

STAR & REPUBLICAN BANNER.

G. WASHINGTON BOWEN, EDITOR & PROPRIETOR.

"The liberty to know, to utter, and to argue, freely, is above all other liberties."—MILTON.

PHILADELPHIA, PA., WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1841.

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I. The Star & Republican Banner is published at TWO DOLLARS per annum (or Volume of 52 numbers) payable half-yearly in advance; or TWO DOLLARS and FIFTY CENTS, if not paid until after the expiration of the year.

II. No subscription will be received for a shorter period than six months; nor will the paper be discontinued until all arrearages are paid, unless at the option of the Editor. A failure to notify a discontinuance will be considered a new engagement and the paper forwarded accordingly.

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IV. All Letters and Communications addressed to the Editor by mail must be post-paid, or they will not be attended to.

THE GARLAND.



"With sweetest flowers enrich'd
From various gardens call'd with care."

THE WIFE.

BY ELEANOR LOUISA MONTAUX.

Oh, come, beloved! to you grey wood,
Where oft in childhood's hour we strayed,
Ere yet with plighted hands we stood
Beneath yon bending willow's shade;
And I my early dream will tell,
And blush not though thine eye behold me;
I feel thy voice's soothing spell,
Thy love and loving arms enfold me.

Ah! little didst thou dream how long
I loved thee with a hidden heart,
When even amid some touching song
My sighs would breathe, my tears would start;
Thou couldst not deem that this weak breast,
Which in thy joy stood mute before thee,
Longed but to share thy soul's unrest
When sorrow's night was deepening o'er thee.

Oh! then the sullen years drew on
When thou must part, yet leave no token,
And I most bare, unshared, alone,
A grief which yet might not be spoken,
Oh! Love! it was a fearful time,
But all is past, forgotten now;
Yet something of its youthful prime
Hath fled from this devoted brow.

This grieves me not, for well I know
Thy spirit will not love me less,
Though time upon thy head should snow,
Or on thy cheek too rudely press,
I feel that thou wilt cheer be true—
If ought to me can make thee dear—
When the spring leaves of life's young tree
Around thy brow are growing clear.

Years waned; and thou rememberest yet
The hour which led thee back to me,
When, sicken'd with the world, we met,
And each was changed—yet both were free:
Not changed in soul, but sadder grown,
And touch'd as by the wand of sorrow;
And doomed, like buds too early blown,
To greet with wasted bloom thy morrow.

Then once again I dared to dream,
But now no more a dream of sadness,
Thy presence smoothed my life's rough stream,
And led me back to youth and gladness!
And something did our hearts subdue,
A yearning thought—a thought of home—
As though our souls more closely drew
Ere yet the darker days should come.

Now let it come! I fear them not:
For art not thou, beloved, mine!
And is not this time-hallowed spot
The altar of a love divine?
Oh, may the lamp which lights us now
For ever on that altar burn,
And ne'er through life our spirits know
One severed hour o'er which to mourn.

MISCELLANEOUS.

From the Philadelphia Saturday Courier.

THE BRIDESMAID: AN AMERICAN TALE.

In a small parlor of a neat little cottage, in the beautiful village of Ashton, were seated an aged lady and a young girl. The former was engaged in needlework, and the latter was listlessly turning over the leaves of a book.

"Why have you not taken your usual walk this morning, Alice?" said the old lady.

"Because," answered her companion, "I am weary of walking where there is nothing to be seen. I am tired of living in this dull place, and of associating with the vulgar people who inhabit it."

The complaints of the young lady were interrupted by the entrance of a servant, who presented a letter.

"Who brought it?" said Mrs. Lee.

"It was brought by a gentleman, ma'am, who refused to come in, but said he would call in the evening."

Alice examined the direction of the letter, and exclaimed joyfully, "It is from Isabel!" she opened it and read as follows:—
"Dearest Alice,—Do you remember that when at school together, we made a promise to act as bridesmaids to each other, should either of us ever require such a

service? I now claim the fulfillment of your promise. This letter will be delivered by him who is the betrothed of your friend. He has some business in your neighborhood, and I have gladly availed myself of the opportunity of writing to you, and of introducing him to your friendship. I had almost forgotten to tell you his name; it is Edward Herbert, and his home is in New Orleans; of course it will in future be mine. Herbert thinks his business in Ashton will be concluded in a week. He will then return to Franklin, and I hope you will accompany him. Your society, my beloved friend, is all that is wanting to complete the happiness of your affectionate

"ISABEL GREY."
The pleasure with which Alice perused this letter, was not unmixed with other sensations. "And so Isabel is to be married so soon! It is scarcely a year since she left school, and she is not at all pretty, (casting, as she spoke, a glance at the mirror, which reflected her own beautiful face,) but she is rich, and she has an opportunity of mingling in fashionable society!" And Alice retired to her chamber, to muse over the happy prospects of her friend, and to lament the poverty which compelled her to "waste her sweetness on the desert air."

Alice had been deprived of the protection of a maiden sister of her father's whose narrow circumstances compelled her to reside in the obscure village of Ashton. The old lady was exceedingly proud of her beautiful niece, and by her injudicious indulgence and undisguised admiration, she increased that vanity which was the predominant feature in the character of the latter.

Herbert came in the evening, and with an almost unconscious courtesy Alice arrayed herself most tastefully to receive the lover of her friend, and she was gratified to perceive that Herbert was struck with admiration of her really beautiful person. He was a fine-looking young man, and his manners and conversation were so superior to those of the rustic swains with whom she had been accustomed to associate, that Alice was completely fascinated.

The ensuing morning brought Herbert again to the cottage, and, after a day passed in his society, Alice sighed as she remembered her engagements with her friend; and she could not help thinking, that had she met him while he was yet free, she might herself have been the object of his affection. His admiration of her evidently increased with every interview, and the week appointed for his stay in the neighborhood had passed away, and yet no mention had been made of his intention to return to Franklin.

Meantime the affianced bride of Herbert passed the time of his absence in dreams of future happiness, somewhat chastened by regrets at her approaching separation from the friends of her youth and the scenes in which her happy childhood had passed. Isabel Grey was not beautiful, but she had an open, intelligent countenance, a cheerful disposition, a most affectionate heart, and a large fund of good sense, and Herbert had been her first lover. She loved with all the warmth of a young, unpractised heart, nor did her inexperienced eye detect in her lover's character the absence of those strict principles by which her own conduct was governed. Nor did it ever occur to her that her wealth had any influence in attracting his regard. She was impatiently expecting his return on the appointed day, and was much disappointed when she received a letter from him, which informed her that circumstances had occurred which would detain him at Ashton till the very day appointed for their marriage.

The approach of that day caused the most cruel conflicts in the breast of Herbert. He had never really loved Isabel, but he admired her character, and felt that he could rely implicitly upon her principles; her cheerful good sense rendered her an agreeable companion, and her fortune was a circumstance by no means to be disregarded by a man of his expensive tastes and habits. All these considerations, however, vanished before the influence of the passion which the beauty of Alice had awakened in his bosom. He struggled against it for awhile, but with no fixed principles, and without resolution to tear himself away, his ineffectual efforts seemed only to rivet the chains which bound him. Alice loved him as well as she was capable of loving any one, and her regard for her friend opposed but a feeble barrier to the gratification of her wishes. She was incapable of deep feeling, but her vanity was gratified by the evident devotion of Herbert, and her mind was dazzled by the prospect of emerging from the obscurity in which her charms had hitherto been buried.

The morning appointed for the marriage of Isabel Grey had arrived, and she sat alone in her apartment, in momentary expectation of the arrival of her lover and her friend. They came not, however, and Isabel was beginning to apprehend the occurrence of some accident, when her mother entered the room. She held a letter in her hand, and was evidently in a state of excitement; unusual to her gentle character.

"Isabel," she said, "this letter is from Miss Lee."

"Is Alice ill?" inquired Isabel, anxiously.

"No, she is not ill, but she is unworthy of your friendship. She has eloped with Herbert!"

Isabel heard no more, and with an exclamation of horror and surprise, she full

senseless at the feet of her mother. When animation returned, she insisted on seeing Miss Lee's letter, and her mother, knowing the strength of her character, thought it best to indulge her. The letter contained only a brief account of the elopement, with a disclaimer on the part of the writer of any knowledge of or participation in the affair.

Isabel Grey did not sink under this severe stroke. She felt all the anguish, all the desolation of spirit, natural to one whose dearest hopes had been prostrated by treachery and ingratitude on the part of him to whom she had given her young heart with all its glowing feelings, and of her who had been the dear companion of her childhood. But in her own bereavement, Isabel did not forget that she was the sole stay and comfort of her widowed mother, and that her energies of heart and mind were given for nobler purposes than to be wasted in fruitless repinings for one, who had proved himself all unworthy of her pure and devoted love. She felt, too, when the first shock was over, that she had reason to be thankful that any circumstance, no matter how painful, had unveiled the real character of her lover, before it became her duty to close her eyes to his faults, to conceal, even from himself, if possible, his want of honorable principle.

Years rolled by. Isabel Grey had become the wife of one who had loved her from childhood, and who, if inferior to the one of her early choice in external graces, was infinitely his superior in all those mental and moral qualities which give dignity to man, and which render a woman's married life happy. And Isabel loved him, if not with the impassioned fervor of other days, at least with a deep and sincere affection, and with that reliance on his faithful and true, which grew out of her perfect conviction of the integrity of his character. She continued to reside with her mother, whose increasing age rendered her more than ever dependent upon the affectionate attentions of her daughter.

One very stormy evening, the whole family were collected round their cheerful fireside. Dr. Dillingham, the husband of Isabel, had just returned from a long and fatiguing ride, and was seated in a large arm-chair, holding on his knee a beautiful infant of a year old. Isabel was seated near him, also caressing the child, and Mrs. Grey reclined on a sofa, and surveyed the happy group with affectionate delight.

Suddenly there was a knocking at the hall door, which was immediately followed by the entrance of a female, completely enveloped in a cloak, the hood of which concealed her face entirely. She carried a child in her arms, and, pushing aside the chair which the Doctor offered her, she sunk at the feet of Isabel, and throwing off her cloak, revealed the features of Alice Herbert.

In utter amazement, Isabel stooped to raise the prostrate form of her former friend. She took the child from her arms, and with her husband's assistance she laid her on a sofa, and waited with breathless anxiety an explanation of her sad appearance. In a few minutes Alice raised her head.

"Do you not wonder at me, Isabel, that I have dared to approach you—that I presume to raise my eyes to the face of her whom I have so basely injured?"

"You have not injured me, Alice. All that is passed is long since forgiven, for it is to you I owe my present happiness." And Isabel smiled through the tears which had gathered in her eyes as she looked at her husband and her lovely child. "But where, Alice, is your husband, and why are you here alone at this hour?"

"He is gone," said Alice solemnly, "to render his account at the bar of Eternal Justice, and I have begged my way thither to claim your protection for my innocent babe, and then to close my weary eyes in peace."

Convulsive sobs here choked the utterance of the wretched woman, and she was conveyed in a state of insensibility to the bed from which she never rose again.

Alice's story was soon told. Immediately after their marriage, she and Herbert had proceeded to New Orleans, and entered at once upon a course of the most reckless extravagance. A short time sufficed to dissipate the small fortune which Herbert possessed, and he soon began to tire of a wife whose personal charms had been her sole attraction, and whose vanity and love of display completely unfitted her for domestic life. After some months' struggling with pecuniary difficulties, aggravated by the complainings of his wife and by his own impatient disposition, Herbert in a moment of despair terminated his own existence, leaving his wife and child in a state of utter destitution. Thus helpless and forlorn, Alice could think of no resource to dissipate her small fortune which Herbert possessed, and he soon began to tire of a wife whose personal charms had been her sole attraction, and whose vanity and love of display completely unfitted her for domestic life. 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