#### THE MILL OF FREYA

SUSAN COOLIDGE

"Within the Grotto of Freya is a meadow, ard on the meadow is a mill, in which oldered and women are ground. Young and Young and naughty children are ground into good ones. -Scandinavian Tradition.

He! grinder at the tragic mill. I bring you grist.

• your quick wheels a moment still; Be your quick wheels a mount.

Take me and grind me as you will. shall not struggle or resist; Do as you list.

I could lie there a hundred years, (I think I could), And let the cog's slow, cruel spears Revolve and rend, and feel no lears; So only at the end I stood Made young and good.

A child at heart, a wearied child. Though worn and gray!
Oh! thought of rapture, deep and wild, To smile as fearless once I smiled. To join the race alert and gay. Kenew my day.

All would be different, better. I, By time made wise, Should mark the pittalls to defy, Should curb my passions and deny Should front Temptation's bright guise With eagle eyes.

Eagerly, patiently I wait. magic mill, Take me and grind me, soon or late. What better hap, what gladder fate ? I will not murmur though you kill, But bear your will.

The goddess smiles; with cold disdain She shakes her head. Seek eisewhere help. My wheels are vain: Unalterable every stain.
The past is past, and dead is dead. Thus Freys said.

# The Donation Party.

Jim and I went to the donation, and of for children's dresses; Maria (that's my wife) bought the parson's wife a black dress pattern, and wheedled me into giving our tailor an order to make the parson an overcoat.

family, as they were the most singular people I ever met. For myself, I don't take very much interest in religious matters, but I do like to see a man live up to his professions. Well, this little preacher, for he was a very little man, was one of the most conscientious men I ever saw. His charge supplied him with a house to live in, a salary of four hundred dollars per annum, and one donation party. It heaven is so desirable a place to get to, those who are on the way evidently be- their donations will aggregate?" lieve it necessary to economize in the cost of a guide. Well, this little preacher, while thoroughly devoted to the cause in which he was having persuaded her to leave her pleasant been very liberal with me. home and cast her lot with his. A little occurrence that took place one day in my hearing will show his devotion to her. I had taken over to Cooperville a small load of flour, and took it into the house, and while waiting for Jim thinks so, too," replied I. him to find a hatchet with which to loosen the head, sat down in the kitchen by the fire. His wife, he told me, was not feeling well and had laid down. Unable to find the hatchet, he went into her room to make inquiry as to its

when I overheard the following conversation: "Oh, George, I feel so bad !"

"Do you still suffer pain, dear?"

"Oh, terrible pain!"

"I think, my dear, if you would do as I suggested, you would soon be relieved of your pain.

whereabouts, leaving the door slightly ajar,

"What, take castor oil, George." "Yes, Carrie, I feel quite sare it would

would try it."

"But it's so nasty." "You'll only taste it a moment, dear."

"But I can't take it, George, it's too nasty." "Oh, yes, you can, dear. Shall I pour you out a spoonful?"

"Will you take some if I do, George?" "What a question, dear. I have no need to take it, but I should do so at once if I were

"That's because you're a man. A man can do anything."

"Then you won't take it, Carrie?"

"Not unless you will, too." "Well, then, although I can't understand why you want me to take some, too, I'll do

"And first, George. You must take it first." "Anything to satisfy you, dear, and make you well again." A momentary silence, and then: "Now, Carrie, it's your turn; are you seedy!"

"Did you take some, George ?"

"Yes, dear; and now you must." "Did it taste bad, George ?"

"Well, it's not very pleasant, but the taste Aon't last long. And now, dear, you take yours, for I must go and find the hatchet." "Oh, George, I couldn't take it at all; it's \$00 nasty," and she didn't.

I only mention this as showing the man's devotion to his wife. Talk of braving death for a woman; that's easily compared to taking castor oil for her. But I must get on to the Aonation party.

getting the flour and ham into the kitchen, joined. the dress stuffs were taken in hand, passed from one to another of the women, commented upon, felt of, and cost speculated upon. Our wives (that is, Jim's and mine) after saying good evening all around, betook themselves to the kitchen to see what preparations were making for supper, the young folks were shoved off up-stairs, and we old married folks occupied the parlor and sitting room. Old Cooper was there, and was apparently well pleased with the turn-out. He came at once up to us, and expressed himself as being glad that we came over

"A good gatherin' to-night," said he.

"So I should judge," answered Jim, "the preacher will make out very well, won't he?" "Mostly potatoes, I'm afeard," replied old Cooper. "I can't for the life of me see why everybody should fetch potatoes and pies. The pies is all right, for I kinder think they will be eat all up to-night, but I'll miss my guess if there ain't nigh on to twenty bushels of potatoes fetched here."

"What are you getting for potatoes now! asked I.

"Well, their fetchin' forty cents. Tain't enough, but that's all ye can get."

"So the people have brought in possibly eight dollars' worth of potatoes. That's pretty generous; ain't it ?" said Jim.

'It's a good many potatoes," said old Cooper, "and there's a great deal of other stuff." Leaving Jim and old Cooper together, I went over to the preacher, and, getting him

alone, gave him the order for the overcoat. "You and your partner," said he, "have been very kind to me and mine, and I don't know how to thank you as I should. It is not pleasant for me to accept charity, for though a donation party is 'nominated in the bond.' as it were, still it has, and always will have. to me, a repugnant presence. I don't suppose course took the whole families. We sent over the feeling is right, but when the people leave two barrels of flour; Jim, for himself, sent a to-night they will take with them nearly all nice, big ham; his wife bought a lot of stuff they have brought, and the knowledge of this fact renders the donation supportable. I do not say this with any reference to the gifts you and your partner have been so liberal with, and do not wish you to so understand. Before telling you about the donation party | These I accept in the spirit in which has I believe I must describe this parson and his prompted their bestowal, and thank you and him mostly cordially for them."

"But," said I, "isn't a donation looked on

as one of your perquisites?" "Yes," replied he, "but that makes it no more pleasant. I can speak a little more plainly to you than I could to one of the members; and you will, I believe, understand ings, but as old Cooper got through, he rose me as not complaining. We have here to night up and said: one hundred and twenty-three people. Now, how much do you suppose the total value of

"Well, I don't know, as I would ever have

thought of it in that way." "That's just it" replied he; "no one thinks engaged, was also extremely attached to his of it in that way. One member brings say a says it was petter if you bay de fiddler don't family, and fairly idolized his wife. She was bushel of potatoes; another perhaps a cake or it; und if you blese, every one here had petter very illy fitted for a preacher's wife, being two, a pie, a roll of nice butter, or perhaps a bay me so much as feefty zents to make de originally very proud, and quite given to dozen nice fresh eggs. If each one here to- breacher feel goot on our fun. Dot's pisness." dress, and to now be deprived of the means to night had done that, I don't know where I gratify her desires was very trying, and she should have put all their gifts, but in most had taken to quiet fits of repining and weep- cases the gifts are far less than this, and for ing, until her eyes and the tip of her nose had each gift, there are here to-night on an aver- had time to reply, "I hafe got another shob acquired a degree of redness not pleasant to age five persons. I only tell you this to show dot maype hays me better os dot. Come my look upon. Her husband used to say that she you that when supper is over there will prob- young frient," tapping young Mr. Kiah Simpwas a very pretty girl when he married her, ably be no more in the house than before; yet kins on the arm, "it vos petter dot you pay was continually upbraiding himself for my people will go home feeling that they have right away zo I can go on mit de gollection.

"Well, this certainly is putting it in a way I should never thought of. At the same time I can very readily understand it to be as you say. As you know, I am not a church memdriving by the preacher's house he came out ber, and sometimes I think I should be Putney, said: and asked me to leave a parrel for him. So I ashamed to be found in such company, and

"There, sir, you do me, and my people, and

our professions great injustice. It's"-Just at that moment a crash overhead was heard, and somebody upstairs cried "fire!" Jim, and I, and the parson, rushed up the vouldn't let der lady bay for noding. My stairs (some one of the brethren told me after. young frient, you gan go home." wards that old Cooper began a frantic search for his hat) and found the young folks had and no trouble was had in getting the half been playing a game of foricits, and that dollar from each one present, until it came to 'Kiah Simpkins in a struggle to secure from old Cooper. He held back and declared, 'Liza Putney a kiss, had caught one of his small feet on the leg of a little stand upon goin's on by yer hired man. It's an outrage. which, for convenience, the lamp had been placed, overturning it, breaking the lamp and spilling the oil, which, of course, ignited upon leedle breacher has got in de howus, und den very quickly relieve you, and I do wish you the floor. It took but a few moments to ex- go home und zay your brayers und egspect to tinguish the flames; and then old Cooper sug. git it to dot blace you gall heaven It's no gested that "we all on our bended knees returned thanks to the Almighty Father for his you must bay dot feefty zents shust like us merciful kindness in savin' us from the devourin' element."

> Jim intimated "it would be better for the young folks to chip in and buy the parson a

new carpet." Old Cooper's suggestion was carried-Jim's

wasn't. Shortly after, supper was announced and the older folks were provided with seats at the tables in the kitchen and dining room, while the young folks took theirs in the par lor, sandwiches, cakes, tea and coffee being passed around to them. I don't know how much they ate in the parlor, but there was no injustice done the viands at the table where I sat. We had a very sociable time, and everybody seemed pleased with his share in the en tertainment. Old Cooper was particularly

"I say, Bill," asked he, "is yer conscience a troublin' of yer!"

"Not at all," answered I. "Why do you "Oh, I didn't know, but ye were tryin' to

git rid o' some of yer ill-gotten wealth, yer so liberal like." "I don't understand what you mean."

"Well, ye see ye've been gougin' us poor farmers in the matter of toll for some time back; and I didn't know, but yer conscience might hev smit ye at times about it, and that Household has become the leading sewing to in a fit of remorse ye had made up yer mind machine.

We sent Gus on ahead with the stuff, and to pay back by givin' our dominie here a good then we all got into Jim's old carry - all, and send-off to night. Kinder make up for what Oh! the snow, the beautiful snow. about five o'clock, started over. The roads were very rough, and we didn't arrive at the with that the old fellow went off into a regularity over the housetops, over the street, over the housetops over the beads of the people you meet; parsonage until about eight o'clock, and after lar fit of horse laughter, in which we all

> An agonizing screum from the parlor caused a rush for that locality; and we found the cause of the commotion, an attempt by young Mr. 'Kiah Simpkins to scare the life out of young Miss Liza Putney, by dropping a cold current, picked from his piece of cake, down her back. Miss l'atney was favoring the company with a song, standing in front of the piano (a relic of past grandeur) and to be more at ease had placed her cup of coffee upon the edge thereof. She, feeling, as she supposed, a naety bug making its way down her back, gave one yell, and raised her arms convulsively to the back of her neck. In her efforts to capture the bug, she became oblivious of the cup of coffee standing before her, and as her hands went up they came in contact with it, To be trampled and tracked by thousands overturning it and its contents into the piano. It took some little time to restore quiet, (the damage was apparently not thought of,) but the harmony of the party was broken, and pretty soon indications of going home were Fell like the snow-flakes from heaven to hell visible

Old Cooper, noticing this, requested silence while he made a few remarks, semething after this style: "Brethren and sisters, for I feel I may call ye so, although we don't all on us belong to one fold (and some on us I fear don't belong to no fold at all,) we hev met here tonight to testify in some slight measure, the feelin's in which we all hold our beloved pasture. Although we are none on us blessed with too much worldly goods, we have all on us given as our means would seem to justify, (I know I hev.) We have all on us given freely and willin'ly as seemed to us right (I know hev.) and although it may not place our beloved pasture beyond the necessity of future labor, he will, I am sure, accept it as showin' that the seed he has dropped has not fallen by the wayside nor on stunny ground. I feel certain ve will all bear me out when I say his labors among us has been appreciated at their true worth, and that, if at times, he become cast down or weary in the heat of the day, he may know that while his reward here may seem sma'l, we will all devoutly pray that we may meet him in that better land, where the wicked cease from troublin' and the weary may find rest."

I don't know whether old Cooper expected round of applause; if he did he was disappointed. Something occurred, however, which was "not down in the bill," and which created a greater sensation than the old man's address. Our man Gus had been a silent and seemingly satisfied spectator of the proceed-

"My friends, I don't go to no shurch, und I don't know how it vould be if I dit, but I vas invited to come over to dis barty, and I hat had a very goot time. It vas very goot fun to burn up de breacher's garpet, und more fun to vill up his biano up mit goffee. Somepoty "What does this mean?" asked old Cooper.

"Isn't this your bired man, Bill!" "I dissharge mineself," said Gus, before

"I haven't any change," said 'Kiah "Dot makes me no difference oud. I gar

shange somedings vor you." 'Kiah reluctantly handed Gus a dollar, which he took, and then going up to 'Liza

"Und now, my leedle voman, you vas all de droubles dis efending und you gifs me, of gourse, a hate a dollar! Vot! you don't hev no money? Dot vas pad, so I hafe to take de

shange of my young frient here," pointing to 'Kiah, "he vos a fery nice young man und By this time a good many were laughing,

Bill, ye ought to be ashamed to allow sech

"Dot's zo," said Gus. "It vos an outrage to gome here, und eat up eferyding vot dis use dalkin' 'bout it any longer, Mr. Cooper, oder fellers. You gan make it up ven Nick Roperts dies."

Old Cooper paid. He didn't care to carry on the conversation. Gus collected sixtythree dollars in all which he dumped into the parson's hat with the remark: "Dot's burty pully; und now, Mr. Bill, I hires myself out

sgain to you. We drove home

Baker City Reveille: Bunch grass is not like any other grass in the States. It is sui generis t grows in bunches, five or six inches apart, is exceedingly nutritious. It be cured in July, and is as nourishing when dry as when green. It possesses the nutritive and fattening qualities of rye, barley corn and osts; hence, cattle, sheep and horses, tured upon it, become very fat. The fattest venison we ever saw anywhere was made so by bunch grass. The best beef and mutton in the world is produced by the bunch grass of Eastern Oregon and Washington.

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#### BEAUTIFUL SNOW.

Dancing - Flirting - Skimming along, Beautiful snow! it can do no wrong; Flying to kiss a fair lady's cheek Clinging to lips in frolicsome freak; Beautiful snow from heaven above, Pure as an angel, gentle as love ! Oh! the snow, the beautiful snow, How the fiskes gather and laugh as they go,

Whirling about in maddening fun; Chasing—Laughing—Hurrying by, It lights on the face, and it sparkles the eye; And the dogs with a bark and a bound Snap at the crystals as they eddy around. The town is alive and its heart in aglow, To welcome the coming of beautiful snow.

How wild the crowd goes swaying along, Hailing each other with humor and son How the gay sleighs like meteors flash by,

Bright for the moment, then lost to the eye; Ringing—Swinging —Dashing they go Over the crust of the beautiful snow; Snow as pure when it falls from the sky,

feet, Till it blends with the filth in the horribl

Once I was as pure as the snow, but I fell, Fell to be trampled as filth on the street,

Fell to be scoffed, to be spit on, and beat; Pleading—Cursing—Dreading to die, Selling my soul to whoever would buy; Dealing in shame for a mousel of bread, Hating the living and fearing the dead. Merciful God, have I fallen so low ? And yet I was once like the beautiful snow.

How strange it should be that this beautifu should fall on a sinner with nowhere to go! How strange it should be when night come

again. If the snow and the ice struck my desperate brain.

Fainting-Freezing-Dying alone, Too wicked for prayer, too weak for a moan To be heard in the streets of the crazy town, Gone mad in the joy of snow coming down; To be and to die in my terrible woe. With a bed and a shroud of the beautiful snow

Helpless and foul as the trampled snow. Sinner, despair not! Christ stoopeth low To rescue the soul that is lost in sin, And to raise it to life enjoyment again.

Groaning—Bleeding—Dying for thee, The Crucified hung on the cursed tree! His accents of mercy fell soft on thine ear, 'Is there mercy for me? Will He hear my weak prayer?"
O God! in the stream that for sinners did

Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow

#### The Latest by Josh Billings

I had never known a sekond wife but what waz boes of the situashun.

After a man gets to be thirty-eight years old he kan't form any new habits much; the best he kan do is to steer his old ones,

Anny man who can swap horses or catch fish, and not lie about it, iz az piuz sz men ever get in this world. The sasvest man I ever met is a hen-pecked

husband when he is away from home. An enthusiast is an individual who believes about four times as much as anybody else be

The dog that will follow anybody ain't orth a cuss. Thoze people who are trying to get to

heaven on their kreed will find out at last that they didn't have a thru ticket To long courtships are not always judiciou s The partys often tire out skoring before the

trot begins. One quart ov cheep whisky (the cheeper the better), judiciously applied, will do more bus- Salem Marble and Granite iness for the devil than the smartest deacon

he has got. don't rekelect doing enny thing that I was just a little ashamed ov but somebody remembered it, and was sure once in a while

to put me in mind ov it. Young men, learn to wait, if you undertake

to sett a hen before she iz ready you will lose your time, and confuse the hen besides.

Nature seldom makes a phool; she simply furnishes the raw materials and lets the fellow finish the job to suit himself.

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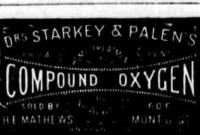
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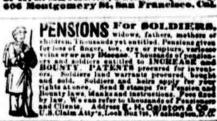
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