(4)

OH, WHY SHOULD THE SPIRIT OF MORTAL BE PROUD?

The following poem was President Lincoln's favorite, and while he knew it by heart and loved to repeat it he never learned the author's name, although he was many years previous to his death anxious to do so:

Oh, why should the spirit of mortal be proud?
Like a swift fleeting meteor, a fast fleeting cloud,
A flash of the lightning, a break of the wave,
Man passes from life to his rest in the grave.

The leaves of the oak and the willow shall fade,
Be scattered around and together be laid;
And the young and the old, and the low and the high,
Shall moulder to dust and together shall lie.

The infant a mother attended and loved,
The mother that infant's affection who proved,
The husband that mother and infant who blessed
Each, all, are away to their dwelling of rest.

The maid on whose cheek, on whose brow, in whose eye,
Shone beauty and pleasure, her triumphs are by;
And the memory of those who loved her and praised,
Are alike from the minds of the living erased.

The hand of the king that the sceptre hath borne,
The brow of the priest that the mitre hath worn,
The eye of the sage, and the heart of the brave,
Are hidden and lost in the depth of the grave.

The peasant whose lot was to sow and to reap,
The herdsman who climbed with his goats up the steep,
The beggar who wandered in search of his bread,
Have faded away like the grass that we tread.

The saint who enjoyed the communion of heaven,
The sinner who dared to remain unforgiven,
The wise and the foolish, the guilty and just,
Have quietly mingled their bones in the dust.

So the multitude goes, like the flower or the weed,
That withers away to let others succeed;
So the multitude comes, even those we behold,
To repeat every tale that has often been told.

For we are the same that our fathers have been;
We see the same sights that our fathers have seen—
We drink the same stream, and we view the same sun,
And run the same course that our fathers have run.

The thoughts we are thinking our fathers would think;
From the death that we shrink from our fathers would shrink;
To the life that we cling to they also would cling;
But it speeds for us all, like a bird on the wing.

They loved, but the story we cannot unfold;
They scorned, but the heart of the haughty is cold;
They grieved, but no wail from their slumbers will come;
They joyed, but the tongue of their gladness is dumb.

They died, ay! they died; and we things that are now,
Who walk over the turf that lies on their brow,
Who make in their dwelling a transient abode,
Meet the things that they met on their pilgrimage road.

Yes! hope and despondency, pleasure and pain,
Are mingled together in sunshine and rain;
And the smile and the tear, the song and the dirge,
Still follow each other, like surge upon surge.

'Tis the twink of an eye, 'tis the draught of a breath,
From the gilded saloon to the bier, and the shroud—
O, why should the spirit of mortal be proud?

A REWARD OF GENIUS.

"Married! My papa married? I have a stepmother? Surely, aunt, you are mistaken!" And the speaker, a dark-eyed, handsome girl, looked surprised and incredulous.

"But it is quite true, for I have just received a letter from your papa, and he wrote that he had married a dainty darling from the New England States, and he sends his love to his precious Olla, and wants her to welcome her new mamma and love her for his sake. I hope you will be happy together," added the aunt, kindly, and she mean't what she said, for she had been friend, mother and counsellor to Olive Desmond for five years, and although Olive was only a distant relative, she loved her as though she had been her own daughter.

"Oh aunt! Papa married!"

There was a world of woe in Olive's voice as she repeated the words.

"Yes, your papa is really married. Surely you are not annoyed or angry, Olive?"

"Annoyed or angry?" repeated Olive, her black eyes growing blacker, and her scarlet cheeks more scarlet than ever. "Oh, auntie, I am shocked and hurt beyond expression! The idea of papa's marrying and bringing a stepmother to take my angel mamma's place in our old home, and—"

But Olive's words were interrupted by the entrance of a gay young fellow of about twenty years of age, the handsome stepson of her aunt, Gertrude Vaughan. He was a little wild, perhaps, as his only occupation now was the cultivation of a stunted mustache. But he was a good-hearted fellow, and full of fun.

"Why, Olla, practicing for the boards?" were his first words as he saw indignant Olive. "By jove! you do the grand tragedy well!"

"Don't talk nonsense, Frank! This is a serious matter—at least to Olive it is," said his stepmother.

"Whew! well, just wait till I get my handkerchief. Now I'm ready to weep. Tell me the worst. I'm prepared for it."

And Gertrude told him of Olive's father's marriage, and of Olive's angry sorrow at the thought of having a stepmother.

"Well, ain't that enough to make any one angry?" asked Frank. "Words can't do the subject justice. Look at me, my beloved cousin, and shudder! Am I not a surviving specimen of the tyrannical rule of a stepmother? I would shed tears for you, Olive, but I have used up all I had to spare on my sorrowful self."

"Now you are just laughing at me," said Olive, half crying.

"Laughing! No, indeed! There isn't even the faintest shadow of a smile about me. This serious affair and my sincere pity for you has given me gravity enough to last a lifetime, and plenty to spare to set up four deacons with the article.

Olive was disgusted, and she left the room with all the dignity she could command.

Frank gave his stepmother a hasty kiss, and muttered something about leaving the matter to him; he knew "how to manage Olla," and followed his cousin into the garden.

"I say, Olla," began Frank, as he flung himself on the grass beside her, "why don't you get married too, and be even with the governor?"

"The idea!" pouted Olive. "I wouldn't get married for anything! And besides, there is no one to marry me, even if I wanted to get married."

"Well, now, I call that treating a fellow rather coolly. Here I've been your devoted slave and admirer for the last two months, only to be snubbed in this way. But 'sich is life,' and I suppose I shall have to stand it."

"Why, I never thought of you, Frank," answered Olive.

"You didn't? Well, now, that's queer. And then I suppose you haven't the assurance to propose to a fellow, so I'll offer myself. Now, my beloved cousin, I lay my heart, hand and fortune at your feet, and throw myself into the bargain. Say that magical word, and your humble servant will consider that he has been transported into the seventh heaven."

"What a simpleton you are, Frank!" said Olive. "The idea of of our getting married! I am going to marry some great and distinguished man."

"Just my ticket," was the nonchalant rejoinder. "I am, or was, going to marry some beautiful and accomplished lady, but, being very philanthropic in my disposition, I concluded to sacrifice myself. Yet if you won't have me, I guess I shall achieve my early ambition."

"If conceit was of money value I think you could pay off the national debt, Frank," said Olive with a smile.

"Don't be personal," replied Frank, "but shake hands and make up and talk about stepmothers. What are you going to do about the matter? Receive them with open arms and be happy, or pout and let them coax you?"

"Neither!" said Olive, the angry gleam flashing in her black eyes again. "I am going away where they won't see me."

"And let concealment like a worm—"

"Do be serious for just one minute!" interrupted Olive, completely exasperated with his bantering tone. What would you do if you were in my place, Frank?"

"I might relate to you my experience."

"Don't!" interrupted Olive. "We've listened to that often enough already. And just remember that Aunt Gertie is an ideal stepmother, and not like other stepmothers."

"Well," said Frank, with borrowed gravity, "the first thing in consideration is the terrific fact that your father's wife is now a stepmother. That is a crime of itself. When a lovely and amiable woman becomes a stepmother she is immediately transformed into all that's evil. But then this woman a week ago was not a stepmother, and maybe the hoofs and horns haven't sprouted yet. So I think you had better receive your father's wife. I'll be around to protect you in case of an emergency."

The tears began to moisten Olive's dark eyes.

"You haven't one bit of feeling for me, Frank!" she said, piteously.

"Now you wouldn't say that, Olla, if you could see the frantic struggle that's going on under my left vest pocket; but seriously, little coz, the wise thing to do is to see your father's wife and give her a fair trial; take her on trial, at least, and when everything is lovely you can thank me for being your wise counsellor in your hour of trouble."

"You're a heathen, Frank, and I'm going away to-morrow." And away walked Olive, looking very indignant and feeling very miserable.

She was as good as her word, and next day she went on a visit to friends in New England, to be gone for an indefinite length of time. It was all to no purpose that her aunt expostulated, coaxed, argued, and even scolded, for Olive was very wilful and determined when she choose to be.

But Olive must not be blamed too harshly. It seemed a terrible fact that her father had married at all, and to marry without her knowledge or consent was too awful to be endured; so she determined to punish him by not seeing his wife. Olive had sometimes thought that it would be very nice to have some one to love her in her mamma's place—some one that would turn their grand, servant-ruled mansion back into the groove that mamma had kept it in.

Yet Olive did not pause to think, but acted on the rash impulse of wounded feeling, and when Mr. and Mrs. Desmond came they found that their daughter had fled as from a plague.

A month after Olive Desmond had taken her sudden departure she was sitting on the porch of a New England farm-house, trying very hard to be miserable, and succeeding admirably.

"Oh, dear!" she sighed. "I wish I had stayed at Aunt Gertie's and seen papa's wife, anyhow. She couldn't have hurt me, and I might have learned to like her just a little."

Olive was about ready to indulge in a good cry when a servant brought her a letter. The letter was from Frank Vaughan, and he wrote that she might "return now, as the coast was clear, and no sign of the enemy present," and that he would be "body-guard and prevent bloodshed in case of a sudden attack," and he really hoped she would come back, as he was most "confoundedly lonely."

Olive was only too glad of an invitation to return, and in a few days she was reinstated at Aunt Gertrude Vaughan's. Two or three days passed, and one afternoon Olive was seated in a favorite nook in the garden, trying to think what was the wisest course to pursue with regard to her step-mother, when her meditations were interrupted by Frank rushing up to her and whispering, mysteriously:

"She's come!"

"Who has come?" asked Olive.

"Haven't you heard? Didn't mother tell you that her niece was coming to visit her?" queried Frank.

"Oh!" said Olive, looking relieved.

"Well, she has come, and of course you'll think she is dreadful. But consider your self a martyr, and try to make the best of it."

Contrary to Frank's prediction, Olive was wonderfully pleased with this niece of Aunt Gertrude's. She had never heard of her before, but she was too much interested in the Edith of the present to inquire about the Edith of the past. To Olive, Edith Harvey seemed like a living portrait of those rarely beautiful women one seldom sees outside a picture frame. She was rather tall, slender and graceful, with a pink and lily complexion, and an aureola of golden hair waved naturally. Even her name was a favorite name with Olive, and it seemed to suit Edith Harvey exactly. It was wonderful how their friendship progressed. The quiet, winning disposition of Edith, and the loving, impetuous nature of Olive, seemed to find an affinity in each other.

One, two, three and four weeks crept by before the agitated question of stepmother was fully settled. Olive was going home to see her, that she decided herself, because Edith thought she had better go, and to Olive, Edith Harvey's opinion was paramount to all others.

Olive prevailed upon Edith to go with her to see her new mamma, and Frank went too, as he didn't consider it safe for female lovliness and innocence to travel unprotected. When the two arrived at the Desmond mansion, they were told by a servant that "Mr. and Mrs. Desmond were out, but would be in presently.

Olive assigned Edith to a guest chamber and told her to look as pretty as possible, and together they would eclipse Mrs. Desmond.

"You should try to love Mrs. Desmond, instead of trying to eclipse her," said Edith gravely.

"Oh, you don't know her!" said Olive, with a stifled sob, "Now, if she was only like you Edie, it would be different. But we can't help it now." And Olive shut her lips resolutely as she left the room.

Flive dressed herself elaborately, preparitory to meeting Mrs. Deamond. Her trailing robe was of garnet velvet, and garnet jewels glittered on her hair, around her throat and arms, and tiny stars of garnets swung in her ears.

When Olive went down to the parlor, it was with the haughty air of a queen prepared to overwhelm an offending subject. But her assumed hauteur deserted her when she entered the parlor. For whom should she see but Edith Harvey, looking rarely lovely, clad in blue silk, with pearl ornaments, and standing very close to Papa Desmond, and Papa Desmond's arm was actually around her slender waist.

Olive was speechless with astonishment, and before she could recover herself Mr. Desmond explained matters by saying:

"Olla, my darling, this is my wife, Edith, my love, this is my daughter, Olive."

"Really and truly?" gasped Olive.

"Yes really and truly," said Papa Desmond, with a smile.

"It seems too good to be true," said Olive, kissing Edith and calling her mother.

"Then you are not angry at the deception we practiced?" asked Mrs. Desmond.

"Angry! No, indeed! I'm overjoyed! But whatever made you think of it?"

"It was Frank who planned it all," replied Mrs. Desmond.

"Yes Olla," said Frank coming forward, "I cannot tell a lie. I planned the awful web for you to get entangled in. There—don't try to thank me. Words won't do the subject justice. I know I'm too good for this world, but I'm willing to live a hundred years or so for the good of the rest of mankind—and womankind also."

"Well, you are just a darling anyway," declared Olive.

"Dear me," soliloquized Frank. "There is no accounting for the fickleness of the female mind. Not two months ago I was called a heathen for suggesting the present state of affairs. But I'm thankful for the fact that I'm appreciated. They say genius is born to be snubbed, but there has been an exception to the rule in my favor."

After Olive was satisfied that there was no mistake, and beautiful Edith Harvey was her much hated step-mother, she began to wonder if step-mothers were really such dreadful creatures, after all, and appealed to Frank for his opinion; but Frank told her that words were useless when two innocent victims like themselves were proof against that extraordinary evil, a "step-mother."

The next day Olive was sitting by a window, looking dreamily out on the landscape.

"What are you doing, Olla?" queried Frank.

"Thinking," replied Olive.

"Don't do it any more, Olla; great and sudden changes are not beneficial." Olive's Grecian nose took an elevated position, and Frank continued, "I've been thinking too, Olla."

"How strangel" replied Olive sarcastically. "I thought phenomena were not in fashion till eighteen hundred and eighty-one."

"I've been thinking, Olla," resumed Frank, "that in this little affair concerning stepmothers I have proved myself a genius, and genius should be rewarded."

"Genius seeks its own reward," said Olive.

"Hem! Then I'll take you," said Frank. "That is," he continued soberly and earnestly, "if my darling little Olla will have no objections. And don't you think you could love me just a little?"

"I don't want to love you a little," replied Olive, "but a great deal."

And—well, they said a good many more loving and foolish things, and six months later Mr. Desmond gave the bride away, and Frank Vaughan declared himself satisfied with his reward of genius.

The Pleasures of Business.

No human mind is contented without occupation. No human soul is satisfied without an aim or purpose in life. The greatest success in life consists not in the mere accumulation of riches, but in being able to acquire wealth with a disposition to apply it in such a manner that it shall be a comfort and blessing to others—not in the mere giving away of money, but in putting people in a way to labor and help themselves. There is no pleasure in oppression. There is no joy in grinding and exacting gold from the poor; but there is a great deal of genuine satisfaction in being able to offer steady and honorable employment to the many willing hands that have nothing to do. One of the greatest enjoyment of the prosperous business man consists in being able to comfortably provide for the many employes in his house or manufactory. In doing this he is fulfilling his obligations to society; he becomes a useful and honored citizen; business to him is a real pleasure; he enjoys his success when it is fairly won because he feels that he deserves it.

When the business man has the right kind of a purpose in life he enjoys his occupation, he feels a just and worthy pride in his prosperity, he is pleased with the respect and gratitude of those whom he directs and controls in the management of his affairs, and he feels that in benefiting himself he is conferring a favor upon others.—[Criterion.

Dr. Day says in a late lecture: Whatever be the plan of treatment decided upon, rest is the first principle to inculcate in very severe headache. Rest, which the busy man and anxious mother cannot obtain so long as they can manage to keep about, is one of the first remedies for every headache, and we should never cease to enforce it. The brain, when excited, as much needs quiet and repose as a fractured limb or an inflamed eye; it is obvious that the chances of shortening the seizure and arresting the pain will depend on our power to have this carried out actually. It is a practical lesson to keep steadily in view that there may lurk behind a simple headache some lesson of unknown magnitude, which may remain stationary if quietude can be maintained. There is a point worth attending to in the treatment of all headaches. It is that the head be elevated at night, and the pillow hard; for if it be soft the head sinks into it and becomes hot, which, with some people, is enough to provoke an attack in the morning if sleep has been long and heavy.

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San Francisco, Feb. 9, 1881.

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Very respectfully, your obedient servants,
EVAN J. COLEMAN, } Bank Commissioners for
ROBERT WATT, } State of California.

Resources.

Bank Premises	$150,000 00
Other Real Estate	3,504 50
U. S. Bonds $600,000 (cost)	603,885 65
Land As'n & Dock Stocks	12,939 77
Loans on Real Estate	261,878 85
Loans on bonds, Gas, Water and Bank Stocks	184,314 39
Loans on other securities, grain, (wheat, barley, &c.)	746,007 87
Loans on personal Security	545,443 26
Money on hand	400,149 72
Due from B'ks & Bank'rs	276,897 69
Overdrafts	80,044 75
Interest Accrued	19,570 00
Expenses, taxes, etc	10,134 42
Checks and Cash Items	38,732 59
	$3,333,503 46

Liabilities.

Capital paid up	$1,000,000 00
Surplus	407,942 17
Due Depositors	1,736,034 66
Due Banks and Bankers	178,369 38
Interest Collected	9,434 08
Rents, Exchange, etc	1,093 16
Dividends unpaid	630 00
	$3,333,503 46

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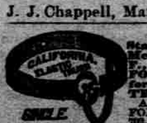

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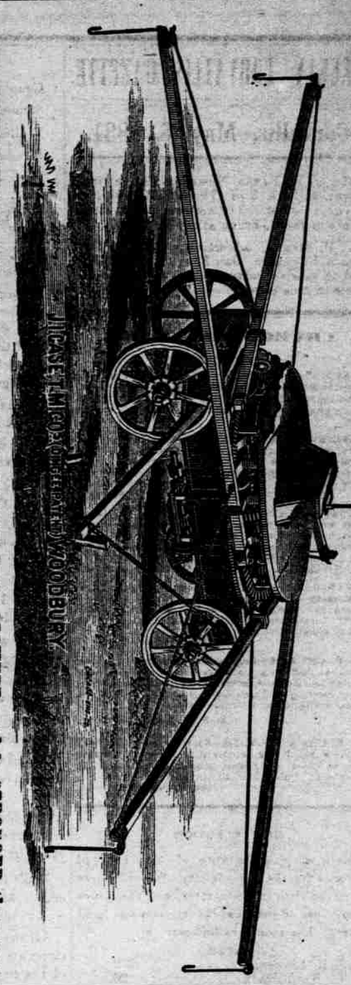

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