

The Pittsburgh Gazette.

A DAY WITH THE DUCHESS OF SUTHERLAND.

BY RICHARD BEECHER STOWE.

A day at Dunrobin Castle was spent much in this fashion: Between eight and nine o'clock the guests began assembling in a charming little boudoir adjoining the grand drawing-room, where the breakfast was always served. Here the Duchess, always fresh and radiant, and with something appropriate and kind to say to each one, waited for a few moments before leading the way to a room where the servants of the house were assembled for family worship. On the entrance of the Duchess and her guests all rose respectfully, and remained standing until they were seated; after which the Duchess read morning prayers, concluding with Lord's Prayer, in which all joined anxiously. Breakfast, which immediately followed, was on the whole the most charming meal of the day—the table being spread in the brightest and airiest room in the house, whose windows overlooked the tree-tops of the forest and the blue waters of the German Ocean. It was a meal of unconventional freedom and ease; about it, not only the Duchess, but every one's letters were laid beside his place, and the opening and reading of these and the passing backwards and forwards of cheerful bits of information gathered from them, formed a very pleasant feature of the hour. After breakfast there was a little season of chatting and lounging in the parlors, while the Duchess arranged with some of her friends a thoughtful programme for the day, which included provision for the comfort and amusement of every guest, and these arrangements being understood, the Duchess could command her time until luncheon at two o'clock.

The gentlemen of the family, as a general thing, were supposed to spend the day in the open air, as this was the shooting season. After lunch at two o'clock, the guests generally drove out, and spent the afternoon in excursions to different points of interest in the surrounding beautiful country, returning in season for an hour of rest and refreshment before the dressing-bell rang for dinner.

Dinner at eight o'clock was the grand reunion of the day, all, however divided in pursuits, were expected to meet there, and spend the evening thenceforward in each other's society. Music and conversation diversified the evenings, and at twelve o'clock the Duchess dressed and escorted her guests, handing a night-lamp with some appropriate kind word.

The disappearance of the beautifully dressed ladies and down the long corridors of the castle, with their night-lamps in their hands, and their passing behind the draped portals of the different doors was like a scene in the opera.

The Duchess was never insensible to the poetry of the life she was living, and her poetic fancy was often excited by the romantic castle by the sea had its charms for her, and she enriched its architecture and arranged its apartments with many graceful suggestions.

The boudoir, where we assembled in the morning, was lined with sea-green satin, and the corners of the curtains were of white enameled shells and coral. The tables and furniture of the room were adorned with shells and coral, even the small medallions were wrought in the form of sea-shells.

Nothing could be thought of more quaintly beautiful than the terraced walks, the magnificent staircases, the lovely gardens with their fountains and their flowers, which surrounded this castle.

With the warm inspiration of the Duchess' lovely and life-giving presence, Dunrobin seems to us that we are living in a dream, though the rose of England is now faded, though leaf by leaf dropped from it in that long and weary trial of debility and sickness, which must end in death, that the noblest and sweetest part of what gave the charm there is immortal.

Patience continuance in well-doing was the great effort and end of her own life and her husband's. And of all that she possessed, this patient continuance is the only thing that retains permanent value in the eyes of God or man.—Atlantic Monthly for February.

L'OPERA-BUFFE. Mrs. Rebecca Harding Davis, in a stinging article contributed to Putnam's, has these strictures on the modern stage:

The most salient and apparent change in women, in the last few years (I do not say the deepest), is not advance in intelligence, marked as that may be, it is the growth in impurity. It is simply a transient effect of this roused and ungratified brain-power. The ordinary London or New York woman is too far advanced in the "progress of the age" to find employment for her awakened imagination or reason in housekeeping or in even downright hard business. In self-defence, then, she listens to the music, or looks at the living pictures of the ballet, where her passions at least are daintily played upon. She reads, or writes, as the case may be, and none of the women of the age, or advancing a step farther, she finds that a mean and ignoble life for a woman which is sacrificed to the children whom God has given her, and on aesthetic principles, quietly does her share in building up the temples to murder that openly face us in our most crowded streets.

I begin with an extreme case. Perhaps so. Yet hunger is not choice in its food, and there is reason to doubt whether the ordinary aliment of all women in literature or art, now, is a whit more pure and wholesome than that of men, coarse as we declare their appetites to be.

There is a class of subjects, the name of which would bring the red to the old lady's cheek yonder, but with which it is the fashion of the day to make young girls thoroughly conversant. There is no need to send Nellie out of the room now, no matter what topic the matrons may discuss. The terra incognita of our grandmothers is well-trodden ground to her at sixteen.

How can it be otherwise? She finds not only men, but women, whose names are tainted, among leaders of fashionable society; she sits beside her mother, and sees her smile at the bald indecency of the opera-bouffe without a blush; she hears the "social evil" coolly discussed as a social necessity. It is no wonder, then, that, night after night, Nelly herself may be seen, with back and bosom half-bared, whirling and prancing in the arms of French's, while her mother looks placidly on. If I hint my disgust, I am told severely, that to the pure all things are pure, and that the obscene play and the waltz that sets Dick French's blood on fire, if looked on aesthetically, are, to women, refined and innocent pleasures.

I doubt if any man believes this. If, for lack of pure occupation for their brains and senses, women of society bring this stuff to pollute their daily lives, they need not suppose that any affected ignorance or aesthetic sunlight will hide the real nature of the substance from the men about them. Dick French, worn roused that he is, has joined the school of the critic of the Saturday Review. He asserts that all women are represented by these. He hints that he understands the lures that these devotees hold forth. "It's hard on a fellow," he says. "The extravagance of these women won't allow

a man to marry; yet they tempt him to do it with all the arts of the worst demi-monde." Then he and his compeers adjust their eyeglasses, and lean against doorways, chiding the faces of the delicate young girls who are whirled past, as a trader might the slaves in the market.

A GOOD YARN.

In the village of — lived a man who had once been a Judge of the county, and well known all over it by the name of Judge R—. He kept a store and a saw-mill, and was always sure to have the best of the bargain on his side, by which he had gained an ample fortune; and some did not hesitate to call him the biggest rascal in the world. He was very conceited withal, and used to brag of his business capacity whenever any one was near to listen. One rainy day, as quite a number were seated round the stove, he began as usual to tell of his great bargains, and at last wound up with the expression— "Nobody has ever cheated me, nor they can't neither."

"If you'll promise you won't go to law about it, nor do anything, I'll tell you, or else I won't; you are too much of a law character for me."

"Let's hear," cried half a dozen voices at once. "I'll promise," said the judge, "and treat in the bargain if you have your own way."

"I never robbed you of a wagon; I only got the best of the bargain," said the judge. "Well, I made up my mind to have it back, and—"

"You never did," interrupted the cute judge. "Yes, I did, and interest too."

"How so?" thundered the now enraged judge. "Well, you see, Judge, I sold you one day a very nice pine log, and bargained with you for a lot more. Well, that log I stole off your pile down at the mill, the night before, and the next day I sold it to you. The next night I drew it back home, and sold it to you the next day; and so I kept on till you had bought your own log of me twenty-seven times."

"That's a lie!" exclaimed the infuriated judge, running to his book and examining his log account; "you never sold me twenty-seven logs of the same measurement."

"I know it," said the vender in logs; "by drawing it back and forth the end wore off, and so it was only ten feet long—just fourteen feet shorter than it was the first time I brought it—and when it got so short I drew it home and worked it up into shingles, and the next week you bought the shingles, and sold me the log, and stowed away in my pocket book."

The exclamation of the judge was drowned in the shouts of the by-standers, and the promised treat.

A MOTHER'S WISDOM.

The following letter of advice was written, says the Concord People, to a friend of ours, by his mother. We recommend it to other mother's sons, who are about starting out on life's stormy billows. These are good maxims, and we commend them to all. The man who has a mother that can write and feel as the author of this evidently does, is fortunate indeed.

To MY DEAR SON.—The world estimates men by their success in life, and by general consent, permanent success is an evidence of superiority. It will be safe for you to observe the following rules, which your affectionate mother prays God will strengthen you to do:

1—Base all your actions upon a principle of justice—preserve your integrity of character, and in doing it, never reckon the cost.

2—Never, under any circumstances, assume a responsibility you can avoid consistently with your duty to yourself, and others dependent on you. Or, in other words, "mind your own business."

3—Remember that self-interest is more likely to warp your judgment than all other circumstances combined; therefore look well to your duty, when your interest is concerned.

4—Never attempt to make money at the expense of your reputation, or dishonor will be the consequence.

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