

# THE STAR OF THE NORTH.

W. H. JACOBY, Publisher.

Truth and Right—God and our Country.

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## THE STAR OF THE NORTH

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### Standi' Guard.

The light was dim—the night far spent,

The sick and wounded slept,

Save one, by whom a watcher lone

Her loving vigil kept.

Leaving, though she scarcely knew

The name of that poor boy,

She knew a mother soon must weep

The loss of either joy.

With gentle touch she put the hair

Back from the child's brow,

Wishing a mother's lips might kiss

Its marble fairness now.

She bent to hear each whispered tone,

A memory to be kept.

For her who in her peaceful home,

Calmly unconscious slept.

Oh! mother, I have said the prayer

You taught me, every night

And sometimes twice, as I kept watch

Beside the camp fire bright.

It is very cold, dear mother,

Standi' guard here alone,

But the relief will soon be round,

I hear the pass-word, "Home."

My home! Oh, mother I shall come

When the next battle's fought,

Almost as soon as the glad news

Of victory is brought!

This staff is broken, wet with blood,

Your boy's blood, mother dear,

I held it clasped close to my heart,

Without a single fear.

But it was shot from out my grasp,

And borne towards the sky,

I'll make a stronger, better one,

From which our flag shall fly.

For a brief time he laid so still,

It seemed as if he slept.

That sleep which knows no waking here,

And but its semblance kept.

Through tears the lonely watcher gazed

Upon the fair young face,

On which as yet life's darker scenes

Had left no impure trace.

Softly she kissed the death cold lips

A mother might not press,

And cut from off the waiting hair

One soft and curling tress.

"Mother!" again he murmured low,

"Say, is it almost light?"

Dear mother, it is very cold

Here standing guard to-night!

Standing guard, mother, 'til that sweet word

Was all that mortal ear,

Though wildly strained in yearning love,

Oh earth might never hear.

The boy's last watch below was kept,

And at the Golden Gate

The angel, who kept watch that night

Needed no longer wait.

Fashions with the ladies are as changeable

As the weather. Not long ago we found

them adorning their heads with "raids"

and large pins with great tails &c. But this

did not seem to work well and down came the

"waterfall" which was caught by nearly all

the deus and fastened upon their heads by

jewels and traps to numerous and too

strangely named for us to describe; and

now, as I met the waterfall has disappeared

and from the mad they have caught a

"snake," which they twist in a peculiar

fashion, & from about their enduring

heads. We would not wonder to hear of

them dreaming of snakes and believe them-

selves almost choked to death by the "nasty

things," and oh, then to rouse up and find

one encircling the neck and lying quietly on

the snowy bosom of the fair one, what a

commotion there would be!

An extraordinary genius has been discovered

in Ireland in the person of a lad sixteen

years of age. The lad has constructed, en-

tirely unaided, a piece of machinery, in full

motion, occupying a ground space of some

six or eight feet square, and driven by a

small water-wheel about four feet in diame-

ter. On a close inspection it was found that

the various wheels, cogs, cranks and spindles

were perfectly good, and were performing

simultaneously the varied operations of

pumping, churning, hammering on an anvil,

perforating saw, diagonal and circular

saw, &c. but so cleverly adapted to these

respective uses that the whole was driven

with the most perfect and easy motion, by

the water-wheel already alluded to. The lad

is the son of a blacksmith living in Knock-

roth County, Wicklow, and has never been

seen miles from his home.

A Scottish advocate, who, in his broad

Scotch, pronounced the word water boiler,

being asked in court by the chancellor if

he would swear with two 's', replied, "No my

lord; but I spell manners with two 's'."

They are trying to find a young man in

Chicago who is heir to \$100,000. Several

young ladies in Bloomsburg are looking for

### The literature of the Yankee.

We extract the following from an address delivered before the Keystone Club of Bedford, Pa., by James F. Shunk, Esq., of York, on the 20th of November last, and which has just been published at the request of the Club. We regret that our space will not permit us to give the address in full. Mr. Shunk said:

There is an idea which these people (the Yankee Abolitionists) have carefully fostered, and which has gained a certain prevalence through the agency of their political allies in this State, that they are naturally the intellectual superiors of our own citizens; especially that they are born to a pre-eminence in the world of letters. This idea is as destitute as anything can be of foundation in truth. I admit freely that they read more books, write more books than are read, written, or produced by all the rest of the country besides; and we must concede to them a greater amount of activity with the pen and with the press than we claim for ourselves. But that is all we concede. Tell me how many kits of mackerel, or pounds of codfish were caught last year on the Yankee coast, under the stimulus of the enormous government bounty; how many yards of calico and bales of shoddy were shown out by the mills of Lowell, how many baskets of onions Weatherfield and her fragrant sister towns cast upon the market, how many cheeses came from the dairies of Connecticut, and how many claims from the shores of Rhode Island, and I can form some idea of how much the country owes New England for her annual contribution to the common stock of wealth. But books belong to a class of merchandise widely different from all these. Their bulk, their weight, their numbers avail nothing toward an estimate of the minds from which they emanate. A pocket copy of Shakespeare is worth all the trash under which the presses of New England ever groaned, all the millions of pages which her diligent scribblers ever fastened between covers. To thank a nation of entire literary backs simply for giving you plenty of books, is to rate poetry along with cheese and codfish.

The in-ware, the split-leather, the clock business, have all passed away. The gentlemen who rendered those valuable commodities have retired upon their fortunes. Some of them have become saints, and are preaching the gospel; some of them Senators and are doctoring the Constitution; some of them contractors, and have set their squadron in the field armed with cast iron sabres, mounted on skeleton horses, and clad in picturesque rags of shoddy; some of them poets, and are tuning their lyres in praise of John Brown and the noble black; but all of them—senator, saint, shoddy-contractor and tuneful warbler alike, are simply clock and tin-peddlers in a new disguise.

Their lyrics and their essays are of a piece with their keittles and their shoe leather. They are a sham. The artist who has spent his early years in the contrivance of mechanical cheats is not likely, when he turns his attention to poetry, to forsake his old tricks, or establish any very close correspondence with the Muses. His satire pans and his similes, his shoe-pegs and his metaphors, are equally ingenious frauds. He is alike a dishonest tinker, whether he wields the pen, or holds the lap-stone.

Hence the Abolition Literature is not the out-cropping of spontaneous genius, or even the result of honest and patient labor. It is made in self, to cheat, to deceive, not to improve or instruct. Its histories are artful and malicious inventions, designed to varnish the infamies which have blackened the whole history of the party of negro emancipation, and to defame the party of the Constitution, which held these States in firm and glorious union as long as the reins of power were in their hands. Its theology has nothing in it of the spirit of Christ and the Apostles, or of the long lines of worthies of all ages, of which each sect and sub-division of the Church can claim its share, whose patient, innocent, prayerful lives were given to seeking a clearer knowledge of God and bringing aliens and wanderers into closer communion with him. On the contrary, it is a kind of mixed, mad nonsense, made up of a series of incoherent interpretations of the Gospel, of strictures upon it, by insolent exhorters who rate their own bellows higher than the thunders of Sinai. No two of them precisely agree in the portions of the Sacred Book which they recite and defy; in the exact texts which are to be cast out and rejected; but they are beautifully united in scorning and sneering at all of it which does not accord with the schemes, the passions, or the aggrandizement of each.

The songs of this Abolition Literature are by no means suggestive of the trill of birds which sing because song is their natural speech. The nasal pipe of the Puritan has nothing of the warble of the woods about it. His attempts to chirp after the fashion of Nature's born minstrels afford us pleasure, it is true; but it is the pleasure of a downright, hearty, shaking laugh at the ludicrous features of the poor devil, who fancies, because he has counterfeited notes with success, he can manipulate melody, and cheat you as readily in song.

As children grow older, "Histories," "Geographies," and "Readers" are provided for them, all issuing from the same mint and gravitated with the same duff. Histories of the United States are stuffed full of pictures of the "Pilgrim Fathers," the Bunker Hill Monument and Boston, as seen from all points of the compass, while the letter-press is devoted to the work of magnifying

oism of their descendants. The "Readers" contain selections from the Yankee poets, all made in the same spirit of self-glorification, choice passages from the speeches of Mr. Sumner, Wendell Phillips, Garrison and other prominent patriots, and minute rolls to perfect the pupils in the art of pronouncing the English language through the nose—the approved Yankee fashion.

Readers these various appliances there is an immense fund of magazine and periodical literature smuggled over our borders and into our homes, all saturated with the same falsehood, injustice and malignity. The *Atlantic Monthly* can at least claim the merit of obtaining its subscribers on no false pretence. It is notoriously an Abolition magazine. It is open in its villainy, and its editors are not only gentlemen void of the moral sense, but entirely regardless of the fact that other people possess it. But the Harpers stand at the head of a different class of publishers. They are guilty of a perpetual and scandalous fraud upon the public. They affect to issue a "neutral" magazine and weekly. They call the latter a "Journal of Civilization," and the former a literary periodical. Until it began to pay to denounce the Democracy of this country they loaded it with a servility which was absolutely disgusting. They denounced John Brown, in 1859, in the most savage terms, and had their paper filled with pictures of the negroes for their masters and the atrocity of old Brown's bloody attempt to sever the "patriarchal relation." Even when the war was just impending, when Beauregard had donned the confederate uniform, when Davis was sitting at the head of the new government which was certainly as fully in rebellion then as ever afterwards, they published the likeness of those persons, gave flattering biographies of them, and never intimated a hint of disapproval of the work on which they had entered. They showed then the same spirit which they displayed long before, when they embellished their "Journal of Civilization" with an immense woodcut of a brutal prize fight, because they could not bear to resign the sixpences of the shoddy hatters and blackguards of New York to their competitors of the other pictorial weeklies. They sought to appease the decent portion of their readers, on that occasion, by giving, on their editorial page, a flaming moral article on the wickedness and inefficiency of human creatures pounding each other as represented in the picture!

As soon as the war had fairly broken, out and their Southern subscription list was hopelessly cut off, they commenced to print the most insulting Abolition sheet in the country. Not content with reviling the people actually engaged in the rebellion, they have continued, ever since, to libel, by word and picture, the great Democratic party of the North. They have filled both "Weeklies" and "Magazine" with sickening, sneaking tales, apparently the emanations of one added head, designed to magnify the virtues of the angular old maids of the East and to illustrate the infamy of the "Copperheads," as they delight to call us. The plot of these stories seems to be kept in type, and of the adjectives, and love talk, descriptions of hospitals, scenery, etc., filled in according to the taste of the compositor. It is the simplest thing in the world to write one. Reuben Tarbutton goes soldiering (the bounty in Reuben's district, I may remark, was \$1,500) and leaves Nellie Doolittle disconsolate. Nellie devotes herself to knitting stockings for the negro troops until news comes of Reuben's demise, which, of course, takes place in the very middle of the deadly breach. Nellie thereupon, having dried up her tears on her apron, concludes to soothe Reuben's departing spirit by ministering to his companions who are left behind and forthwith becomes an army nurse. Finally she happens to be wandering through the wards of a strange hospital when she hears a familiar voice exclaiming, "Oh! that I could but see Nellie, and die happy!" She bounds forward, tears back the curtain, there is a simultaneous squeal "Reuben!" "Nellie!" and these two pure-hearted young beings are locked in each other's arms. Of course, Reuben was killed at the war. The story was invented by a base Copperhead who was his rival, and hadn't pluck enough to go to the war. He was merely wounded by a 20 inch cannon ball in the chest—soon gets on his legs—they are married—settle down in a neat cottage, with an eligible onion patch attached—are blessed with a brood of healthy young Abolitionists who come by twins, and (here the moral sneaks in) are steady purchasers of all the stuff the Harpers print. Fortunately it is in the power of the Democracy of this country who have bought, in past times, thousands of books and periodicals with the name of the Harpers on them, to cut down the circulation of this nonsense sensibly and right speedily. That is the only way to reach such mercenary souls as theirs.

Women have been detected in smuggling whiskey from Canada in cans made in the shape of babies which hold four or five gallons each. About thirty women, each with a bogus baby of this sort were captured in one day not long since.

"How is it," said a man to his neighbor, "that our parson, the laziest man living, writes those interminable sermons?" "Why," said the other, "probably, after he begins writing, he is too lazy to stop."

Major General Wilson, the captor of Jefferson Davis, said to a man who was with him at the time he was taken, "I have done you a great deal of good. I have saved your life. I have given you a chance to live. I have given you a chance to be a hero. I have given you a chance to be a martyr. I have given you a chance to be a saint. I have given you a chance to be a god. I have given you a chance to be a man."

### The Miser's Bequest.

The bout hand of Philip Acra's old-fashioned silver watch was pointing to the figure eight—the snug red curtains shut out the rain and darkness of the March night, and the fire snapped and crackled behind the red bars of the little grate in a most comfortable and cozy sort of way, casting a rosy shine in the thoughtful brown eyes that were tracing castles and coronets in the burning coals. Fof Philip Acra was, for once, indulging himself in the dangerous fascination of a day dream.

"If I were only rich," he pondered to himself. "Ah, it—then good-bye to all these dusty old law books, good-bye to the mended boots and laced turned coats, and all the ways and means that turn a man's life into wretched bondage. Wouldn't I revel in new books and delicious paintings and fine horses? Wouldn't I buy a set of jewels for Edith—not pale pearls of sickly emeralds, but diamonds, to blaze like fire upon her white throat? Wouldn't I—what nonsense I'm talking, though!" he cried, suddenly arousing himself. "Philip Acra, hold your confounded tongue—I did suppose you were a fellow of more sense—Here you are, neither rich nor distinguished, but a simple law student, while Edith Wyllis is as far above your moon-struck aspirations as the Queen of Night herself—She loves me, though—she will wait—and the time may one day come that—hello, come in, whoever you are."

It was only the serving maid of the establishment carrying a letter in the corner of her apron, between her finger and thumb.

"Please, sir, the postman just left it—two cents to pay."

"Here are your two coppers, Katy—a pretty fair equivalent for any letter I may receive. Now then," he added as the door closed on Katy's substantial back, "let's see what my unknown correspondent has to say. A black seal, eh?—not having any relations to lose, I am not alarmed at the prognosis."

He broke the seal and glanced leisurely over the short business-like communication contained within, with a face that varied from incredulous surprise to sudden gladness.

"Am I dreaming?" he murmured to himself, as if to insure complete possession of his senses. "No, I'm wide awake and in my right mind: it's no part of my waking visions. But who would ever suppose that old Theron Mortimer, whom I haven't seen for sixteen years would die and leave me all his money. Why I am neither kith nor kin of his. Rich—am I really to be rich? Oh, Edith, Edith."

He clasped both hands over his eyes, sick and giddy with the thought that all the years of silent waiting were at length to be bridged over by the old miser's bequest—he might claim Edith now. How full of sunshine were the weeks that flitted over the head of the accepted lover, made beautiful by Edith's love.

It was precisely a week before the wedding, and the gently veiled lamps were just lighted in Dr. Wyllis' drawing room, where Edith sat, working on a bit of ruffling, and sighing to herself.

"I wonder it Mortimer's place is so very lovely," she said to a silver haired lady who sat opposite her. "Philip is going to take me there when we return from our wedding tour; he says it is the sweetest spot fancy could devise, with fountains, shrubbery and delicious coppses. Shall we not be happy there?"

She started up with a blush, for while the words were still on her lips, Philip Acra came into the room, looking a little troubled, yet cheerful whilal. Mrs. Wyllis disappeared in the conservatory; leaving the lovers alone.

"You are looking grave, Philip," said Edith, as he bent over and kissed her.

"I am feeling so, darling. I have a very unpleasant disclosure to make—our marriage must be postponed indefinitely."

"Philip, for what reason?"

"To enable me to realize sufficient to support you in a becoming manner."

"But, Philip, I thought—"

"You thought me the heir of Theron Mortimer's wealth? So I was, Edith, a few hours since, but I have relinquished all claim to it now. When I accepted the bequest, it was under the impression that no living heir existed. I learned to-day that a cousin—a woman—is alive, in ignorance of her relationship. Of course, I shall immediately transfer all the property to her."

"But Philip, the will has made it legally yours."

"Legally, it is; could I reconcile it to my ideas of truth and honor to avail myself of old Mortimer's fanciful freak, at this woman's expense. I might take the hoarded wealth, but I should never respect myself again, could I dream of legally defrauding the rightful heir. Nay, dearest, I may lose name and wealth, but I would rather die than so far as a single stain on my honor as a Christian gentleman."

"You have done right, Philip," said Edith, with sparkling eyes. "We will wait and hope on, happy in loving one another more dearly than ever. But who is she? what is her name?"

"That's just what I didn't stop to inquire, I will write again to my lawyer to ask these questions and to direct that a deed of conveyance be instantly made out, and then—"

His lips quivered a moment, yet he manfully completed the bitter sentence:

"Then I will begin the battle of life over and Edith's loving eyes told him what she thought of his noble self-abnegation—A sweet testimonial!

"Hem!" said Dr. Wyllis, polishing his eye glasses majestically with a crimson silk pocket handkerchief: "didn't I suppose the young fellow had so much stamina about him—an honorable thing to do. Edith, I have never felt exactly certain about Philip Acra's being worthy of you before—"

"Papa!"

"But my mind is made up now. When is he coming again?"

"This evening, sir," faltered Edith, the violet eyes softly drooping.

"Tell him, Edith, that he may have you next Wednesday, just the same as ever!—and as for the law practicing, why there's time for that afterwards. Child, don't strangle me with your kisses, keep them for Phil."

He looked at his daughter with eyes that were strangely dim.

"Tried and not found wanting!" he muttered indistinctly.

The perfume of orange blossoms had died away, the glimmer of pearls and satin were hidden in the velvet caskets and traveling trunks—and Mr. and Mrs. Acra, old married people of a full week's duration, were driving along the shore of the Hudson in the amber glow of the glorious June sunset.

"Halloo which way is Thomas going?" said Philip leaning from the window, as the carriage turned out of the shore road.

"I told him the road to take, Phil," said Edith, with bright sparkling eyes. "Let me have my own way just for once. We are going to our new home."

"Are we?" said Phil, with a comical grimace.

"Wait until you see, sir!" said Mrs. A., pursing up a little rose bud of a mouth.—And Philip "waited" patiently.

"Where are we?" he asked in astonishment when the carriage drove up in front of a stately built parsonic, which seemed not entirely unfamiliar to him. "Surely this is Mortimer place?"

"I shouldn't be surprised if it was," said Dr. Wyllis, emerging from the doorway.—"Walk in, my boy—come, Edith! Well, how do you like the looks of your new home?"

"Our new house?" repeated Philip. "I do not understand you, sir."

"Why I mean that your little wife yonder is the sole surviving relative of Theron Mortimer, although she never knew of it until this morning. Her mother was old Mortimer's cousin, but some absurd quarrel had caused a total cessation of intercourse between the two branches of the family. I was aware of the facts all along, but wasn't sorry to avail myself of the opportunity to see what kind of stuff you were made of, Phil Acra. And now as the deed of conveyance is made out yet, I don't suppose your lawyer will trouble himself about it.—The blessed word 'dear' with you, I'll be bound."

Philip Acra's cheeks flushed, and then grew pale with strong, hidden emotion, as he looked at his fair wife, standing beside him, the sunset turning her bright hair to coils of shining gold, and thought how unerring the hand of Providence had straightened out the tangled web of his destiny.

Out of darkness had come light.

Truth is Stranger than Fiction.

That truth is stranger than fiction, is asserted by the Memphis *Avantache*, which cites the following: Ten years ago, Mr. — was married to Miss —. For a time all went well with the happy pair, but whether prompted by incompatibility of temper or through the middle-class interference of relatives or friends, "eye chronicler" knoweth not, only that the demon of discord breathed upon their young love, and it withered as a flower, "neath Winter's chilling breath. And to make a long story short they separated. Shortly after the separation, a little daughter was born and then a divorce obtained—by which party obtained, it matters not. For nine years—long weary years they lived apart—never seeing, never hearing from or speaking of each other—and yet both remaining true to love's first bright dream. The little girl grew up and was taught to believe that her father was dead. She had never seen him, or been seen by him. Ah, who shall say how often during those long, dreary years that the father's heart yearned for the sight of his child, and pined to hear the music of her voice.

And the mother—the wife that was—was she happy? Who shall tell? Well, on the day before yesterday the lady accompanied by her little daughter, walked into a business house in this city, and met him who was once her husband and the father of the child, coming out. They stood face to face for the first time since their separation—nine years ago. Both stopped and gazed fixedly into each other's face. The father then turned his eyes to the child, and stooping down suddenly, caught her in his arms—pressed her passionately to his bosom—rained a shower of kisses upon her face; then placing her on the floor, he gave one glance at the mother and turned to go. Hearing his name called in a low tone, he turned! They were left alone for a few moments by the considerate kindness of the parties present. Then a hack was called, and in thirty minutes from their first meeting they were married.

A youth, with a turn for figures, had five eggs to boil, and being told to give them three minutes each, boiled them a quarter of an hour altogether.

Two women were frozen to death last week in New York.

Let's see, where am I? This is—coal I'm lying on. Was coming up street—met a wheelbarrow—was drunk, comin' tother way—the wheelbarrow fell over me, or I over the wheelbarrow, and one of us fell into the cellar—don't know which now—guess it must ha' been me. I'm a nice young man; yes I am—right! tore! drunk! Well, I can't help it—'tain my fault—wonder whose fault 'is? Is it Jones' fault?—No. Is it my wife's fault? Well it ain't—Is it the wheelbarrow's fault? No. It's whisky's fault. Who is whisky? Has he a large family! All poor I reckon. I think I won't own him any more. I'll cut his acquaintance. I've had that notion for about ten years, and always hate to do it for fear of hurting his feelings, I'll do it now. I think liquor is injurin' me—it's spoiling my temper.

Sometimes I get mad when I'm drunk and abuse Bets and the boys; it used to be Lizzie and the children—that's some time ago. I'd come home o' erenin's and she put her arms around my neck an' kiss me, an' call me her dear William. When I come home now, she takes the pipe out of her mouth an' the hair out of her eyes, an' says somethin' like—'Bill, you drunken brute, shut the door after you; we're cold enough, havin' no fire, 'thout lettin' the snow blow in that way.' Yes, she's Bets, and I'm Bill, now. I ain't a good Bill, nuther—won't pass—a tavern without goin' in an' gettin' drunk. Don't know what bank I'm on. Last