THE ERIE OBSERVER.

B. F. SLOAN, EDITOR & PROPRIETOR. $1,50 PER ANNUM IN ADVANCE.

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The Erie Observer.

LITERARY AND POLITICAL JOURNAL

BY B. F. SLOAN.

TERMS—Single subscribers, if paid in advance [illegible] copies will be sent to one address for $5, and [illegible] rate for larger clubs.

[illegible] subscriber failing to pay within the year, the [illegible] discontinued and the account made out at [illegible] per year, and left with a proper officer for [illegible]

TERMS OF ADVERTISING

[illegible] lines or less make a square. [illegible]

[illegible] week, $ 75 | One square 3 months $ [illegible]
[illegible] 1 00 | One " 6 " [illegible]
[illegible] 1 25 | One " 1 year [illegible]

[illegible] a year, changeable at pleasure, $10 [illegible] months, $6 6 months, $8 9 months, [illegible]

[illegible] squares one year, $40 6 months, [illegible]

[illegible] the Business Directory at $5 per [illegible] inserted for a Card, over six, and under [illegible]

[illegible] notices, 10 cents a line. [illegible] inserted among the Special Notices [illegible]

[illegible] others requiring frequent changes [illegible] will be allowed two squares [illegible] For additional space, the charges will [illegible] and the advertisements must be strictly [illegible] to business. The advertiser [illegible]

[illegible] advertisement is required to accompany [illegible] advertising will be presented half [illegible]

BUSINESS DIRECTORY.

L. SLABURY, Dealer in Imported Wines and Liquors, [illegible] of French Brandies, Gins, &c., Champagne, [illegible] Madeira, Malaga, Sherry, Port, and all kinds [illegible] Wines, also manufacturer of refined Wh[illegible] Bourbon, Monongahela, &c. Reed House on [illegible] street, Erie.

D. W. M. WOOD, [illegible] at his residence on West [illegible]

M. S. H. HALL, Manufacturer and Wholesale and Retail [illegible] Hosiery, Zephyr Knitting, and Yarns [illegible] together with a general assortment [illegible] Store of Sundries, [illegible] Block, Erie, Pa.

EDWIN C. WILSON, Attorney & Counsellor at Law, Erie, Pa. [illegible] State Street, near the Park. [illegible] of the building occupied by L. A. M[illegible] Office will always be found [illegible] business connected with his office.

BECKMAN, KENDIG & CO., Wholesale and Retail [illegible] Boots, Hats, Caps, Leather, [illegible] Water, Walnut Streets, Erie, Pa.

JOHN W. WALKER, Attorney at Law, [illegible] will give prompt attention to the [illegible] and the payment of Taxes in the Wards of [illegible] and Erie, and will also fill all other [illegible] in Scrivener's Parlor, Ac.

MISS A. F. COLE, Successor to J. R. Cole, [illegible] Wholesale and Retail [illegible] Straw Goods, [illegible] Lace, at Reed's [illegible] Building, the Park, Erie, Pa.

S. NEWTON PETTIS, Attorney at Law, [illegible] Meadville, Pa. [illegible] Erie, Pa.

T. M. AUSTIN, Dealer in Clocks, Watches, Jewelry, [illegible] Spectacles, Gold [illegible] Watches, Jewelry, &c. Repairing done to order. [illegible] Water street, 4th door West of Peach, Erie, Pa.

HAYES & JORDAN, Wholesale & Retail Dealers in [illegible] Goods, Carpets, Wall Paper, [illegible] Block, Erie, Pa.

S. V. DAVENPORT, Attorney at Law, Office [illegible] Notary Public & Commissioner of Deeds, [illegible] Erie, Pa.

W. A. GALBRAITH, Attorney at Law, Erie, Pa. [illegible] the Court House, Erie, Pa.

T. S. SINCLAIR, Successor to Stewart & Sinclair, [illegible] Hotel Dining Rooms, [illegible] Benches, &c.

WILLIAM S. LANE, Attorney at Law, [illegible] Erie, Pa.

W. F. MAGILL, [illegible] Pianos.

ALLEN A. CRAIG, [illegible]

ROGERS & BENNETT, Merchants, [illegible] Erie, Pa.

MCONKEY & SHANNON, Commission Merchants and Wholesale Dealers in Foreign and Domestic Dry Goods, No. 107 Water street, 4th door West of Peach, Erie, Pa.

M. SANFORD & CO., Dealers in [illegible] Imported and Domestic Dry Goods, [illegible] Erie, Pa.

JAMES CROOK, [illegible]

D. & J. MINNIG, Dealers in Foreign and Domestic Dry Goods, No. 1 Reed's Block, Erie, Pa.

LEE & RATHBUN, Dentists, Office on the Park, [illegible] Erie, Pa. All work warranted.

GRAY & FARRAR, Commission Merchants, [illegible] Flour, Fish, Oil, and all kinds of Produce, [illegible] Erie, Pa.

JOHN HEARN & CO., Forwarding and Commission Merchants, [illegible] Flour, Fish, and Agents for the [illegible] Line of Steamers, Public Dock, Erie, Pa.

TIDDELL & MARSH, Manufacturers of Steam Engines, [illegible] Erie, Pa.

MISS E. E. RHODES, Fashionable Dress Maker, [illegible] Sewing Machine Needles, [illegible] Jewelry Store, West Park, Erie, Pa.

GEORGE H. CUTLER, Attorney at Law, Office [illegible] Erie, Pa. Collections and other business attended to with promptness and despatch.

JOHN SWEENY, Justice of the Peace, [illegible] Erie, Pa.

CAUGHEY & CLARK, Wholesale Grocers, [illegible] and Imported Wines and Liquors, [illegible] Fish, Oil and Produce, Buffalo [illegible] Nos. 1 and 2 Commercial Buildings, Northeast [illegible] Erie, Pa.

JOHN W. AYRES, Manufacturer, Wholesale and Retail dealer in all kinds of Fancy Rocking Chairs, Working Chairs, &c. [illegible] Erie, Pa.

BARR & KELSEY, Dealers in Boots and Shoes, Wholesale and Retail, at No. 1 Cashier's Building, [illegible] Pa.

OLDS & LOW, Manufacturers & Wholesale and Retail dealers in Water and Cistern Pumps, [illegible] Lead Pipe, [illegible] Sheet Iron Ware, Shop on Peach, [illegible] street, [illegible] Peach, Erie, Pa.

Agent for the celebrated Fairbanks' Scales, [illegible] Erie, Pa.

DR. O. L. ELLIOTT, Resident Dentist, Office [illegible] Dwelling in south Park, [illegible] east of Erie Bank, [illegible] Nov 10, 1858.

GEORGE J. MORTON, Forwarding and Commission Merchant, [illegible] Erie, Pa.

M. CARTER & KELLOGG, Wholesale and Retail dealers in Iron, Steel, Shop Materials, Wood and Willow ware, [illegible] State Street, Erie, Penn.

EMPIRE STORES, [illegible] Wholesale and Retail dealers in Foreign and Domestic Dry Goods, Carpetings, Oil Cloths, &c. No. [illegible] State street, [illegible] Erie, Pa.

WILLIAM THORNTON, Justice of the Peace. Deeds, Agreements, Bills and Mortgages Drawn, Accounts and Claims Collected. Office on Erie Block, [illegible] street, Grocery Store, Erie, Pa.

J. F. DOWNING, Attorney at Law and Justice of the Peace. Will practice in the several courts of Erie [illegible] prompt and faithful attention to all business [illegible] Office in Erie Block, [illegible] Erie, Pa.

J. W. DOUGLASS, Attorney at Law. Office removed to [illegible] west of State street, on the north side of the Park, Erie, Pa.

SCOTT & RANKIN, Dealers in all kinds of Foreign and Domestic Flour, [illegible] Public Dock, Erie, Pa.

I. BALDWIN, Successor to Clark & Baldwin, Cabinet and Patent Bedstead Manufacturer, No. 3 Reed House, Erie, Pa. Also, Dealer in Paints, Oils, Glass, Dye Stuffs, Gums, Alcohol, Burning Fluid, Turpentine, &c., &c.

S. ADAMS ROBINSON, M. D. Homœopathist, [illegible] Erie, Pa. Office No. 4, Reed House.

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S. ADAMS ROBINSON, M. D. Homœopathist, [illegible] Erie, Pa. Office No. 4, Reed House.

J. C. SELDEN, Wholesale and Retail dealer in all kinds of English, German and American Hardware, Anvils, Vices, Iron, Nails, Steel, &c. Saddlery and Carriage Trimmings, Machine Belting and Packing. French street, opposite the Reed House, Erie, Pa.

CHARLES W. KELSO, ATTORNEY AT LAW, Has removed his Office to that of ELIJAH BARRITT, Esq., South West corner of the Public Square, where he will attend promptly to all business entrusted to his care. Erie, Dec. 2, 1859. 3m26

TEETH! W. H. LUCE, thankful for the liberal patronage [illegible], announces that having procured the services of J. J. LUCE, he is prepared to do all kinds of Dental work promptly and in the latest and most improved [illegible] the attention of the public is again called to the

CONTINUOUS GUM WORK,

which he has been engaged in making for the past year, to the entire satisfaction of his patrons, that he is now prepared to put up Teeth on

VULCANIZED RUBBER,

which has the same advantages possessed by the Continuous Gum Work, leaving no seams or spaces for the accumulation of food, and giving to the face a perfectly natural expression, and for clasps it is preferable to any other material used, as it will not wear the teeth. Teeth put up on Gold or Silver for those who prefer it.

Particular attention paid to filling and preserving natural teeth, and also to the correction of irregularities.—Office in Beatty's Block, Park Row. Erie, Dec 24, 1859—3m29 W. H. LUCE

NOTICE. All persons, without exception, knowing themselves indebted to us, are earnestly requested to pay the same without delay, as the late change in our business renders an early disposal of unsettled affairs imperative, and we trust that the indulgence heretofore granted will be gratefully reciprocated by a prompt response to this notice. oct 8 J. JOHNSTON & BRO.

J. C. BURGESS & CO.,

GROCERIES,

FLOUR,

PORK, &c.,

AT WHOLESALE.

No. 10 Brown's Block State Street. [illegible] 18

PIANO FORTE AND MELODEON MANUFACTORY

SAVE TWENTY PER CENT

BY BUYING OF

WILLIAM WILLING

ERIE, PENN'A.

THE experience of twenty years and the ability that I could make

PIANOS AND MELODEONS

[illegible] cheaper than I can buy them elsewhere, because [illegible] lumber is cheaper, coal is cheaper, [illegible] the same, induced me to employ competent and capable, experienced workmen, who [illegible] Piano Manufactory therein [illegible] years, and who sold me their [illegible] necessary to make such instruments, [illegible] to furnish my numerous friends with

Pianos and Melodeons

of the best quality and finish, and will

WARRANT THEM!

and each for time, to give

COMPLETE SATISFACTION.

[illegible] a Musician and business man would [illegible] these instruments should not prove good, and I [illegible] public that there is spared to bring about the desired result, viz

Producing a fine and substantial Piano, which will give good satisfaction, and stay in tune longer than any Piano I know of.

TERMS VERY EASY

PRICES VERY REASONABLE

NEW MUSIC PATRONIZE

Your Own Citizens at Home!

CODES WHOLESALE RETAIL

[illegible] instruments [illegible] Pianos, Melodeons [illegible] PIANOS TO LET

TUNING DONE WELL

NEW MUSIC EVERY WEEK

NONE BUT THE BEST ARTICLES ON HAND

GENUINE UNBRAIDED

Chickering & Son's Piano Fortes,

[illegible] Piano [illegible] WM WILLING

TO PIANO PURCHASERS. You all remember the [illegible] Waters (New York) has made for [illegible] The [illegible] will do a [illegible] will [illegible] desire. Give [illegible] WM WILLING

FLEMING BRO'S.,

SUCCESSORS TO

GEORGE W. SMITH,

Brewers, Malsters and Hop Dealers.

HAVING purchased the entire interest of GEORGE W. SMITH, in the old and well known

Point Brewery, Pittsburg,

We are now prepared to furnish to the numerous customers of the old firm, with an article of X. XX. Kennett Ale Porter, that cannot be excelled by any establishment in the country.

For the accommodation of our customers in this section, we have appointed Messrs. Caughey & Clark, Wholesale Grocers, of Erie, our sole agents for this vicinity. feb18 1y FLEMING BROS.

COAL OIL! COAL OIL!! SUPERIOR IN QUALITY AND LOW PRICE!

HAVING received a FRESH SUPPLY of the Purest and STRONGEST COAL OIL, [illegible] at reduced prices we can now [illegible] at

ONE DOLLAR THE GALLON,

in single Gallon and STILL lower when the quantity taken is greater. Remember the place is at the Drug Store of CARTER & BROTHER. Feb 11

DE FOREST, ARMSTRONG, & CO.

DRY GOODS MERCHANTS,

80 & 82 Chambers St., N. Y.

WOULD notify the Trade that they are opening We early, in new and beautiful patterns, the

WAMSUTTA PRINTS!

ALSO THE

AMOSKEAG!

A New Print, which excels every Print in the Country for perfection of execution and design in full Madder Colors. Our Prints are cheaper than any to market, and meeting with extensive sale. Orders promptly attended to. feb4—1y35

MILLINERY.

MRS. CURTIS has returned from New York, and is now receiving her Stock of

MILLINERY AND FANCY GOODS!

Consisting of

Silk, Satin and Straw Bonnets, Head Dresses, Caps, Flowers, Ribbons, Ruches, Chenilles, Velvet Ribbons, Collars, Laces, &c. &c. Also, Corsetts, Hoop Skirts, Hosiery, Zephyr Hoods, Knitting Yarn and materials for Embroidery, Lace Veils, Kid Gloves, superior quality, &c., &c., all of which will be sold as low as can be bought elsewhere.

MILLINERS supplied with all goods in their line at Wholesale. MRS M CURTIS. Erie, Oct 1, 1859—17

WHO WANTS A SAFE. The subscriber has one large size HERRING'S SAFE, which he will dispose of cheap for Cash or approved paper. W. L. SCOTT. Erie, April 9, 1859—44 tf

BUILDERS HARDWARE. A full and complete assortment of Builders Hardware, for sale very low by oct29 21. J. C. SELDEN.

SADDLE & CARRIAGE TRIMMINGS. A full assortment of Saddlery and Carriage Trimmings, for sale very low by 21 J. C. SELDEN.

CARPENTER'S and JOINER'S TOOLS, the largest and cheapest stock in the City, at Erie, Oct 29, 1859—21 J. C. SELDEN'S.

SAUSAGE CUTTERS, Cleavers, Mincing Knives, Butcher Knives, at the store of oct29—21 J. C. SELDEN.

SHOVELS, and Tongs, Stands, Blower Stands, for sale by 21 J. C. SELDEN.

TABLE CUTLERY, Pocket Knives of the best styles and qualities, at low prices, by Oct 29, 59 21 J. C. SELDEN.

TIMOTHY SEED! TIMOTHY SEED!! 100 Bushels nice New Clean Timothy Seed, just received, and for sale cheap by Erie, Oct 15, 1859. BECKMAN KENDIG & CO.

MRS. WINSLOW,

AN experienced Nurse and Female Physician, presents to the attention of mothers her

SOOTHING SYRUP,

FOR CHILDREN TEETHING,

which greatly facilitates the process of teething, by softening the gums, reducing all inflammation—will allay all pain and spasmodic action, and is *sure to regulate bowels*. Depend upon it, mothers, it will give rest to yourselves, and relief and health to your infants. We have put up and sold this article for over ten years, and can say, in confidence and truth of it what we have never been able to say of any other medicine—one who used it—*in a single instance*, but did we know an instance of dissatisfaction by any of its operations, and speak in terms of commendation of its magical effects and medical virtues. On the contrary, all are delighted with its operations, and speak in terms of commendation of its magical effects and medical virtues. We speak in this matter "what we know," *after ten years' experience*, and pledge our reputation for the fulfillment of what we here declare. In almost every instance where the infant is suffering from pain and exhaustion, relief will be found in fifteen or twenty minutes after the syrup is administered.

Mrs. WINSLOW'S Soothing SYRUP.

This valuable preparation is the prescription of one of the most experienced and skillful Nurses in New England, and has been used with never-failing success in thousands of cases. It not only relieves the children from pain, but invigorates the stomach and bowels, corrects acidity, and gives tone and energy to the whole system. It will almost instantly relieve GRIPING IN THE BOWELS, AND WIND COLIC, and overcomes convulsions, which, if not speedily relieved, end in death. We believe it the best and surest remedy in the world in all cases of Dysentery and Diarrhœa in Children, whether it arises from teething or any other cause. We would say to every one who has a child suffering from any of the foregoing complaints—to not let your prejudices, nor the prejudices of others, stand between your suffering child and the relief that will be sure, yes, absolutely sure—to follow this medicine, if timely used. Full directions for using will accompany each bottle. None genuine unless the fac-simile of CURTIS & PERKINS, New York, is on the outside wrapper.

For CHILDREN Teething.

Sold by Druggists throughout the world. Principal Office, No. 13 Cedar St., New York. oct1. PRICE ONLY 25 CENTS PER BOTTLE. 1y.17

SANFORD'S

LIVER INVIGORATOR,

NEVER DEBILITATES,

IT is compounded entirely from Gums, and has become an established fact, a standard Medicine, known and approved by all that have used it, and is now resorted to with confidence in all the diseases for which it is recommended. It has cured thousands within the last two years who had given up all hopes of relief, as the numerous unsolicited certificates in my possession show. The dose may be adapted to the temperament of the individual taking it, and used in such quantities as to act gently on the Bowels. Let the dictates of your judgment guide you in the use of the LIVER INVIGORATOR, and it will cure Liver Complaints, Dyspepsia, Dysentery, Diarrhœa, Plaints, Bilious Attacks, Summer Complaints, Dropsy, Sour Stomach, Habitual Costiveness, Cholic, Cholera Morbus, Cholera Infantum, Flatulence, Jaundice, Female Weaknesses, and as an Ordinary Family Medicine it will be found invaluable. It will cure MICK HEADACHE, (as thousands can testify,) in twenty minutes, if two or three Teaspoonfuls are taken at the commencement of attack. All who use it are giving their testimony in its favor. MIX WATER IN THE MOUTH WITH THE INVIGORATOR, AND SWALLOW both together.

Price One Dollar per Bottle.

—ALSO—

SANFORD'S

FAMILY

CATHARTIC PILLS,

COMPOUNDED

FROM VEGETABLE EXTRACTS, AND PUT UP IN GLASS CASES, AIR TIGHT, AND WILL KEEP IN ANY CLIMATE.

The Family Cathartic Pill, is a gentle but active Cathartic which the proprietor has used in his practice more than 20 years. The constantly increasing demand from those who have long used these PILLS, and the satisfaction which all express in regard to their use, has induced me to place them within the reach of all. The Profession well know that different Cathartics act on different portions of the Bowels. The FAMILY CATHARTIC PILL has, with due reference to this, been compounded from a variety of the purest Vegetable Extracts, which act alike on every part of the alimentary canal, and are well established fact, been found to be GOOD and SAFE in all cases where a Cathartic is needed, such as DEATH STOMACH, Sickness, Pains in the Back and Loins, Costiveness, Pain and Soreness over the whole Body, from sudden cold, which frequently, if neglected, end in a long course of fever, Loss of Appetite, a creeping Sensation of cold over the body, Restlessness, Headache, or weight in the head, all Inflammatory Disease, WORMS in Children or Adults, RHEUMATISM, a great Purifier of the Blood, and many diseases to which flesh is heir, in this advertisement too numerous to mention.

Dose, 1, to 3. Price, 50 Cents.

The Liver Invigorator and Family Cathartic Pills are retailed by Druggists generally, and wholesale by the Trade in all the large towns.

S. T. W. SANFORD, M. D., Manufacturer and Proprietor, 335 Broadway, New York. July 2, 1859—1y4.

HOWARD ASSOCIATION, PHIL.

A BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION established by special Endowment for the Relief of the Sick and Distressed, afflicted with

VIRULENT & EPIDEMIC DISEASES.

The HOWARD ASSOCIATION, in view of the awful destruction of human life caused by Sexual diseases, and the deceptions practiced upon the unfortunate victims of such diseases by Quacks, several years ago directed their Consulting Surgeon, as a CHARITABLE ACT worthy of their name, to open a Dispensary for the treatment of this class of diseases, in all their forms, and to give MEDICAL ADVICE GRATIS to all who apply by letter, with a description of their condition, (age, occupation, habits of life, &c.,) and in case of extreme poverty, to FURNISH MEDICINES FREE OF CHARGE. It is needless to add that the Association commands the highest Medical skill of the age, and will furnish the most improved modern treatment.

The Directors of the association, in their annual Report upon the treatment of sexual diseases, expressed the highest satisfaction with the success which has attended the labors of their surgeons in the cure of Spermatorrhœa, Seminal Weakness, Gonorrhœa, Gleet, Syphilis, the vice of Onanism or Self-Abuse, Diseases of the Kidneys and Bladder, &c., and order a continuance of the same plan for the ensuing year.

The Directors on a review of the past, feel assured that their labors in this sphere of benevolent effort have been of great benefit to the afflicted, especially to the young, and they have resolved to devote themselves, with renewed zeal, to this very important and much despised cause.

An admirable Report on Spermatorrhœa, or Seminal Weakness, the vice of Onanism, Masturbation, or Self-Abuse, and other diseases of the Sexual Organs, by the Consulting Surgeon, will be sent by mail, (in a sealed envelope,) FREE OF CHARGE, on receipt of TWO STAMPS for postage. Other Reports and Tracts on the nature and treatment of Sexual diseases, diet, &c., are constantly being published for gratuitous distribution, and will be sent to the afflicted. Some of the new remedies and methods of treatment discovered during the past year, are of great value.

Address for Report or Treatment, Dr J. SKILLIN HOUGHTON, Acting Surgeon, Howard Association, No 2 South Ninth Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

By order of the Directors.

GEO. FAIRCHILD, Secretary. EZRAD. HEARTWELL, President. 1y 41

EAGLE FOUNDRY.

PEACH Street, above the Buffalo Road, Erie, Pa. Acheson & Henry would respectfully call the attention of the public to their large and complete assortment of

PARLOR, OFFICE AND COOK STOVES.

Comprising some of the most useful and durable kinds which cannot fail to give satisfaction to those who use them. We warrant all our stoves and when satisfaction is not fully expressed and the party does not receive value for his money we will make it all right. Our stoves "stand fire" and will prove creditable as home manufactures.

Kettles, Sleigh-shoes, Sad irons and all manner of Castings on hand or manufactured to order.

PLOWS AND PLOW-POINTS of superior make and durability always on hand. A call and a fair trial of our articles is all we ask and we will guarrantee satisfaction. Erie, Oct. 21, 1859. ACHESON & HENRY

J. C. BURGESS & CO.,

WHOLESALE GROCERS

Agents for

FAIRBANK'S SCALES!

No. 10, Brown's Block, State Street. Erie, Oct. 8, 1859. 18.

SOFAS, LOUNGES, CANE SEAT and Hair Seat Chairs, Mahogany Tables and Stands, Spring Beds, Feather Beds and Mattresses, at New York prices, for Cash, just sent from East, for sale on commission, to the Agent. nov5 G. W. ELLSEY, Erie.

COMBS, LADIES FANS, PARIS FANS Combs, Baskets, Hair Pins, Brushes, of an endless variety at the 26 PARAGON BUILDING.

GOLD PENS.—Dawson, Warren & Hydes, "Top Top Pens" warranted Six Months, a good article at low prices. West Park Jewelry Store.

PURE BRANDIES.—Just received through the Custom House at Erie, and for sale April 30. by CARTER & BRO.

PERFUMERY.—Ladies and Gentlemen wishing to get good Perfumery at reduced prices, will visit BALDWIN'S DRUG STORE, 23.tf No. 4, Reed House.

HEDGE SHEARS, Pruning Knives, Budding Knives, at J. C. SELDEN'S.

Poetical.

A WIFE.

The wife sat thoughtfully turning over
A book inscribed with the school-girl's name;
A tear—one tear—fell hot on the cover
She quickly closed when her husband came

He came, and he went away—it was nothing—
With cold calm words upon either side:
But, just at the sound of the room door shutting,
A dreadful door in her soul stood wide

Love, she had read of it in sweet romances—
Love that could sorrow, but never fail,
Built her own palace of noble fancies,
All the wide world a fairy tale

Bleak and bitter, and utterly doleful,
Spreads to the woman her map of life;
Hour after hour she looks in her soul, full
Of deep dismay and turbulent strife

Face in both hands, she knelt on the carpet;
The black cloud loosen'd, the storm rain fell;
Oh! life has so much to wither and warp it—
One poor heart's day what poet can tell?

—[*Once a Week.*

FORGIVEN.

From the Watchman and Reflector

"The peace of God, that passes all understanding."

The man looked up with a smile. His wife, sitting opposite, understood him, and smiled also, then there was a silence for a few minutes.

"Better than all our worldly pleasures of the past," she murmured.

"Far, far better!"

Thus these two children of God, born of the Spirit within a few short months, talked of the kingdom and its righteousness.—They sat in a richly furnished room. The surroundings spoke of wealth, liberality and good taste in their possessor. Mirrors and pictures glittered in the ruddy light of a blazing fire. The two—John Meredith and his wife—were alone, reading the Word of God. Their hopes as well as their hearts new-born, and they rejoiced together in the Saviour of sinners. By-and-by the Bible was laid upon the shelf; prayer ascended heavenward, and then Mrs. Meredith took out her knitting.

"John," she said, a few moments after. The evening paper rustled in his hands as the old man looked up.

"What kind of present were you thinking of getting for the children?"

"Well, I haven't thought yet," was the reply. "Dear little ones! they shall have all their heart's desire. Harry's two girls will want dolls and a few knick-knacks, and Helen's boys, sleds, skates, and something useful as well as pretty. What do you sigh for, wife?"

"I was thinking of Martha."

The paper fell from the old man's nervous grasp. He snatched his spectacles from his forehead and wiped them with vehemence. His face took an expression of agonizing sorrow, and finally, unable to control his emotions, his head fell, he bowed himself upon his arms, and shook with suppressed sobs.

"Father, I didn't mean to make you feel so badly," said the woman, looking at him, her knitting work still in the grasp of her rigid fingers—the heavy tear falling unwiped over her cheeks. "I couldn't help thinking of her, just at this time, and then, when you read of that peace—that perfect peace—I thought, how could we feel the full force of that blessed verse, unless we forgive poor Martha."

"Wife" he raised his head, shook it as if he would dash the waves of his anguish back upon his heart again, and gasped, rather than spoke the words, "Wife, wife, remember *what* she is! *where* she is!"

"John, you know we might have saved her, but O, how harsh and unforgiving we all have been. My poor, poor child?" and her wet eyes saw the vision of a lovely golden head, standing by her knee. "She was so beautiful that, God forgive me, I had never the heart to cross her. What wonder that she grew up proud and sinful, that she took to vanity when we lived in and for the world, and were ourselves haters of God! O, John, have we not been born again; born into gentleness, long-suffering, forgiveness, charity, that better than all gifts? We helped undo her. Shall we not try to make her whole again?"

"She won't come," said the man in a smothered voice.

"The woman crossed her hands. The ball of yarn had fallen unheeded and rolled to the opposite side of the room, so had the tears dried upon her cheeks, but the shade of motherly sadness and tenderness lingered upon her features. She spoke in tremulous tones.

"I have been to-day where I have often been since I gave my heart to God. I could not help it husband—I could not help it. My mother's love has yearned over her, and it has seemed, at times, as if my heart would break. Don't look so, John. I tell you that poor sinful child has been on my soul hour by hour, moment by moment, until I have almost felt her head laying on my breast as I prayed, and I knew God would give her back to us. Yes, I conquered my pride, I searched among outcasts till I heard where she was. I found the place, but she was gone—gone—O! where do you think? To the home provided for the erring—the repentant—weeping, mourning, perhaps without hope.—This I was told by a pallid creature, dying of consumption, (Heaven help her and all of them) sick, and sorry, and weary of life. 'She was never like one of us,' said the woman, 'and if you see her again, tell her I bless her for her kindness towards me.'—Well, John, I haven't seen her yet; I can't see her till—till"—the lips quivered; there was a moment of silent weeping; then the mother arose, quickly placed a pen before him, and put the stand of ink at his elbow.

"What are these for wife?"

"Write to her, John, O write for her. I know how you have struggled to forget her, but you can't: O no, you can't. She was our first-born, my husband, the light of our eyes, darling of our new home. I know how she has brought the white hairs on your temples too early; how she has planted shame in your path, and called up blushes on the cheeks of the others, her brothers and sisters; but O, how often her dear head has lain in innocence over your heart and mine; how we led her by the hand into the very broad road to destruction, and now, though we can't forget that she has been our bane, as well as blessing; can't expect that the world will take her back and forget what she has been, Christ will receive her as the dear lamb long lost, and we may lead her to Him, and rejoice throughout eternity that she is saved by our instrumentality."

"Wife, I would take her back; but think of the children."

"They are married, John. They have homes of their own, and if they do not choose to receive her there, this shall be her shelter; yes, these arms. But they, too, are Christian disciples, and I have heard them talk of poor sister Martha as those who cared for her soul. She has sought some other place than the house of iniquity. I feel in my heart that she has repented. For four Christmas days we have tried to forget that she was ever born unto us; now let her come as the prodigal son came to his father. How did he spend his living—because she is a woman, is she viler than he? No, no, no; we will meet her half way. Write, John, it will cost you some pride, but write; we will send it tomorrow. Write, my husband."

A few tears fell upon the paper. What wonder that the trembling hands essayed almost in vain to form the words of welcome! But the tears and the grief-touched words so different from his straight-forward manly writing, would not these tell her that the heart, as well as the hand, said—Come?"

"Peace on earth, good will to men."

Softly, reverently, John Meredith's voice lingered over the words. It was Christmas day, bright, cold, but most beautiful. The little grand children sat by their thoughtful parents. The presents were laid aside at this hour of family devotion. In the centre of the room stood a great Christmas tree, covered with tapers, and from which hung still other gifts, enclosed for the evening's enjoyment.

The lips of John Meredith were unsealed, and words of wisdom flowed therefrom as they never had before. Never to the listeners had the peace of God seemed so worthy of possession; never had the love of Christ appeared so grand, so overwhelming, especially towards the poor, the miserable, and the lost. After prayers Mrs. Meredith beckoned her children, and they followed her into the next room. There was Mary, Ellen and George. Mary was very young; a sweet, blue-eyed creature. George was manly, broad shouldered, broad browed, like his father; and Ellen, a matronly woman and a mother.

It was evident that some unwonted agitation made Mrs. Meredith falter. She was pale as she stood looking tenderly upon them, while they, curious and mute, waited for what she would say. She turned first to George.

"My son, there was a woman of whom we read that Jesus forgave with these words, 'Go and sin no more.'"

The young man grew pale and half turned away. No human heart knew what his sufferings had been, how keen, how like the cruelest torture, since his sister's sin had become public. He was exceedingly sensitive, of a high spirit, proud of his good name: and she, that bright beautiful creature, whose hand he had clung to for so many years, had put him to open shame.

"Can you guess what I mean?" came again from the mother's trembling lips.

"I wish she was dead, mother," was all he said, in a low, husky, quivering voice.

"She is, I trust, dead to sin from henceforth, and alive to Christ."

How solemn, how impressive sounded the words! The sisters sat together. Mary had hidden her face in Ellen's bosom, as her brother spoke.

"Your father and me have been the most deeply wronged" continued the noble woman, "but as God has forgiven me, so do I forgive her, and your father has resolved to take her back."

"Here!" exclaimed the young man, with an emphasis that startled them all.

"Yes, here, where she was born."

"Then, mother, this is no place for my sisters—for me."

"George!" the voice was stern with a new sorrow; "if ever you are led into sin, which God forbid, remember that though the world would stone you, there is one place where you can ever come"—she held her arms forth. "A mother's heart will never cast you out, my son."

There was no reply; the young man shivered from head to foot, then turning away hastily, he left the room and the house.

"Don't mind him, mother," said Mary, her sweet face tearful, yet smiling. "It was too sudden for him; it is harder for him than for us. I am glad Martha is coming home, mother," and the glistening drops fell softly from her eyes as she spoke.

"And you, Ellen?"

"She is my sister, mother," was the gentle reply.

Gloriously the night of Christmas set in. It was keenly cold. Within, there was delicate tracery on windows reddened with holiday fires; within, the Christmas wreaths hung over doors and circled pictures, some of them remembrances of lips that were dust, and eyes that were ashes, but the kindly look of the soul that animated them now crowned with the beauty of heaven, still beamed upon the groups below. There was the hearty voices of children, with their exclamations of delight at the beauty of the Christmas tree, and thanks to the donors. The Christmas tree was all ablaze, but strange to say, none but the children seemed to enjoy it after the great surprise. The parents sat anxious and restless. It had been snowing since noon, and the ground was covered, as with a garment pure and white, so that they heard not the approach of wheels. George had not been home since he went away in anger—and altogether it was a sombre Christmas night.

"Is this the house?" asked the driver, as the handsome vehicle which had been sent for a penitent, stopped at the door.

"Yes," was the faint reply.

"Any baggage, ma'am.—shall I ring the bell?"

"O! no—no—no," and the veiled figure prepared to descend the steps.

"All paid, ma'am!" said the driver, and mounting to his box he drove off. Slowly, as if weary, the figure moved to the stone steps and made as if she would ascend.—One surmounted, she leand heavily against the gray coping. The street was very still, only afar off could be heard the carriages. A street lamp blazed over the head of the solitary woman supporting herself there, against the cold, damp wall. There was a sound like chocking sobs, a rattling as of paper. The woman was trying to peruse a note which she held in her hands. Altho' she could not read it distinctly, the message ran thus:

December, 1846.

MARTHA MEREDITH—You have disgraced yourself, you have disgraced your family.—Never, so help us Heaven, can you be a daughter to us more. Take the curse of those who gave you being, and never dare to look upon their faces again. Those who were your parents, but disown you from henceforth.

Another rested in her trembling grasp. This she held to her lips pressed to her heart—and well might she deem it precious. Thus it read:

December, 1856.

DEAR CHILD MARTHA.—Come home to us.—May God forgive us for having cursed you. Come, and be a beloved daughter once more. We forgive all the past, as Christ has forgiven us. We will send for you on Christmas night. Your Father and Mother.

"O blessed, blessed forgiveness!" she murmured, still leaning there, the snow whitening her garments. "But how can I meet them? I shall die of crushing shame. O, how can I meet them? They will all be there to-night. If they would only hide me; if I could only creep round by the back way, and go to my chamber, and stay there forever. I never can look into their faces, never, never."

She sobbed low but passionately, never minding the wind that blew little drifts upon the edges of the stone steps, and made her shiver unwittingly. With longing eyes she traced the yellow light reflected from the windows upon the walk; she held her breath now and anon, to listen to the sound of children's voices, and then she sobbed again. She did not note the approaching footsteps, nor any presence, until startled by a manly vice, exclaiming:

"Woman, who do you want? What is the matter."

With a low groan, she turned her face to the door and sank upon her knees. He had drawn back with a shiver that was not of cold, and there he stood, good battling with evil for the mastery of his soul. There he stood, pressing his hands, now folded, one into the other, his heart swelling now with indignation, now with a gentle, manly sorrow; anon with repugnance and pride. But that kneeling figure in the cold December night, so forlorn, so drooping, so shrinking from all human compassion, unmanned him. He moved a step forward and bending, cried out in a husky whisper, "Is it Martha?"

"O! George," said the figure; what a voice it was. What a revelation they embodied—those two words of deepest remorse and utter hopeless.

Another pause, during which pride gave some fierce throbs, and then his tenes lost their manliness, as he said—

"Martha, come; they all expect you."

"All! all! O take me up stairs; take me out of the way; they must hate me."

"God forbid!" said the young man, fervently and more tremulously; "none of us hate you, Martha; come, my sister."

"Heaven bless you for those words. O! you must be better, holier than others to give such joy to a broken heart; you do pity me; you do forgive me, only let me hear you say it."

"I pity and forgive you!" said the young man, solemnly, and, as he spoke, he was conscious of a sweet rapture, stealing into his soul, filling him with pure and Christ-like love for the forlorn, the wretched, the sinning. He took her hand now. It was the first time he had felt happiness that Christmas. He determined to love