

The Ruffman's Journal

BY S. J. ROW.

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Select Poetry.

THE COTTAGE DOOR.

How sweet the rest that labor yields
The humble and the poor,
Where sits the patriarch of the fields
Before his cottage door;
The lark is singing in the sky,
The swallows on the eaves,
And here is beaming in each eye
Beath the summer leaves.

The air and his fragrant bowers
Supplies unparished health,
And hearts are bounding 'neath the flowers,
More dear to him than wealth,
Peace, like the blessed sunlight plays
Around his humble cot,
And happy nights and cheerful days
Divide his lovely lot.

And when the village Sabbath bell
Rings out upon the gate,
The father bows his head to tell
The truth of his tale—
A teacher ventures seems to fill
The air and dewy soil,
And every infant tongue is still
To hear the word of God.

O happy hearts! to him who stills
The ravens when they cry,
And makes the lily "neath the hills"
No glories to the eye—
The trusting patriarch prays to bless
His labor with increase,
Such ways are ways of pleasantness,
And all such paths are peace.

THE BREAKFAST SHAWL.

"Hallo! isn't it a beauty?" cried Harry,
catching from his little sister her "break-a'-
shawl," "that's jolly now!" and Harry
laughed delightfully. Mingled with his shout
came Lilla's distressed voice.

"Mamma! mamma! my breakfast shawl!"
as if apprehending that her brother was
about to tear it in pieces. But of course
Harry had no idea of venturing such a piece
of violence.

To be sure, it was only a faded square of
cambrie, and the pattern wasn't the most
graceful, and there was just the faintest sus-
picion of fringe in the dross; short bits of
wool silk that dangled from its edges.
But it was soft and fine and smelt of lavender,
and it had pretty, silken stripes.

Harry grew quiet as mamma folded the
little shawl and took Lilla on her lap, with
a thoughtful smile, and a far away look in
her eyes.

"Once," said she, "there came a time
when papa was poor, and the carriage and
horses were sold, and the servants were dis-
missed. This mamma was a brave woman,
whom such troubles couldn't crush, and so
she was cheerful ever staying alone all sum-
mer, with only the children in the big house
where there had been so much bustle and
company, and bravely helped to get papa
ready to go off to the west, to buy a farm,
and prepare a new home.

"I was eight years old, and that was such
a long summer! I tended the baby, and
picked up duds, and helped mamma keep
the wheels on of the garden, and wiped the
dishes three times a day. Of course, mam-
ma couldn't spare me to go to school. She
never complained of being weary herself,
though she sure often has been so, as she
took the baby and told me to run and play
a little while."

"A legacy was still in the barn, unsold
One day a gentleman took it away, and
kept it two or three days. When it came
back, he took a bill out of his pocket book
and offered it to mamma. She refused it,
but he held it on the table and went away.
Mamma looked sadder and thoughtful that
afternoon, sitting in her low chair by the
window, with her eyes out on the grass plot
where we were at play. But when we
watched her delicate, blue veined fingers
counting the bread into our bowls of milk,
at supper time, she was the same cheerful
mamma we had always known."

"Days after that, the milliner's boy
brought a handkerchief. Mamma opened it,
and there were our last year's loggion flats,
Nellie's and mine, as white as lachorn cut
with bits of mottled pink and white rib-
bons, so fresh and pretty! Our delight was
only surpassed that afternoon—it was Satur-
day, when mamma brought home two little
shawls. The wreaths in the border were
like then, and the silvery stripes were dot-
ted with spots of soft green."

"I must have been a little vain the next
morning, as I stood with mamma and my
little three year old brother on the garden
walk, just starting for church. Alas! if I
had only remembered that pride must have
a fall! Mamma's foot hesitated a moment
before she reached the gate."

"Go and get a cookie," she said, "for
Charlie. He didn't eat much breakfast.
You'll find them in a pan on the west end
of the lower shelf in the cellar."

"My curls and my new ribbons, and my
shawl dotted back on the morning breeze,
I ran to obey her. In the cellar, I reach-
ed slowly for the cookie pan. I had for-
gotten which one it was, and the shelf was
higher than my head. I tipped a pan just
a little and put my fingers over the edge.
O dear! a soft creamy deluge poured in-
stantly from the milk pan I had disturbed,
over hot, curls, ribbons and shawl. Mam-
ma! was all I had breath to exclaim, as I
stood in another instant, blinded and drip-
ping before her. But further statement
was unnecessary. I think mamma's serene-
ty was disturbed for a moment, but I could
not see, and she led me quietly to the
kitchen."

"Poor little girl," lisped Lilla.

"Did you ever go to church again?" asked
Harry.

"Yes, with you yesterday," said mamma.

"But when you were a little girl—that
summer, I mean," said Harry.

"Yes, the hat was re-dressed, and the

shawl was washed. It was never quite so
pretty as it had been, but it was not spoiled.
And I never wanted to complain because
Nellie's was brighter.

"In spite of all her cheerfulness, mamma
grew thinner and paler as the summer wore
on. One beautiful Sabbath afternoon, early
in September, mamma and I were out in
the garden behind the house, picking 'shell
beans' for our late dinner. Someway I do
not think there was much to make a meal
of in the house, but mamma only said,
'We'll have some nice succotash for dinner,
children.' I was trying to separate an un-
ripe bean pod from its stalk without pulling
up the root, when a kind of mist came over
my eyes, and I do not remember any more
till I found myself laughing and sobbing and
clambering right up, up to my papa's shoul-
der, in the dining room, and he was kiss-
ing and hugging all the children at once,
and telling mamma at the same time, in his
strong cheerful voice, about the accident to
the boat which had prevented his getting
home the night before, and about the farm
in Wisconsin, without a tree, or a fence, or
a house on it when he went, but which was
now nicely ready for our new home, when
we should go to it next spring. Crops had
been good, he said, and he had been kept
longer than he expected, in order to secure
them."

"Mamma grew stronger after that, and
there was a servant in the kitchen, and I
went to school. But after we had moved to
the new country, and the farm was paid for,
and comfort and plenty smiled all around,
then mamma faded away from our sight."

"One day after she was gone, I found the
little shawl in an old chest of drawers."

"When I came to live in a home of my
own, I brought it with me. It was a frag-
rance for me now besides the lavender. To-
day I laid it out for Lilla's shoulders,
when it is a cold morning in the breakfast
room."

Harry laid the little folded shawl across
the back of a chair and went quickly away.
In another moment, Lilla had it grotesquely
wrapped about her shoulders, and said,
"Tell me 'nother story, mamma."

THE RUSSIAN WIFE MARKET.

Almost as soon as a girl is born, in the
better ranks of society, her parents begin to
prepare the dowry she must have when
she goes to her husband. For this is indis-
pensable in the eyes of any Russian young
gentleman who proposes to be married.
She must furnish everything for an outfit in
life even to a dozen new shirts for her com-
ing husband.

I have heard of a lady of rank and wealth
when had prepared a costly dowry of silks,
linen, jewels, plate, etc., for her beloved
daughter, who died as she came to be twen-
ty years old. The mother resolved to en-
dow six girls with these riches, and actually
advised for them. A host of applicants
came, and she selected six. None of them
had lovers. But now that they had a re-
spectable dowry secured, each girl was
speedily engaged, not with the husband,
took the dowry, and paid the rich lady by
promising to pray for the repose of her
daughter's soul.

In no country is this arrangement of
terms carried on with more caution and com-
pleteness than in Russia. The young man
goes to the house of his proposed bride and
counts over the dresses, and examines the
furniture, and sees to the whole with his
own eyes, before he commits himself to the
irrevocable bargain. In high life such
things are carried on with more apparent
delicacy, but the facts are ascertained with
scrupulousness, the business being in the hands
of a broker or notary. The *trousseau* is
exposed in public before the wedding day.

At Whit Sunday there is a curious custom,
which is gradually giving way with the
advance of civilization. The young people of
a neighborhood come together, and a girl
stands in a row, like so many statues, but
dressed indeed, and not only dressed, but
dressed in their best, and painted, too; for
the young ladies, and the older ones also,
of this country use cosmetics freely, and a
box of ladies' paints is a very common pre-
sent for a young man to make the girl he
likes. Behind the row of girls are their
mothers; the young men having made
known their choice, the terms are made be-
tween the parents of the parties.

The ladies of Russia are very anxious to
marry, because they have no liberty before
marriage. They are kept constantly under
the maternal eye until they are given up to
the husband, and then they take their own
course, which is a round of gayer and dis-
sipation, only regulated by their means or
indulgence. The Greek Church, like the
Roman, permit no divorce; but the Em-
peror like the Pope, can grant special dispen-
sation. The Greek priests must marry once,
and if his wife dies he cannot marry
again. No one in Russia can be married
more than three times.

THE CROACIAN NUN CASE.

Two weeks ago we published an article
taken from the London Times, giving a
statement of "The Croacian Nun Case," and
now, at the request of Father Condy, we
publish "the other side of the story," and
purporting to be the statement of the
Paris Univers. The writer says:

"The *Univers* of the 5th instant, gives some
information received by it from a correspon-
dent who, when an inhabitant of Croacia,
had been acquainted with the unfortunate
nun whose case has been turned to such bad
account by the enemies of Christianity. It
appears that she belongs to an honorable
family, and had received an excellent edu-
cation. Under the impression that she was
called to a religious life, she first intended to
enter the Convent of the Visitation. After
several trials, however, she was thought to
be mistaken as to her vocation. Her piety
was fervent, and in many respects, she
showed great merit; but she was so ex-
cessively scrupulous that the Sisters feared she
would lose her senses. At a later date she
offered herself to the Carmelites, and, by
this time her attacks of scruples had become
less frequent, or more under control, for
she was received into their convent. Her
mental infirmities, however, eventually re-
turned, and grew worse and worse, until
scrupulosity ended in absolute madness.

There was no other cause whatever for her
becoming deranged, and there is not a syl-
lable of truth in the filthy stories invented
on this occasion by liberal journalists, who
are incapable even of respecting the chaste
reputation of a poor mad nun. When a
daughter unhappily loses her senses, her
family is filled with a natural repugnance to
send her away from home to a mad house.
The good Carmelite Sisters of Croacia obey-
ed the human feeling, and, under the just
and kind idea that their insane sister would
fare better in their hands than under the
care of a mad doctor, they kept her in their
convent. It was a heavy cross to them, but
the Carmelites only live to carry the Cross.
Had they, on the other hand, sent her away
from them, they would inevitably have been
accused of want of sisterly charity. It is
asserted that she was ill treated, and that
the nuns are accused of endless atrocities
towards her. But is there any foundation for
these most unlikely stories? What man of
sense will believe them, on the strength of
newspaper paragraphs, picked up no one
knows where? These writers first stated that
the poor mad woman had lived 21 years in a
hole so small and so filthy, that a strong man
would not have existed 21 days in it. They
have since been compelled to acknowledge
that the "filthy hole," is in fact a clean and
well-ventilated room, and that the authorities
allowed her to remain in it during the 56
hours which elapsed between their first visit
to her and her removal. The same journalists
have also admitted that a close examination
of the poor nun's body has disclosed no
traces of the torture she was at first said to
have suffered for 21 years. But these odious
calumnies were invented for the purpose
of exciting the people to a riot, and, by
the help of the Polish Jews, they were
successful. The Austrian Government is
indebted to these wretches for having sup-
plied the long expected pretext for attack-
ing the religious bodies. It has been im-
mediately laid hold of, and on the 23rd of
July, Dr. Giskra, the Minister of the Interior,
wrote to the chief of the Administration
at Lemberg, to inquire whether any
motive could be suggested for delaying the
withdrawal of the yearly allowance of 1,800
which had previously been granted to the
convent, and also whether the Bishop of
Croacia (Mgr. Galecki) or the administrator
thought it desirable that the existence of
the convent itself should be prolonged. The
reason given in this letter is simply the ex-
citement occasioned by the "revolving facts" of
the case; and this without any inquiry into
the truth of the story, and without any op-
portunity of defence being allowed to the
Sisters. It appears to the *Univers*, in conclu-
sion, that there is not the shadow of a proof
against the Carmelite Sisters of Croacia,
and that they have been made the victims
of an abominable combination of intriguing
Jews, Protestants, and free-thinkers,
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of an abominable combination of intriguing
Jews, Protestants, and free-thinkers,
with the complicity, if not under the direct
inspiration, of the Austrian Ministry."

THE CROACIAN NUN CASE.

Two weeks ago we published an article
taken from the London Times, giving a
statement of "The Croacian Nun Case," and
now, at the request of Father Condy, we
publish "the other side of the story," and
purporting to be the statement of the
Paris Univers. The writer says:

"The *Univers* of the 5th instant, gives some
information received by it from a correspon-
dent who, when an inhabitant of Croacia,
had been acquainted with the unfortunate
nun whose case has been turned to such bad
account by the enemies of Christianity. It
appears that she belongs to an honorable
family, and had received an excellent edu-
cation. Under the impression that she was
called to a religious life, she first intended to
enter the Convent of the Visitation. After
several trials, however, she was thought to
be mistaken as to her vocation. Her piety
was fervent, and in many respects, she
showed great merit; but she was so ex-
cessively scrupulous that the Sisters feared she
would lose her senses. At a later date she
offered herself to the Carmelites, and, by
this time her attacks of scruples had become
less frequent, or more under control, for
she was received into their convent. Her
mental infirmities, however, eventually re-
turned, and grew worse and worse, until
scrupulosity ended in absolute madness.

There was no other cause whatever for her
becoming deranged, and there is not a syl-
lable of truth in the filthy stories invented
on this occasion by liberal journalists, who
are incapable even of respecting the chaste
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