

Poetry.

THE DILEMMA.

By O. W. HOLMES.

Now, by the best Paphian Queen
Who heaves the breast of sweet sixteen—
By every name I eat in bark—
Before my morning star grew dark—
By Hymen's torch—by Cupid's dart—
By all that thrills the beating heart—
The bright black eye, the melting blue—
I cannot choose between the two.

I had a vision in my dreams:
I saw a row of twenty beams,
From every beam a rope was hung,
In every rope a lover swung,
I asked the hue of every eye—
That last each luckless lover died—
Ten livid lips said heavenly blue,
And ten accused the darker blue.

I asked the matron which she deemed
With fairest light beauty deemed;
She answered, some thought both were fair;
Give her blue eyes and golden hair,
Her light blue robe and golden hair,
But as I spoke she rang the bell,
And all her girls, nor small nor few,
Came marching in—their eyes were blue.

I asked a maiden; back she flung:
The look that round her sorched lungs;
And to me it was a glorious one,
Right as a diamond in the sun,
One bright beneath in rays—

I felt as if my hair would blow;
She liked all eyes but eyes of green;
She looked at me—what could she mean?

Ah! many heads were between,
For heads of color were of hers;

And I saw her eyes glancing away,
The victim falls, but know not why?

None upon his field of joy—

The shaft upon the string is set;
Look not beneath its azure veil,

Though every limb were cast in mail.

Well both might make a martyr brak,
The hand that bled him to the sinks,
At a touch, not a single tear,
Can melt our very heart,

And both, when broken, will seem

To stir the scales, or rock the beam,

But that is dearst all the while

That wears for us the sweetest smile.

Humorous.

A Caudle Lecture Reversed.

"Now, Mrs. Caudle I should like to know what has become of my hat? Here I've been hunting all over the house, and lost ten minutes that should have been given to the Mutual Life Insurance Co. Now, I say what have you done with my hat? You haven't seen it. Frank, go get my hat, and Jane fetch me my cane. What's that? You can't find my hat? Now, Mrs. Caudle, I should like to know why you will persist in training your children in such a heedless manner? *Haven't I found my hat?* To be sure not; how can he if you don't teach him how to look? Didn't I have it in the kitchen when I went there last night after something to eat? How the deuce should you know?

"I say it's your business to have my things ready, and not to have me hunting about the house at such times. Oh! I do have to go out to do this. Of course you have! with three servants and two children! Be calm! Oh, yes, I will be calm!

You see I am calm, and if you would only do so I should have been able to find my hat long ago instead of staying here to listen to your excuses, when I ought to be down town attending to business. I wonder how you expect I'm to keep this house going if I'm to keep waiting for my hat. What! how can you help it? Why madam it's the easiest management. Now, do you suppose things would go on this way if you would only see that articles are in their right place? but I suppose you haven't got time to do that even! Of course not. Well there's no use of talking. I must go to the office bare-headed. Your bonnet, madam! Your bonnet! But why should I be surprised if you should off me your skirts also?—I seem to have lost all authority in my own house! It's not your fault I can't pray, when there's nothing left."

"What! the servants! I'm calm. I tell you, you are mistaken! it's not the servants I tell you about its *your* fault, but yours; then, clearly, it's your fault that I can't find my hat. [Sits down.] Well, it's no use talking I want to go to the office today, and you mustn't go to Newport—oh, dear! Home

use of asking, you shan't go. You needn't suppose I'm going to be deprived of my hat like this, and then allow *you* to spend my money at Newport. No, madam; here I am and here I'll stay all day, madam, and Eh! What!—Yes with I wouldn't talk so much! I tell you I will talk—I'll talk all day if I please, and smoke too—dear heart? I'll smoke in the parlor, and I'll seat the curtains and smoke all over the house,

"Here (says Mrs. Caudle) the horrid wretch was about putting his odious project into practice when Jane came in with her hat, having found it in a corner of the large oak tree chair on the back stoop."

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SWAPPING WIVES.—The Highcliff (New Jersey) *Ecclesiae* says: "We are told by a friend of ours a few days since, of a most singular result of the propensity to trade. A colored gentleman and his wife from a distant part of the State came down on a short visit to his friends, and, before departing, they became mutually enamored of each other's persons. In this state of affairs, a proposal is made to exchange wives, which, naturally, was agreed to, and the colored man's wife was sent to New Jersey, and the colored woman to New York."

RODHY TROTATION.—Every quarter of the year, the Rodhy Trotation, held in the Rodhy Hall, Rodhy, N. J., has drawn a great number of spectators, who may be recognized in the rod-holding, trotting, racing, and immediate rounds.

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