

THE COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT.

I have sworn upon the Altar of God, eternal hostility to every form of Tyranny over the Mind of Man.—Thomas Jefferson

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MISCELLANEOUS.

ADVENTURES IN HAVANNA. A ROMANTIC SKETCH.

BY D. W. ELWOOD.

The moon is up by heaven a lovely one!

Not much he kens, I ween of woman's breast
Who thinks that wanton thing is won by sighs.—HAROLD.

It was a most beautiful evening in the capital of Cuba. Even for that rich and genial climate the air had been uncommonly pure and refreshing through the day, and as the sun grew low in the heavens crowds upon crowds poured forth through the gates, glad to escape for a few moments from the narrow and dingy streets of the city, and breathe the purer atmosphere that was to be found outside the walls. And while yet the vesper-bell was sounding the grand Pasco was thronged with citizens of all classes, reluctant to return to the unpleasant haunts of business and of bustling life. Superb volantes came rolling leisurely alone, containing at once the beauty and wealth and fashion of this most wealthy and fashionable of modern cities. Occasionally might be seen a horseman or two anxious to be distinguished among the motley multitude. But by far the greater number of male loungers were on foot sporting their gold-headed canes, and frequently, by raising the hand, nodding the head; or some other slightest motion possible giving token of recognition as an acquaintance passed them by.

Among these latter were two young Americans from New England, their tall forms and clear features, contrastingly finely with the short, burly, dark complexioned Creoles. The younger of the two with his dark hair and whiskers, might easily, however, have been taken for a Spaniard, but for the steady and rather speedy gaze of his hazel eye, which at times lighted up with a flash that betokened a bold and firm spirit within.

As they were about leaving the promenade, and had turned toward the city, a volante containing two young and beautiful girls slowly passed them and one of the ladies addressing the youngest of the two Americans in his own language, said in a low voice,

'Meet me at nine o'clock in square before the Intendant's palace, near the statue of Ferdinand. Ere he had time to answer the carriage had gone by.

The two friends looked at one other in astonishment.

'Shall you go, Bertram, at length said his companion to the one to whom the request had apparently been made.

'Yes, Noland, I think I shall.—Though it certainly looks like a strange affair; I am anxious to sift it out. It may, you know, lead me to fortune, of which you will not deny I stand in much need. But whatever may be her motive the statue of Ferdinand is but a short distance from our hotel, and it is there, so I will go.—Did you not think the ladies had an air of great respectability?'

'You undoubtedly would be pleased to have me think so. But I should not care to accompany you. Some silly project I dare say, devised merely for the amusement of those.—they did have an appearance of respectability though I must acknowledge.

Several minutes before the time, our hero had already arrived at the appointed place of meeting, and as the hour approached he walked impatiently around the statue, eagerly searching for the fair stranger who had made so singular a request. His curiosity and love of adventure were now fully excited, and his watch was twice a minute consulted as the moments passed slowly on. The more he had thought over this strange matter with the morbid fancy of youth the more he was convinced it would lead to some extraordinary good fortune, or at least place it in his power very effectually to aid some fellow creature. The result justified his expectations. At last the clock struck and almost before the sound had died away, the small but elegant figure of a female approached him. She might be twenty years of age, perhaps not more than eighteen, but the fulness of her form and her well defined features, denoted a maturity that is not met with in colder climates till a more advanced period of life. As she came near to Bertram the light of a lamp shone full upon her face and its witching beauty charmed him.

'Give your arm,' she said hastily, 'and go where I lead you.'—They turned several corners, till coming to a street almost entirely deserted, she slackened her steps and said, 'I think now we are not observed. I had reason to fear myself watched, and that was the reason of my bringing you on this strange journey. And now hear me. But first, may I rely on your confidence?'

'Folly!' answered the young man.

'Then I will go on. I have often observed you passing by my father's house and was at the first struck with your appearance, and your features, which I thought indicated a noble soul. Forgive my indelicacy if it be such in requesting you to meet me alone at this hour of the night, but I could meet you at no other. I am in distress, with no friend to whom I can apply for assistance none to pity me, except, indeed my sister, whom you saw with me to day; and she alas, cannot help me it cost me much effort, to risk the danger of being thought immodest, of being supposed to act as woman should not act. I determined to make if possible, a friend of you. You know the rest, are you willing to aid me?'

'Most gladly will I do so if it is in my power.'

'Enough, come then to-morrow night precisely at eight o'clock to the house of Alvar in the Calle del Obispo. You know where to find it.—The Conde de Alvar is my father. My name I trust is sufficient warranty to you of my character. But at 8 o'clock I am to be married to a man wealthy, titled, and therefore respected, yet a fool. Look you that man I detest, and that marriage must never take place. Twice have I rejected him, but my father commands obedience. I have no means of light, & could I escape, poverty and disgrace would only be my portion. It is well known that it would gladly evade this union; they fear me therefore, and I am watched with an eagle eye, I tremble every moment now lest we should be discovered. You can save me.'

'But how?'

'By appearing before the assembly and declaring that I am your betrothed bride?'

'How can I affirm what is not true?'

'You need not. Promise here to be mine, to be bound to me till this hour to-morrow night, and all may be well. Then you shall be free as air. And here I bind myself to you—to be your wife if you shall demand it. I swear it and my father learning this will not compel me to break my oath. He is creature of impulse,

But I know him well.

'It is enough. I promise you. I am yours, oh, would it were, not for a day only but for life. What say you sweet lady, may I not claim your promise after wards?'

'You have not yet proved your sincerity; but you need not despair;'

'I will serve you with my life.'

'Fail me not then. Remember, sooner than be that man's wife I'll die; Farewell, I cannot thank you now; but you will not find me ungrateful; She pressed his hand and in another instant was gone.

Bertram confided this affair to Noland, and a little before the time on the following evening they proceeded together toward the house of Alvar where the event was to take place.—The latter was well armed, and had resolved to remain near by in case his friend should need assistance; for they were both aware of the flashy temper of the Spaniards with whom Bertram had to deal. Indeed it was rather a hazardous enterprise for a single stranger to attempt to thwart the designs of a rich and crabbed old Count supported, as he would probably be by some dozen of his friends none of whom were perhaps very scrupulous in regard to the shedding of blood. But fear was a stranger to Eugene Bertram's bosom and excitement and hazardous exploits made up the brighter and happiest portions of his life. But yet he did not lack calculations; and on the present occasion, he rested his hopes of success, less upon his own strength, than on the cowardly dispositions of the Creoles, who were ready enough to raise the arm but usually afraid to strike. He thought it best therefore not to go armed himself, both because he thought it really not necessary, and to be more secure against committing any rash action.

The moment came. He stepped up to the door, and giving rather an unceremonious rap, as soon as it was opened, pushed past the porter, and stood at once in the centre of a brilliant room, filled with the dark beauties of Havana and their attendant squires. The ceremony had already begun and the fair bride, with downcast eyes, was pale as the marble floor on which she stood. But when Bertram entered the room, her countenance lighted up with the flush of hope, and a scream of joy burst from her lips.

'I forbid this holy rite!' said Bertram, in a deep, calm, determined voice. The priest dropped his book, the company started in astonishment, the bridegroom stood aghast, and, save our hero and Isabel, the old Count second the only one who had any of his senses left.

And I beg to know what right you have to interfere in this business! at last he thundered out: there slaves thrust forth this madman; and on your lives do not gain admit him.'

'But I will not stir from this room. This fair lady is my betrothed bride. Her heart is mine, and her hand shall not be given to another. It is so, my Isabel! Do I not speak the truth?' and he approached, her and taking her fair hand, pressed it respectfully, yet fondly to his lips.

But the Count's anger was now fully aroused. He raved, ordered his slaves; his friends, seize the stranger and bind him for punishment. Bertram though of slender frame had nerves and sinews almost like iron, and possessed the strength of a young giant. The bridegroom drew his sword and advanced toward him,—but Eugene wrenched it from him in an instant; and his antagonist, on losing his weapon, slunk away behind one of the lady's chair. But the odds were rather fearful—for some half dozen had by this time collected themselves, and advanced to the attack. At this instant, Noland, alarmed by the noise, and rightly conjecturing the cause, burst into the room. Bertram stood in one corner, holding Isabel by one hand, while with desperate strength Noland immediately planted himself by his side; with a pistol in each hand—and put

quite a different aspect on the matter, for the dastardly Creoles, upon the reinforcement, were fain to draw back and come to a parley.—But on looking round, and observing the position the bridegroom had taken, the Count, who was as his daughter had said a creature of impulse but a great admirer of courage, cried out. 'Hold! In good sooth, I prefer now this brave young stranger for my son-in-law; and since my daughter is betrothed to him she shall become his wife directly.'

Nothing could better suit our hero, and even the Donnan Isabella, after refusing and pleading for delay, all to no purpose, blushing, but we may believe not unwillingly, gave her consent.

It was but a few months afterwards that Mr. Eugene Bertram, who had left home a poor solitary adventurer, returned to New England with both a wife and fortune. If we may believe his word, he considered his wife the far more valuable possession of the two—though on such a subject a man's word is very often to be doubted. This much, however, is certain, he was in due time; presented with a fine boy was called the Conde de Alvar; in memory of her father, who the day after the marriage; on learning the whole story; was somewhat inclined to be indignant and revoke his blessing, but in a few days became so well pleased with his mad-cap son that he made him the recipient of his love and fortune.

CUTTING UP INDIAN CORN.

Last year some of our best farmers were induced, by way of experiment, to cut their corn and feed in yards, or on poor spots of land through the winter, and all we have heard speak of it intend trying it again, which is the best evidence they are pleased with it. From what we have heard, however, many farmers did not get half the good of their fodder last season and some derived but little or no advantage from it; this argues had management somewhere, and we have therefore concluded to give such directions as will enable every one to get all the benefit of his crop.

1st. The proper time for cutting up corn is just after it gets out of its milky state, or as the grain becomes glazed over. If cut earlier, there will be a good deal of shrinking in the ear, and the fodder will not be so good, in consequence of being cut before it was sufficiently matured.

2d. The instrument best suited to the operation, is a knife that will cut a hill at a blow. The writer last year had two knives made out of an old scythe blade, by cutting it into two pieces, drawing shanks, and having handles put on. They as very cheap and first rate for the purpose.

3d. It is generally thought best to cut four rows and leave, till you get over the field, for the purpose of letting the first cutting dry before adding to the bulk; but from the trials we have made, we would as soon have all stacked at once, as at half a dozen operations. A good plan is to put two hands to cutting and stacking together—let them, cut about eight rows at a 'through,' and as soon as they fill their arms full of corn, let the shock be commenced between them, and continue to stand the stalks around till the shock is as large as two hands can well manage, when it is to have stalks bound round near the top to prevent it from being blown down.

4. It has been to often the case, shocks have been suffered to stand out in the field till the fodder, by the influence of rains and dews, has been destroyed, and oftentimes on this negligent plan, the corn falls, so the farmers gets but little over half the value of his crop. The proper plan is, after the corn stands out six or eight days, or till sufficiently cured let it be hauled up and put under sheds, or stacked like oats; under this treatment the blades and stocks will continue fresh and sweet all winter, and consequently stocks will be found of it. This is an item, in cutting up corn and feeding in ears; of much moment, and if disregarded, the profits of the plan will be measurably lost. After being housed or stacked it may be shocked out just as well

as it had been attended to in the field. The husking the corn however before or after being taken from the field will depend upon circumstances. Where there are cattle and hogs to consume the crop, the best plan is to haul up the corn in the shocks and stack it as before described; then feed it to the cattle first and let the hogs follow and they will pick up all the refuse ears, and scattering grains, that nothing be lost. Thus cattle or mules and hogs will thrive well by the same feeding. Another plan to feed corn saved in this way which we have tried, is to cut stocks, blades and ears all with a strong cutting knife, then steam-boil it, and put a little bran and salt, and it in this state. Cattle will consume all, except a few of the stocks, which may be thrown in the manure heap.

The advantages of cutting up corn are, first, that the crop is saved with less labor than the old plan of first stripping off the blades, then topping and last of all pulling and shocking the corn.

Secondly. The stalks when well cured and fed out either by cutting and steaming, or to the yard, contain full as much nourishment in our opinion, as the blades and tops which are usually saved.

Thirdly. The ground, by this means, is so clean, the plough may be put in without further preparation.

Fourthly. By feeding the stalks, the farmer is able to save enough extra manure to well repay for all the labor of cutting, hauling, stacking and feeding. We hope farmers will try the system, and we think they will not be displeased at the change.

The best proof in the world that it is the right plan to save the crop, is, that the farmers of Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, and the Northern states, who have tried it, are resolved not to abandon it.

YOUNG MEN TAKE CARE.

On Sunday afternoon last a Temperance meeting was held on Fell Point, in Baltimore, which was followed by religious exercises in German language. In the midst of the exercises, (says the Baltimore Sun) the company were a little surprised to see a tall, handsome girl move somewhat quickly from one point to another and stopped directly opposite an individual whose exterior was that of a gentleman their surprise was increased to see her raise her hands, and administer to each side of his face in pretty quick succession, two or three very emphatic spats from her oft palm. An explanation ensued, and pretty heroically stated that the individual had been eyeing her for some time, and finally had manifested the audacity to wink at her! She could bear the eyeing because that was the tribute which her beauty exacted in the shape of admiration from the one sex and envy from the other; but when it came to a wink, that was an insult to the basity of her appearance, which could only be avenged with signal punishment upon the spot.

Aerial Navigation.—The French papers state that a person named Comaschi; has invented a balloon; with which he can navigate the air in any direction and in all weathers. An experiment lately made on its powers; under very unfavorable circumstances; near Lyons; France; was completely successful. The aeronaut made his ascent from the east bank of the Sonae; and crossed the river in a westerly direction; gradually steering in a curvilinear path; till he re crossed the river and descended very near the spot where he had risen. During this experiment the weather was generally tempestuous; and the wind very violent.

The balloon is unlike all others in form; being rhomboidal; instead of spherical or cylindrical; there are no details of construction given; however nor any mention made of the means by which it is propelled.

The following appropriate lyric was found the other day on the back of a broken Bank bill;

Hark, from the banks an awful crash,
Ye patriots hear the cry,
Here is a note that calls for cash;
But, oh, 'tis all in my eye!