

THE RICH MERCHANT.
BY MRS. JANE WEAVER.

It was night, and the streets were nearly deserted, and more especially as it was snowing fast. A single traveller, however, might have been seen, wrapped in a thick overcoat, urging his way against the tempest, by the light of the lamp.—Suddenly as he passed a ruined tenement the figure of a girl started up before him.

'Please, sir,' said she, 'if it's only a penny—mother is sick, and we have eat nothing to-day.'

The first impulse of the moment was to go on; the second to stop. He looked at the girl. Her face was thin and pale, and her garments scanty. He was a man of good impulses, so he put his hand towards his pocket, intending to give her a shilling. She saw the act, and her lustreless eye brightened. But the traveller forgot that his overcoat was buttoned tightly over his pocket.

'It is too much trouble,' said he to himself—'and this wind is very cutting. Besides these beggars are usually cheats—I warrant this girl wants the money to spend in some gin shop.' And speaking aloud somewhat harshly, he said, 'I have nothing for you; if you are really destitute the guardians of the poor will take care of you.'

The girl shrank back without a word, and drew her tattered garments around her shivering form. But a tear glistened on her cheek in the light of the lamp.

The man passed on and turning the next corner soon knocked at the door of a splendid mansion through whose richly curtained windows a rosy light streamed out across the storm. A servant obsequiously gave him entrance. At the sound of his footsteps the parlor door was opened, and a beautiful girl, apparently about seventeen sprang into his arms, kissed him on the cheek, and then began to assist him in removing his overcoat.

'What kept you so long, dear papa?' she said, 'if I had known where you were I would have sent the carriage. You never stay so late at the office.'

'No, my love, I was at my lawyer's—busy, very busy, and all for you,' and he kindly putted her cheek. 'But now, Maggy, can't you give me some supper?'

The daughter rang the bell and ordered the supper to be served. It was such a one as an epicure would delight in just the supper for a traveller on a night like that.

'Pa,' said the daughter, when it was finished, 'I hope you are in a good humor, for I have a favor to ask of you,' and she threw her arms around his neck, and looked up in his face with that winning smile and those beautiful dark eyes of hers. 'I wish to give a bill on my birth day—my eighteenth birth day. It will cost, oh! a sight of money, but you are a kind, good papa, and I know you have been successful or you would not have been at your lawyer's.'

'Yes, my darling,' he said, fondly kissing her, 'the cotton speculation has turned out well. I sold all I had of the article this afternoon, received the money and took it to my lawyer's, telling him to invest it in real estate. I think I shall give up the business.'

'Oh! do, do, papa. But you will give me this bill won't you?'

'You little tease,' said the father, but he spoke smilingly; and putting his hand in his pocket-book, he took out a note of five hundred dollars and placing it in his child's hand. 'Take this—if it is not enough you must have another, I suppose. But don't trouble me about it any more.'

The next morning broke clear, but the snow was a foot deep, and here and there lay in huge drifts; blocking up the doorways. At ten o'clock the rich merchant was on his way to his counting room.—He turned down the same street up which he had come the preceding evening. A crowd had gathered round the open cellar door of a ruined tenement. The merchant paused to enquire what was the matter.

'A woman, sir, has been found dead below there,' said one of the spectators; 'she starved to death, it is said, and they have sent for the coroner. Her daughter has just come back, after being out all night. I believe she was beginning. That's her meaning.'

'Ah!' said the merchant; 'and a pang went through his heart like an ice-bolt; for he remembered having denied a petitioner the night before. He pushed through the crowd, and descended the steps. A girl cowering over an emancipated corpse, that lay on a heap of straw in one corner of the damp apartment. It was the same girl he had feared it would prove. The merchant was horror struck.

'My poor child!' he cried, laying his hand on her shoulder, 'you must be cared for; God forgive me for denying you last night. Here, take this,' and he put a bill into her hand.

The girl looked up and gazed vacantly at him. Then she put back the proffered money.

'It will do no good now,' she said, 'mother is dead,' and she burst into hysterical tears.

The merchant at that moment, would have given half his fortune to have recalled her to life.

The lesson thus learned he never forgot. The merchant personally saw that a decent burial was provided for the mother, and afterwards took the daughter into his house, educated her for a high station in life, and, on her marriage presented her with a proper dowry. He lived to hear her children lisped their gratitude.

TODAY AND TO-MORROW.—The best of husbandry, depend upon it, is to sift the corn from the chaff, to separate the gold from the dross, in the portion of time that is allotted to us, and not to mingle the sorrow of to-morrow with the enjoyment of to-day.

BANK NOTE LIST.

PENNSYLVANIA.

The following list shows the current value of all Pennsylvania Bank Notes. The most implicit reliance may be placed upon it, as it is every week carefully compared with and corrected from Bicknell's Reporter.

Banks in Philadelphia.

NAME.	LOCATION.	DISC. IN	PHILA.
Bank of North America*		par	
Bank of the Northern Liberties		par	
Commercial Bank of Penna.*		par	
Farmers' and Mechanics' Bank*		par	
Kensington Bank		par	
Philadelphia Bank		par	
Schuykill Bank		par	
Southwark Bank		par	
Western Bank		par	
Mechanics' Bank*		par	
Manufacturers' & Mechanics' Bank*		par	

COUNTRY BANKS.

Bank of Chester County	Westchester	par	
Bank of Delaware County	Chester	par	
Bank of Germantown	Germantown	par	
Bank of Montgomery Co.*	Norristown	par	
Doylestown Bank	Doylestown	par	
Easton's Bank	Easton	par	
Office of Bank of Penna.	Harrisburg	These offices	
Office do	Lancaster	do	
Office do	Reading	do not	
Office do	Eastern	do	

NOTES AT DISCOUNT.

Bank of the United States*	Philadelphia	25	
Bank of Penn Township*		par	
Grind Bank*		2	
Moyamensing Bank*		par	
Miner's Bank of Pottsville*	Pottsville	2	
Bank of Lewistown	Lewistown	1½	
Bank of Middletown	Middletown	1	
Bank of Northumberland	Northumberland	par	
Columbia Bank & Bridge co.	Columbia	par	
Catridge Bank*	Carlisle	par	
Exchange Bank*	Pittsburgh	3	
Do do branch of Farmers' Bank of Lancaster	Hollidaysburg	3	
Lancaster County Bank	Lancaster	par	
Farmers' Bank of Reading*	Reading	par	
Harrisburg Bank*	Harrisburg	2	
Lancaster Bank	Lancaster	par	
Lebanon Bank	Lebanon	par	
Merchants' & Manuf. Bank*	Pittsburg	2	
West Branch Bank	Pittsburg	1½	
Wyoming Bank	Williamsport	1½	
Northampton Bank	Allentown	—	
Bucks County Bank	Reading	—	
Office of Bank of U. S.	Pittsburg	failed	
Do do do	Erie	do	
New Brighton	do	—	
Penn Township Sav. Ins. A	do	—	
Bank of Chambersburg*	Chambersburg	1	
Bank of Gettysburg*	Gettysburg	1	
Bank of Susquehanna Co.	Montrose	30	
Erie Bank	Erie	2	
Farmers' & Drovers' Bank	Waynesburg	2	
Franklin Bank*	Washington	1½	
Honesdale Bank	Honesdale	1½	
Monongahela Bank of B.	Brownsville	1½	
York Bank*	York	1	

BROCKEN BANKS.

Philadelphia Sav. Ins.	Philadelphia	failed	
Philadelphia Loan Co.	do	failed	
Manual Labor Bank (T. W. Dyott, prop.)	Towanda	failed	
Alleghany Bank of Pa.	Bedford	no sale	
Bank of Beaver	Beaver	closed	
Bank of Swarts	Harrisburg	closed	
Bank of Washington	Washington	failed	
Centre Bank	Bellfonte	closed	
Farmers' & Mech's Bank	Pittsburg	failed	
Farmers' & Mech's Bank	Payette co.	failed	
Farmers' & Mech's Bank	Greencastle	failed	
Harmony Institute	Harmony	no sale	
Huntingdon Bank	Huntingdon	no sale	
Iunata Bank	Lexington	no sale	
Northern Bank of Pa.	Warren	failed	
New Hope Del. Bridge Co.	Dunmall	no sale	
Northumb'l Union Col. Bk.	New Hope	closed	
North Western Bank of Pa.	Milton	no sale	
Office of Schuykill Bank	Meadville	closed	
P. A. & Manuf. Bank	Port Carbon	—	
Silver Lake Bank	Carlisle	failed	
Union Bank of Penna.	Montrose	closed	
Westmoreland Bank	Uniontown	failed	
Wilkesbarre Bridge Co.	Greensburg	closed	

(*) All notes purporting to be on any Pennsylvania Bank not given in the above list, may be set down as frauds.

NEW JERSEY.

Bank of New Brunswick	Brunswick	failed	
Belvidere Bank	Belvidere	1	
Burlington Co. Bank	McElderry	1	
Commercial Bank*	Perth Amboy	½	
Cumberland Bank*	Bridgeton	par	
Farmers' Bank*	Mount Holly	par	
Farmers' & Mechanics' Bk	Rahway	1	
Farmers' & Mechanics' Bk	Middlefield Pt.	½	
Franklin Bank of N. J.	Jersey City	failed	
Holoken Blk & Grazing Co.	Hoboken	failed	
Jersey City Bank	Jersey City	failed	
Mechanics' Bank	Paterson	failed	
Manufacturers' Bank	Bethelvile	failed	
Morris County Bank*	Morristown	½	
Montmooth Blk of N. J.	Freehold	failed	
Mechanics' Banks	Newark	4	
Mechanics' and Manuf. Blk	Trenton	par	
Morris Canal and Big Co.	Jersey City	no sale	

Post Notes.

Newark Blk & Ins Co.

New Hope Del. Bridge Co.

N. J. Manufac. and Blk Co.

N. J. Protection & Lombard Blk Co.

Philadelphia Co. Bank

State Bank*

State Bank*

State Bank of Morris*

State Bank

Salem and Philad Manuf Co

Trenton Banking Co.

Union Bank

Washington* Banking Co.

Under 5's

On all bills marked thus (*) there are either counterfeits or altered notes of the various denominations, in circulation.

DELAWARE.

Bk of Wilm & Brandywine*

Bank of Delaware*

Bank of Smyrna

Do branch

Farmers' Blk of State of Del*

Do branch*

Do branch

Do branch

Union Bank*