

Poor withered leaf so rudely torn,
From parent bough,
Strange north winds lose thee here and there,
Thy plaint I hear.

Select Miscellany.

GOING INTO MOURNING.

The ancients were more consistent in their mourning than the civilized people of the present day. They sat upon the ground and fasted, with rent garments, and ashes strewn upon their heads. This mortification of the flesh was a sort of penance inflicted by the self-tortured mourner for his own sins and those of the dead. If this grief were not of a deep or lasting nature, the mourner found relief for his mental agonies in humiliation and personal suffering. He did not array himself in silk and wool, and fine linen, and garments cut in the most approved fashion of the day, like our modern beaux and belles, when they testify to the public their grief for the loss of relation or friend, in the most expensive and becoming manner.

THE AGITATOR.

Devoted to the Extension of the Area of Freedom and the Spread of Wealthy Reform.

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them to dry their tears, and be comforted for the loss they had sustained, are among the first to ensure them for following advice so common and useless. Tears are as necessary to the afflicted as showers are to the parched earth, and are the best and sweetest remedy for excessive grief.

To mourners we would say:—Weep on; nature requires your tears. They are sent in mercy by him who wept at the grave of his friend Lazarus. The man of sorrows himself taught us to weep.

"Grandmother is dead! We shall have to go into deep mourning. I am so glad, for black is so becoming to me."

An old aunt who was present, expressed her surprise at this indecorous avowal, when the young lady replied with great naivete:—"I never saw grandmother in my life. I cannot be expected to feel any grief for her death."

"Perhaps not," said the aunt. "But why, then, make a show of that you do not feel?" "O, it is the custom of the world. You know we must. It would be considered shocking not to go into deep mourning for such a near relation."

The young lady inherited a very nice legacy, too, from her grandmother; and had she spoken the truth, she would have said, I cannot weep for you.

Her mourning, in consequence, was of the deepest and most expensive kind; and she really did look charming in her "loose of a black crumpe bonnet" as she skipped before the glass admiring herself in it, when it came fresh from the milliner's.

In contrast to the pretty young heiress, we know a sweet orphan girl whose grief for the death of her mother, to whom she was devotedly attached, lay deeper than the hollow tinsel show, and yet the painful thought that she was too poor to pay this mark of respect to the memory of her beloved parent, in a manner suited to her birth and station, added greatly to the poignancy of her sorrow.

never saw. We all got jovial, and it was midnight before any of us reached our respective homes. The whole affair vividly brought to my mind that description of the "Gondola," given so graphically by Byron, that "Contained much fun, Like mourning coaches when the funerals done."

Some years ago I witnessed the funeral of a young lady, the only child of very wealthy parents, who resided in Bedford square. The heiress of their enviable riches was a very delicate, fragile-looking girl, and on the day that she attained her majority her parents gave a large dinner party, followed by a ball of the evening to celebrate the event.

I heard from every one that called upon Mrs. L., the relative and friend with whom I was staying, of the magnificent funeral that would be given to Miss C.

The mutes that attended the long line of mourning coaches stood motionless, leaning on their long stiffs, wreathed with white, like so many figures that the frost king had stiffened into stone. The hearse, with its snowy plumes, drawn by six milk-white horses, might have served for the regal car of his northern majesty, so ghost like and chilly were its sculptural trappings.

Another evil arising out of this absurd custom, is the high price attached to black clothing, on account of the necessity that compels people to wear it for so long a period after the death of a near relation, making it a matter of still greater difficulty for the poorer class to comply with the usages of society.

A CASE.—Not many years ago, a citizen of this town was elected to the office of Constable. After his election it was discovered that he could not enter upon the discharge of his official duties for the reason that he was not a freeholder.

The wife of a rich mechanic had a brother lying, it was supposed, at the point of death. His sister sent a note to me, requesting me to relinquish an engagement I had made with a sewing girl, in her favor, as she wanted her immediately to make her mourning, the doctor having told her that her brother could not live many days.

"Well, Anne, is Mr — dead?" "No, ma'am, nor likely to die this time, and his sister is so vexed that she's bought such an expensive mourning, and all for no purpose!"

Liberty in Business. There is no greater mistake than to suppose, that a business man can make, than to mean in his business. Always taking the half cent, and never returning a cent for the dollars he has made and is making.

As a general thing, it will be found—other things being equal—that he who is the most liberal is most successful in business. Of course, we do not mean to be inferred that a man should be prodigal in his expenditures; but that he should show to his customers, if he is a trader, or to those whom he may be doing any kind of business with, that in all his transactions, as well as social relations, he acknowledges the everlasting fact, that these can be no permanent prosperity or good feeling in a community where benefits are not reciprocal.

We know of instances where traders have enjoyed the profits of hundreds of dollars worth of trade, and yet have exhibited not the slightest disposition to reciprocate even to the smallest amount.

The practice of some men seems to be to make a little show in the way of business as possible. Such a one, if a trader, takes no pains with the appearance of his store. Everything around him is in a worn out, dilapidated, dirty condition.

Another will spend no money in any way to make business for fear he shall not get it back again. Consequently he sends out no circulars, distributes no handbills, publishes no advertisements; but "sits down croaking about the hard times—moaning over the future prospects of notes to pay, no money and no trade, and comes out just where he might expect to come—short, while his neighbor, following in a different track, doing all that is necessary to be done to make business, has business, isn't short, but has money to loan; and it would be just like him to get twelve per cent, perhaps more, for the use of it, and we should not blame him for doing so.

Young Sam at his meals.—Among the statuary at the Palace, there is a group in marble or plaster, by Jones, of London, labelled "Ptolemy Lagos, nourished by an eagle."

Looking out for No. 1.—We recollect hearing a Dutch friend of ours give a direction to his son, which may be considered a practical commentary upon Lord Mansfield's dictum.

Indian Preacher.—"John, what do you do for a living?" "O, no preach." "Preach! and do you get paid well for it?" "Sometimes me get a shilling; sometimes two."

Communications.

COMMON SCHOOLS.

Having employed my time in holding institutes for the qualification of teachers, and in visiting districts as far as possible, to meet the teachers as near their own homes as I could, until the time of commencing schools has arrived; I would say that all teachers who have not met me in either of the Institutes, or visit in different parts of the county, and are still desirous of taking schools, can see me at Wellsboro, on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays until the 17th of Dec. After this period I shall be absent from home so much, visiting schools in different parts of the county, that teachers would not probably find me if they came.

We hope there are not many yet to be examined. We have been greatly pleased with the disposition of teachers to avail themselves of every opportunity to improve themselves in the art, the difficult, delicate art of teaching school. In the Institute at Knoxvile there were fifty-seven on the roll. At Tioga there were but twelve. At Wellsboro there were eighty-eight; making one hundred and fifty seven in all.

Our plan in these Institutes is our own, whatever be its merits or defects. In examining the records of many others, we see no reason to change our order of exercise, but only strive to improve them. We feel very grateful to Dr. Cutter of Massachusetts and to Prof. Gaud of Philadelphia for efficient aid, but for want of means to pay foreign help, we shall rely hereafter mainly on the efficient board of teachers which the academies and some of the Common Schools of this county afford.

We believe that these meetings have marked a favorable era for the Common Schools of this county. Teachers are waking up to the importance of knowing their duties and their rights, and are rallying in associations for mutual improvement. We will venture the assertion that every teacher who attends these Institutes will teach a better school than he or she has ever taught before—and we would most respectfully suggest that every teacher, who thinks he or she knows enough about teaching school without embracing these and every other available means to improve, had better leave the profession. The wages of teachers are already too high for such. We hope that directors will discriminate between those teachers who are anxious and pains taking to improve in their profession; and those who teach to get rid of other labor.

I enclose the resolutions passed by the Knoxvile Institute, as those passed by the Wellsboro Institute have been furnished you by the Secretary of the meeting. Of the resolutions, it is proper for me to say, as some of them refer to me, and to the office which I hold, that I especially requested them to say nothing of the incumbent of the office, but speak plainly their opinions of the utility of the office itself. This request, though I have not read the resolutions, I understand they have disregarded.

J. F. CALKINS, Co. Supt.

Whereas: The teacher holds a very responsible position, one where love and ready tact are necessary qualifications, and as children are imitative beings, upon the early formation of whose character rests the probability of their being either a blessing or a bane to society, therefore,

Resolved, That no person ought to engage in teaching, whose character is not based upon strict principles of christian integrity, and who does not love the work of teaching.

ing of the scholar is as truly the duty of the teacher as the training of the mental faculties.

Letter from the West. Rochester, Olmstead Co. Min. Ter, Oct. 14. FATEBO COSS: I have received a considerable number of letters from my friends and acquaintances in your county, asking information about the country west of the Mississippi river; and when in truth I must answer that it is the best country that I ever saw (and I think from three to five hundred per cent better than Tioga county.)

Merchandise is afforded here at about ten per cent advance on Wellsboro prices; sugar and molasses, in consequence of the river trade is offered at half your prices; coffee and tea at about the same as in your place, while bread and meat are much cheaper and money plentier with wages twice or thrice as high as with you.

But disadvantage No. 2 is rather more grievous, particularly in gathering our field crops, when single handed we approach a pumpkin that one man can hardly load, (of which we have some grown to the weight of two hundred and forty pounds,) or when we lay hold of a squash weighing two hundred and twenty pounds, we can't root them up alone but we change work with our neighbors and thus lessen the burthen of disadvantage and hope for better times.

A gentleman meeting his coal merchant, accosted him with 'Well my good sir, how are coals?' 'Indeed sir,' he replied, 'coals are coals!' 'I'm glad to hear it,' returned the gentleman, 'for the last you sent me were half slate.'

A California paper gives the following as the best title to a lot in San Francisco: "A shanty, and yourself in it, with a revolver. If the title needs confirmation blow somebody's brains out."

AN IMAGINATIVE IRISHMAN gave utterance to this lamentation:—"I returned to the halls of my fathers by night, and I found them in ruins! I cried aloud, 'My fathers, where are they?' and echo responded, 'Is that you, Patrick McGlathery?'"

A late philosopher says that if anything will make a lady wear it, it is looking for her night-cap after the light is blown out.