

His Mother's Executioner.

There is now occupying the Russian criminal tribunals a tragedy which throws into the shade the gloomiest imaginings of the old Greek playwrights. It is the murderer of a mother by her son, a child nine years old. The story is one of the most appalling in the whole animals of human crime, and withal is it heart-touching as showing the misdirection of a noble nature. For the motive of the crime was honor, and the son slew his mother that her blood might wash out the stain her infidelity had put upon her husband's name. The case is a most remarkable one. There seems to be no evidence of a vicious disposition on the part of the boy. On the contrary, he seems to have had a loving heart, and to have been tenderly attached to his dead father; but a cloud came over his young existence, when his mother, forgetting her duty to the living and the dead, contracted an illicit alliance with a government employe. The woman seems to have troubled herself little to conceal her amours from her son, thinking that a child of such tender years would not be likely to pay any attention to her actions. She does not seem to have ever suspected the precocious sensibility of her child.

The boy, however, very soon began to suspect the true relations existing between the stranger and his mother. The functionary entered frequently before the child's eyes and at unusual hours into the house that had belonged to the dead father. The child felt himself cruelly injured by the dishonor cast upon his father's memory, which had remained enshrined in his young heart like a sacred image. For a long time he concealed his anger and his shame; but one day his indignation mastered him, and he resolved to make an effort to win his mother from the path of shame.

Throwing aside all fear, he reproved the widow for her infidelity to her dead husband, and besought her to return to her duty by respect to the memory of the dead and out of respect to her son. The mother treated these remonstrances lightly, and burst out laughing at the child. Without even deigning to hear him to the end, she advised him to occupy himself with matters more appropriate to his age. Several times he seems to have renewed his exhortations, always, however, meeting with the same reception.

Feeling that it was useless to appeal to the better nature of his mother the child conceived the horrible design of washing out in her blood the stain she persisted in putting on his name, and which he knew was no longer a secret from the neighbors. Having once made up his mind his thoughts became wholly absorbed in plans for carrying his vengeance into execution. Whenever he went he carried with him this idea of avenging the injured honor of his name. In solitude he pondered over it, until it became in his eyes a holy duty. Beside this child of nine years taking upon his conscience the responsibility of judge and executioner, thinking and planning before taking action, Hamlet tormented by visions and simulating madness is only capable of inspiring pity. The heart is moved at the thought of the anguish the child must have suffered. First he dug the grave. This was for his infant hands a long and painful labor. When he had everything prepared he resolved to execute his terrible purpose.

One night, while his mother slept, he armed himself with a hatchet and silently approached her bed. When his eyes rested on the author of his being his resolution was shaken. He gazed on the face he had long loved and respected. The sight was too much for his childish heart, and, bursting into tears, he fell on his knees before his mother's bed. There the morning light found him stretched in slumber with the deadly hatchet still clasped in his tiny hands. When his mother rose she was terribly frightened at the sight. She awoke the boy, who explained his presence by a peasant fable, and then took the opportunity to once more beseech his mother to dismiss her lover and return to the path of honor. She, however, lost her temper, and ordering the child to hold his tongue, dismissed him curtly.

This action of the widow decided her son to carry out his murderous resolution. The following night he again entered his mother's bedroom and, finding her asleep, with one blow of the hatchet he killed her. He then took the body, which he dragged to the grave he had prepared, and there interred it.

The trial of this strange parricide is progressing in the town of Valok, in the government of Kharkov. Seldom have the Russian people been so interested in a criminal trial, but the sight of a child nine years old standing in the dock as the assassin of his mother is well calculated to excite the compassionate sympathy among a people by whom the family ties are regarded with something of the respect of the patriarchal times. Mr. Vladimir, professor of criminal law at the University of Kharkov, has spontaneously undertaken the defence of the unfortunate child.

Mark Twain on Profanity.

In a note to the publishers of his justly celebrated Scrap Book, the famous humorist observes that he invented and patented it, "not to make money out of it, but to economize the profanity of this country."

"For," he continues, "you know when the average man wants to find his scrap book he can't find his paste—then he swears; or if he finds it, it is dried so hard that it is only fit to eat—then he swears; if he uses mucilage, it mingles with the ink, and next year he cannot read his scrap. The result is barrels and barrels of profanity." There is another circumstance in life under which the average man is liable to indulge in unlimited profanity. It is when the "family physician" sends him a bill of one or two hundred dollars for treating wife, while that lady's face has become paler than ever, through the merciless persecutions of caustics and mechanical contrivances. If he does not impulsively send the whole medical profession on a subterranean journey, it is because he is a saint and deserves to be translated. The local treatment generally employed by physicians in this class of disease is not only barbarous but productive of almost irreparable harm. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription, as a uterine tonic and restorative, has won unqualified praise from thousands of grateful women.

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That young lady who moves through the merry crowd has a most splendid complexion. And why? She is in robust health. See her when disease comes and robs her of her color. Now she is an invalid. Some trifling irregularity or exposure has brought on sickness and nature grows weak. The use of Peruvian Syrup will restore health and those ruddy cheeks. Health may be restored and with it beauty and grace. This syrup is nature's great means of vitalization. It injures none and benefits all who use it. It has relieved and cured where all others have failed. It renews the spirits of the despondent, sends new life bounding through the veins, and is, without doubt, the most successful preparation ever offered to the public. All druggists sell it.

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A GOOD FARM, situate in Carroll township, consisting of about 70 ACRES,

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A GOOD TWO STORY LOG HOUSE,

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Churches, Schools, Mill and Store are located within convenient distance.

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PLOWS, CORN-SHELLERS, HOLLOW-WARE, OVEN-DOORS, SCOOPS, and a general assortment of CASTINGS.

For sale, a good two-horse TREAD POWER and MACHINE in good running order, mounted on wheels, at a bargain. Also, three kinds of Jacks for different Powers.

I am Agent, and can furnish Separators for any Machine.

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