

The Light Side of Life

BY Lee Fairchild,

A literary bureau has asked me the following questions. Thinking my answers might be of general interest, especially as many persons have never heard of me except in a general way, I therefore give the matter a measure of publicity.

Birthplace:

I was born in Illinois, a state noted for its production of great men.

Present residence:

Portland heights, a place especially favored in the quality of its inhabitants, with whom I feel very much at home.

Where educated?

In part—and that's as much education as I have had—at Lombard University, Galesburg, Ill., a school that has few sons and daughters of which it is not justly proud.

When was literary taste first manifested?

I had thought it was about the time when I began writing verse; but some who examined those early productions were inclined to the contrary opinion.

Do you believe in inherited talent, and if so, can you see from whence you derived yours?

As to talent, I have no inclination to speak of that since some have doubted whether I have any to speak of.

First successful work:

That in which I certainly failed; for then was I taught, that, though I were born, I had not been born great and must become so by my own exertion. This discovery I am glad I made ere it was too late.

Do journalism and literature pay well?

Yes, indeed; but I learn Mr. Vanderbilt did not put in all his time writing. I am very much in need of a new coat just now.

Are these professions agreeable?

When one is not too hungry to enjoy them. Of course, your work is liable to be misunderstood. For instance, two or three country exchanges have mistaken my writings as humorous and have criticised me accordingly.

Have you any favorite authors, and have they exerted a marked influence on your literary work?

Shelley and K. R. 801—a Greek born out of his time into ours—are two of my favorites; but no one in authority has likened my verse to that of either of these great writers. Indeed, some of my unfriendly critics have hinted that I am in some sense original.

Please state any facts that might be of interest in a biographical sketch.

I am over twenty-one years of age and look and act younger than I am. I am also single and sometimes lonesome. Am thought by some to be a first rate fellow, though there is even a difference of opinion in regard to this. I am a believer in a number of theological matters. I hate chams and have been known to be out of love with myself and in love with some one else.

The secrets of blind Cupid's art,
My lover knows them all by heart.

Though this be not true, yet is it fiction real: A stranger entered church and was so kindly treated by a young man that he took occasion to mention the young man's kindness and to thank him for it. The young man, who was possessed of a mischievous sense of humor, informed the stranger that his thanks were due the congregation as he was paid for doing their kindness.

AFTER THE PARTY.

"Did you like Miss Faircomplexion's evening dress?"

"A portion of it."

"Yes, what part?"

"The part she had on!"

MR. WESTERNER—Let's see; you are from New Jersey, aren't you?

MR. JAMESON (from New York)—Yes; always have been.

A good story is told by a member of one of our popular churches—a church whose religion does not always express itself in social attention which is, and is not, sometimes shows to strangers who have chanced to stray into the flock. A lady came up to the member in question, spoke to her and said she desired to make strangers feel welcome, though she stated she had been in the church but a few months herself. But imagine her surprise to learn that the "stranger" to whom she was speaking was an long-time member of the church.



This poem was accepted by virtue of the impression its author made on the editor. We do not hold ourselves responsible for the sentiments expressed in it.