

WHEN ROSES BLOOM.

O when the roses bloom and with
Delicious odors through the air,
I gather them—the white, the red—
And bring them to my lady's fair.

"A FIDDLE."

Uncle Si's puritanical notions took
instinct alarm at the very mention of that
wicked instrument, that (to him) veritable
backbone of Satan, strung with evil
sin in the calendar, attuned to all the
bad impulses of youthful natures.

Abner suppressed a smile, as he met
the sharp gaze of his uncle. "No, sir, I'm
not," he answered; "and he plays ever so
many tunes, too, the 'Doxology,' and—"

"That's wickeder than all the rest,"
he interrupted. "Hed you stopped at
'Auld Lang Syne,' I might hev give in
and bought the fiddle for ye, but—and
the speaker's face settled into so stern
an expression, that Abner knew further
argument to be useless.

"And they played on a harp of a
thousand strings," quoted Aunt Priscilla,
"and they rejoiced with the trumpet,
and brazen instruments," and no doubt
with various stringed ones beside.

"But not on a fiddle," stoutly
maintained her husband, picking up his hat,
"that's the devil's own instrument,"
and out he went to close the argument.

"I don't see," testily said Abner,
"why Uncle Si has such an antipathy to a
violin. His ignorance, and nothing
else, Aunt, which makes some old
people so intolerant of modern advancement
in the sciences, and—and—everything."

"It's not exactly ignorance that causes
your Uncle's dislike of the fiddle," returned
his Aunt Priscilla, with a demure
smile. "He never liked one since—since
he caught me dancing a contra dance
once, with—"

"Oh," interrupted Abner, "did you
ever dance, Aunt?"

broken, took up the words, and his faded
eyes lingered on the wrinkled face before
him with much the same expression they
bore, when years ago they had agreed to
go down the hill of life together. They
were nearing the foot now, but listening
to those strains they turned back, and
for one fleeting moment stood at the
summit again, smiling with youth, and
hope, and love.

No one broke the silence after the last
sweet note had died away. A heavy sigh
or two from the old people, and that was
all till a gentle knock was heard at the
door.

Abner opened it.
A boy stood there with a half-smiling,
half-beseeching expression upon his
pinched little face.

Sightless, poor, yet not altogether un-
happy, for clasped in his arms was that
loved instrument whose voice, at the
touch of the bow, rejoiced when he re-
joiced, sorrowed when he sorrowed, and
in the end, in a creature whose strings, to
the blind boy, seemed as vocal chords lent
by some divine singer, long since
crumbled into dust.

Twelve months or more have passed,
and nightly had Uncle Si listened to the
familiar airs played on that "ere fiddle,"
as he persisted in calling the instrument.

"The critter seems to find its new
home and master not to its likin'," he
would say at such times, discontentedly,
"not soothed by the uncertain strains, 'it
pears like to be a jawin' back," and
more than once had the old man repented
him of his bargain.

"But," would remark Aunt Priscilla
soothingly, "it enabled Josef and his
mother to reach their friends, you know,"
to which bit of womanly reasoning Uncle
Si only replied with a grunt.

Presently, however, other matters,
more momentous than the purchase of a
fiddle, arose to disturb the old man's
mind. A bad investment of his small
means, the failure of successive crops, a
pinching want of money. Many were
the consultations between the old folks,
and at last, one day, Uncle Si journeyed
to a distant town, to return with a well-
filled wallet, but accompanied by a
shadow which was from that day to
make its home under their once inde-
pendent roof; a shadow which the next
year beckoned another to keep it com-
pany; a shadow that in time would de-
velop into a monster, a monster with
the grip and tenacity of death.

"The homestead was mortgaged!"
Diligently those days did Abner practice
upon his violin; to it was given all his
spare moments.

"Abner is a good boy, Si, and he's
lookin' forward to doin' his duty by us,"
but she made no mention, for certain
reasons, of the old broken pitcher in the
closet, half filled with the dimes and
larger silver pieces, which the boy had
already earned with that self-same
fiddle.

than he could on that bit of ancient
wood, and when a while later, Abner
drew his bow across a brand new violin,
his uncle found no reason to alter his
opinion.

"I don't see," he said critically, "but
what that ten-dollar fiddle gives out
as good music, Abner, as that ere gen-
tlemen's Stradivarius. Leastways, the
Doxology sounds every bit as solemn—when
the thing don't git the squeaks, that
is—"

"It was a fortunate day for us, Si,"
his wife happily remarked, "when
Abner and I overcame your prejudices
against the violin. But for the Stradi-
various, we should never have been able
to lift those mortgages."

The operation of esquiostomy is not
new to surgery, but the cases are ex-
tremely rare in which so large a bone has
been replaced by nature. In this instance
the piece cut away was about nine
inches in length. The limb was laid
open from the knee joint to the hip and
the disease bone tissue removed.

The wound in the leg was kept open
to prevent the flesh from healing into
the place intended for the new bone. In
the course of time delicate shoots, re-
sembling coral growths, appeared upon
the periosteum, and these gradually in-
terlaced and knit together, filling the
hollow of the bone with a firm mass.

Old Gotrox—Look here, to come right
down the solid truth, aren't you just a
little ashamed of your old daddy?
Honest, now.

Young Gotrox—Why, gov'nor, I
cawn't say ashamed exactly, but you
know you are not always good fawm, ye
know.

Old Gotrox—Well, I don't blame you
for being ashamed of me. Every time I
look at you and think of what a job I
made of your bringing up, I am ashamed
of myself.—Newark Standard.

Harry—Well, he owes me about \$40,
and I hope he'll settle up.—Light.

She—So you loved and lost, did you?
He—No, she returned all my pres-
ents.—Epoch.

THE JOKER'S BUDGET.

JESTS AND YARNS BY FUNNY
MEN OF THE PRESS.

Not Changeable—Judging From Ap-
pearances—Not as She Meant It—
A Base Joke, Etc., Etc.

Remarkable Surgical Case in a Bos-
ton Hospital.

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A NEW CHAPTER OF PROVERBS.

As a pink pearl in a scullion's ear, so
is a fair woman without a good dress-
maker.

Whoso telleth the truth concerning his
neighbor is not infrequently liable to
heavy damages.

Agent—I am informed, sir, that you
are about to build a new house, and I
should like to sell you a book on archi-
tecture.

Mr. Suburb—Don't want it.
Agent—It may save you a lot of
money, sir. May I inquire what sort of
a house you intend to erect?

Mr. S.—I have accepted a plan for a
\$3,000 house.

Agent (triumphantly)—Well, sir, this
book shows you how to build a \$3,000
house for only \$10,000.—[New York
Weekly.

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Weekly.

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DR. R. J. KENDALL CO.,
Brooklyn, Conn., May 5, '91.

Advertisement for Fisher Bros. Livery Stable, featuring a horse and carriage illustration and text about livery services and horse care.

Advertisement for A. RUDEWICK, GENERAL STORE, featuring text about various goods, watches, and jewelry, and a small illustration of a horse.

Advertisement for S. RUDEWICK, featuring text about imported brandy, wine, and liquor, and a small illustration of a horse.

Advertisement for COAL! COAL! featuring text about highland coal and its quality, and a small illustration of a horse.

Advertisement for Munn & Co. Scientific American Agency for Patents, featuring text about patent services and a small illustration of a horse.