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The Signal Star.

BY FANNY FORRESTER.

"Come back, come back, my childhood!"—
L. E. L.

I'd not recall my childhood:
With all its sweet delight,
Its simple, bird-like gladness,
It was not always bright.
Even morning had her tear-drops,
And spring her clouded sky,
And on the fairest cradle
I've seen the shadows lie.

I'd not recall my childhood,
Though tender memories throng
Around its rosy portals,
Preclusive to life's song;
The full voiced living chorus,
Is swelling round me now,
And a rosier light is resting
Upon my maiden brow.

I have made a changeful journey
Up the hill of life since morn;
I have gathered flowers and blossoms,
I've been pierced by many a thorn;
But from out the core of sorrow
I have plucked a jewel rare,
The strength which mortals gather
In the ceaseless strife with care.

Now I grasp life's burning breaker,
And hower'er, the bubbles glow,
I'll pause not till I've tasted
The deepest wave below;
Though bitter dregs may mingle,
The crimson tide shall roll,
In full and fearless currents
Through the fountains of my soul.

No! I'd not go back to childhood,
From the radiant flush of noon,
And when evening closes round me,
I crave one only boon:
Amid the valley's dark,
Its dangers and its dread,
The signal star of Judah
To shine above my head.

The woman who undertook to scour the woods, has abandoned the job, on account of the scarcity of sand and the high price of soap.

The new York *Musical World* and *Times* tells a most laughable story of a gentleman, who had stepped in his carriage to make his New Year's visits, when he perceived that he had forgotten his visiting cards. He immediately ordered his new groom to go and get them from the mantelpiece in the dining room. The servant did as he was ordered, and the gentleman commenced his visits, the footman leaving his cards. After some time had passed, he asked the groom if there were still many cards left. "Sir," answered the latter, "I have still the king of spades, the king of hearts and the knave of clubs." We presume the "trick" was not "taken" in very good part by the caller.

Look out boys.—A person was sentenced in New York, on Friday last, to 3 months imprisonment in the New York Penitentiary for tearing down handbills.

"Jim, I believe Sam's got no truth in him."

"You don't know, nigga; dare's more truth in that nigga dan all de res' on de plantation."

"How do you make dat?"

"Why he never let any out."

"My dear, how shall we have our marriage printed? Will you have your name simply Delilah, or do you still insist on that long string of titles you spoke of yesterday?"

"I do, most assuredly. Do you think I'm going to be known as simple Deliah? No, by all the gods of love? you shall have my name printed thus: 'Deliah Antomette Victoria Adelaide Marie' and then, if you choose, you link on your name—but a poor pigtail appendage it is."

"Constitutionally tired" is now the polite way of expressing the fact that a man is naturally lazy. We live in very refined times.

A Few Words about Delicate Women.

How essential is it to the well-being of a family that the wife and mother should be cheerful, active, and healthy. Yet, looking at those classes of the community a little above what may be termed the laboring class, how frequently we find that the women are ailing, nervous, and irritable; or, as they would call themselves, 'delicate!' How is this?

'Why,' answers one, 'some are the children of unhealthy parents, and the inheritors of their diseases. Where this is the case, the fullest sympathy and consideration are due; but the number of such would be only a few in comparison with the class we speak of. We must look further for the cause.'

'Oh,' suggests another, 'is not the fact of being a wife and mother, and having the care and management of a family and household, with perhaps very limited pecuniary resources, quite enough to make women weak and ailing?' We think not. Such circumstances are trying; but with some women they have been the means of drawing out unwonted cheerfulness and energy of character. Allowing, however, that some women are so tried and harassed by the circumstances of married life that their health and energy give way; still their number would be comparatively few, and we must find some other cause for the fact that there are so many females who call themselves 'delicate.'

Is it that they have an impression that there is something amiable in being delicate?

Do they think it is lady-like to be delicate?

Is not this delicacy cultivated by some as a means of drawing more largely on sympathy, especially the husband's sympathy?

Are not idleness and inactivity often excused or hidden under this convenient cloak of delicacy?

We think that each of these questions may be correctly answered in the affirmative, and that the commencement of these errors, with all their attendant evils, may be traced to the education of the girl.

Years ago, Fanny was a healthy, active, and unaffected child, when her parents sent her to a boarding-school. For the first few days, feeling herself among strangers, and away from home, she was pensive and quiet; but this soon wore away, and she became cheerful and happy again. She had taken a skipping-ropes with her to school, and one evening, when she was in the full enjoyment of the use of it, the evening bell rang for the scholars to retire for the night. When Fanny went to say 'good-night' to the matron: 'You will be so good as to give Miss Fanny a dose of calomel, she is in too robust health; see, her cheeks are like milkmaid's.' So Fanny had to take calomel, and the next day she was languid and listless, or, as the governess seemed to consider, 'lady-like.' Another time, when playing with a companion somewhat actively in the play-ground, they were stopped by a teacher, saying: 'Young ladies, are you not ashamed of yourselves! that is not the way to conduct yourselves in this establishment. Why, what would be thought of you? Pray let me see you walk like young ladies.'

Fanny wished then that she was not to be called a 'young lady' if she might not play and romp about a little, for she was sure it made her happy to do so. But it is astonishing what changes may in time be effected by teaching and example.—During the remainder of her stay at school, Fanny had occasional doses of calomel when too robust health began to show itself; and she had learned to believe that, to be at all respected by her fellow-creatures, she must be considered a young lady, and that all young ladies were of delicate constitutions, and that it was very unlady-like to be healthy and active.

Poor Fanny! she had not only imbibed these notions, but she had also lost a great deal of her vigor of constitution, and had become inert and inactive. When she left school, she returned to the home of her childhood, where family arrangements were such that her assistance would frequently have been acceptable to her parents. But when anything was requested of her, it was attended to in a manner so unwilling and languid, that they soon ceased to ask anything of her, grieving and wondering what was become of their cheerful and active Fanny.

Not being aware of Fanny's ideas about ladyism, and not perceiving that the mind

wanted curing more than the body, her parents consulted the family doctor, who said that he could not perceive there was much the matter with her; he, however, recommended fresh air and exercise, and suggested that perhaps a few weeks by the seaside might do her good. Now, this latter advice Fanny liked very much; it added to her importance as a lady that she should be taken to the seaside because she was in delicate health. However, as Fanny meant to be delicate, she was as much so on her return as before, until at last it became an allowed fact in the family that Fanny was 'so delicate' that she was left to do pretty much as she pleased.

Time passed on, and Fanny became a wife, and, with a vague idea that she was to secure to herself the affections of her husband, just in proportion that she made demands upon his sympathy, her elegant ailings became more numerous than ever, and she has fully established her claim to be classed among 'delicate women.'

Perhaps the custom of giving calomel to destroy health, as if it were a weed to rank to be allowed to grow, is not very much practised; but other injurious customs are taught and practised which certainly injure health.

The custom of confining the body in tight stays, or tight clothes of any kind, is exceedingly hurtful to the health of both body and mind. A girl has learned a very bad lesson, when she has been taught that to gain the admiration of her fellow-creatures, she must, even to the endangering of health and life, distort her figure from that which nature has made, to something which fashion presumes to dictate as more admirable.

The custom of preventing the active use of the limbs, and free exercise of the body generally, and restricting every movement to the artificial notions of boarding-school propriety, is attended with mental and physical evils of all sorts. While a child is forbidden to take the bodily exercise which nature would impel her to do, the humors grow thick and stagnate for want of motion to warm and dilate them; the general circulation is impeded; the muscles stiffen, because deprived of their necessary moisture; obstructions take place, which produce weakness in every animal function; and nature, no longer able to discharge the morbid matter which constantly accumulates from all her imperfect operations, gradually sickens, and the child is either carried to a premature grave, or continues an existence of physical and mental languor and listlessness; and another is added to the class of 'delicate women.'

We cannot be far from right in saying that almost all the mental and physical ailings of 'delicate women' may be traced to a defective education. And those who are now engaged in training girls, whether at home or in schools, cannot too seriously consider the weight of responsibility resting upon them. Upon their management depend much of future health, and, consequently, the usefulness and happiness of those committed to their charge.

As requisites to the promotion of bodily vigor, we will mention:—

A strict attention to personal cleanliness, which children should be taught to cultivate, because it is healthy and right that they should be clean, and not because 'it would look so if they were dirty.'

The use of apartments that are well ventilated.

Frequent and sufficient active bodily exercise in the open air.

Entire freedom from any pressure upon the person by the use of tight clothes.

A sufficiency of nourishing and digestible food.

And, in winter, the use of such firing as is needed to keep up a healthful warmth.

All these will to promote health, but we shall have no security against 'delicate women' unless there be also added the cultivation of mental health.

For this, it is necessary that girls should be taught to cultivate mental purity and mental activity, by sufficient and well-regulated exercise of the mind.

Habits of benevolence, contentment, and cheerful gratitude should be inculcated, both by precept and example, to the exclusion of selfishness.

And, above all, should be strongly impressed upon the mind the necessity of the strictest integrity, which will lead to the abhorrence of every species of affectation, which is, indeed, only a modified sort of deceit.

Girls should also be early taught that they are responsible beings; responsible to God for the right use of all the mercies bestowed upon them; and that it is one of the chief of earthly blessings, and that it is their duty to value and preserve it.

But much is learnt from example as well as from precept; therefore, let no affectation of languid airs in a teacher give a child the idea that there can be anything admirable in the absence of strength.—We do not wish that girls should cultivate anything masculine; for an unfeminine woman cannot be an object of admiration to the right judging of either sex. But a female has no occasion to affect to be feminine; she is so naturally, and if she will but let nature have its perfect work, she will, most likely, be not only feminine, but also graceful and admirable.

The school studies of girls should be so arranged that they may afford mental food and satisfaction; otherwise, as soon as the lesson hours are over, they will, most likely, turn with avidity to any nonsense they can learn from foolish conversation, or to reading some of the trashy books of the day, to the injury of all mental and moral health, and the almost certain production of 'delicate women.'

To those who are already women, and are unfortunately classed among the 'delicate,' we would say: For the sake of your husbands, and all connected with you, strive resolutely to lose your claim to such an unenviable distinction. If you are conscious of the least feeling of satisfaction in hearing yourself spoken of as delicate, be assured it is a degree of mental disease that allows the feeling. If you ever suppose that you can gain your husband's sympathy by weakness, remember you might gain more of his esteem and satisfied affection by strength. Fifty years ago, it was well said that, 'To a man of feeling, extreme delicacy in the partner of his life and fortune is an object of great and constant concern; but a semblance of such delicacy, where it does not really exist, is an insult to his discernment, and must ultimately inspire him with aversion and disgust.' It is not for us to say how many put on the semblance of delicacy as a covering for idleness, or from any of the weak motives that prompt such an affectation—consciousness will whisper where this is the case—and happy will it be for the household of any one who can be roused from such a pitiable state.

Could women only know how many husbands are bankrupt because their wives are 'delicate'; how many children are physically, mentally, and morally neglected and ruined, because their mothers are 'delicate'; how many servants become dishonest and inefficient, because their mistresses are 'delicate'—the list would be so appalling that possibly we might hear of an Anti-delicate-ladies Association, for the better promotion of family happiness and family economy. Meanwhile, let each listen to her own conscience and the dictates of her better judgment, and remember that health is a gift of God, and we cannot slight a gift without also slighting the Giver.—*Lady's Book.*

A Wonderful Cure.

The following wonderful effect of one of the cure-all patent medicines, advertised so extensively in many of the newspapers of the day is about as well unadorned as most of remarkable cases which are backed up by a long array of bogus certificates:

A boy had swallowed a silver dollar.—None of the faculty could devise any alleviation, whereupon the inventor of the cure-all medicine was sent for. 'It is evident,' said he, 'that so considerable a coin can never be forced up by any emetic known to science. However, let him take this pill, and flattering consequences will be likely to ensue.' An hour afterwards the boy threw up the dollar, but in small change, principally five cent pieces.

Subject for Contemplation.

What a mighty procession has been marching towards the grave during the past year. At the estimate, since the 1st of January, 1853, more than 31,500,000 of the world's population have gone down to the earth again. Place them in long array, and they will give a moving column of more than 13,000 to every mile of the globe's circumference! Only think of it; ponder and look upon these astonishing computations! What a spectacle, as they "move on tramp, tramp, tramp—forward!" upon this stupendous dead march!

Life is so short, and time is fleeting, And our hearts though strong and brave, Still like muffled drums are beating— Funeral marches to the grave,

Temperance.

And old Dutchman who had recently joined the temperance society, was taken sick and sent for the doctor to prescribe for him, who ordered him to take an ounce of brandy every day. The old chap overhauled his arithmetic, and found in the table of apothecaries' weight eight 'drains' make an ounce.' 'Mine Gott,' said the Dutchman, 'dat ish de demperant for me; I didn't get but six before and now I gets eight.'

Destructive Engines of War.

The Paris correspondent of the *Cincinnati Gazette* gives the following account of new engines of destruction, which will be brought into requisition by the present European war. He says:—"The new invention for the more rapid destruction of human beings, which the war is bringing to light, especially in England, will surpass all expectations. The arsenals of England have for a long time been closed to visitors, even to members of Parliament, while these new and terrible machines were being constructed and experimented upon; and no knowledge of their existence even was permitted until now called forth by actual service. Many years ago, the English Government had a proposition before them to adopt Wagner's floating gun, and hesitated.—A member of Parliament exclaimed:—

'He demands but 300,000 pounds, and yet you hesitate! Hasten to buy this machine, declare war against France, and you will destroy her marine in a few days time!' No attention was paid to this apostrophe at the time in France, and apparently none in England. But this terrible invention, of which the public has ceased to talk, and which was even ridiculed at the time, has been maturing in concealment in the arsenals at Woolwich and is now ready to go out on its work of destruction.

The Count Lavalette, Captain of Military Marine in France, who knew the construction of this gun, it is said made endeavors to have it adopted by the Minister of Marine under Louis Phillippe. It is simply a long congreve gun, which glides along on the water in a straight line till it strikes the vessel at which it is directed, when it thrusts into its sides its iron head, containing twopounds of fulminating powder of mercury. When the fire strains this reservoir, it explodes, blowing a hole in the vessel ten or twelve feet in diameter, which it is impossible for them to close up as they do the round holes made by cannon balls.

In admitting that the Russian fleets shall retire under the inapproachable fortresses of Cornstadt and Sebastopol, they cannot be in safety from this terrible congreve gun, which carries to almost any distance within reach of any other gun. It cannot be prevented from passing through the most contracted straits where ships pass.

The submarine boats are so perfected at this moment that they can reach and attach a burner to an enemy's ship without running the least danger. Experiments are also being made with an asphyxiating ball, which does not kill but which paralyzes an entire crew for several hours, or until they are made prisoners. They are embarking also a large number of burning explosive balls, which explode invariably when they strike even in the body of a horse, for they inflame at the moment of discharge from the gun, and fly burning like small congreves until the moment of explosion, when they may apply fire to the ammunition chests and other inflammable material, as easily and surely as if they were in a stubble field.

They are furnishing also two small steamboats of a singular appearance, which will carry only two enormous Paixhan guns, placed on the fore-part of the vessel. The walls of these little vessels have a thickness of six feet, made of oak, standing upright, and this covered with a mattress of cotton substance, a foot and a half thick, which is impenetrable to a bullet, and this again covered with a sheeting of iron and lead. Its prow has the angular form of a cuirass intended to turn bullets, the roof or deck is covered in the same way, so as to allow the bombs to glide into the sea without doing damage.

The fire-ship, very heavy, and a bad sailer will be towed and let loose at the proper moment, to approach near the enemy's vessel, either when at anchor or lying-to, which it will attack fore and aft with bombs thrown between wind and water, and sprinkling the ship with a shower of Grecian fire. One of these burners, taking by surprise a fleet of vessels in a calm, could with ease destroy the whole fleet, and yet it only requires the labor of ten determined men to operate it.

The Peace Society have agitated the question in England of how far a nation is justified in employing other and more destructive methods in war than those employed by the enemy. Admiral Napier has replied to these propositions with irony:—"If you fear to hurt the enemy, put into your guns balls of cotton, and into your cannon cakes of rice!"

The English fleet is largely provided with balloons, intended to carry inflammable materials to scatter over towns, villages, and fleets, when the wind favors such operations.

Another invention, still more terrible than all the rest, but of which the construction has not yet been known, except to a very small number of persons, is about to be sent out to destroy the Russians. All these inventions are highly curious and interesting in the history of the war, but rather afflicting for humanity.

A gentleman asked a negro boy if he wouldn't take a pinch of snuff. "No," replied darky, very respectfully, "me think; Poup's nose not hungry."

A Female Writer says:—"Nothing looks worse on an old lady than darned stockings." Allow us to observe that stockings which need darning look a darned sight worse than darned ones.

A Weather Sign.

An old hunter predicts that the following will be a dry summer, from the fact that woodcocks have built their nests in low, moist places. When the summer is to be wet, he says, they build in dry sunny situations.

We learn from Europe that a new musical wonder has sprung up, at Stockholm, Sweden. It is said that her voice is more wonderful than that of Jenny Lind. She has taken the people of her native city by storm, and set them frantic from excitement. It is said that she so enraptures her hearers by her singing that the musicians of her orchestra frequently forget themselves and stop playing. Her name is Mitechelet.

Letters from Constantinople alluded to an Asiatic warrior-woman, Fatime Hanen. She has arrived at Constantinople with six hundred horsemen as her suite. She is an old woman of about sixty years of age, of a very withered appearance, and very like a Gipsy. As she passed through the capital last week, on horseback like a man thousands of people flocked to have a view of her, especially women. The Turkish females are quite taken aback at this, for the East, most astonishing phenomenon, and eagerly pressed forward to catch a glimpse of this adventurous old dame as she cantered past them.—"Mashallah! What a woman!"

Queer Operation.

Galigani's Messenger of the first of April, announces the following extraordinary importations intended for N. York: The custom house officers of Biberich in the Grand Duchy of Nassau, on visiting a steamer which was then descending the Rhine, were surprised to find not fewer than twenty-one young girls aged from 14 to 17, accompanied by three men.—They give information to the director of the Police and he made inquiries, from which it appeared that the men were taking them to New York to place in houses of prostitution. The girls had been recruited in the rural districts of Weisbaden, Kriesnach, Uringen and Weilbourn, and some of them had left unknown to their parents. Orders were given to arrest the men, but only two of them were arrested, the other having run away. The girls were ordered to be sent home.

The difference between an old woman and a young one is, that one is happy and careless and the other is cappy and hairless.

If mankind were required to give a reason for every utterance, what a quite peaceful world we would have. Most opinions are like Lucifer matches, they strike off briskly and go out suddenly.

If a small boy is a lad, will two small boys make a ladder?

Connecticut Legislature—Election of State Officers.

TIMES OFFICE, HARTFORD May 4.—The two branches of the Legislature of this State, met in joint convention this morning and elected the following ticket for State Officers, during the ensuing year.
Governor—Henry Dullong of New Haven.

Lieut. Gov.—Alexander H. Holly, of Salisbury.

Secretary of State—Oliver H. Perry, of Fairfield.

Treasurer—Daniel W. Carry, of Middletown.

Comptroller—John Dunham, of Norwich.

The above gentlemen are all Whigs.—The whole number of votes cast for Governor was 233, of which Mr. Dutton, (Whig) had 140, and Samuel Ingham, (Dem.) 93.

Railroad Iron.

The Philadelphia Bulletin gives a list of sixteen iron establishments which will this season turn out 150,000 tons of railroad bars, representing in production \$5,550,000 for labor, and 1,526,000 tons of raw material. The capital employed in these establishments is reckoned at \$10,000,000. They support a population of 92,500 persons, and consume \$4,625,000 in breadstuffs, besides affording a profit to all the various branches of business in and around the mills, other than to the owners, of \$1,949,000, participated in by coal lands, coal operators, and store keepers.

McCormick, a wealthy farmer aged 70, residing near Pittsburg, Pa., has just been ordered to pay \$1500 to a young lady for a breach of promise. This will learn him to be more careful as he grows older, and not trifle with the affections of the fair sex.

The man who stuck to a point has let loose.

"In short—ladies and gentlemen," said overered orator, "I can only say—I beg leave to add—I desire to assure you—that I wish I had a window in my bosom, that you might see the emotions of my heart." (Vulgar boy from the gallery.) "Wouldn't a PANE in your stomach do this time?"

The borough of Allentown has a population of 5259; three years since it was only 3779.