

**THE SPENDTHRIFT.**

Lustrous and silken haired he swept  
The blackthorn silver loose and left  
Into the leafless lane;  
His pleasant minstrelry began;  
Torrents of music riot ran  
Across the haze girl plain;  
He flung the fields new liveries  
And green slashed doublets to the trees.

Then, stooping, from a lily bowl  
Drank of the sweetness of her soul  
And madly sprang away.  
In marshes and moist meadows he  
Sundered the stately fleurs-de-lis;  
Kingscups in gilt array  
He tossed amid the tasseled reeds  
Quivering and bent with crystal beads.

And ever in his thoughtless flight  
About him danced in vestures bright  
His minion butterflies.  
His plunder was the rose hid dew,  
Rose leaves the largesse that he threw  
At random to the skies.  
Nor ceased he till he have made  
Amid the jasmine's stary braid.

So was his rich inheritance  
Ruined and lost. With swift advance  
And stern in russet gown  
Came autumn, of the spendthrift youth  
By bitter bonds devoid of ruth,  
Demanding summer's crown.  
Here from the corralled yews alone  
The robins mourn his broken throne.  
—Pall Mall Gazette.

**THE TWO FATHERS**

The mother was a widow, an industrious woman, who worked late and early in order to support her child, a little girl between 4 and 5 years old, pretty as a fairy, full of fun, affectionate and coaxing as any happy child could be.

On the opposite side of the landing of the fifth floor on which Mme. Etienne and her daughter Lillie lived was the door of the apartments inhabited by two brothers, cabinet makers by trade and bachelors either by choice or by chance, no one knew.

One of those days when the intense heat necessitates the door being left open in order to get a current of air, the prettiness of Lillie attracted the attention of the two brothers, who were already past their first youth and adored children in their quality of approaching old bachelorhood. From that a sort of intimacy sprang up between the widow and her neighbors. Little reciprocal services passed between them. They sometimes made a party of pleasure on the Sunday. So well did they get on indeed that one day the eldest of the two brothers said to the other:

"That child would want a father badly."

"That is my opinion also."

"Would you have any objection to my asking the mother to marry me?"

"Why should I? In fact, I was thinking of doing the same myself. But since you have spoken first follow the notion up, but on the condition that you will let me see Lillie as often as I like. I love that child as much as if she were my own."

"Forsooth! You will live with us."

The question agreed upon, the two brothers, dressed in their best, went to call on Mme. Etienne, whom, however, they found confined to bed. The evening before she had run in order to take some work back to the shop in time; on returning she had caught a chill, passed a feverish night and was not able to rise in the morning. She begged her neighbors to go for a doctor. It was no time to speak of marriage.

Indignation of the lungs carried away the poor woman in ten days.

Thanks to the two brothers, she had not to go to the hospital, and until the last she was able to see her little Lillie, whom she earnestly recommended to them. They swore never to abandon the child.

The funeral over they took charge of the little one, kissing her. They said to one another at the same time:

"If you wish, we will never get married now."

They went to live at Vincennes so that Lillie might have plenty of good air and take walks in the wood. They were very proud of their adopted daughter. When people stopped to look at them and asked in a casual way which was her father, they replied, "Both of us."

Lillie seemed to like one as well as the other and called them Uncle John and Uncle James.

When she grew a little older they put her to school—to a young ladies' school be it understood—taking her there every morning and calling for her in the evening. So Lillie grew up between these two affections without ever feeling the want of father or mother.

She cost the brothers a great deal of money, did the little one, but bah, they went no longer to the cafe and worked a little more than formerly. These supplementary hours were devoted to the pleasure and toilet of mademoiselle.

When she was 15 years of age, she was the first to suggest that she should stay at home for the future, at which, of course, the brothers were enchanted. What a charming little house-keeper they had then and with what joyful tenderness she greeted their return every evening! To say the spoiled child never abused their goodness would be saying too much, but at least she seized every available opportunity of pleasing them.

Two years passed over so quickly for all of them that on the day the two men brought a cake and bouquet to celebrate Lillie's birthday they exclaimed:

"Seventeen years old! Is it possible?"

But, yes, it was possible. And James and John thought so much about it that it made them anxious and unhappy.

It was the younger who said one evening to the other:

"Do you know that Lillie is getting more beautiful every day?"

"Eh! Yes, I know it well. And others know it too. There must be a good many admirers prowling around here after her."

"And it is certain one of them will take her away from us before very long."

"Poor little thing!"

"Yes, if she were to get a bad husband!"

"Oh, I should kill any man who would treat her badly!"

"There is only one way of escaping that."

"Ah!" said the elder brother, without making any addition to the exclamation.

"And then," continued the other, "think how sad it would be for us to part from Lillie—never again to see her trotting about the house, never to hear her merry voice singing after we return from work of an evening."

"I have been thinking of all that for a long time, my dear John."

"It must be put an end to."

"And your plan?"

"It is very simple if it pleases you. I shall marry her before she gets fond of any one else."

"Zounds!"

The elder brother stood up, almost threatening.

"I also have thought of that plan. I was often going to speak about it, but always held back."

"Why?"

"Because I wanted to marry Lillie myself."

The two brothers looked at one another far from amiably. Then the younger said:

"This is the same as with the mother formerly. Do you remember, James? I gave her up to you. It is your turn now to give Lillie up to me. You are three years older than I."

"Which nevertheless does not make you very young."

A song was heard ascending from below stairs. Lillie was coming back from her daily shopping.

"Listen," said John rapidly. "The child who has made our happiness up to this must not be a cause of disunion between us. Let her choose which one she likes best."

"All right," said the other. "That is quite fair."

Lillie entered, took the two men by the neck, kissed them and, drawing a chair between them, said:

"I wish to speak to you seriously."

The face of the young girl looked quite joyous.

"I wish to get married."

"John and I were just speaking about it."

"But you have not found me a husband."

"As a matter of fact we have. You love us very much, say?"

"Like father and mother at once."

"That is why we wish to propose to you to choose between us."

"Why choose?"

"Which of us you will marry."

The young girl burst into a fit of laughter so joyous, so prolonged, that the two brothers remained quite dumfounded. Then, brushing the tears from her eyelashes:

"No nonsense, my uncles. I said I wanted to speak to you seriously. You mustn't joke. I have a sweetheart."

Neither replied.

"Now, you must not be angry. I am so fond of him, and he is coming tomorrow to see you."

"Like that! All at once! And us, Lillie?"

"You will always be my two fathers."—Translated From the French For Detroit News.

**Athena and the Goat.**

Your genuine Athenian believes the goat to be the proper milk producing animal, and he regards the cow in this connection about as we Americans do the mare. The milkman takes his animals with him, jangling their bells and sneezing. "Gala!" he shouts, a quick, startling cry, with a "g" whose guttural quality is unattainable by adult learners and usually unperceived by them. When a customer comes to the door, he strips the desired quantity into the proffered receptacle before her vigilant eyes, selecting one of the goats and paying no attention to the others, who understand the business as well as he does. Patiently they stand about, chewing the cud or resting on contiguous doorsteps. When their master moves on, they arise and follow, more faithful than dogs.

The obvious and well nigh overpowering temptation to which the milkman is subjected affects him in Greece as in America. In Greece it is taken for granted that he cannot resist, and he is therefore obliged to take his animals with him. But even thus he is not above suspicion, for they tell of a rubber water bag carried inside the coat and provided with a tube reaching to the palm of the hand. Each time the milkman closes his hand over the udder he presses the bag between his arm and his body.—Scribner's.

**Agreeable Parting.**

"Well, major, goodbye. Glad to have met you."

"Indeed, sub? Wherefore glad? It must take little to make you glad, sub."

"It does."

"Hah! Well put. But every one says 'glad to have met you' on leaving a new made acquaintance, and none means it."

"Here figure of speech. To tell you the exact truth would hurt your feelings, major. Only hypocrites can be real nice to people. As a matter of fact, sir, I am sorry I met you, and I don't care if we never meet again."

"Why, hang it, sub, you are getting to be an honest gentleman! I should like to meet you again, sub."

"Never, if I happen to see you first, major. Ta-ta."

So the raspy old soldier had something to think about.—New York Press.

# IT'S PRICES THAT TALK AT NEUBURGER'S Freeland's Greatest Store.

Several Lucky Purchases Have Brought to the Big Store Positively the Greatest Stocks of Clothing, Shoes, Dry Goods, Furnishings, Hats, Caps, Notions, Etc.,

Which are now offered at the lowest prices high-grade merchandise has ever been sold at in Luzerne county. Without all question of doubt (which a visit of inspection will prove to you) NeuBurger's offer extraordinary bargains during the sale of these stocks. The goods are all of this season's make and were bought from manufacturers hard-pressed for ready cash. They came direct from the factories and workshops to NeuBurger's, thus insuring you the greatest bargains that will be offered this season. The brief group of values offered below were picked at random from the tremendous stock.

**READ EVERY ITEM CAREFULLY:**

**CLOTHING**

- Boys' all-wool fast color Never-Rip Knee Pants, per pair **19c**
- The ESBE 75c cavalry-seated Never-Rip Knee Pants, with patent hold-fast buttons, ten styles, in sizes 3 to 16, go per pair during this sale at **50c**
- Young Men's all-wool Cassimere Trousers, per pair **98c**
- Men's all-wool tricot long gray mixed \$1.75 Trousers **98c**
- 200 Children's all-wool \$2.00 Blouse Suits in four colors—steel, gray, drab and blue—during sale **99c**
- Youths' \$2.00 Double Breasted Blue Suits **1.25**
- Youths' \$3.00 Double Breasted Blue Suits **2.00**
- Children's Pure Worsted Serge Blouse Suits **2.00**
- Young Men's three-pieced all wool Long Pants Suits **2.98**
- Youths' three-pieced silk-striped Teasdale Cassimere \$6.00 Suits **3.98**
- Men's \$5.00 Fancy Worsted Suits **2.98**
- Men's \$8.50 Fine Black Clay Worsted and Cassimere Suits **5.00**
- Men's custom-made absolutely pure wool Suits, ten styles, the greatest value of the season, at **7.50**
- The Men's Suits which we are offering at \$9, \$10, \$12 and \$15 are the finest to be had and the values are not to be matched in the state.

**SHOES**

- Our Boys', Youths' and Misses' Shoes are unequalled at **98c**
- Men's strictly solid leather Dress Shoes in all the new shapes, per pair **1.25**
- Men's Best Mining Shoes, per pair **1.10**
- Men's Fine Vici Kid Oxford Ties and Shoes, \$2 values, per pair **1.50**
- Ladies' Fine Vici Kid Shoes, with patent and plain tips, the Arline make, \$1.75 value, per pair **1.25**
- THE ALBION Ladies' Fine Kid Shoes which are as well made as Ladies' shoes can be and are the shoes so extensively advertised at \$3 under another name. We offer four styles of these high grade shoes, per pair, at **2.00**
- THE CRUSADER Men's Fine Dress Shoes advertised very extensively throughout the land at

\$2.50 under another name and made of same stock and in same way they are made for us in large quantities and with our price, \$1.69, stamped on bottom of each pair. **1.69**

**FURNISHINGS**

- Men's large size fancy border linen finished Handkerchiefs, each **2c**
- Men's seamless 10c Socks, per pair **5c**
- Men's reinforced back and front heaviest quality black and white stripe cheviot full 36 inch long Shirts **38c**
- Boys' 8-oz heavy Blue Denim Apron Overalls, sizes 4 to 14, per pair **25c**
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- Boys' and Men's 75c absolutely fast color Madras Cloth Shirts, made in Shirt and Shirt-Waist styles, with the new style box pleat bosoms and plain. Twenty styles to select from of the prettiest ever shown in town. **50c**
- Children's Blouse Waists, six styles **25c**
- Men's 50c imported French Ballbriggan Fancy Underwear **38c**
- Boys' and Girls' Fast Black Heavy Ribbed Double Knee, Heel and Toe 15c Stockings, per pair **10c**

**DRY GOODS.**

- The Greatest Values ever in Summer Dress Goods we have now placed on sale. **5c**
- The P. W. P. fine fast color fancy figured lawns in the season's newest shades, made to be and are sold at 9c, per yard **5c**
- The "Alloette," the prettiest and most serviceable Cotton Fabric made for this season's dresses, in all the pretty combination of colors on grounds of the season's rage—Old Rose, Rosanti, Pastel Green, Nill Green and Lavender—a full and regular 18c Dress Fabric, per yard **12c**
- Lancaster Apron Gingham, per yard **5c**
- Full yard-wide fine Muslin, per yard **5c**
- Best Calicoes, per yard **5c**
- Potter's Best 49-inch wide Table Oil Cloth, per yard **14c**
- Fine Bleached Table Linen, per yard **25c**
- Old Rose, Pastel, Ecru and all the popular shades in fine 40-inch Henrietta **25c**
- For Ladies' and Misses' Shirt Waists, Skirts and Wrappers we are showing an endless stock at very lowest prices.
- Our Hat and Cap Department is the most complete in town, and every new style is to be seen at way down prices.

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