

The Elk County Advocate.

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

NIL DESPERANDUM.

Two Dollars per Annum.

VOL. XII.

RIDGWAY, ELK COUNTY, PA., THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1882.

NO. 37.

After a While.
There is a strange, sweet solace in the thought,
That all the woes we suffer here below
May, as a dark and hideous garment wrought
For us to wear, whether we will or not,
Be cast aside, with a relieving smile,
After a little while.

Only a little while this vale of tears
With moons and sighs shall hem our devious way;
Only a little while the grief that sears
And wrings and rends shall gloat above its prey;
And fade will, likewise, every hollow gulf
After a little while.

What if we lose earth's pageants, fresh and fair—
The pride of morn, the sunset's gorgeous fields,
Love's leaping pulse, and the unmeasured share
That Nature's largess for the asking yields—
If death to brighter shores our souls exile
After a little while?

No mortal roaming but hath certain end;
Though far into the ocean-spaces stray,
We sail and sail, without a chart for friend,
Above the sky-line, fast and far away,
There looms at last the one enchanted isle
After a little while.

Though over burning and inveterate souls,
To seek the river's mystic source we strain,
With parching lips, scorched feet and blistered hands,
At last there rises the one mountain chain
That folds the fountains of our spirit's Nile
After a little while.

Oh, when our cares come thronging thick and fast,
With more of anguish than the heart can bear,
Though friends desert, and, ah! the heedless blast,
Even love pass by us with a stony stare,
Let us withdraw into some ruined pile,
Or lonely forest aisle,

And contemplate the never-ceasing change
Whereby the processes of God are wrought,
And from our petty lives our souls estrange,
Till, bathed in currents of exalted thought,
We feel the rest that must our cares beguile
After a little while!

—Caterer's Magazine.

A Breach of Discipline.

"It's no use speaking, Breton; I must go."
"Argo, you mad, Kendal? It's your night on guard, and you know what a martinet the colonel is."
"I tell you I will go. The colonel's not a dancing man. He'll know nothing about it."
"Don't you believe it. The colonel's thick with those Lindsay girls, and I'll bet you ten to one he's there to meet them."

"Oh, hang it! I'll take my chance then," was the reply in the dogged tone of a man who knows he is in the wrong, but does not choose to yield.

The speakers were two officers of the 4th regiment, which had been quartered for the last six months at Singleborough. The subject of discussion was a great public ball which was to take place that evening. The regiment was to be relieved in a day or two, and the ball would be the last at which the gallant officers of the 4th would appear in that hospitable town.

Captain Kendal looked very obstinate as he answered the prudent admonitions of his friend Breton, who gave a long whistle, and tapped the ground ominously with his cane.

"I gave you credit for more common sense," he resumed, after a pause.

"Then you were mistaken, you see."
"So it seems, but it is an awful pity. You'll be cashiered to a certainty, for the old fellow is keen as a hawk and is sure to find you out. I saw, man, be advised; give it up; the game's too dangerous."
"Pooh!" exclaimed the other, testily. "I tell you the colonel won't be there, and if he were, trust me to do as I please. Why, bless you, he's blind as a mole!"

His friend looked utterly unconvinced, but remonstrance was plainly of no use.

"It's all because of that Leslie girl," he said, ruefully, for he was honestly attached to his messmate, and saw clearly the consequences which might be expected to follow upon his attendance at the ball. "Thank Heaven, I'm not in love!"

"Spare your eloquence and have done now, can't you?" replied Captain Kendal, ungraciously. "Go, I must and will, but trust me to take care of myself."

The two friends walked down the rest of the street in silence till Breton turned into his club, while the other went on, with a slightly anxious frown on his handsome, sunburnt face, and swinging his cane uneasily.

He knew Breton was right, but wrong is apt to be stronger than right sometimes, and the temptation in this case was powerful. He was about to commit, deliberately, a glaring breach of military discipline, which, if discovered, would assuredly cost him dear and put an end to more pleasant hopes than one. Nevertheless, he was quite determined to risk it. It was his duty to keep guard that night at the Royal bank, and his colonel was not a man who would lightly overlook even a trifling offense against the military

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FACTS AND COMMENTS.

The aesthetic movement in England has entirely died out, and to be aesthetic is voted to be "low" and common. Punch has largely assisted in killing the craze by ridiculing it.

Asa Jordani, now living in Tennessee, is 107 years old. He fought with Jackson at New Orleans. He has applied for a pension, but so far has failed to procure one. He is interesting and magnetic in conversation, and takes care of his great-grandchildren.

There has been another silent couple at Galway, N. Y., Jonathan James and his wife, who lived together over twenty-five years without speaking to each other. Having disagreed about the words of a sermon he heard in 1856, they vowed eternal silence, and kept the vow, though always on apparently good terms with each other. Mr. James died last spring, but Mrs. James is still living.

From the statistics reported by the United States commissioner of education for 1880, just published, it appears that in 1871 twenty-nine States reported a school population of 9,632,969, while in 1880 the thirty-eight States and eight Territories reported a total of 15,536,280. The number enrolled in the public schools, twenty-eight States only reporting for 1871, was 6,393,085; while for 1880 it was 9,781,521, all the States and Territories reporting this item.

It is estimated that there are 5,000 patent medicines manufactured and sold. There is one establishment that keeps them all. They include pills that cure every disease humanity is heir to, bitters, cordials, elixirs, syrups, salves, toothache drops and hair preparations. There are seventy-five medicinal waters, 150 liniments, 130 hair dyes, and of plasters, oils and other medicaments an equal jumble. Millions of dollars are yearly spent in advertising them.

A German paper estimates that the compensation which will have to be awarded by the international commission for houses destroyed by the Alexandria bombardment at \$7,700,000. The property destroyed covers an area of 95,000 square meters, the average value of which is estimated at \$80 per square meter. Adding \$10,000,000 or \$12,000,000 for furniture and stock in trade, and \$4,000,000 for the losses of the refugees, the aggregate sum would be \$22,000,000 or \$24,000,000.

The Suez canal was built with the shares at the par value of \$100, and although their price now is something like \$50, the company is neither reducing the dues nor giving greater facilities for the navigation of the canal. It is not surprising, therefore, that the commercial classes in England take a deep interest in building another and purely British canal, an undertaking that could be carried out, it is said, with mechanical improvements and knowledge, at a comparatively small cost.

In the event of postal savings banks in the United States where deposits as small as one cent may be received, a good opportunity will occur to test the old proverb which admonishes us to take care of the pence and let the pounds take care of themselves. In England last year such small deposits aggregated \$12,500,000. Another instance of the result of this policy is afforded by the fact that the Bank of England has obtained \$716,300 by reckoning its own favor in settlements of transactions involving fractions of pence.

Commissioner Dudley reports that the 285,695 pensioners on the list at the end of the last fiscal year, June 30, 1882, have been classified. There are 173,138 army and 2,361 naval invalids, 76,448 army and 1,953 naval widows, minor children and dependent relatives; 7,134 survivors of the war of 1812, and 24,651 widows of those who served in the war of 1812. The total amount paid to pensioners since 1861 is \$560,641,324.75. It is an astounding fact that almost one-fifth of the whole amount expended for pensions since the beginning of the war twenty-one years ago will be paid for the same purpose during the present year. And there are 290,966 claims for pensions et to be considered.

An entire Gallo-Roman town has been unearthed in the neighborhood of Poitiers. It contains a temple 114 yards in length by seventy yards in breadth, baths occupying five acres, a theatre of which the stage alone measures ninety yards on its longest side, streets, houses and other buildings covering a space of more than seventeen acres. The excavations, which are being continued, have brought to light more edifices, sculpture in the very best style and in good preservation—dating, it is thought, from the second century—and a quantity of iron, bronze and earthen articles. M. Lisch, the inspector of historic monuments, declares that the town is a little Pompeii in the center of France.