

TERMS OF THE "AMERICAN"  
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**H. B. MASSER,**  
ATTORNEY AT LAW,  
SUNBURY, PA.  
Business attended to in the Counties of Nor-  
thumberland, Union, Lycoming and Columbia.  
Refer to:  
P. & A. RAYBOLT,  
LOWER & BARROS,  
SONNERS & SNODGRASS, Philad.  
REYNOLDS, McFARLAND & Co.,  
SPEER, HOOD & Co.,

**ALEXANDER L. HICKEY,**  
TRUNK MAKER,  
No. 150 Chesnut Street,  
PHILADELPHIA.

WHERE all kinds of leather trunks, valises and  
carpet-bags, of every style and pattern are  
manufactured, in the best manner and from the best  
materials, and sold at the lowest rate.  
Philadelphia, July 19th, 1845.—ly.

**Removal.**  
DR. JOHN W. PEAL.

RESPECTFULLY informs the ci-  
tizens of Sunbury and its vicinity, that  
he has removed to the Brick House, in  
Market street, formerly occupied by  
Benjamin Hendricks, east of the store formerly oc-  
cupied by Miller & Marz, and now by F. T. Cle-  
ment, where he will be happy to receive calls in  
the line of his profession.  
Sunbury, March 29th 1845.—

**NEW CARPETINGS.**

THE subscribers have received, and are now  
opening a splendid assortment of the following  
goods:  
Saxony, Wilton and Velvet Carpetings  
Brussels and Imperial 3 ply do  
Extra superfine and fine Ingrains do  
English shaded & Damask Venetian do  
American twilled and fig'd do  
English Drawings and Woolen Floor Cloths  
Stair and Passage Bookings  
Embossed Piano and Table Covers  
London Chequille and Tufted Rugs  
Door Mats of every description.

—ALSO—  
A large and extensive assortment of Floor Oil  
Cloths, from one to eight yards wide, cut to fit  
every description of rooms or passages.  
Also, low priced Ingrain Carpetings from 314 to  
624 cents per yard, together with a large and  
extensive assortment of goods usually kept by carpet  
merchants.

The above goods will be sold wholesale or retail  
at the lowest market prices. Country merchants  
and others are particularly invited to call and ex-  
amine our stock before making their selections.  
CLARKSON, RICH & MULLIGAN,  
Successors to Joseph Blackwood, No. 111 Chesnut  
corner of Franklin Place,  
Philadelphia, Feb. 22d, 1845.—

**UMBRELLAS & PARASOLS,**  
CHEAP FOR CASH.

**J. W. SWAIN'S**  
Umbrella and Parasol Manufactory.  
No. 37 North Third street, two doors below the  
CITY HOTEL,  
Philadelphia.

ALWAYS on hand, a large stock of UM-  
BRELLAS and PARASOLS, including the  
latest new style of Pinked Edged Parasols of the  
best workmanship and materials, at prices that will  
make it an object to Country Merchants and others  
to call and examine his stock before purchasing  
elsewhere.  
Feb. 22, 1845.—ly

**SHUGERT'S PATENT**  
WASHING MACHINE.

THIS Machine has now been tested by more  
than thirty families in this neighborhood, and  
has given entire satisfaction. It is so simple in its  
construction, that it cannot get out of order. It  
contains no iron to rust, and no springs or rollers to  
get out of repair. It will do twice as much wash-  
ing, with less than half the wear and tear of any  
of the late inventions, and what is of greater im-  
portance, it costs but little over half as much as  
any other washing machine.

The subscribers have the exclusive right for Nor-  
thumberland, Union, Lycoming, Columbia, Luzerne  
and Clinton counties. Price of single ma-  
chine \$6. H. B. MASSER.

The following certificate is from a few of those  
who have these machines in use.  
Sunbury, Aug. 24, 1844.

We, the subscribers, certify that we have now  
in use, in our families, "Shugert's Patent Wash-  
ing Machine," and do not hesitate saying that it is  
a most excellent invention. That, in Washing,  
it will save more than one half the usual labor,—  
That it does not require more than one third the  
usual quantity of soap and water; and that there is  
no rubbing, and consequently, little or no wear-  
ing or tearing.—That it knows of no buttons, and  
that the finest clothes, such as collars, laces, tucks,  
rills, &c., may be washed in a very short time  
without the least injury, and in fact without any  
apparent wear and tear, whatever. We therefore  
heartily recommend it to our friends and to the  
public, as a most useful and labor saving machine.

CHARLES W. HEGINS,  
A. JORDAN,  
CHS. WEAVER,  
CHS. PLEASANTS,  
GIDEON MARKLE,  
Hon. GEO. C. WELKER,  
BENJ. HENDRICKS,  
GIDEON LEISENRING.

**HERN'S HOTEL,** (formerly Tremont House, No.  
116 Chesnut street,) Philadelphia, September  
21st, 1844.

I have used Shugert's Patent Washing Machine  
in my house upwards of eight months, and do not  
hesitate to say that I deem it one of the most use-  
ful and valuable labor-saving machines ever inven-  
ted. I formerly kept two women continuously oc-  
cupied in washing, who now do as much in two  
days as they then did in one week. There is no  
wear or tear in washing, and it requires not more  
than one-third the usual quantity of soap. I have  
had a number of other machines in my family, but  
this is decidedly superior to every thing else, and  
so little liable to get out of repair, that I would not  
to without one if they should cost ten times the  
price they are sold for.  
DANIEL HERR.

**SUPERIOR** Port wine, Madeira and Lisbon  
wines. Also superior Brandy and Gin, Lemon  
syrup. Also a few barrels of Blue Fish, for sale  
HENRY MASSER.  
Sunbury, July 19th, 1845.

# SUNBURY AMERICAN.

AND SHAMOKIN JOURNAL.

Absolute acquiescence in the decisions of the majority, the vital principle of Republics, from which there is no appeal but to force, the vital principle and immediate parent of despotism.—JEFFERSON.

By Masser & Eiseley.

Sunbury, Northumberland Co. Pa. Saturday, Jan. 31, 1846.

Vol. 6--No. 19--Whole No. 279.

From the N. Y. Commercial Advertiser.  
**LIVING BURIAL AND ESCAPE.**

For the subjoined graphic account of the re-  
markable disaster at Carbondale, and the almost  
miraculous escape of a man who was buried in  
the crushed mines, we are indebted to the Rev.  
Mr. Rowland, pastor of the Presbyterian Church  
in this city. The narrative is equally interest-  
ing and extraordinary.

Correspondence of the Commercial Advertiser.  
HONSDALE, Jan. 15, 1846.

On Monday morning last, about nine o'clock,  
an accident occurred in the coal mines of the  
Delaware and Hudson canal company, at Car-  
bondale, which has produced considerable ex-  
citement in the community. A large portion  
of the hill or mountain into which the mines ex-  
tend, following the law of gravity, suddenly  
descended on the honey-comb cavities within  
its bosom, burying all the unfortunate individ-  
uals within its reach. Very many acres des-  
cended in a mass; and so great was the pres-  
sure of the atmosphere, occasioned by this de-  
cent, as to shoot out from the mouth of one  
of the mines, as from a cannon, a train of cars  
with a horse and boy, throwing them to a con-  
siderable distance. Think of a bellows moved  
by mountain power, and you will form a very  
correct idea of the blast. Painful to relate,  
fifteen individuals were beneath the descending  
mass, only one of whom has had the good for-  
tune to escape; and his adventures exceed  
every thing on record. The remaining four-  
teen are buried alive, if not crushed, and may  
be now hopelessly wandering in those gloomy  
caverns, beyond the reach of human aid, and  
shut out forever, in all probability, from the  
light of day.

To present a distinct idea of his occurrence,  
I must first give a brief description of the mines,  
and the manner of working them.—There are  
several openings to the coal, which are num-  
bered as 1, 2, 3, 4, &c; two of them are above  
the bed of the Lackawana, and the others are below  
it. These openings are holes in the side of the  
hill, about six feet by eight, and are the main  
entrances to the mines. From these mouths  
are roads leading into the interior of the moun-  
tain, following the dip of the coal, sometimes  
descending. The extent of the mining opera-  
tions will be perceived from the fact that there  
are thirty-five miles of railroad laid under  
ground, in the bosom of the mountain including  
the main roads with all their ramifications.

The coal lies in a horizontal stratum of from  
four to six feet in thickness, between strata  
of slate. The method of mining is, to cut out  
and remove the coal, leaving only pillars of it to  
support the hill above, aided by wooden props  
made of sections of trees, cut of a suitable length.  
As fast as the coal is removed, the lateral  
branches of the road are abandoned, and the  
main avenues pushed on the coal beyond. In  
this way the coal has been removed for a mile  
and a half under the mountain, and the roads  
extend that distance.—About a mile from the  
mouth of mine No. 1 an air-hole was cut to the  
surface, up an inclined plane, by which access  
could be had to the surface of the earth, and  
down which props were taken. The excavation  
for coal extends half a mile or more beyond  
this opening. It was in this vicinity that the  
accident occurred, and by closing the mouth of  
his passage cut off all hope of escape to those  
within, in this direction.

As fast as the coal is removed, no particular  
care is taken to support the mass above, in the  
chambers which are abandoned; the props are  
left to decay that the rock and earth may gradu-  
ally settle down and fill up these cavities, as  
it has done in former instances; but care is  
taken to guard the main avenues to the coal  
from being thus obstructed.

The coal lies beneath a mass of slate, above  
the slate is the sand stone rock, and above this  
are gravel and soil. I have often noticed, in  
passing through the mines, that many of the  
ends of the props, which support the slate above,  
were shivered like a broom, from the vast pres-  
sure on them; and I never saw this indication  
without thinking what might happen, should  
the mass from above take a notion suddenly to  
descend, and always breathed easier when I had  
passed through the mines and emerged to the  
light of day.

Symptoms of the working of the mass above  
had been for some time observed and these  
symptoms had greatly increased for a few days  
previous to the catastrophe. Every thing was  
done which could be done in these circum-  
stances to avert danger. No one supposed it  
possible that the rock above would prove so firm,  
or that it would settle suddenly or in a mass.

Only a few of the workmen, of whom there  
are nearly four hundred employed in the mines,  
had gone in on Monday morning, when Mr.  
Clarkson, the superintendent, discovered the  
ominous appearances, and immediately set some  
hands to work in propping up the slate. On  
coming out of the mines, about 8 1/2 o'clock, he  
met Mr. John Hosié, (who is well known on the  
Crotan water works as one of the ablest masons,  
and who has been in the Hudson and Delaware  
Canal Co's employment for about a year, pre-

paring himself to take charge of the new mines  
to be opened below Carbondale,) and told him  
that he had better wait till he could go with him,  
and they would examine the mines together.

Mr. Hosié went on, however, into No. 2, in-  
tending to join Mr. Clarkson presently, and had  
proceeded about a mile when instantly the  
mountain over his head descended with an aw-  
ful crush of every thing which opposed its pro-  
gress, and shot down over him filling up the  
road with crushed coal and bending him double,  
leaving not a foot of space between the solid  
mass above and the crushed coal below. The  
distance descended was the height of the mine,  
or from six to eight feet. So great was the  
pressure of the air that it produced a painful  
sensation as if some sharp instrument had been  
thrust into his ears. All was total darkness,  
every light in the mine being instantly extin-  
guished. Ever and anon the thunder of the fall-  
ing masses roared through the caverns. After  
waiting a suitable length of time for the rocks  
to cease falling, Mr. Hosié began to remove the  
loose material around him and to creep. He  
tried one way and it was closed. He then pro-  
ceeded in the other direction; and after nine-  
hours incessant toil, creeping, removing loose  
coal and slate, and squeezing himself past ob-  
stacles, he made his way into the open mine.  
Here he tried to strike a light, but his matches  
had become damp and would not ignite. He  
then felt around him, and discovered by the di-  
rection of the railroad that, instead of making  
his way out, he had gone farther into the mine,  
and was cut off from a return by the mass which  
had settled down upon the road. He then thought  
him of the air hole, and attempted to  
reach it; but that passage had been crushed in  
and closed. Being in the vicinity of the mining  
operations he found some powder, and spreading  
it on the floor, endeavored with a pick to ignite  
it, but could not. He found also a can of oil,  
which he reserved in case of necessity to use  
for food.

All was total darkness, and the part of moun-  
tain over him was also settling, throwing off  
huge pieces of slate and exposing him to im-  
minent danger at every step; for but a part of  
the mass above had come at once, and the other  
seemed likely to follow. Sensible of his danger  
Mr. Hosié protected himself as well as he could;  
he wound up his watch, and felt the time by  
the hands. He also, with a piece of chalk,  
wrote in different places his name and the hour  
when he was at certain points. Being in total  
darkness, however, he missed his way, but was  
enabled through his acquaintance with the  
mines to set himself right. He first tried to  
reach No. 1, but after toiling to that road, found  
that it was also crushed in. His only chance  
seemed then to proceed at right angles with the  
main arteries of the mines and pass over to No.  
3, and this he labored to do in accordance with  
his best judgment.

At one time he passed through a narrow en-  
trance into a chamber, and in endeavoring to  
creep out on the other side, he was caught in  
a narrow place by the hill above settling down  
upon him, and remained in this position an  
hour, expecting to die there. But another set-  
tling of the mass crushed out some of the mate-  
rials around him, and he was enabled to free  
himself and draw back into the chamber of the  
mine. In returning, however, to the hole by  
which he had effected his entrance, he found to  
his dismay that it was closed; and he was com-  
pelled to hunt a new passage and finally to dig  
his way out with his hands.

Thus, after working for more than thirty-six  
hours, he at length reached No. 3, where he  
rested, and then when the hill had partially ceas-  
ed its working, proceeded toward the mouth  
of the mines. On his way he met Mr. Bryden,  
one of the superintendents, who, with his men,  
was exploring the cavern with lights, in search  
of him; and at about five o'clock in the morn-  
ing he emerged to the light of day, having been  
given up as dead, and been incarcerated in ulti-  
mate darkness beneath a settling mountain for forty-  
eight hours. Mr. Hosié told me many of these  
particulars, and the others I gleaned from the  
principal officers of the company, to whom they  
were narrated.

At one time Mr. Hosié saw lights at a dis-  
tance, but they soon diminished. They were  
the lights of men in No. 3, seeking for him.  
These lights however assured him that he was  
pursuing the right course. Mr. Hosié's hands  
were scratched and cut up by working, so as to  
be completely covered with sores. He never  
for one moment lost his self-possession, and to  
this fact, added to his tact and perseverance, is  
to be ascribed his deliverance.

There were about forty men in the mines  
when the catastrophe occurred, and the twenty-  
six who escaped owed their preservation, in a  
great measure, to Mr. Bryden, one of the super-  
intendents, who conducted them out with great  
coolness and self-possession, while portions  
of the hill, other than those which fell first, were  
settling down around them. Learning that one  
poor Irish laborer, who had been struck down  
by the slate, was left, with his leg broken, he  
went back alone and brought him out. Some-

times he was compelled to creep, and draw the  
man after him, through crevices which were  
soon after closed by the settling of the hill. In  
two hours more the whole had shut down, so  
that if he had been left his death would have  
been inevitable. Thanks to Mr. Bryden for his  
coolness, intrepidity and humanity.

The greatest possible efforts are now made  
by working night and day to reach the place  
where the fourteen were at work; but faint  
hopes, however, are cherished respecting them.  
The places cannot probably be reached before  
the middle of next week, if then. The proba-  
bility is that they have been crushed to death.  
Most of them were men with families. One boy  
only is known with certainty to be dead.

Except for the loss of life, this unforeseen  
occurrence is not much to be regretted, nor will  
it greatly impede the company's operations since  
it has occurred at about the time when it is usual  
to suspend labor for a couple of months, to re-  
pair for the Spring, and every thing will be  
rectified before them. The immense strength  
of the rock above prevented the hill from set-  
tling in the usual way; but now it is down, it  
is to be rejoiced at, as it frees from future dan-  
ger, and the roads when reopened will be per-  
fectly secure. It was an innovation for it to  
come down suddenly in a mass, instead of the  
quiet decent way it has adopted in former instan-  
ces, and no human foresight could have predic-  
ted the manner of its descent, nor could human  
prudence, in the present state of knowledge,  
have provided against it.

The quantity of the mountain fallen is vari-  
ously estimated. Mr. Bryden said that it was  
about three quarters of a mile long, by half a  
mile in width. Mr. Clarkson said that it was  
about half a mile long and an eighth wide. In  
the former case it would be about 240 acres,  
and in the latter 40 acres. Mr. Archibald, the  
chief superintendent of the mines and rail road,  
whose science and practical skill are not ex-  
ceeded, estimates the amount fallen at far less  
than either of the assistants. Since the first  
avalanche, it must be borne in mind, however,  
many other portions have gone down. What  
the extent of the whole is no one can conje-  
cture with any approximation to certainty; and  
it is exceedingly difficult at present to get any  
accurate information respecting it.

I do not know that the company have any  
interest either to magnify or conceal the mat-  
ter, inasmuch as it is more likely to prove a  
benefit than a damage to their future operations.  
The only expense attending it will be to re-  
pair the roads and remove the obstructions; but  
these will then be safer; and the knowledge  
acquired by this experience may prove of the  
greatest utility hereafter.

The occurrence seemed to me so unlike any-  
thing I ever heard of, that I commenced writ-  
ing the account of it to my friends; but it has  
proved so long, that to save the multiplication of  
letters, I concluded to send it to your paper,  
which most of them are accustomed to read;  
and they may, if they choose, consider it as per-  
sonally addressed to each of them.—There may  
be others of your readers also to whom it may  
not be uninteresting. With sentiments of  
respect, I am yours,

H. A. ROWLAND.

**Improved Mode of Warming Dwellings.**

The improvements in the method of warming  
dwelling-houses, which have been introduced into  
the City of New-York within the last two years,  
have effected almost an entire revolution in this  
department of our domestic arrangements. Mr.  
E. L. Miller, of Brooklyn, was the first to intro-  
duce among us the present admirable system of  
air-furnaces. He has recently, however, intro-  
duced into his own house, 89 Clark-st. an arrange-  
ment for warming by air radiated from water-  
heated surfaces only; in other words, a hot-wa-  
ter furnace of an entirely new construction. The  
apparatus is placed in the lower basement of the  
house, occupies no more space than an ordinary  
hot-air furnace, and distributes the heat through  
the house in the usual way of the common furnace;  
but the quantity of fuel under ignition, and the  
character of the heat, are truly astonishing and  
delightful. The combustion of the fuel is regu-  
lated with the greatest precision by means of a  
self-acting damper which he has introduced, and  
which is worked by the expansion of water and  
air combined, so as to consume any desirable  
quantity of coal, from 50 to 100 lbs. in the twen-  
ty-four hours, according to the state of the weather.  
The space we saw warmed to the tempera-  
ture of 68 to 70 degrees, comprises two very  
large four story houses, 54 feet front by 50 feet  
deep, containing about thirty rooms. The heat  
may be carried to any desirable distance, say  
from one to two hundred feet from the furnace-  
chamber, and its capacity for heating may be  
proportioned to buildings of any size, while the  
peculiar purity and salubrity of the atmosphere,  
produced by this mode of heating, renders it par-  
ticularly desirable for dwelling-houses, apart-  
ments for the sick, conservatories, &c. &c.

Mr. M. has erected his furnace, not only for  
the purpose of warming his house, but for ex-  
hibiting its operation, which he will be most hap-  
py to do to any gentleman who may wish to ren-  
der his own house more than comfortable, in the  
most efficient and economical manner.—N. Y.  
Tribune.

**GIRL HUNTING.**  
A Half-length from Life.  
BY MRS. C. M. KIRKLAND.

"A theme of perilous risk  
Thou handlest, and hot fires beneath thy path  
The treacherous ashes nurse."

"Can't you let our folks have some eggs?" said  
Daniel Webster Larkins, opening the door and  
putting in a little straw-colored head and a pair  
of very mild blue eyes just far enough to recon-  
noitre; "can't you let our folks have some eggs?  
Our old hen don't lay nothing but chickens now,  
and mother can't eat pork, and she ain't had no  
breakfast, and the baby ain't drest nor nothing!"  
"What is the matter, Webster? Where's  
the girl?"

"Oh! we ha'n't no girl but father, and he's had  
to go 'way to a raisin'—and mother wants to  
know if you can tell her where to get a girl?"

Poor Mrs. Larkins! Her husband makes but  
a very indifferent 'girl' being a remarkable pub-  
lic spirited person. The good lady is in very  
delicate health, and having an incredible num-  
ber of little blue eyes constantly making fresh  
demands upon her time and strength she usual-  
ly keeps a girl when she can get one. When  
she cannot, which is unfortunately the largest  
part of the time, her husband dresses the chil-  
dren—mixes stir-cakes for the eldest blue eyes  
to bake on a griddle, which is never at rest—  
milk the cows—feeds the pigs—and then goes  
to his 'business' which we have supposed to con-  
sist principally in his helping at raisings, wood-  
bees, huskings, and such like important affairs;  
and 'girl' hunting—the most important and ar-  
duous, and profitless of all.

Yet it must be owned that Mr. Larkins is a  
tolerable carpenter, and that he buys as many  
comforts for his family as most of his neighbors.  
The main difficulty seems to be that 'thep' is  
not often purchasable. The very small portion  
of our damsels who will consent to enter any-  
body's doors for pay, makes the chase after them  
quite interesting from its uncertainty; and the  
damsels themselves, subject to a well known fol-  
low of their sex, become very coy from being  
ever courted. Such racing and chasing, and  
begging and praying, to get a girl for a month!  
They are often got for life with half the trouble.  
But to return.

Having an esteem for Mrs. Larkins, and sin-  
cere experimental pity for the forlorn condition  
of 'no girl but father,' I set out at once to try if  
female tact and perseverance might not prove ef-  
fectual in ferretting out a 'help,' though mere  
industry had not succeeded. For this purpose  
I made a list in my mind of those neighbors, in  
the first place, whose daughters sometimes com-  
descended to be girls; and secondly, of the few  
who were enabled by good luck, good manage-  
ment, and good pay, to keep them. If I failed  
in my attempts upon one class, I hoped for some  
new lights from the other. When the object  
is of such importance it is well to string one's  
bow double.

In the first category stood Mrs. Lowndes,  
whose forlorn log house had never known door  
or window; a blanket supplying the place of  
the one, and the other being represented by a  
crevice between the logs. Lifting the sooty  
curtain with some timidity, I found the dame  
with a sort of reel before her, trying to wind  
some dirty, tangled yarn; and ever and anon  
kicking at a basket which hung suspended from  
the beam overhead by means of a strip of lick-  
ory bark. This basket contained a nest of rags  
and an indescribable baby; and in the ashes on  
the rough hearth played several diaby objects,  
which I suppose had once been babies.

"Is your daughter at home, Mrs. Lowndes?"  
"Well, yes! M'randy's to hum, but she's out  
now. Did you want her?"

"I came to see if she could go to Mrs. Larkins,  
who is very unwell, and sadly in want of help."

"Miss Larkins! why do you tell? I want to  
know! Is she sick again? and is her gal gone?  
Why! I want to know! I thought she had  
Lousy Paddon! Is Lousy Paddon gone?"

"I suppose so. You will let Miranda go to  
Mrs. Larkins will you?"

"Well, I don't but I would let her go for  
a spell, just to 'accommodate' em. M'randy may  
go if she's a mind ter. She's got a comfortable  
home, and no thanks to nobody. What wages do  
they give?"

"A dollar a week."  
"Eat at the table?"  
"Oh! certainly."  
"Have Sunday?"

"Why no—I believe not the whole of Sunday  
—the children, you know—"

"Oh! ho!" interrupted Mrs. Lowndes, with a  
most disdainful toss of her head, giving at the  
same time a vigorous impulse to the cradle, "if  
that's how it is, M'randy don't stir a step! She  
don't live nowhere if she can't come home on  
Saturday night and stay till Monday morning!"

I took my leave without farther parley, hav-  
ing often found this point the *sine qua non* in  
such negotiations.

My next effort was at a pretty-looking cot-  
tage, whose overhanging roof and neat outer ar-  
rangement spoke of English ownership.—The  
interior by no means corresponded with the ex-  
terior aspect, being even more bare than the u-  
sual, and far from neat. The presiding power

**PIECES OF ADVERTISING.**

1 square 1 insertion, . . . . . \$0 50  
1 do 2 do . . . . . 0 75  
1 do 3 do . . . . . 1 00  
Every subsequent insertion, . . . . . 0 25  
Yearly Advertisements: one column, \$25; half  
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one square, \$6. Half-yearly: one column, \$18;  
half column, \$12; three squares, \$8; two squares,  
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Advertisements left without directions as to the  
length of time they are to be published, will be  
continued until ordered out, and charged accord-  
ingly.  
Sixteen lines or less make a square.

was a prodigious creature, who looked like a  
man in woman's clothes, and whose blazing  
face ornamented here and there by great hair  
moules, spoke very intelligibly of the beer-barrel,  
if of nothing more exciting. A daughter of this  
virago had once lived in our family, and the  
mother met me with an air of defiance, as if  
she thought I had come with an accusation.  
When I unfolded my errand her *aberd* softened  
a little, but she scornfully rejected the idea of  
her Lucy living with any more Yankees.

"You pretend to think everybody alike," said  
she, "but when it comes to the pint, you're a  
sight more uppish and sussy than the r'al qual-  
ity at home; and I'll see Yankee race to—"  
I made my exit without waiting for the con-  
clusion of this complimentary observation.

Unsuccessful thus far among the abiders of  
our destiny, I thought I would stop at the house  
of a friend and make some enquiries which  
might spare me further rebuffs. On making  
my way by the garden gate to the little library  
where I usually saw Mrs. Stagner I was sur-  
prised to find it silent and uninhabited. The  
windows were closed; a half-finished cap lay  
on the sofa, and a bunch of yesterday's wild  
flowers upon the table. All of desolation, the  
cradle—not exactly an appropriate adjunct of a  
library scene elsewhere but quite so at the  
west—was gone, and the little rocking was  
nowhere to be seen. I went through the parlor  
and hall, finding no sign of life, save the break-  
fast table still standing with crumbs undisturbed.  
Where balls are not known ceremony is out of  
the question so I penetrated to the kitchen,  
where at length I caught sight of the fair face  
of my friend. She was bending over the bread  
tray and at the same time telling nursery-stories  
as fast as possible by way of coaxing her  
little boy of four years old to rock the cradle  
which contained his baby sister.

"What does this mean?"

"Oh! nothing more than usual. My Polly  
took herself off yesterday without a moment's  
warning, saying that she had lived out long en-  
ough; and poor Tom, our factotum, has the a-  
gue. Mr. Stagner has gone to some place six-  
teen miles off, where he was told he might hear  
of a girl, and I am sole representative of the ca-  
pital energies. But you've no idea what cap-  
ital break I can make!"

This looked rather discouraging for my guest;  
but knowing that the main point of table-com-  
panionship was the source of most of Mrs. Syn-  
der's difficulties, I still hoped Mrs. Larkins, who  
loved the close intimacy with her 'help,' and al-  
ways took them visiting with her. So I passed  
on for another effort at Mrs. Randall's whose  
three daughters had sometimes been known to  
lay aside their dignity long enough to obtain a  
some much-coveted article of dress. Here the  
mop was in full play; and Mrs. Randall, with  
her gown turned up, was splashing diluted mud  
on the walls and furniture, in the received mode  
of these regions, where 'stained glass windows'  
are made without a patent. I did not venture  
in, but asked from the door, with my best dis-  
plomacy, whether Mrs. Randall knew of a girl.

"A girl! no! who wants a gal?"

"Mrs. Larkins."

"She! why don't she get up and do her own  
work?"

"She is too feeble."

"Law sakes! too feeble! she'd be able as any  
body to thrash wool, if her old man didn't spile  
her by waitin' on—"

"We think Mrs. Larkins deserves small blame  
on this score."

"But, Mrs. Randall, the poor woman is really  
ill and unable to do anything for her children.  
Could'n't you spare Rachel for a few days to  
help her?"

"This was said in a most guarded and depreca-  
tory tone, and in a manner carefully moulded  
between indifference and undue solicitude.

"My gals has got enough to do. They ain't  
able to do all their own work. Curline hasn't  
been worth the first red cent for hard work ever  
since she went to school to A—"

"Oh! I did not expect to get Caroline. I un-  
derstand she is going to get married."

"What! to Bill Green? She wouldn't let  
him walk where she walked last year!"

Here I saw I had made a mistake. Resolv-  
ing to be more cautious in future, I left the se-  
lection to the old lady for one of her girls. But  
my eloquence was wasted. The Miss Randalls  
had been a while quartered at a select school, and  
will not live out again until their present stock  
of finery is unwearable. Miss Rachel whose  
company I had hoped to secure was even then  
paying attention to a branch of the fine arts.

"Rachel Mandly!" cried Mrs. Randall at the  
foot of the ladder which gave access to the up-  
per region—"fetch that thing down here! It's  
the prettiest thing you ever seen in your life!  
turning to me. And the educated young lady  
brought down a doleful compound of card-board  
and many colored waters, which had it seems  
occupied her mind and fingers for some days.

"There!" said the mother proudly, "a gal that's  
learnt to make such baskets as that, ain't a gal  
to be nobody's help, I guess!"

I thought the boast likely to be verified as a  
prediction and went my way, crestfallen and  
weary. Girl-hunting is certainly among our  
most formidable 'chores.'—Western Clearings.