Democratic Banner.

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POETRY.

THE BACHELOR'S LAMENT.

Returning home at close of day, Who gently chides my long delay, And by my side delights to stay i Nobody

Who sets for me the easy chair, Sets out the room with nontest caro, And lays my slippers ready there i Nabada Nobody

Who regulates the cheerful fire, Who regulates the blazing fuel higher, And piles the blazing fuel higher, And bids me draw my chair still nigher? Nobody.

When plunged in dire and deep distress, And anxious cares my heart oppress, Who whispers hopes of happiness. Nobody.

F

Whon anxious[thoughts within] me rise, And in dismay my spirit dies, Who soothes me by her kind replies? Nobody.

When sickness racks my feeble frame, And grief distracts my fever'd brain, Who sympathizes with my pain i Nobody.

Then I'll resolve, so help me Fate. To charge at once the single state. -And will to Hymen's altar take— Somebody.

The Bargain-Buyer.

BT T. S ARTHUR.

MRS. Hardcastle was a very honest, conscientious woman-in her own estimation. She remembered that her mother had said hand-if she knew it. And yet, as she compare with this. was an inveterate bargain-buyer, scarcely a week passed that she did not do wrong Hardcastle said, now addressing the shopwere to make such a dissection here, we just glance at it again before buying. tentional injurers, and thus fail in produ- it did when I first examined it. Five dolcing the good effect we desire. We will lars I believe you asked for it." not linger, therefore, to do a work of questionable utility.

Mrs. Hardcastle, as we have intimated, was a bargain buyer. Not, however, of that class who buy a thing merely because No; to get things at a minimum price was article. not so much with her a passion as a principle. It was not because an article was cheap that she wanted it, but it was because she had use for a thing that she wanted it chesp. . If a storekeeper stated very trankly that he only made half a cent pro- that the bonnet cost me five and a half?' 'Hadn't I better tell Ellen to let them

And yet four dollars was all she would a hard, quick rap at the door. The in-

ty-five cents out of which she lisd cheated ' Mr. Green,' he said, in a quick, some me. I had heavy payments to make in a what insolent voice, after stepping into good circumstances, and are now compel-lew days, and sacrificed my goods rather the room a few paces, told me to tell you led to do something, often get up most than not sell at all.?

keeper and follow Mrs. Hardcastle. Af- want to give you any trouble, but he can't ter visiting nearly all the retail bonnet afford to let his houses for nothing." stores, she was satisfied that, even at the pleased her, it was the best and cheapest leeble, trembling voice. she could get. She consequently returned to the store where she had seen it. af low cost.

"Let me see that bonnet again," she much sunken. said. as she came up to the counter.

'Yes ma'am;' and the shopkeeper bowed and smiled with his very best grace .---The bonnet was again laid before the cus- though it has only been due for three days. tomer.

I don't think this is as fine as the one offered us at Mason's for four and a halt," was really intended. The more innocent girl made no reply. finish it.'

She would not wrong another for her right of the bonnet at Mason's that it did not

· I like this bonnet very well.' Mrs. to some one. as all bargain-buyers invari- keeper, 'but the price you ask for it is ably do. A moral dissection of one of out of the question. I have seen a great interesting case for examination; but if we er ones than this, but I thought I would half an hour the cape was finished. might be thought too hard upon the unin- can't say that it looks as fine as I thought better go to sell it ?'

• No, ma'am, six.' "Six! Oh; dear!' pushing the bonnet away as she spoke.

it is chesp, whether it be needed or not.- a less profit than fifty cents on such an

. Well, I will make my offer for it, and then you can do as you please.'

'Let me hear your offer.'

• Five is the utmost cent I will give.' just fi • Five dollars! But didn't I just say row.'

you are about. He would have taken six

int on a yard of goods, that was to the dot as you have, could return all go at any price that is offered for them r about it. I merely asked the price; but While careless about the principles from ment for her to buy, even if she consider. ned the customer. 'I can suit myself ve- We must have money to pay Mr. Green if you choose to sell it for three dollars, I which she acted, she was rigid in her obe-ed the article very cheap. 'We put it to ry well at that price. Indeed, there is a to-morrow; and, besides, we are ou; of might be induced to take it.' you at cost, mauam, nat in more money, ma- I don't know but I would choose in pref- drawings of tea left, and a few spoonfulls shrinking back from the counter. . . Cer- deliberately wronging others, as has been But, "It really cost us used and the same price. Come, of sugar. The butter is all gone, and the tainly you wouldn't offer three dollars for seen, thus neglecting the weightier matters dam, than we are you for it, after that, one Margaret,' turning to her daughter, ' let flour too.' ly influencing words. It, after that, one Margaret,' turning to her daughter, ' let flour too.' or two cents a yard less would be taken, us go round to Mason's-the one there ' Yes, c • Yes, child, I think it would be as well will suit me very well.' The mother and daughter made a move them. Before our next month's rent is fended tone. This, however, was assum- staid demeanor in public worship. with will suit me very well.? due you can easily make another cape, and ed. of articles for spring wear. She first en- al. The storekeeper had stated truly the I can knit several pairs of stockings,

I showed her the invoice by which I had girl, not over fifteen, sat near a window, "There, mu purchased, to satisfy her that the price I working a fine cape, in imitation of French thing I want." had set upon the bonnet, four dollars and needle work. They were mother and three quarters, was only twenty five cents daughter. Both worked steadily, but in examine the article to which the latter had more than the bonnet actually cost me. silence. While thus occupied, there was alfuded. give me. I looked at her on the next Sun- mates started involuntarily at the sound, Margaret added. after both had looked at state in the following stanzar, the concluding one of prayer book, and wouldered if her con- the door was swung open and a stout lad, which indicates that we may still have hopes of him : science was not burdened with the seven- with a build-laced appearance artered day in church, piously bending over her In answer to a timidly uttered 'Come in.' it for some moments.

But we will leave the disappointed shop to morrow, or else move out. He doesn't

. Tell Mr. Green that we will try and price asked for the one that had at first | pay him to morrow," the mother said, in a

ter having bought various articles that so. As soon as he had left the room, the were needed in her family; but none of daughter laid her work down, and went these were taken until it had been decla- and stood by the bed upon which her inred that each was parted with at or be- valid mother lay, looking the while anx-

* Mother.' she at length said, * what can we do? Mr. Green is getting more and more urgent about his month's tent, al-It is five dollars, and we have only two." I wish, now I come to think of it, that we had sent him that. But it is too late Mrs. Hardcastle said to her daughter, in now. By to-morrow we must try to have an under tone, yet loud enough for the the whole amount. How soon will you quick car of the shopman, for which it get that cape done? I have only a few stiches to set. A half hours work will

"That ought to bring five dollars." "Yes; I have seen many, no better sell for ten dollars."

But that was French work.'

· I know ; still it was no finer.'

As the daughter said this, she turned away from the bedside, and renewed her ably do. A moral direction and renewed her a great way from the bedshee, and renewed her this class of persons would present a very many bonnets this morning & much cheap- work with renewed diligence. In about

' Now, mother,' she said, ' where had I

some moments.

"Ellen Jones sold the last one for you, the mother at length said, speaking in a thoughtful, but undecided tone.

of a few hours after. I left it in her noat best bargains she ever had." little store."

put this one there also. And, likewise, movement toward the door. four pairs of children's stockings I have just finished-they may all sell by to mor-

cost me four and a half, and was richly the prime of life lay, propped up with a cape in Ellen's window caught Margaret's beautiful piece of work should be sacrifi-worth five dollars of any body's money pillow, engaged in knitting. A young eye.

"There, mother,' said she, ' is the very

Both mother and daughter stopped, to "Isn't it a must beautiful pattern ?"

'Yes, it is ; and cheap, no doubt. You can olten get great bargains in these little and Mrs. Hardcastle felt it; still the rulstores. People who have once been in ing passion was strong and she said-

that you must pay the last month's rent perfect specimens of needle work which are sold at half price, because they are of acknowledged dumestic production. This that makes four dollars ; a dollar and a is one of them no doubt. Let us go in and half and seventy cents, with thirty and price it.?

. Let me look at that cape in the winwent out, shutting the door hard as he did with her daughter, Ellen Jone's little spoken aloud, but only thought. dow,? Mrs. Hardcastle said, entering,

The cape was placed before her, and examined minutely.

· Tolerably well done, but very inferior iously in her face, that was very pale and to French lace work;' she remarked, caretle of the cape.

'You certainly cannot have looked at equal to any French work I over saw." "O yes I have. Put a French cape along side of it and you will soon see the mark on the smallness of the sum. difference.'

Before making this remark Mrs. Hard castle had pretty well satisfied herself could be made was in the shop. Ellen cents for all! But right thankful was I said no more, for she did not suppose it would do any good, as it was apparent the lady had no inclination to buy.

"What do you ask for it ?" Mrs. Hardcastle said, carelessly, returning to the does. Our Father in heaven-our only cape after she had looked at several other friend-He will not forsake us." articles.

" I sold one, not so handsomely done as this, but by the same hand, for six dollars more than that; but as the person who worked it is in very destitute circumstan-To this question no reply was made for ces, and wants money by to-morrow morning to pay a bill that she is troubled for, 1 will let it go for five dollars." "Five dollars! You certainly don't ex

pect to get five dollars for this?' •Yes, ma'am. It cost me five and a 'Yes, and sold it very well. You re-hall, And I cannot make up my rent at member it brought six dollars in the course buys it at that price will obtain one of the

· Nonsense ! It isn't worth over half Ellen began to feel anxious. . What

ing too much eagerness. "Well, I don't know that I care much

I sold her a bonnet for four dollars that tained a bed, upon which a woman past result of her shopping expedition. The freme want had made it necessary that the er said, but walked homeward by her side

> As they passed a China store, a richly cut glass dish in the window attracted the eye of Mrs. Hardcastle. She went in and

· Wouldn't six dollars do for it ?

· Seven dollars-let me'see ! There is can afford to get this dish.' This was not

'I'll take it, then, at seven,' Mrs. Hardcastle said ; and paid over the money .---Rarely before had she returned home from a shopping excursion so well satisfied with

to the little store of Ellen Jones and received the amount for which the articles had sold. Ellen would take ino commission on the sales. Eunice was disappointed-sadly disappointed, but made no re-

with a trembling voice, and dim eyes, as for even this. We can now pay Mr. Green and have sixty cents left. On that we can get along for several days, and something will come in then as it always

'No, my dear child-He that tempers the wind to the shorn lamb will see that the blast is not to strong for us," the mother replied in a quivering voice. as Eunice only a few weeks ago. This ought to bring leaned her head upon her bosom and wept. Just then there came a rap at the door. It was the boy from Mr. Green. The money was ready for him. He took it and went away, The reader needs no comments in order to make him conscious of the evils resulting from bargain-buying, at least in this particular instance. He that tempers the wind to the shorn lamb will, as the mother touchingly said, see that the

But we will return for a moment or two · Perhaps it would be better for you to that money; and Mrs. Hardcastle made a to Mrs. Hardcastle, There were discrepancies in her character that it may be well to present. She was, with all this will you give for it ?' she asked, display- selfishness flowing out in bargain-making, exceedingly pious; that is, pious as such that the bonnet cost me five and a half?' 'Hadn't I better tell Ellen to let them 'Well, I don't know that I care much persons always are--irrationally so,---'You can do as you like,' coldly retur- all go at any price that is offered for them? about it. I merely asked the price; but While careless about the principles from

of the law, she gave tithes of mint and

in silence.

asked the price-it was seven dollars,

'No, madani, nor six dollars and nine-ty-nine cents.' The man was in earnest,

I'll give you six and a half." "Not a cent less than seven, ma'am."

three dollars and sixy cents, and fortyforty-in all just seven dollars that I have made this morning by close bargaining ; I

herself.

On the next morning Eunice went early

"This is all, dear mother!" she said, she laid the small sum she had received in her hand. • Only three dollars and sixty

blast is not too strong for them.

she was sure to buy.

One pleasant, sunshiny' morning, Mrs. Hardcastle started out to buy a number ment to go. This was the moment of trifered a store where bonnets were sold .- cost of his article. But he hated to lot a enough to buy all the little we eat." She wanted one for herself, and one for customer with money depart, especially her eldest daughter Margaret, a girl of as be was rather hard pushed, a condition tiful Florence braid touched her heart at first sight.

"What is the price ?' she asked. •Six dollars, ma'am.'

Six dollars!' in a tone of surprise, 'Oh, no, I can't give any such price,"

We have a very fair article much lower, madam,' returned the smiling shopkeeper, handing down other bonnets .----Mra. Hardcastle glanced at these, and best bargain.' then tossed them with a slight air of contempt sside, half muttering as she did so, voice. "Too common."

You will find this a very cheap bonnet," resurned the shopkeeper, taking up the one his customer had first selected. ·Sis dollars, did you say ?'

"Yes-six is the price."

"Dear enough, in all conscience."

The shopkeeper was anxious to sell.

Perhaps I can make the price to suit

you, he said.

"I don't know,' replied Mrs, Hardcas- | understand these men too well." tle, whose fancy was captivated by the bonnet, and who, in fact, thought the price and a half. How could he afford to sell thing like what you ask,'

What would you give ?'

"Not ever four dollars."

shopkeeper as suddenly as the smile tell from his face.

prise. Bless me! I'll buy as many bon- things at your own prices. They must dollars.' nets like that for five as you can bring turn their goods into money somehow, & therefore make it a point never to let a .me.'

"Just ap you like,' said Mrs, Hardcas- customer go." tle, with dignity, turning away from the counter, and leaving the store.

. No doubt that woman thinks herself get necessary articles at prices below their paper upon the bottom of it, spread out very honest,' muttered the disappointed actual cost. a scene was passing in an upon this the exquisitely wrought cape, so shopman, as he restored, the bonnets to humble apartment in a house situated in as to show the needle work to the very best tact, I got it for only three dollars.' their places on the shelves. But I don't a retired part of the city, the introduction advantage. Then she placed it in the winsee much housesty in seeking to rob a dea. of which will give force to the moral which dow in the most conspicuous position. the profit would she leave me, or even ment was but a little tarniture-though the came along with her daughter, her lits real worth, she had been thinking of the and the other for profane ?

ded daughter.

With this understanding, Euoice, that was the daughter's name, put on her things fourteen, who accompanied her. A beau- in which he too often found himself placed. and went with the cape and the four pairs . It I say five and a half, exactly the of stockings to the neat little trimmings price I paid for the bonnet, you will not store of Ellen Jones.

'I have a few things here, Ellen,' Euof course hesitate. I never like to let a customer go without being accommoda- nice said, laying down the little package she held in her hand, as she entered the ted,' he said.

'No;' was the firm reply. 'If you store, that I want you to dispose of for choose to say five, well and good ; if not, me. Our rent is due, and Mr. Green is but I wouldn't give a cent more for it.' I will take the one at Mason's; and then troubling us about it, so you must sell to I am not sure but that I shall make the the first customer, at the best price that Mrs. Hardcastle, who paid the price agreed can be obtained."

As she said this, she unrolled the beau-'You will have to take it, I suppose,' was replied to this, in a half reluctant tifully wrought cape and showed it to Ellep.

"The handsomest one yet,' the latter . The cheapest bonnet I ever bought,' Mrs. Hardcastle said, gaily to her daugh. said, with a smile of great pleasure. • You ter as they left the store. . I had no idea improve very much, Eunice. This cape is pair, at the lowest. They are hand-knit, music.' that he would take five, for it is worth ev-ery cent of six dollars. You see now how

richly worth nine or ten dollars." • But will not bring it, of course.? much may be gained by knowing what

' No, I suppose not-it is not French.

But it will bring five or six dollars easily.' • You think so ??

dollars without a conscientious scruple, if 'O, yes.' I had been dunce enough to pay it. But I

" But not so soon as by to-morrow mor-• But, the bonnet cost him five dollars ning ?"

'I'm sfraid not, Eunice. But I will cles sold, I will let them go at twenty quite moderate-'I wouldn't give any- it for five dollars ?' asked the simple-min- put it into the window. We must hope cents a pair, if that will be any induce- music.' for the best." ment.'

. That's clear enough-he is hard push-. Sell it to the first one who will buy, at ed for money; you can easily see when any price. Mother promised to try and wouldn't mind giving you fifteen cents a The bennet fell from the hands of the that's the case after you have shopped a let Mr. Green have his money to morrow opkeeper as suddenly as the smile tell year or two. Whenever you hit upon one morning. And he will be sure to send.'

. Very well, Eunice; but I shall be sorof these men who happen to have a heavy Four dellars!' he ejaculated in sur- payment for the next day, you can get ry to let it go at anything less than five

> 'It will bring that, at least, I hope.' ' So do L?

Eunice then left the store. Ellen, as While Mrs. Hardcastle was running a- soon as she had gone out, took a neat box, bout from store to store, endeavoring to after laying a sheet of rose coloured tissue

costs-I remember her of old. Last year all was nest and in perfect order. It con- mind in quite a self-satisfied mood at the one who had wrought it, and whose ex- I . Impossible !?

a cape so richly worked as that !?

'I don't care, Miss, particularly about cummin-was punctilious in regard to cer-

its real value.?

The cape was carefully wrapped up for triction, as will be seen.

upon. . What do you ask for these ?' she inquired, lifting, as she spoke. the children's stockings which Eunice had left upon the counter.

• They are worth a quarter of a dollar a and you can see very finely done-worth as much again as stockings that are woven.'

. 'Too much,' replied the lady, indiffer. ently tossing them aside.

*They belong to the same individual who worked the cape. As she is in great want it wicked." of money, and anxious to have these arti-

Mrs. Hardcastle shook her head. pair-though I don't care a great deal about

This offer made the heart of Ellen Jones ano! beat with a quick, indignant pulsation .---But she kent down her feelings as she quietty wrapped up the stockings and handed friend.

worth making," the latter said, as she re- Hardcastle." gained the street with her daughter. . That "Name it."

many other things of which no reader peed "Three dollars!' mused Ellen, half in- be reminded. But one of her extremes clined to take even that poor offer, lest we cannot omit to mention-a little diathere should not occur another chance to logue will present it most forcibly. A sell the cape. 'For fear another opportu- friend called to invite her to a party, at nity to dispose of it before to morrow mor, which there was to be dancing. Once she ning may not occur,' she at length said, had considered it a sin to be seen present reluctantly, 'when the poor girl must have where there was dancing, but her minister money, I will let this one go for three dol- having expressed it as his opinion that the lars. But indeed, madam, it is not half children of professors might dance, but not professors themselves, she could venture "I don't care if I do take it for that price; to go to a party where the young folks dan-

ced. But even in this there was one res-

'There is to be dancing ?' she said to the lady who invited her.

• Yes-we shall have a few cotillions." "And music ?"

'Of course.'

• Violin music ?"

.Yes-we have engaged that kind of

'I am sorry for it, for I cannot come.' • Why P

1 I never go where there is violin music.'

• Mrs. Hardcastle !?

"It is true," was the sole reply ; "I think

• Wicked to listen to the violin ? ·Certainly. It is profane-the devil's

The lady looked at Mrs. Hardcastle for a moment in profound astonishment. Then she weskly consented to have the violin music suspended out of respectito her feelings, and the cotilions played on the pi-

'Did you ever hear of such an absurdity ?' this lady afterwards remarked to a

' Yes,' was the reply- still greater one -and in the person of this very Mrs.

" She has two planos for her daughter-

. Yes-I have noticed that.? Do you know why she has two ??

'No?

them.'

them over to the customer.

cape is richly worth all that was asked for it. But, you see, by perseverance and one in each parlor.?

hadly. While her mother had been set.

Margaret, to her credit, be it said. felt

. There. Margaret, that was a bargain