirit which it roused throughout the country. For never, on its most glorious field of battle, was there displayed a more lofty sentiment of honor and courage than was then exhibited. The honest payment of debt—the homely duty of private life—was elevated by its universality into a sentiment of national honor,—as the whole country in mass pressed forward in the performance of a sacred and patriotic obligation. Whatever could be paid, was paid instantly and cheerfully; what it was impossible to pay at once, was secured with ample interest for the delay with an offer abandonment of mere selfishness, and a disregard of any pecuniary sacrifice necessary to fulfill their engagements. Accordingly the manner in which the United States have settled their immense commercial debt to Europe is a lasting monument of their integrity. No country could have better performed its duty. Even in the calmest moments of prosperity such a settlement could scarcely be imagined as was accomplished amidst the general wreck and confusion of all its great interests with which the country was afflicted. The consequence is that the general credit of the country never stood higher than at this moment—for it has now earned a distinction entirely exclusive and characteristic, while the Government of the United States is the only Government on earth that has ever paid to the last cent its national debts, the people of the United States have discharged their private engagements with an unexampled fidelity;—a civil glory this, worth a thousand victories.

In the midst of these troubles the character of our institutions was threatened by a combination of politicians in Pennsylvania, who endeavored to establish, as the basis of American legislation, that a charter or other engagement made by any State Legislature was liable to be annulled by any subsequent legislature—and still more effectually by any political meeting called a Convention—which is only another form of extraordinary legislation,—and an attempt was announced to carry that doctrine into effect at a Convention then approaching. The sanction of such a right by the State Government, to annul all its engagements to foreigners, put forth at a moment when the country was laboring under a temporary inability to pay its debts, was calculated to destroy all confidence in the integrity of our American institutions,—and I therefore said so you in my letter. This must not be. It must be decided whether this Pennsylvania bill of ours is a virtuous community or a mere society of plunderers—on the honor of the state be believed either at home or abroad from the stain which a few small politicians wish to fix upon her, until the Convention adopts some solemn declaration that there is no power in this nation capable of violating the sacred engagements of the State authorities. That should be done, and if any efforts of mine may avail, that shall be done, for the honor of the State, for the character of her sister States—and for the stability of our popular institutions. Accordingly, when the Convention met, one of its most decided acts was the following resolution, passed on the 21st of November, 1837.

Resolved, That it is the sense of this Convention,

that a charter duly granted under an act of Assembly, to a Bank or other private corporations, is, when accepted, a contract with the parties to whom the grant is made; and if such charter be unduly granted or subsequently misused, it may be avoided by the judgment of a Court of Justice in due course of law, and not otherwise, unless in pursuance of a power expressly reserved in the charter."

The obligations of the State Legislatures to fulfill their engagements made with foreigners—and the anxiety of individuals to pay their foreign debts, being thus established, the next care was to enable both to comply with their contracts at as little sacrifice as possible. It was due to foreigners that every debt should be paid—it was due to ourselves to make the most of our resources in the settlement. Now these resources consisted mainly in the public securities, and the staple productions of the country. The shock of suspension would of course sink both to the lowest point of depression, and it seemed expedient to avert them from sacrifice by two measures applicable to each.

There can scarcely be any form of security more safe than the pecuniary engagements of the State. They have the most luxurious soil—their big products—infinite natural advantages—our big industry in developing them. They have every thing but money,—and for that they are able to pay, and willing to pay, much more than the less productive industry of Europe can afford to pay. There loans too, instead of being used in wars or extravagance, go to the direct improvement of the borrowing States—so that there can be no better application of the means of any European capitalist than to double his income by American investments. Yet all these require knowledge—local information—the means of exciting confidence;—and it was thought most expedient to establish an American agency in London, as the common centre and the general support of all American securities,—where, in addition to the appropriate business of the Bank, all the public and corporate stocks of the States, might find shelter and protection.

In like manner the derangement of the currency placed the staples of the South entirely at the mercy of the foreign purchaser, who could have dictated the terms of sale to the prostrated planter. It was thought proper to avert that evil by employing a large portion of the capital of the Bank in making advances on Southern produce, and in making advances on the first year to provide remittance to pay its own bonds in England, issued to the New York merchants in their extreme distress, for as the bank could not of course purchase these staples, it made advances upon them in the South, receiving in exchange bills on Europe. The second effect was to introduce into the market a new competition, and thus prevent the unconditional subjection of the planter to the foreign purchaser. These advances were made not as a past resource on the mere personal security of the merchants,—which the confusion of all private credit would have rendered too hazardous,—but on the actual shipment of the produce to an American house in England, willing and able to protect American property from the reckless waste with which it has been too often thrown into the market, with an entire disregard of all American interests. The combination of these measures—the application of capital on this side and the prudent reserve on the other—have saved the planting interest an amount which it is difficult to estimate below ten or fifteen millions of dollars. I believe, too, that nearly one half of the commercial debt of this country to Europe has been paid by the mere difference between the actual sales of the securities and staples—and the prices they would have realized had they been thrown unprotected into the hands of Europeans. These measures were essentially of a temporary nature—they were measures of emergency adopted in the midst of a public calamity and to be discontinued when the necessity which caused them. As soon therefore as the capital and industry of the country had time to subside into their accustomed channels these operations were relinquished and now they have totally and finally ceased.

During these movements, it became important to understand distinctly the course of the Government. In my letter to you of the 6th of April last, I stated my "conviction that there could be no safe or permanent resumption of specie payments by the Banks until the policy of the Government towards them was changed." This change was soon and happily made. On the 31st of May the special order requiring payments in coin in the Land Offices, was repealed by Congress. On the 25th of June the bill called the Sub Treasury, requiring coin in all payments to the Government, was negatived. In the month of July the Government agreed to receive an anticipated payment of the bonds of the Bank to the amount of between four and five millions of dollars in a credit to the Treasurer on the books of the Bank—and arrangements were made for the more distant public disbursements in the notes of the Bank. These arrangements were beneficial to the public service, brought the Government into efficient co-operation for the re-establishment of the currency, and opened the way to a resumption of specie payments. That resumption accordingly took place throughout the middle States on the 13th of August, and in many of the Southern and Western States soon after.

It remained only to aid some of the South-western States for the same object. Their activity in extending their public and private improvements had made them debtor States, and depreciated their currency by its excess. But they had abundant resources, and perfect willingness to pay—and all that was needed seemed to be a longer period to recruit their exhausted means—so as to derive from the approaching crops, by a short anticipation, ability to meet their engagements. The Bank of the United States has used its utmost endeavors for that purpose, by making advances to the amount of many millions to the Banks in those States; all of whom will it is presumed, by the month of January, resume specie payments, and thus complete the circle of resumption throughout the whole Union.

Upon reviewing the events which followed the suspension, it is a source of great gratification to see that all that it was designed to do, has been done.

It was proposed to protect the character of the country from the first shock of the suspension—to effect the honorable discharge of our foreign debt with the least sacrifice of the property of the debtors—to vindicate the good faith of the State Legislatures—to discourage all premature attempts to resume—but, by a cautious delay, to complete a universal resumption. All these are done, and the troubles of the country have happily ceased.

Of the future it is difficult to speak; but in that future the Bank of the United States will no longer occupy its past position. The Bank of the United has ceased to be a national institution in 1836, and was preparing to occupy its new place as a State Bank, when the troubles of 1837 forced it in some degree back into its old position and it then devoted all its power to assist in carrying the country unharmed through its recent troubles. Having done this, its extraordinary duties ceased. For the future, it advocates this involuntary power. It has no longer any responsibility to the Union. It now desires only repose, and it will take its rank hereafter, as a simple State Institution, devoted exclusively to its own special concerns.

I rejoice, too, that this new position of the Bank absolves me from many cares and duties. In the general confusion of public affairs during the last two years it has been my lot to be more prominent than my own inclination prompted, and often to assume a station which would have better fitted others. But public calamities justify the apparent forwardness they require,—a great danger are best met by saying them—my task is now ended—and I gladly withdraw from these responsibilities, carrying with me the only satisfaction I ever sought in them,—the consciousness of having done my duty to the country as a good citizen.

With great regard, yours, &c.
N. BIDDLE.

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With great regard, yours, &c.
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THE COQUETTE.

BY JOHN ST. HUGH MILLS.
"The earth hath bubbles, as the water hath,
And these are they."

LADY MARY HARKWELL was a young, beautiful, accomplished girl of seventeen, and she knew it. I have said she was beautiful; but what words can describe her loveliness? In a picture it would have appeared flattery of the sex; her complexion so transparent and brilliant; her large blue eyes, dreaming of love, hid under a fringe of long silken lashes; pouting lips, like a spoiled child's, and auburn flowing ringlets dancing upon shoulders rivaling alabaster; her figure tall and stately as a queen's, (on the stage), and but—I loathe, hate, detest the word but—how often when our hopes are buoyant with expectation our anticipations upon the eve of being realized—when in pops but to disappoint and spoil the fun—I ought to have been a married, happy fellow; but I am miserable Mr. Single, growling with the gout and rheumatism. I was a young, good-looking fellow, but I am old and wrinkled, and but for coquette, Lady Mary would have been perfection personified.

The evening arrived for the much-talked-of fete at Devonshire House, and Lady Mary, accompanied by her mother the countess, at a late hour proceeded to the "halls of dazzling light." As they entered the spacious saloon, a tall and elegant young officer, dressed in the splendid uniform of the horse artillery, threaded his way through the crowd of rank, wealth and beauty; and, with a slight blush and hesitating manner, said to them, "His grace has been quite distressed at your ladyship's prolonged absence."

"Then, pray, relieve the duke's unhappiness, Captain Stracy, by informing him we are here," said Lady Mary, with a toss of her well-placed aristocratic head, delighted at the sensation created by deferring her presence.

"The sun requires no *avant-courriere* to inform us of his rays present," said the duke, bowing low, having with his usual elegant attention, perceived the *entree* of the belle of the fashionable world.

Lady Mary curtsied to the high-flown compliment, and smiled with satisfaction at seeing the surrounding brilliant rivals envying the marked attention of his grace, who, offering her his arm, led her through the suite of beautiful rooms, classically arranged with that perfection of taste only to be found in the highly-educated and refined.

"Who will you confer the happiness of dancing with?" inquired the duke, arriving at the apartment appropriated to the poetry of action.

"Will your ladyship favour me?" supplicated Captain Stracy, who followed their footsteps with perseverance and pertinacity.

"Really, Captain Stracy, I shall be most delighted," replied Lady Mary, disengaging her arm from the duke, who, bowing, left the beauty, observing, "Stracy, you may consider yourself the luckiest fellow in the world."

"I believe you are an admirer of flowers," Lady Mary, observed Captain Stracy, taking their places in the quadrille.

"Indeed I am passionately fond of them, they are so exquisitely poetical and enchanting," replied Lady Mary, with enthusiasm.

"You, perchance, understand the language of flowers?" said Stracy.

"I take so great an interest in all relating to them, that I have paid great attention to that eastern perfection of romance," replied Lady Mary.

"Your acceptance of this bouquet will confer pleasure upon me," as, with trembling hand and flushed cheek, he presented an elegant collection of exotics.

Lady Mary glanced at them as she accepted the gift, and at once saw the emblem of affection and love; and, smiling even more flattering than her words, said, "I will retain even the leaves which withered, Captain Stracy, as a remembrance of the most delightful evening of my existence."

At that moment Stracy's hopes were excited beyond description. For some time he had loved her—loved with a purity of affection that made all other considerations mere shadows compared with the thought of her; his heart was completely prostrated at her shrine; and as he gazed upon her matchless form, he looked with that deep feeling of passion which must spring from the secret depths of the inmost recesses of the soul; he loved as man should love, and women appreciate. Whirling from the side of his beautiful idol, scarcely conscious whether on his heels or head, and difficult to decide which danced most rapidly, his heart or his feet, he was returning to her side, and within a short distance, when lifting his eyes from the ground, he stood aghast at perceiving her turned half round from him talking to the duke, carelessly plucking leaf by leaf, flinging, or rather permitting, the blossoms to fall regardlessly at her feet.

"I beg your pardon," said Lady Mary, "but really I fear my interest in his grace's most amusing anecdote has caused me to spoil my pot flowers."

"They basked in the sun of your smiles for a moment, to be withered and forgotten—an emblem of the ambitious reaching and ill-placed hopes of man," said Stracy, with bitterness.

"Really that is very pretty said, Captain Stracy. Pray, may I inquire what new novel is graced with such tender sentiment?" asked Lady Mary, with an arch smile.

"It's not new, I fear," said Stracy, pointedly; "but an everyday scene in the face of life."

"Now do give the dear play a new title every poet, author and scribbling coxcomb is continually dwelling upon its thread-bare tale of—all the world's a stage—the drama of existence—the face of life. Oh! I am heart-sick of such stuff!" exclaimed Lady Mary.

"We will call it then a great mistake, or always in error," said the duke, overhearing the conversation.

"I shall move an amendment, may I please your grace," said Lady Mary, "by erasing the word *always*, and inserting *Captain Stracy in error*."

"Why me, in particular?" asked Stracy.

"Your *vis-a-vis* has great reason to say so," said Lady Mary, "for she has been dancing for the last minute, and you have most ungraciously permitted her to waste grace and elegance by not returning a single step."

Away glided Stracy to apologize for his misconduct, and upon returning again, saw the duke in conversation with his fair partner.

"It's quite clear," thought Stracy, "that his grace is smitten, and if so, I stand no chance whatever, not even the remotest; however, to-morrow this shall be brought to a conclusion, one way or the other for notwithstanding the evident gratification she experiences from his attentions, I am convinced that I am not totally indifferent to her."

He was right in his conjectures; Lady Mary admired the fine, manly figure of the young officer, his refinement of manner and brilliant intellect; but, ignorant of the deep impression he had made, checked his advancements, finding they were approaching to an issue which would compel an affirmative or a negative, wishing at that period neither to accept nor reject him. The attentions of the duke had been marked for a considerable period, and notwithstanding report stated his determination was never to marry, yet Lady Mary had a distant hope of astonishing the world, by becoming the beautiful, fascinating, and leading dutchess of Devonshire. She did not, could not love the duke; he was old enough to be her father, but, in his title, his princely fortune, and palaces, were ample to make up that deficiency in the scale of splendor and happiness. So thought her ladyship, but thoughts are often based upon very shallow foundation; the duke's attentions were merely those that a man of taste pays to a lovely woman when he has the opportunity; her beauty was attractive in the extreme; it gratified him to hear her conversation sparkled with wit and refined language; it pleased him to hear her use these feminine weapons of attack and defence; it charmed him to listen to the melodious tones struck from the trembling harp as her taper fingers ran over the strings, accompanied by her soft, flute-like voice; but for her heart he cared not a rush.

"There are some days that might outlast years—
Days that obliterate the past, and make
The future of the color which they cast;
A day may be a destiny; for life
Lives in but little—but that little teaches
With some one chance, the balance of all time."

The following morning at an early hour, Stracy proceeded to undergo the trying ordeal of putting the awful question; but although doubting materially the success of his suit, yet he determined to state clearly his ardent and glowing affection, his attachment which time could not efface.

"I have been thinking of you very much since we parted, and I have been wondering how you were getting on. I hope you are well and happy. I have been very busy lately, but I have managed to find some time to write to you. I have been thinking of you very much since we parted, and I have been wondering how you were getting on. I hope you are well and happy. I have been very busy lately, but I have managed to find some time to write to you.

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