

# The Elk County Advertiser.

HENRY A. PARSONS, Jr., Editor and Publisher.

NIL DESPERANDUM.

Two Dollars per Annum.

VOL. II.

RIDGWAY, ELK COUNTY, PA., THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 1873.

NO. 14.

## "Our Baby."

In a modest, quiet dwelling,  
Where all is plain—not fine,  
Lives a roselind little darling,  
A little friend of mine.  
Earth seems to her a play-house,  
No doubt she does believe,  
The house and all within it,  
Were made for Genevieve.  
Her eyes are full of mischief,  
She's a pretty mouth to kiss,  
She is something of a tyrant,  
This pretty little miss.  
She orders here two servants  
To attend her night and day,  
To feed her when she's hungry,  
And to join with her in play.  
Or, if perchance, the twilight  
Into the room may peep,  
She calls aloud for some one  
To rock her fast to sleep:  
And if she wakes at midnight,  
While the others are at rest,  
They are roused from out their slumbers,  
While she scolds her very best.  
Yet, tyrant as she may be,  
By night as well as day,  
There is no one knows but loves her,  
There are anxious hearts that pray  
That her life may be protected  
For days and years to come,  
For the brown-eyed little darling  
Is the sunlight of that home.

What matter that her birthright  
Cost an agony of pain?  
Her winning smile and soft white arms  
Have paid it back again.  
What matter that the parents'  
Hearts of woe endure?  
Christ worketh through our little ones  
To make us all more pure.  
There is not in the breadth and scope  
Of any human life,  
An ill without a recompense,  
A joy without a strife,  
And were all anguish blotted out,  
And naught but joy remain,  
We'd know no God—we'd know no Christ,  
For heaven was gained through pain.  
So let her little majesty  
Her countless changes ring,  
Our hearts around the roselind  
Will ever fondly cling.  
We'll hear her mad-cap humors  
And laugh away her fears,  
We'll laugh her angry spirits  
While we kiss away her tears.  
And, in the distant future,  
When the hair is silver'd o'er,  
She will turn unto her parents  
As they turned to her before,  
And with her loving spirit,  
Which our roselind will unfold,  
Pay back their toil and trouble,  
Over an hundred fold.

## DIVORCED.

"He'll go to the dogs now."  
"Of course he will."  
"By all means. Only see how he  
acted when his wife lived with him!  
Now that she has left him, and all re-  
straint is removed, he'll go the rest of  
the downward way in no time."  
"I'll give him just one year to be  
buried."  
"Pshaw! Half that time will finish  
him."  
"Well, I pity him, too, but I pity  
him more." He brought the misery on  
both.

Such was the talk of half a dozen  
villagers, who stood in front of one of  
the principal stores one summer evening,  
while the subject of their remarks  
went staggering along on the opposite  
side.

It was evident that he was trying to  
walk straight, but such endeavors al-  
ways seem to be drunken man's. He  
more crooked. However, it proved he  
was not lost to all sense of shame, and  
still retained an aversion to being ridi-  
culed and despised.

But Harry Rogers had carried on at a  
fearful rate for a year or two past. He  
had just one vice—drink; but that was  
enough. He had married a worthy  
farmer's daughter, Nettie Ray, only a  
few years previous, but such had been  
his conduct during more than a year  
past that she had been obliged to cut  
him loose to pursue his profligate course  
alone, and a legal separation had just  
been effected.

Harry's home was on a little farm, a  
mile from town. He owned it, but then  
it was heavily mortgaged, and in an-  
other year foreclosure was certain. It  
was not likely his creditors would spare  
him when he made no effort to meet  
his obligations.

A week passed after that summer  
evening on which all had agreed in pre-  
dicting his early ruin—two weeks—  
month or two. What mystery is here?  
To the utter bewilderment of the prophe-  
sying sages, Harry discontinued  
visiting the taverns, and was rarely seen  
in the village. When he did come to  
the store he speedily transacted his  
business and then home—sober.

Wonders never cease when they get a  
start. He was next reported as actually  
at work on his farm. Had but one man  
told this in the village, he would have  
been marked as lacking veracity; but  
as several ladies vouched for the fact,  
it was worthy of credence.

The little farm began to look healthy  
as the summer wore on. The fences  
straightened up, the weeds disappeared;  
the animals looked fatter and happier,  
and the little cottage looked neater.

Time wore on, and the great change  
was more remarkable every day. Harry's  
charitable creditors called and told him  
he might have his own time to pay off  
the mortgage.

The fall came; and the farm yielded  
an abundance of crops, and Harry found  
himself beginning to drift along with  
the tide of prosperity.

And Nettie had begun to live her  
young girlhood over again, as it were,  
under her father's roof; but somehow  
it was not like the happy, joyous girl-  
hood of memory. It was sober and  
quiet now, and she fell into the train of  
musing; and every now and then there  
passed through her mind a certain  
thought—she was neither maid nor  
wife.

She avoided the vicinity of her late  
home, nor had she once seen Harry  
since the separation; but she had heard  
of him occasionally—knew that he was  
a changed man. Still this knowledge

brought but a melancholy satisfaction.  
The reform had come too late. There  
was a wide gulf between them now.  
But, one evening in the golden Octo-  
ber, Nettie felt herself obliged to pass  
Harry's farm. It lay between her  
father's house and the village. On the  
evening in question, however, she had  
been detained in the village until it was  
nearly dark, and she determined to  
hazard the nearest road home. It would  
be fully dark when she would pass his  
house, and the chances were that he  
would not see her. She wouldn't have  
him see her for the world.

When she arrived opposite the house  
she perceived a light in the sitting  
room. Her first impulse was to hurry  
by; but some powerful impulse prompt-  
ed her to stop. She did so, and stood  
timidly at the further side of the road,  
gazing longingly at the house that had  
once been the home to her—first of hap-  
piness, then of misery. By-and-by she  
felt an irresistible yearning to look at  
the interior once more. He was evi-  
dently within, and there was no danger  
that he would see her. So she walked  
hurriedly across the road, opened the  
gate, and softly stepped into the lawn.  
Another minute and she was at the win-  
dow, looking in. What singular behav-  
ior. She could not help it.

The little room was as neat as when  
she herself had watched over it. A  
cheerful fire was burning in the grate,  
although the night was not cold, and a  
lighted lamp stood on the table. It was  
there that Harry was sitting. How her  
heart bounded as she caught sight of  
him. He held in his hand a book from  
his scanty library.

She recognized it at once; but he was  
not reading now. Was he asleep—or  
was he buried in a sad reverie? Nettie  
thought the latter was the case, and her  
heart was touched.

"I wish I had borne with him," she  
said. But a moment later her heart was  
touched, when she saw a tear roll down  
his cheek and drop upon the book. The  
lone man was not asleep—he was cry-  
ing.

She could not help it. All the woman  
in her heart was aroused, and she was  
at the door in a moment. Her cry—  
she burst into the sitting-room, and  
was at his side.

"Oh, Harry!"  
Her voice quivered with emotion.  
"Why, Nettie!" he exclaimed, trying  
to hide his tears—men are ashamed of  
them, are they not?"  
"Yes, Harry, I was passing—I looked  
in—I saw you sitting here so lonely,  
and couldn't help coming in. I thought  
of the time we were happy here, and—"

Then her womanly tears could be re-  
pressed no longer. There was no use  
of trying to hide them. Beside her  
she broke down, and she could say no  
more just then.

He rose and took both her hands from  
her face, and held them in his own. "I  
thought you had blotted me out from  
your memory."  
"No, no, Harry," she sobbed, "I  
could not do that. I could not help leav-  
ing you; but I left you loving me more  
than ever. Oh, I have been unhappy."  
"Nettie, I have heard that I—"

"Yes, I have heard that you have  
changed—that you do not drink any  
more—that again you are manly and  
industrious. I need not be so lonely  
and lonely you may be here," and the ten-  
der, flushed face as her heart felt  
what her lips spoke.

"Yes, I am lonely, Nettie—more than  
you may think; but I have deserved this  
punishment for the way I acted. I  
had no discouragements—I had nothing  
to make me do so. It was only a pas-  
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for me to overcome. You were all a  
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