

THE INDEPENDENT.
Every Thursday Evening.
H. B. LUCE.
Office, - - - Old Court House,
HILLSBORO, OREGON.

Terms of Subscription (cash rates.)
Single copy per year..... \$2 50
Single copy six months..... 1 50
Single copy six months..... 1 50

Washington Independent.

VOL. 4. HILLSBORO, WASHINGTON COUNTY, OREGON, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1876. NO. 35.

THE INDEPENDENT Advertising Rates.

TIME.	1 sq.	2 sq.	3 sq.	4 sq.	1 col.	2 col.	3 col.
1 month.....	2 00	3 00	4 00	5 00	1 00	2 00	3 00
2 months.....	3 00	4 00	5 00	6 00	1 50	2 50	3 50
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Finally.
Is thy rose sweet and red?
Is thy sky blue and blue?
Is thy bloom in bud,
Is thy blue shaded,
And bare the tree.
Is thy friend fond and true?
Is thy hope fair and new?
But finally—
Bereft, forsaken,
Thin all is taken,
Even life must die.
The fresh green leaf is brown,
The stormy rain beats down,
Its Autumn knell:
Warm was the greeting,
Glad was the meeting,
And then—farewell.
Mortal, such is thy past,
Time gives us worst things last,
Therefore be wise!
Seize the best treasure,
Fame, love, and pleasure,
Th' eternal prize!
—*Germania Telegraph.*

The Sun That Warmth.
The sun that warms the fading flower,
May cheer, nor change its doom,
May stay its fate for one brief hour,
But ne'er restores its bloom!
So, when the withered heart receives
The light of love too late,
Its charm awhile the wreck relieves,
But cannot change its fate!
That heart, if yesterday ceased,
Perchance had 'scape'd decay!
That smile, which yesterday had blest,
Comes all in vain to-day!
Then, oh! Love's row of honor keep—
Nor let Affection wait,
For vain repentance—vain to weep,
When kindness comes too late.
—*CHARLES SWAIN.*

The Raven's Voice.
I was a very bold and fearless child,
And my brothers and sisters often dared
me to go into lonely places in the dark,
or do various kinds of various kinds,
which challenges I never refused. Often
they set out to play tricks on me, but it
usually happened that they fell into their
own traps, while I performed my part in
the play.
Very possibly the consciousness that
they were about to dupe me gave me
more courage than I would otherwise
have had, for any unusual noise or ap-
pearance would be attributed to one or
another coming in the company.
But, night or day, I used to go straight
up and touch whatever seemed fearful,
and finding the object of doubt resolved
itself into very simple elements. I ac-
quired an ease which stood me instead
of real danger.
We lived in a large old house built of
English oak, and bearing its nearly two
centuries very lightly. It opened to the
South, and the two large parlors looked
to the East and West.
The dining-hall and spacious kitchen
formed the square of the house, while at
the West and back was another large
room sometimes called the great porch,
and at the East and back was the dairy
and another porch.
There were three stairways leading to
the upper rooms, and a garret, whose ample
space was broken only by the great
chimney in the center.
We had a gay and lively house, and
were used to a great company of
visitors, for our parents were greatly
given to the old-fashioned virtue of hospi-
tality.
The humblest wayfarer coming in at
the porch was entertained kindly and
with good cheer, and the guests whose
elegant carriage and span drove
round to the front door on the Southern
side.
I am not going now to tell you of my
handsome "gentle" parents, or my brothers
and sisters—only about myself.
There were a great many of us when
we were all at home, especially in the
winter holidays, but at times we were
nearly all away.
Boarding-schools, academies, traveling
—all claimed us at various times. Yet
it was rare indeed that one was ever at
home alone.
It so happened, however, and to me.
It was a summer day, and warm, bright,
and beautiful. The bright sun shined
lovely day. Just after our early break-
fast, a merry party came riding down the
lane, in carriages and on horseback, and
calling joyously for my father and mother
to accompany them on a pleasure trip.
They were accompanied to this mode of
impromptu festivity, and gaily answered
that they would soon be ready.
It was only the day before that my
father had returned from the Australian
gold fields, and had brought with him a
bag of gold. I knew he had this, for I
had seen him the night before counting
some of it, and putting it into another
bag, and I badly wanted to ask him how
he got it, but I was too shy.
Thomas brought the chase to the door.
Father's favorite black horse, whose coat
looked like lustrous velvet, and who
stepped so proudly, was pawing the
ground impatiently as he appeared. He
handed us my beautiful mother, and I
stood looking on with childish pleasure
at her beauty and rich dress that so be-
came her. My father suddenly turned
to me and said, taking his key to his
iron-bound box.
"Run, Ann, and get me the little bag
you saw me put away last night."
I was proud to be so trusted; but when
I quickly returned with it, he was al-
ready in the chase, and part way to the
gate. He looked out and said:
"No matter, now, Ann, you may put it
back again, for we are going another
road, and I will pay Harris to-morrow.
Take care of the key, my dear, and good-
bye."
"Good-bye, and a good time to you!"
I laughingly replied and ran back to
put the treasure in safety.
I hastened indoors again to see them
wind down the private way that led

through our extensive grounds, and half
wished I were old enough to go with them.
Hearing a slight noise, I turned and saw
a stranger, a figure not unusual, a man
with a bundle hung on a stick.
He was leaning on the stone wall, and
apparently looking after the carriages.
I came forward in a moment, and
asked if he might sit down and rest, and
if I would kindly give him a drink of
beer. Beer was as free as water with us.
Of course I said yes, and with light
steps ascended a substantial lunch
of bread, cheese, and beer, which he came
into the kitchen to eat. Betsey and Han-
nah were busy, hurrying to finish their
work, for they were going out to tea and
to spend the evening. They looked gaily
at their visitor, paying little attention to
the stroller, who was quietly eating. He
had laid his straw hat on the floor, and I
saw that his head was bald on the top,
and the thin hair brushed up from
behind over it.
He had prominent ears, low forehead,
and large mouth with a retreating chin,
where grew a stubby beard, of grizzly
black, like his hair. I did not know
why I observed all this, or his eyes, small
and his rather grayish brows, that seemed
to glance furtively about him when no
one appeared to be looking.
His voice was harsh and croaking, and
had startled me when he first addressed me.
We were used to strollers of all kinds,
as I have said. Perhaps I was mentally
contrasting his repulsive features with my
father's noble and dignified features.
He seemed to me very ugly. I was
glad when he had finished his meal, and
risen to go.
He asked permission to light his pipe,
which was readily granted. He went
out directly, passing accidentally through
the dining-room and out of the great
hall, where he lingered for a moment or
two.
I had thanked me civilly enough for
my breakfast, but the girls laughed and
nodded as he went out, and said they
should think I had picked up a raven.
All that long, bright day I was busy
and happy in the flower garden, or sew-
ing, or reading; and when the girls left,
I wished them a merry time, and told
them not to hasten home, for
Thomas should come for them.
I expected my father and mother soon
to take the carriage, and I told Thomas he
might go about that time, as they would
soon be home, and it looked a little like
rain.
Heavy clouds were gathering in the
West and the thunder rumbled solemnly.
He took the carriage, and the girls left,
and I, before he went, said respectfully:
"Miss Ann, I think you had better
fasten the doors, as you may be all alone
for a short time if it goes so soon. Would
it not be rather that I should wait till
your father comes?"
"Oh, no, Thomas; I don't mind being
alone in the least, and you ought to go,
lest it should rain hard, for it is more
likely to do so now." I said, and he
wished to leave in a minute. I expect
father and mother every moment. Don't
wait."
So Thomas left, and the wagon rattled
merrily up the lane.
I lifted myself cautiously on the win-
dow ledge, and caught a branch of the
cherry-tree which grew close to the
house.
Swinging myself lightly out, I hastily
descended the trunk of the tree, and
found myself on the ground safe.
The lightning flash betrayed me.
The Raven's voice shrieked hoarsely,
"There she goes! Catch her! Quick!
This way!"
Out at the front door came the pur-
suer, hardly ten steps from me.
I dashed toward the thick shrubbery to
put them off the track.
Fortunately I knew the way, every step
of it. They were guided solely by the
sound and flashing light.
"Shoot her by the next flash!" cried
one.
My flying feet struck loose boards.
I was passing directly over an old, un-
used well, very deep, and it gave back a
hollow, resonant sound.
Almost the next moment I heard a
crash, the report of a pistol, a heavy fall,
oaths and a deep groan.
Shuddering, I sped on through the gar-
den, up toward the cider-press, over the
stone wall, down the hollow, up the hill-
side, over the fields.
No steps followed; no voices shouted
after me. I ran down to the second bars,
and let them down.
It began to rain a few great drops,
then fast, then it poured. I was wet to
the skin.
I ran on, for I heard advancing wheels
coming rapidly. I stood in the road and
cried "Father! father!"
The chase stopped. Another chase be-
hind stopped also.
It was our next neighbor, who lived
a quarter of a mile further on.
"Ann, my child. Good heavens! What
is the matter! What has happened!"
I told the whole in a few words, amid
exclamations of joy at my safety,
of surprise, even of anger because Thomas
had left me alone.
"Don't blame him, father; I insisted on
his going."
A hurried consultation took place.
My father was very brave. Our neigh-
bor was very timid. He proposed going
on to his house and returning with
weapons.
In the meantime I had got into the
chase and crouched down at my mother's
feet, who was half crying, and wholly
thankful to feel me there.
We rode on, and came to our gate un-
der the willows. There were lights in
the house, but all seemed still. Nothing
moved. My father put the reins in my
mother's hands, and opened the other
gate that led up the lane.
"Will you go home with Nathan?" said
he.
"And leave you here? No."
"Take your wife home, Nathan, if you
will, and come back."
"We will stay by you."
"Let us reconnoiter, then, a little."
They got out, leaving us sitting still.
The rain fell less heavily. They got

something that would do for weapons
from the tool-house. They went all
round the house—all was quiet. They
went in.
We sat still, speaking few words, my
hand clasped in my mother's.
"Thomas is coming!" I exclaimed, eag-
erly. "I hear the wheels."
We called to him as he came to the
gate, for he could not see us.
He drove through, and called out:
"What is the matter?"
"We did him sufficient, and he left Bot-
sey and Hannah, and went in at once,
with only the heavy whip."
We did not sit long. Nathan came out
directly.
"What have you found? Who is there?"
"Nothing. Nobody."
"Are they all gone?"
"Yes, with some of the silver, and a
few things. We don't know what yet."
The horses were put under the shed,
and we went in.
"We will take a lantern, Thomas, and
look round out of doors a little."
I knew they would go to the old well.
I stood and looked out of the window,
and saw the gleam of the lantern as it
moved.
In a very few minutes they came back.
"One of them is dead," said my father,
"and the other lies at the bottom of the
well and groans. The third has escaped."
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