

THE THREE AGES.

My dear, when I was young like you—
O, days that long ago look wincing!

HIS MOTHER.

BY AMY RANDOLPH.



HE cold-gray shadows of the wintry twilight had enveloped tree and meadow and sluggish forest streams in their uncertain mist, the factory chimneys flung their fiery banners of smoke against the leaden sky.

Charles Emery, the day foreman in the rolling mills, was just retiring to his home, having been relieved by John Eiter, the night official, and as he walked along, his feet sounding crisply on the hard-frozen earth, he whistled softly to himself, as light-hearted as a bird.

"You're going with us to-night, Charley?" cried a gay voice, and two or three young men came by.

"I mean to the opera!"
For upon that special evening there was to be an opera in the little town of Crystalton, a genuine New York company with a chorus, a full orchestra and all the paraphernalia of scenery and costume which provincial residents so seldom enjoy, and the younger population were on the qui vive of delighted expectation.

"I am going," said Mr. Emery, slowly, "but not with you!"

"But you will change your mind, though," said Harrison Vail, "when you hear that Kate Marcy is to be of the party. Kate Marcy and the Miss Hallows and Fanny Hewitt. There are eight of us going. We've kept a seat on purpose for you!"

"I have engaged myself to another lady," Emery replied, after a second or so of hesitation.

"Well, I'm sorry for it," said he, "but Miss Marcy is not a girl who need pine for a cavalier. We'll keep the seat for you until a quarter of eight, in case you should see fit to change your mind. Only let me give you a word of warning, old fellow! Kate Marcy is a high spirited girl—it won't do to trifle too much with her!"

Charles Emery went on his way rather graver and more self-absorbed. He had asked his mother, the day before, to go to see "The Mascot," and his mother's eyes had brightened with genuine delight.

"Your father often used to take me, Charley," she said, "when we were young people and lived in New York. But it's twenty years and more since I have been to an opera. And if you're quite sure, dear, that there is no young girl whom you would rather take—"

"As if any young girl in the world could be to me what my own darling little mother is!" replied Emery, smiling across the table to her.

"Then I shall be so delighted to go," said Mrs. Emery.

And her voice and eyes bore happy witness to the truth of her words. But now that a regular party had been organized, and Kate Marcy had promised to join it, things looked very differently to the young man. For a moment he almost regretted that he had engaged himself to take his mother.

damsel whose eyes shone like stars and whose cheeks rivalled the September peach.

"Going with some one else!" said Kate Marcy, rather surprised and not exactly pleased.

She was a tall, beautiful maiden, the belle of Crystalton, and rather an heiress in her own right, with all the rest. She certainly liked Charles Emery, and she rather surmised that he liked her also.

And when she had been studying up her toilet for the opera, she had selected a blue dress, with blue corn-flowers for her hair and ornaments of turquoise, because she had once heard Mr. Emery say that blue was his favorite color.

"Going with some one else?" she repeated. "Well, of course he has a right to suit himself."

And she kept within her own soul the fevered fire of girlish resentment, the gnawing pang of jealousy that disturbed her all the while that she was sitting waiting for the great green curtain to be drawn up.

Until, of a sudden, there was a slight bustle on the row of seats beyond, and Mr. Emery entered with his mother.

And then Kate's overgloomed face grew bright again. She drew a long breath of relief and turned to the stage; it was as if the myriad gas-lights had all of a sudden been turned up; as if all the mimic world of the opera house had grown radiant.

Never was voice sweeter in her ears than the somewhat thin and exhausted warble of Mademoiselle Rosalie de Vigue, the prima-donna; never did scenery glow with such natural tints or footlights shine more softly. Kate Marcy declared that the opera was "perfection!"

"Yes, but," said pert little Nina Cummings, "do look at Charley Emery, with that little old woman! Why couldn't he have come to sit with us!"

Kate bit her lip. In the crowd now surging out of the aisles of the little opera house she could scarcely venture to express her entire opinion; but she said, in a low, earnest tone:

"I don't know what you think of it, Nina, but I, for my part, respect Mr. Emery a thousand times more for his politeness to his mother."

And, almost at the same second, she found herself looking directly into Charles Emery's eyes.

For a moment only. The crowd separated them almost ere they could recognize one another; but Kate felt sure—and her cheek glowed vivid scarlet at the certainty—that he had heard her words.

"Charley," said little Mrs. Emery, looking into her son's face, as they emerged into the veil of softly falling snow, which seemed to envelop the whole outer world in dim, dazzling mystery, "who was that girl?"

"What girl, mother?" with a little pardonable hypocrisy.

"The one, Charley, with the big blue eyes, and the sweet face wrapped in a white, fleecy sort of hood—the one who said she respected you?"

"It was Kate Marcy, mother."

"She has a face like an angel," said Mrs. Emery, softly.

Emery said she. "I do love you. I have loved you for a long time."

And the foreman of the rolling-mills went home, envying neither king nor prince that day.

"But I never should have loved you so dearly," his young wife told him afterward, "if you hadn't been so good to that dear little mother of yours. In my eyes you never looked half so handsome as when you stood bending over her gray head in the crowded hall of the opera-house that night."

"You see," said Emery, laughing at her enthusiasm, "I agreed with the hero of the old Scotch ballad: 'Sweethearts I may get many a one, But of matters n'er another.'"

—The Ledger.

Facts About Expressing Money. Some interesting facts were recently gleaned about the business of expressing money in the United States.

The amount so conveyed is estimated to be \$2,500,000,000 a year, of which four-fifths are carried for the Government.

The Adams Express Company formerly acted as its agent, charging twenty-five cents for each \$1000, but recently the contract was awarded to the United States Express Company, which offered to do the work for fifteen cents per \$1000.

The packages of money are entrusted to 5000 messengers, who are for the most part middle-aged men selected from the working force in the main offices.

The messenger has not the slightest idea of what his packages contain, so that he understands his responsibility is always the same.

Before accepting a package for shipment he sees that it is securely fastened with wax and stamped with the seal of the sender.

For Government moneys he is provided with a safe. Packages for corporations and individuals are put into canvas bags.

As soon as his run of twelve hours begins, the messenger stations himself near his charge, and he must not allow his eyes to close, at the risk of dismissal from the service.

So dangerous, indeed, are a messenger's duties considered, that insurance companies will not issue policies to him except at a cost that is almost prohibitive.

But the express companies treat their employes so generously that if the latter are injured while on duty they may confidently count on financial assistance.

Recently, as large a sum as \$12,000,000 was sent out by express from the Treasury at Washington, and five messengers were assigned to take care of it in transit.

At the end of his run the messenger invariably takes a receipt to protect himself. In spite of the great responsibility he is under the messenger's pay does not exceed \$100 a month.

To frustrate the designs of thieves, the companies often change the run of messengers, and make it a rule to instruct their men to accept no convivial invitations, even of the most innocent nature, before going on duty.

CURIOUS FACTS.

A snail has 30,000 teeth. Spiders usually live two or three years.

A coal black deer was recently seen by a party of hunters in the woods of Maine.

White deer, which was once extremely rare, are now said to be plentiful in eastern Maine.

A prominent Indianapolis (Ind.) business man has two cats that are better retrievers than most dogs.

Each year about \$50,000 is expended in sprinkling the asphalt-paved streets of London, England, with sand to prevent the horses from slipping.

A valuable find of skeletons belonging to the fourth dynasty was recently made in Egypt. This is the earliest known date of Egyptian remains.

Chess was played by the Chinese 170 years before the Christian era, and probably long before that, for the ancient Persians are supposed to have known it.

The Hindoos have a cocoanut festival every year at the end of the monsoon. During the festival athletic contests take place and wandering minstrels recite their tales and poems.

Bop's fables were not written by their author. They were related and handed down until the fourteenth century, when they were collected and published by a monk.

A crib snake is one of the interesting pets at the Central Park (New York), menagerie. It has a taste for devouring other snakes and it is feared by them all, even the poisonous.

Acorns are prized as an article of diet among some tribes of Indians. They are pounded into meal, which is mixed with water and kneaded into dough for baking in the style of hockeak.

An enormous crab of the Malay Islands lives upon the fruit of the cocoanut, which it secures by climbing the tree. It breaks the nuts either by hauling them down or by beating against the rocks.

On the old Boston and New Haven turnpike, in the southern part of New London County, Conn., is an old milestone, notched and moss-grown, that was set there by Benjamin Franklin.

A number of the mining companies operating in the Black Hills, South Dakota, have adopted a system of aggregating their shipment of ore, and sending to the smelting works in Illinois a long train of loaded cars of ore drawn by two locomotives, and each car decorated and marked with the name of the mine from which it came.

The first iron mined in this country is generally supposed to have been in Saugus, Mass., about 1643. Iron ore and smelted iron have just been found in North Beverly, as no previous iron inhabitant," as no previous iron was known that iron existed there.

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Valuable Violins. "What is the highest priced violin?" a Chicago Post man asked of Mr. Freeman, a practical violin maker.

"Le Messie Strad," or, in more finished language, "the Messiah of Stradivarius." It was sold for \$10,000 cash. It is a magnificent violin. It is perfectly preserved and hence it is very valuable.

HOME INDUSTRIES.

HOW THEY ARE PROMOTED BY THE MCKINLEY TARIFF—HARD FACTS FOR FREE TRADERS TO ANSWER.

Free-trade journals are declaring that the McKinley tariff is a failure, and allege as a proof thereof that the amount of duties collected under the tariff act has not decreased as was predicted.

The conclusion is deduced from this that the statute has not succeeded in its purpose of promoting American industries in competition with foreign. The real reason for the apparent increase of duties is not that the McKinley act offers better opportunities to foreign manufacturers, but that valuations are higher under the Administrative Customs law.

Mr. Wilbur F. Wateman, Secretary of the American Protective Tariff League, was asked his opinion as to the effects of the recent tariff act by a New York Recorder representative. He said:

"In the first place, the position taken by the Recorder regarding the proper qualifications of imported goods is exactly in line with what was anticipated by the passage of the Administrative law. It is difficult to say what percentage of increased valuation this law has produced, but it is safe to say that the valuation of imported goods is 15 to 20 per cent. higher than before the Administrative law was passed.

It is unfortunate that the regulations of the State and Treasury Departments prescribe that the contents of invoices filed by foreign manufacturers with our consuls abroad are in all cases to be regarded as confidential. Under these regulations no one but a duly authorized officer must be permitted to have access to the consular reports."

It is a fact that invoices filed by foreign manufacturers are in the majority of cases under the actual cost of production. In many instances goods are invoiced at such low prices that the duties under the McKinley bill have little effect to prevent injurious competition with the home products.

WHY IMPORTATIONS ARE HEAVIER. "How about this apparent increase in importations?" asked the reporter.

"This is due almost exclusively to the Administrative law and not to the McKinley bill. Our importations are necessarily larger because of the large increase made in the free list by the McKinley tariff. The duties collected are now showing a falling off, owing to home production of articles which heretofore have been furnished by foreign manufacturers. Take the manufacture of plushes, for example. The Superintendent of the new works at Bridgeport, Conn., tells me that with a duty five per cent. less than under the McKinley tariff the new works could not be operated. In this line there is a large falling off of importations.

"Take the cutlery trade from the Sheffield district, which has now nearly reached a normal condition since the large influx of manufactured goods just prior to the operation of the McKinley tariff. These importations have been cut down nearly one-half and our American factories are furnishing the goods at lower rates than existed before the enactment of the new tariff.

THE PEARL BUTTON INDUSTRY. "Again, take the pearl button industry. If I am correctly informed we now have between fifty-five and sixty factories in this country. In this line of goods, taken as a whole, the price has slightly increased, owing to the fact that in the McKinley law the manufacture of prison-made goods is prohibited. A large portion of the pearl buttons imported into this country were manufactured in Austrian prisons. The ladies' dress goods have decreased in price since the operation of the McKinley tariff from about \$40 to less than \$28 a gross. These are made right here in New York City, formerly they were made in Austria. Upon this point observe this notice of a concert to be given at Birmingham, England, on Tuesday, April 28, 1891, which says: 'The proceeds will be devoted to the relief of the Operative Pearl Workers' Society, who are suffering from the effects of the McKinley bill upon the button trade. Admission sixpence.'

TRUTH ABOUT TIN PLATE. "How about tin plate?" "I notice that the free-trade papers are not saying much just now about the manufacture of tin plate in this country. I wish that they would keep up their harangues upon this subject, for when all the works now building are in operation they will appreciate their mistake or at least their readers will."

"Let me show you how a tin plate boxmaker was converted to protection. He made blacking boxes and had been running steadily on English tin for years. A short time ago he was furnished with American tin, with the result that the amount of breakage was decreased over one-half. American tin plate has greater elasticity than the English.

"Upon this subject I quote from a copy of the Western Mail of London, under date of November 17, giving the report of a meeting of Tin Plate Workers held on the evening previous. Mr. J. Hopkin John said that 'the outlook for trade was at present not satisfactory, and the same sentiment was expressed by almost all the other delegates present. There is no reason in the world why we should not make tin plate here. It is a simple process; we have the coal and the ore and free pig tin. Let me impress upon you this point that most people do not recognize that the tin or pig tin used in coating tin plate is free of duty and will continue free unless on and after July 1, 1893, it appears that the American mines have produced at least 5000 tons during the year previous to that date.

"I suppose you have a list of tin plate mills now running, which include those at Demmlor and Apollo, Penn., Philadelphia, St. Louis, Cleveland and Piqua, Ohio. I am informed that a company has been formed in Milwaukee, with a capital stock of \$250,000. This will be under the control of wealthy Germans of Milwaukee.

ALL LINES OF INDUSTRY DEVELOPING. "Every line of industry which was given proper protection under the McKinley tariff is developing as rapidly as the most sanguine friends of protection could expect. It is simply a question whether we shall produce our own goods or have the foreigner produce them for us. Take away the importing and foreign influence in favor of the tariff for revenue only, or practical free trade, and no political party would dare to propagate the un-American and unpatriotic policy of reducing our producers and wage-earners to the condition of those in other countries."

Senator Nelson W. Aldrich, of Rhode Island, who had charge of the Tariff bill in the Senate, was asked while in the city recently as to what he ascribed the increased importations under the McKinley act. He said:

FACTS FOR FREE TRADERS. "In view of the statements that were made regarding the prohibitive character of the Tariff bill of 1890," said he, "it may be well to state that the value of our imports and exports of foreign merchandise for the five months ending February 28, 1891, was \$769,000,000, as compared with \$744,000,000 for the corresponding period of last year under the tariff of 1888. The unnatural relation between import and export, which, it is said, must exist under a protective system, has always been a great source of anxiety to our free trade friends. They have assumed that if we decline to admit certain foreign manufactured articles into the United States except upon the payment of equalizing duties foreign purchasers will refuse to buy American products, that our export will decline and that we shall be deprived of the only available market for our surplus products."

"By an examination of the free trade period in our political history it will appear that for every dollar of dutiable imports in the years 1847 to 1861 we exported 98 cents in value of domestic products, and that in the years 1876 to 1890 we exported \$1.71 of domestic products. In other words, our exports were 2 per cent. less than our imports under a revenue tariff, and our exports were 70 per cent. greater than our imports under a protective system."

CAPITAL AND LABOR DOINGS.

A Few Items of Interest to the Wage-Earner and Others.

The Riverside Steel Company at Wheeling, manufacturers of cut nails, will suspend owing to competition by wire nail factories.

The Brooks Iron Company, of Birdsboro, Pa., notified its employees of a general reduction in wages. Puddlers are reduced from \$3.50 to \$3.25 per ton; sheet mill employes from \$4.00 to \$3.65 a ton, and nailers about 10 per cent. The firm employs over 400 hands.

The strike of the Indianapolis street car employes was declared off, President Frenzel, of the company, agreeing to hear a committee of the union. In the event of a non-settlement, the matter will be submitted to arbitrators.

About 40 of the union wood carvers employed in the furniture factories of Rockford, Ill., have struck, and it is probable that the strike will extend to all the factories. The trouble arises from an effort of the employers to have the work done by the piece instead of by the week, to which the workman objects.

The strike of the employes of the Tegmyer box company, Chicago, threatens to become general. The trouble was caused by the discharge of 12 men for alleged incompetency. There are 17 factories in the city, employing 700 men.

Interesting News by Cable Boiled Down to Brief Notes.

Neville Barton, a bogus officer of the British army, who by means of forged letters out quitted a dash in American society and married a Brooklyn heiress, has just been sentenced to 12 years imprisonment for burglary.

The village of Rychenwalden, Silesia, has been entirely destroyed by fire. The inhabitants, in their homeless and destitute condition, are enduring much suffering.

The population of Rome increased during the year 1891 by nearly 20,000. The city now contains about 437,000 people.

Fire burned the large flour mill of Seth Taylor, Tooley street, London. An immense amount of valuable machinery and 280,000 bags of flour were destroyed. Several firemen narrowly escaped death.

Influenza is rapidly spreading in northern Italy. Four hundred cases were reported in Leghorn and the people are greatly alarmed. The mortality from the disease in the city is very great. Many deaths are reported from influenza in Mantua and Savona.

An explosion of fire damp occurred in the Wolsbach coal pit at Esson. Six miners were killed and seven terribly burned.

The Reichstag is discussing the bill for the suppression of drunkenness, which is one of Emperor William's hobbies. The clause of the measure which has caused the most widespread objection, empowers the officials to prosecute all persons denounced to them as habitual drunkards, and to cause them to be imprisoned until they shall have obtained a medical certificate stating that they have been cured of the liquor habit. Their property, also, may be seized and applied to the support of their families and of themselves during their imprisonment.

Her Child Left to Perish. Freeport, Ill., Jan. 13.—The little son of Mrs. Gasmond perished in a burning building yesterday. The mother had left the house for a short time, and when she returned found it in flames and the little boy dead.

The first overhead trolley electric street railroad in England is under construction in the suburbs of Leeds by an American company.



GOING HOME FROM THE OPERA.



CHARLES EMERY AND KATE MARCY.

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