Graves That Never Closed.

AN OLD WOMAN'S AWAKENING AFTER NURSING A SWEET DELUSION FOR HALF A CENTURY.

Willa Lloyd Jackson in Philadelphia Times.

"Who is that singing?" I asked my friend as from the next room the quavering, feeble voice of some aged person rose in the dear old hymn of "Beulah."

"That," said my friend, "is old Mrs. Martin. I give her my mending to do, and that, with what a few other ladies give her, is her means of livelihood. Poor old creature! Her fingers are so stiff and gnarled with rheumatism that she can scarcely hold the needle, but she's too proud to take money without giving some equivalent."

The trembling old voice went on with its pathetic music. In the singing of the old there is always something so sweet and mournful. It is like touching softly the yellow keys of an old, long-untuned spinet, set aside as old-fashioned and superseded by other, grander instruments, which, though out of tune and jangled, will yet respond with a music sad and touching, in which the ghosts of forgotten melodies and long gone happy days rise and speak once more.

In a little while a timid knock was heard at the door of the room in which we were sitting, and, in answer to my friend's bidding, a little old woman entered. She was plainly but neatly attired in a dark gingham, with her white hair banded back under a sunbonnet. Her face was singularly smooth for one of her age, and her eyes bright with a somewhat peculiar expression.

"I have finished my work," she said, "and I must go home to the children.

My friend, as she paid her, remarked: "It is growing so late, Mrs. Martin, that you'd better stay all night. Shall I have a bed made for you?"

"Oh, no; oh, no!" answered the old lady quickly. "I must go home to the children. I couldn't leave the children all night." And she hurried away as if almost afraid of being forcibly detained.

There was something in the way in which she spoke of the children that aroused my curiosity. "They can't be her's," I said.

"My dear, there are no children," was the answer. "They have been dead nearly fifty years. She had three, and her whole heart was bound up in them. Her marriage had proved a great disappointment, her husband being a drunken wretch, who beat and misused her cruelly, so these children, they tell me, were her sole consolation and object in life. And they all died in one week of diphtheria. If her mind had not given way it would have broken her heart, but she never could realize that they were dead. They are as much alive to her to-day as ever, and always children still."

A few evenings after my friend called on me.

"Put on your hat," she said, "and we will go and see old Mrs. Martin. You'll understand better then about her delusion."

In a tiny house of a couple of rooms we found her, and, stepping softly up to the door, heard a voice within talking cheerily.

"Yes, you've been good children to-day, and I have some nice buns for your suppers. Did you miss me much, dears?"

We knocked then, and the talking ceased.

The old lady came to the door and bade us welcome, adding:

"I've just given the children their suppers and gotten them to bed."

On a table in the centre of the room were four plates, in each of which lay a small piece of sweet bread, with a tiny cup of milk beside it.

"Children will waste so," said the poor old creature. "I'll just eat what they have left, just to keep from throwing it away."

She did this with an assumption of carelessness, yet with a hunger that told us it was her own supper.

"Would you like to see the children?" she asked me, tidying up the room. I said yes. So she led us into the back room. A comfortable child's bed and a smaller crib set side by side, while a hard cot was evidently her own couch. Motioning us to make no noise, she crept softly up to the little empty bed.

"This is Jennie and May," she said. "Just seven and five. Jennie helps me so much. She plays with the other children when I am away, and is so good. May is the beauty. Just look at her lashes!" Then crossing to the crib: "This is my baby boy, my Neddie. Hush, hush! Mother's here," patting the little white pillow.

We turned aside to hide our tears. It was so sad and touching to see this forlorn old woman soothing back to sleep a child that had slumbered in its little grave for fifty years. When we went back to the other room she sat and talked to us for an hour of the children, giving all the details of their imaginary ailments, winning ways and clever sayings. God had indeed tempered the wind to the shorn lamb.

One day the following winter my friend came to me in great anxiety.

"I'm afraid something has happened to Mrs. Martin. She was engaged to come to me yesterday morning and she has not come. She is always so regular and reliable that I'm afraid she must be sick."

We set off at once for her cottage and found her very ill of pneumonia. A neighbor sat watching by her side. She beckoned us to one side and told us the doctor had given her patient up, so we removed our hats and sat down to await the end. The poor old woman knew us at once.

"Things have come back right to me. I must have been wrong in my head a long time. They tell me this is 1889. Then my children have been gone fifty years. But God has been good to me. He has let me have them, anyhow, and now that I know they are with Him, He is going to let me go home to them."

And just as the new day dawned and its light fell on her upturned face she went home forever to the children.

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Our new book by Dr. John H. Dye, one of New York's most skillful physicians, shows that pain is not necessary in childbirth, but results from causes easily understood and overcome. It clearly proves that any woman may become a mother without suffering any pain whatever. It also tells how to overcome and prevent morning sickness and the many other evils attending pregnancy. It is highly endorsed by physicians everywhere as the wife's true private companion. Cut this out: it will save you great pain and possibly your life. Send two-cent stamp for descriptive circulars, testimonials, and confidential letter sent in sealed envelope. Address Frank Thomas & Co., Publishers, Baltimore, Md.

Notice.

Notice is hereby given that Annie, wife of the undersigned has left my bed and board of her own free will and accord, and I will not be responsible for any debts she may contract on my credit. MARTIN SLEAR.

Shamokin Dam, Pa., April 2, 1890.

Caution Notice

The following articles have been purchased at Public Sale by the undersigned and loaned for use to Samuel Kline of Beaver township. All persons are cautioned against meddling with the same:

1 Cow, 1 Heifer, 3 Hogs, lot of Corn, 50 Chickens, 1 Cookstove, 1 Ten-plate Stove, 1 Doughtray, Bed and Bedding, 11 Acres of Rye in ground, 9 Acres of Wheat in ground.

J. J. SHRADER.

March 27, 1890, 3t. pd.

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ACHE

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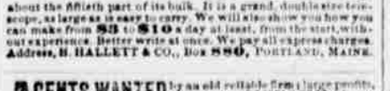

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Sunbury & Lewistown Division.
Time Table, In effect Nov. 11, 1889

WESTWARD	DIS.	STATIONS.	EASTWARD	
p m	a m		A.	L. a m / p m
4.09	12.05		Lewistown J.	7.30 / 3.00
3.57	12.02		Main Street	7.33 / 3.03
3.55	12.00		Lewistown	7.35 / 3.05
3.45	11.51	5	Maitland	7.45 / 3.16
3.37	11.45	8	Painter	7.52 / 3.24
3.30	11.40	11	Shindle	7.57 / 3.30
3.25	11.36	12	Wagner	8.02 / 3.34
3.15	11.25	17	Mecllure	8.12 / 3.44
3.08	11.19	20	Raub's Mills	8.18 / 3.51
3.01	11.12	23	Adamsburg	8.26 / 3.59
2.55	11.08	25	Beavertown	8.32 / 4.05
2.46	10.56	30	Benter	8.42 / 4.15
2.40	10.50	33	Middleburgh	8.48 / 4.21
2.34	10.43	36	Meiser	8.54 / 4.26
2.30	10.39	37	Kreamer	8.58 / 4.30
2.26	10.35	39	Pawling	9.02 / 4.34
2.18	10.23	43	Selinsgrove	9.12 / 4.42
2.12	10.17	45	Selinsgrove J.	9.18 / 4.48
2.00	10.05	50	Sunbury	9.30 / 5.00

Selinsgrove Accommodation

(Connecting with trains on N. C. Ry.)

Leave Selinsgrove 1.35 P. M. — Arrive at Selinsgrove 5.30 P. M

Trains Leave Lewistown Junction:

12 14, a. m., 5 01, a. m. 10 46, a m 1 12, p m 5 28 p m 7 45 p m for Pittsburg and the West.

6 45, a m 9 45 a m, 1 45 p m, 4 38 p m, 8 48 p m, 11 16 p m, For Philadelphia, New York, Baltimore and Washington.

Philadelphia & Erie R R Division.
AND
NORTHERAN CENTRAL RAILWAY.

Trains Leave Sunbury:

5 10 a m, For Bellefonte, Erie and Canandaigua.

9 57 a m, For Lock Haven.

1 43 p m, For Bellefonte, Kane and Canandaigua.

5 30 p m, For Renovo and Watkins

9 15 p m for Williamsport.

5 25 a m, For Catawissa and Hazelton.

5 25 a m, 10 00 am and 5 35 p m, For Wilkesbarre.

6 55 a m, 10 20 a m, 1 50 pm 5 40 p m, For Shamokin and Mount Carmel.

Trains Leave Selinsgrove Junction:

9 57 a m, arriving at Philadelphia 3 15 p m, New York 5 50 p m, Baltimore 3 10 p m. Washington 5 55 p m.

1 52 p m, arriving at Philadelphia 6 50 p m, New York 9 55 p m, Baltimore 6 45 p m. Washington 8 15 p m.

8 18 p m, arriving at Philadelphia 4 25 a m, New York 7 10 a m, Baltimore 5 15 a m. Washington 8 50 a m.

Trains also Leaves Sunbury:

1 50 a m, arriving at Philadelphia 6 50 a m, New York 9 50 a m, 2 50 ar. at Baltimore 7 20 a m., Washington 8 45 p m.

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