

Terms of Publication.

THE TOGA COUNTY AGITATOR is published weekly, except on the Sabbath, at the very reasonable price of ONE DOLLAR PER ANNUM, in advance.

THE AGITATOR.

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

WHILE THERE SHALL BE A WRONG UNRIGHTED, AND UNTIL "MAN'S INHUMANITY TO MAN" SHALL CEASE, AGITATION MUST CONTINUE.

VOL. VIII. WELLSBORO, TOGA COUNTY, PA., WEDNESDAY MORNING, JANUARY 15, 1862. NO. 93

Rates of Advertising.

Advertisements will be charged \$1 per square of 10 lines, one of three insertions, and 25 cents for every subsequent insertion.

How the Duel Becomes a Battle. Our regiment was quartered in a small and sparsely retired place. There was no society, no enjoyment, no open house, no place to go to for our own resources; nothing to do but to collect together at each other's lodgings, where, except our uniforms, there was nothing to be seen.

After ball into a card which he had nailed to the great door at the entrance of the yard. He received us in his usual manner, but did not mention a word of the occurrence of the previous evening. Three days passed by, and the lieutenant was still alive. We asked one another in astonishment: Is it possible that Silvio will not fight? Silvio did not fight; he contented himself with a very slight explanation, and made friends.

My youth up, it has been my prevailing passion to be preeminent. In my younger days, extravagance of conduct was in vogue; irregularity and wildness of behavior was the order of the day; and in this I was second to none in the army. We boasted of drunkenness. I drank deeper than Bacchus himself. Duels were constantly taking place in our regiment, and on every occasion I acted either as second or principal. My companions idolized me, and although my proceedings were not openly countenanced by the commanders, I was looked on as necessary evil.

Dolova. This kind of life was not at all suited to my tastes; and while initiating myself in my new duties, I cast many a lingering thought on my former boisterous and careless life; but the most difficult task of all, was to accustom myself to spend the long winter evenings in complete solitude. I generally managed, in some way or another, to employ myself until my dinner-hour. I chatted with the old people who lived near me; rode about, inspecting new works which had been set on foot; but, with the daylight, these resources failed me; nothing remained for me but to sit idle the remainder of the evening. A small number of books, which I found in a cupboard and in the store-rooms, I read so many times, that at last I knew them pretty well by heart. When these sources of intellectual enjoyment were exhausted, I had recourse to the services of my housekeeper, who related to me all the tales she could remember. Although well stocked, she could not last forever; when she did fail, my weariness and vexation became so insupportable, that I resolved to draw my cares in the less innocent bottle. This only increased my wretchedness, by adding to it the weight of bodily suffering. I confess, also, that I was afraid of becoming a habitual drunkard, of which I saw many deplorable specimens in our district.

"That is extraordinary," said the count. "And what was the name of this prodigy?" "Silvio, your excellency?" "Silvio!" shrieked the count, jumping out of his seat. "Is it possible that you know Silvio?" "And how should I not know him, your excellency? We were all on terms of intimacy with him; in our regiment, he was treated as a brother-officer, but for five years I have had no intelligence of him. From your manner, I suppose your excellency also knows him?" "I know him very well. Did he never mention to you anything of a very strange occurrence?" "Do you refer to an insult he received from some hair-brained young officer?" "I do. But did he mention to you the name of that hair-brained individual?" "He did not, your excellency. Oh!" I continued, as the truth began to dawn upon me, "pray excuse me. I had not the slightest idea. Is it possible that you are the person?" "I am the very person," said the count, with a look of great embarrassment; "and that picture, which has excited your curiosity, bears witness to our last meeting."

From the Toiga Cavalry Company. FRIEND AGITATOR.—Please drop your office dignity for a few moments, and listen to what a Toiga boy has to say. We left Toiga valley on the 26th day of August, and since that time many important changes have been witnessed by the Toiga Cavalry. Our company is now under the command of 1st Lieut. E. B. Mitchell, formerly of Mitchell's Creek, Toiga Co., our Captain being absent on a furlough. 2d Lieut. D. O. Tears, is from Columbia, Brad. County, while our Orderly Sergeant is the same Victor A. Elliott as formerly. We came into Washington on the 29th of August, and took up our abode on the top-most pinnacle of Meridian Hill. Here we went through the process necessary to become Pennsylvania soldiers. Twice per day did we do our military trappings, which consisted of a stick of la sabre and march, counter-march, left and right turn, and the other many queer positions of a soldier in camp. At length, after constant drilling for some time, we were brought out to receive the gallant steeds, which Government had so kindly purchased for our especial use, at the rate of \$120 each. And Mr. Editor, you can't form any idea of the great military spirit which pervaded the breasts of the members of our little band, on taking hold of those beautiful beasts by the mane, as we did not have any halters. Each man felt himself far superior to King Richard, who cried: "My kingdom for a horse;" as we all had horses without even a king. The next day was spent by the lads (our troopers) in leaping their chargers over enormous dikes and fences, but with a sorry effect in some cases, as a certain private Kirkendall, from Lawrenceville, can testify, inasmuch as he is just recovering from the effects of a sad tumble, which he got from the back of his beast. Four days after getting our equipments, we were ordered to Ball's Cross Roads, Va., from which one squadron was ordered into Maryland to protect the elections, shortly after we were ordered to Annapolis, where we camped four days, and sailed from thence to this place, where we arrived on the 27th of November—many without clothes, blankets, or any of the things belonging to camp equipment. The U. S. paymaster visited us on the 4th of December, for the first time, and Treasury Notes were issued in pockets which had not seen a cent in three long months.

There was only one person that joined us who did not belong to the army. He was a man of about thirty-five years of age, which, we felt, fully justified us in considering him an old man. His years and experiences induced us to look on him with no little deference; while his ordinary manners, austere manner, and bitter sarcasm, worked a powerful influence on our young minds. A certain day, he was invited up with his horse, and he appeared to be a Russian, but had to leave him at that time he had served in a regiment of Cossacks but it was evident that he did not regard his term of service, or any circumstances connected with it, with any degree of satisfaction. No one knew the reasons which had induced him to give up his commission, and settle in such a miserable place as this, which he had chosen to reside in, and which the same time wretchedly and prodigally; he always went on foot, clad in an old worn-out overcoat, yet kept an open table for all the officers of our regiment. It is true, his dinners consisted only of two or three dishes cooked by an old discharged soldier; but champagne flowed like water. No one knew his circumstances, or the source of his income, but did of an assent to question him on the subject. His table consisted of a number of courses, mostly of military subjects, and novels. He willingly lent them, and never expressed any wish to have them returned. If a chief amusement consisted in exercising with pistols, and the walls of his house bore sufficient evidence of his partiality for this expense, for they were completely covered with the marks of bullets. The skill to which he had attained in this his avowed occupation was incredible, and if he had offered to shoot an apple from the cap of any one of us, none would have shrunk from exposing his head to his infuriating aim.

The termination of the quarrel produced an immense effect upon our young minds. The want of courage he excused by young people less than the lack of any other of those qualities which excite their admiration; for instance, they consider the most worthy of human virtues, and even a palliation for all possible failings. However, by degrees, the whole affair was allowed to pass by, and Silvio once more acquired his former ascendancy.

"At last, we both happened to be at a ball given by a Polish gentleman. Here I saw him the center of attraction of the whole of the ladies, and, above all, I saw the hostess assiduous in her attentions towards him; all seemed to render him homage; all attention seemed directed to him alone. A comparison of my present position with that which had been but long ago was sufficient. My resolution was taken; and meeting with him afterwards in a side room, I whispered into his ear some meditated insult. He flew into a rage, and struck me a blow on the face; we drew our swords; then followed a scene of confusion; the ladies fainted, the gentlemen separated us, and we hastened that very night to settle the dispute in a more satisfactory manner.

The arrival of a rich neighbor is an epoch of great importance to people who live in the country. It is the talk of the neighborhood for some months beforehand, and it furnishes the principal topic of conversation for at least three years after. I longed with the greatest impatience to see them, and on the first Sunday after their arrival, I set out immediately for dinner, to pay my respects to their excellencies, to their nearest neighbor and most obedient servant.

"I cannot be helped," replied the count. "I shall relate the whole occurrence: he knows how I offended his friend; now let him know how he has avenged himself." The count drew his chair towards me, and with the most excited curiosity I heard the following account: "About five years ago I married. The honey moon I spent here on this estate. In this home I have passed some of the happiest moments of my life, but it has been also the scene of an event of the most painful remembrance. One evening, we went for a ride on horseback; the horse on which my wife rode became restive, and she, being alarmed, gave me the reins, and having dismounted, walked home alone. On reaching the yard, I saw a traveling telegraph. My servant informed me that there was a man in my cabinet who wished to see me; he refused to give his name, saying simply that he had some business of importance to transact with me. I hastened to the room, and saw in the gloomy light a man covered with dust, whose outward appearance gave evident tokens of carelessness and neglect. He stood here by the chimney-piece. I went up to him and endeavored to recognize him. "You do not know me, count," said he with a trembling voice. "At the sound of his voice, which I well remembered, I was struck motionless, and my hair seemed to stand on end. With an effort I exclaimed, 'Silvio!' 'I am Silvio,' he replied. 'I am come to settle an account which has long been standing between us. Are you ready?'"

Thus I heard the end of a story, the beginning of which had so moved me on a former occasion. With the hero I never met afterwards; but I have heard that during the rebellion of Alexander Pissanti, he re-entered the army, held the command of a detachment, and was killed in a battle near Scollam.

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D. B. M.

A PETITION FOR EMANCIPATION.

The following circular and petition, setting forth the necessity of emancipation, are in circulation for signatures.

W. C. Bryant, H. A. Hart, M. D., James M. McVey, Wm. Goodell, Saml. R. Davis, Nathan Brown, Edgar Ketchum, Andrew W. Morgan, John T. Wilson, S. C. Johnson, J. R. W. Stone, Theodosia Tilton, Jas. Frazer, Charles H. Smith, Wm. C. Russell.

The undersigned have prepared with care and after mature deliberation the accompanying petition on the subject of Emancipation, and recommend it to the public for general adoption and circulation. Copies may be obtained from either of the subscribers. New York, December, 1861.

The people of the United States represent: That they recognize as lying at the very foundation of our government on which has been erected the fabric of our free institutions, the solemn and undying truth that by native all men are endued with an unalienable right to liberty.

That so far as this great truth has been in any respect departed from by any of our people, or by any course of events, the toleration of such departure has been caused by an overshadowing attachment to the Union, and by conscientious fidelity to those with whom we had voluntarily united in forming a great example of free government.

That such departure—whether willing or unwilling, whether excusable or censurable—has nevertheless given birth to a mighty power in our midst—a power which has consigned four millions of our people to slavery and arrayed six millions in rebellion against the very existence of our government; which for three-quarters of a century has disturbed the peace and harmony of the nation, and which has now armed nearly half a million of people against the Union which has been hitherto so dear to the lovers of freedom throughout the world.

That by the very act of the slave-power itself, we have, all of us, been released from every obligation to tolerate any longer its existence among us.

That we are admonished—and day by day the conviction is gathering strength among us—that our harmony can be restored to the nation, our peace brought back to the people, no perpetuity secured to our Union, no permanency established for our government, no hope afforded for the continuance of our freedom, unless we shall have first secured the freedom of the slave.

Our conversation often fell on duelling. Silvio (for that was his name) never joined with us on these occasions. To the question, if ever he had fallen to his lot to be engaged in one, he would simply answer that he did; but that he ended; he never entered into any details, and it was evident that the subject was disagreeable to him. We supposed that there were on his mind unpleasant recollections of some victim of his deadly skill. With regard to his courage, it never entered into our heads to suspect him of anything approaching to timidity. There are some people whose appearance alone forbids our entertaining such suspicions.

It happened one day that I dined with Silvio; we drank very deeply, as usual, and after dinner used all our endeavors to induce the host to play a game at bank. For a long while he refused, for he very seldom played; at length he gave way to our entreaties, and produced the cards; he then strewn on the table fifty ducats, and set down to throw.

It was late in the evening when we rose from the table. When Silvio had taken leave of all, and we were preparing to depart, he took me by the hand and led me aside, and said quietly: "I wish to speak to you." The guests left, and we remained alone. We sat opposite each other, and for a long time smoked our pipes in silence. Silvio was much embarrassed; already traces of his convulsive merriment had disappeared. A deadly paleness, gleaming eyes, and the thick clouds of smoke issuing from his mouth, gave him the appearance of a perfect fiend. At last Silvio interrupted the silence. "Perhaps," he said, "we shall never see each other again." Before we separated, I wished to unburden myself on a subject of which the particulars are well known to you. You have no doubt observed that I care very little for the opinion of others; but you I love and respect, and it would be very painful to me to leave on your mind any wrong impressions as to my conduct on the occasion, the particulars of which I have just referred to.

"I left the service, and then found my way to this place. From the time I came here, not a day has passed in which I have not thought of vengeance; and now my hour is come." Silvio took from his pocket the letter which he had received in the morning, and gave it to me to read. Some one—it appeared to be an agent of his—had written from Moscow to inform him that a certain person whom he knew was soon about to marry a young and beautiful lady.

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"I left the service, and then found my way to this place. From the time I came here, not a day has passed in which I have not thought of vengeance; and now my hour is come." Silvio took from his pocket the letter which he had received in the morning, and gave it to me to read. Some one—it appeared to be an agent of his—had written from Moscow to inform him that a certain person whom he knew was soon about to marry a young and beautiful lady.

"You grieve," said Silvio, "who that certain person is, who is about to marry. I am going to Moscow; and as I shall see whether he will regard death with such indifference, on the eve of his wedding day, as he did on a former occasion, when festering on those cherries." With these words, Silvio rose, flung his cap on the floor, and began to pace the room backwards and forwards like a tiger in a cage. During the time he had been speaking, I sat quite motionless, while strange and conflicting emotions violently agitated me.

That we are admonished—and day by day the conviction is gathering strength among us—that our harmony can be restored to the nation, our peace brought back to the people, no perpetuity secured to our Union, no permanency established for our government, no hope afforded for the continuance of our freedom, unless we shall have first secured the freedom of the slave.

Our conversation often fell on duelling. Silvio (for that was his name) never joined with us on these occasions. To the question, if ever he had fallen to his lot to be engaged in one, he would simply answer that he did; but that he ended; he never entered into any details, and it was evident that the subject was disagreeable to him. We supposed that there were on his mind unpleasant recollections of some victim of his deadly skill. With regard to his courage, it never entered into our heads to suspect him of anything approaching to timidity. There are some people whose appearance alone forbids our entertaining such suspicions.

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