

Royle's Weekly

BY S. B. ROW.

CLEARFIELD, PA., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 1858.

VOL. 4.—NO. 33.

FADELESS IS A LOVING HEART.

Sunny lines may lose their brightness,
Nimble feet may forget their lightness,
Pearly teeth may know decay,
Raven tresses turn to gray,
Cheeks be pale, and eyes be dim,
Faint the voice, and weak the limb,
But, though youth and strength depart,
Fadeless is a loving heart.
Like the little mountain flower,
Peeping forth in springy hour,
When the summer's heat is fled,
And the gaudier rosetts dead;
So, when outward charms are gone,
Brighter still doth blossom on,
Despite Time's destroying dart,
The gentle, kindly, loving heart.
Wealth and talents will avail,
When in life's rough sea we sail,
Yet the wealth may melt like snow,
And with it no longer glow,
Despite Time's destroying dart,
And our course the fairer be,
If our pilot, when we start,
Be a kindly, loving heart.
Ye in worldly wisdom old,
Ye who know the knee to gold,
Does this earth as lovely seem,
As did in the days of yore,
Ere the world had crusted o'er,
Feelings good and pure before?
Ere ye sold, at Mammon's mart,
The best yearnings of the heart?
Grant me, Heaven! my earnest prayer,
Whether life of ease or care,
Be the one to me assigned,
That each coming year may find
Loving thoughts and gentle words,
Tuned within my bosom chords,
And that age may but impart
Riper fondness to my heart.

LIFE AMONG THE HILLS.

Who is George McMillen? Ask any old settler up in Wayne county, Pa., and he will tell you that he is one who pitched his tabernacle in that wilderness a long time ago. Like him, and it seems to me that your readers would like him if they knew him. I have eaten of his savory meat, and blessed him, but not of his venison, for George is not now what he once was. A man who has passed his sixtieth year, is not as sprightly as at twenty. He cannot bring his rifle down to us to try an aim, but he will give you the deer, as when in the vigor and strength of manhood. But he had a comfortable fireside, a plentiful table, and a warm hearth.
I took a fancy one pleasant winter's day to visit him, having heard of his fame as a Nimrod. In company with a friend we set out for his mountain home, eleven miles distant. We followed up the valley of the Lackawanna for eight miles, and then made a turn to the left, passing towards the Moosic mountain. Did your readers ever hear of the Lackawanna? It is a beautiful stream, pure and cold from its mountain springs, which sparkles as it dashes along the mountain's side, to commingle with the Delaware. Paradise did not contain a more lovely river. It was full of trout while the trees of its native forests stood upon its banks, and before the invention of man had found out so many ways to dam its current, and by means of vile substances cast in it from saw-mills and tanneries, to drive out and destroy its spotted inhabitants. I knew it when it flowed in its pristine beauty, and when in every deep eddy lay the speckled trout waiting to make a dash at the fly, and many a fine one has my own line drawn forth in days that are past, and a great blessing they were to me, for they were the only ones I had.
It is sufficient to say for the credit of these waters that trout lay there, for this dainty fish never inhabits any but the purest streams; and nothing can exceed in beauty of natural scenery, the valley which contains the Lackawanna. For eighteen miles up that valley there is a gentle descent, with high grounds upon either side. On the east a range of mighty hills, the Moosic mountain, on the west the foot of the Moosic mountain. Deer, elk, bears, panthers, wolves, and other wild game were once in abundance here and filled the unbroken forest.
It was up in a mountain glen about four miles west, that George McMillen took up his abode. He is a man of commanding aspect, more than six feet in height; and, having enjoyed the benefits of a good education, he cleared himself a little farm in the wilderness and occasionally instructed a winter school. He not only taught the young idea how to shoot, but was himself a good shot, the best in all that region. The young looked up to him with admiration when they saw the bears and panthers which his rifle laid low, and he kept a mighty good school. The young learned a great many things of him. I hope none learned to swear for occasionally George would swear a little when the things did not go right with him, but he has, I hope, repented and broken off this wicked habit a long time ago. But the young ideas did learn to shoot, and any one who could put a bullet near that which George had shot into the ring was privileged to be on very good terms with him. George loved a fearless and brave heart as he loved his child.
But he was not fond of having neighbors. He preferred a solitary home far up in the mountains and away from all human habitations. So up the mountain we went. The beaten road extended only to within a mile of his home, and we had to push our way through a kind of wood road till we came to an open space, and there we beheld one of the most beautiful and commanding sites which the eye of an old hunter could have selected. The barn was by the road, and forty or fifty rods off in an open field, stood the house. We saw a man chopping wood in front and hailed him to know if Mr. George McMillen lived there. "Yes," was the reply, "what's your will?" "My will," I said, "is to put Kate into the stable and then go into your house." So in we went and found a very hospitable welcome.

A TALL JUMP.

"Hello, Charley!" shouted Ned, as he burst into my room, in the attic of a \$2.50 boarding house in the Bowery, on the first day of April, about an hour before the bell was expected to ring for dinner.
"Well Ned, what's the row?"
"Nothin'. How much money have you got?"
"Only about fifty, why?"
"Nothin'. Lend it to me, Charley."
"Thunder! I lent you thirty last night."
"I know it—I've got thirteen of it yet?"
"I'll tell you what it is, Ned, I've only got this fifty, and if you get one of your benders, and spend it, I shall be hard up here till—"
"What in the name of stowed catfish legs are you talking about? Give me the pictures and you shall have it." "Come—fast over, and come along," said Ned.
"I gave Ned my wallet, and followed him down into the street. "Which way, Ned? Where are you bound?" But he went off down towards Chatham Square like a locomotive on a track. I followed in his wake about two rods astride. On he went through Chatham street, along Park Row, down Bowery, till he came opposite Trinity Church, when he stopped, and after gazing up at the tall steeple for about five minutes, he deliberately pulled off his coat, and handed it to me to hold for him. Next off came his hat and vest. I thought he was crazy. He pulled off his boots, and a crowd began to gather about us. Ned took out his watch, handed it to me, and said:
"The rush to the spot was such that in three minutes Broadway was blocked up."
"What's all this? What's going on?" inquired a dozen eager voices.
"Gentlemen," said Ned, "you see that open place up there in that steeple—right where the bell hangs?"
"Yes, yes!" screamed fifty of the crowd in answer to the question.
"Well, gentlemen, I'm going to jump up there!"
"You can't do it," instantly came from twenty of the bystanders.
"I'll bet he can," said an old gentleman behind Ned, whom half of the crowd knew as one of the richest merchants in Pearl street.
Ned looked over his shoulder in astonishment. The old merchant smiled and nodded his head.
"Good!" shouted Ned; "I've got one barker. I thought I'd have to go my small pile alone," and he pulled out his wallet.
"I'll bet two to one that you can't jump up there," said a man coming close up to Ned, with his fist full of bills.
"Three to one!" chirped another.
"Five to one!" shouted a third person.
"Five to one!" "Six to one!" and fifty sporting men crowded around Ned.
"I'll tell you what it is gentlemen," said Ned quietly, "I haven't got much money, but I'll go it as long as it lasts; so just choose your stake-holders, and let's be at it."
That matter was soon arranged, and the betting went on, and Ned went to sweep to one, till Ned's wallet and money were drained.
"Thunder!" yelled Ned, "I wish I had a thousand. Here, Charley, give me my watch—I'll put that in. Give me my hat!—my coat!—my boots!—I'll bet!"
"Hold on!" said the old merchant, "here's two thousand dollars, put it up. If you win, we'll divide."
The two thousand was put up and covered, and the crowd began to be impatient to see the jump.
"Gentlemen," said Ned, very gravely, "I have never been up in that steeple, and you know I might go slap into some confounded iron thing that would hurt me. Now I should like if a half dozen of you would be kind enough to go up with me before I jump, so that I can see where I'm going to light."
"That's fair," shouted the crowd, and off went Ned, with a committee of eight, over a cross, and up into the steeple. The crowd was watching the open space by the bell, and in about three minutes after the party entered the church, Ned's cocoon was seen bobbing up and down in the belfry like a dandy jack. It was evident to all that he jumped up there!
"Hold on!" said the old merchant, "here's two thousand dollars, put it up. If you win, we'll divide."
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A GLANCE INTO THE U. S. SENATE.

Did it ever occur those wisecracks at home, who nod approvingly over Congressional speeches, and cast in their votes for patriotic "Smith," or "Jones," at election time, how easy it was to be a Senator? Why, you couldn't assume an air of diplomatic dignity if he were comfortably seated in a big arm chair, with a pile of "documents" under his grasp, a pen behind his ear, and a big inkstand yawning at his elbow?
Don't wish a grateful public would send me to the Senate! Wouldn't I astonish the Speaker, and horrify the Sergeant-at-Arms? Wouldn't I throw all the rusty old papers under the table, establish a vase of roses on the desk, among the ponderous State records, and sketch the bald pate in my immediate vicinity all over the blank margin of the Globe, when some prosy old orator was talking everybody else to sleep.
And then, nothing easier than to make a "star" of yourself in the national halls.—Bring in a glaringly impossible bill, say something personal, wear your shirt on your shoulders, and turn down your hair collar à la Byron, and you are successful. As for the speech making, that's simple enough. Stage through an eye glass at the "Ladies' Gallery" until some girl comes in lovely enough to inspire a hickey log, then jump up and rattle off something spirited, no matter what, so that the "great American nation," "giant of the West," "march of civilization," and "patriotic spirit," come in often enough. "Shade of Cicero!" we already hear the applause that would be sure to ensue.
Good gracious! what a pity it is we belong to the crinoline department, instead of being privileged to wear whiskers and patent leather! Does the Union know what a loss it has sustained?
However, we came here for the purpose of commenting, not upon what might have been, but upon what is. And it is a fact that the Senate gallery is crowded to suffocation this morning. We look despairingly at the densely packed masses of humanity, and are about hopelessly to retreat, when the polite usher dares forward with—
"I can get the lady a place, sir, in a minute. This way, please."
Does it does it we haven't the least idea, but in a moment we are engineered into the front ranks, and a six-footed Vermontier is ousted from his seat to make room for our multifarious skirts. Poor fellow! how vexed and disappointed he looks! but, then, isn't it his bounden duty to make way for the ladies?
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