The New Northwest.

THURSDAY.....MARCH 27, 1879.

OVER THE BANISTERS.

BY ELLA WHEELER.

Over the banisters bends a face
Jaringly sweet and beguiling;
Somebody stands in careless grace
And watches the picture, smiling.

The light burns dim in the hall below;
Nobody sees her standing,
Saying good-night again, soft and low,
Half way up to the landing.

Nobody, only the eyes of brown,
Tender and full of meaning,
That smile on the fairest face in town,
Over the banisters leaning.

Tired and sleepy, with drooping head,
I wonder why she lingers,
And when all the good-nights are said!
Why, somebody holds her fingers—

Holds her fingers and draws her down,
Suddenly growing bolder,
Till her loose hair drops in masses brown,
Like a mantle, over his shoulder.

Over the banisters soft hands fair
Brush his cheek like a feather;
Bright brown tresses and dusky hair
Meet and mingle together.

There's a question asked, there's a swift caress;
She has flown like a bird from the hallway;
But over the banisters drops a "Yes"
That shall brighten the world for him alway.

GRANDMAMMA'S MIRROR.

In this mirror—years ago,
Maybe sixty-five or so—
Peeped a maid,
Who was young and very fair,
Summer eyes and sunny hair,
It is said.

She's a little altered now,
There are wrinkles on her brow,
And her hair
Is more silvery in hue,
But her eyes are kind and true,
As they were.

Only think, she saw herself
Years ago, a pretty elf,
Mirrored here.
'Twould be very nice to know
Where the pretty faces go,
Year by year.

What a treasure there must be
Hidden somewhere, secretly,
In this glass:
For I know that pretty girls
Always trifle with their curls
As they pass.

And I sometimes seem to trace
There the shadow of a face
Not my own;
But no sooner do I strive
To regard it as alive—
It has flown.

Then I fancy I have seen
Grandmamma at seventeen,
A deceit!
Yet it builds me up a dream
Of the blinest eyes, that seem
Mine to meet.

Though I know it is ideal,
There is something very real
In the face;
Heaven bless me, there it is,
Coming here with Cousin Liz;
"Cousin Grace?"

London Graphic.

Difference of Aspect.

"How does the sea look?" - "That depends," as a cautious lawyer or physician would properly say, on an incomplete presentation of a case to him, with the demand for an opinion. How the sea looks depends largely on the eyes that are looking at it.

One may suppose, for example, a group of railway engineers scanning the Atlantic; one of them looking at it as simply an extension of his road, requiring no repairs, and on which there are no taxes. There is no romance, but there might be some enterprise in a look of that kind.

But here is a little girl of seven summers, with fair curls, and eyes like the brightest part of the ocean. She is looking over the ship's side, and saying, "Papa, why is the water at the ship blue, and the water out there not blue?" And papa is explaining to the child that the ship's motion lets the air and water mix, and carries the light into the water and so it looks blue.

Look at that pale gentleman who is compressed into the smallest possible space in his chair, with a great coat, a muffler, a rug, a shawl, and another rug being put around him. Poor gentleman! he is sea-sick. How does the sea look to him? Why, he does not see it at all. He will not look at it. He squeezes himself down into that cane-bottomed, jointed complication, closes his eyes and holds them tight, lest a glimpse of his formidable foe should reach him and suggest added horrors. The sea is not lovely—to him.

The young people who are standing at the stern, by the wheel-house, looking out for phosphorus, ostensibly, and one of whom is quoting Byron to the other—availing himself dexterously of a "piece" which he had to commit to memory as a penalty at school, or he would never have known it—how does the sea look to them? Why, they do not see it at all. They are not looking at it. Their faces, indeed, are toward it, but their thoughts are of themselves. He is thinking of her, she of him. He thinks her the softest, the sweetest and loveliest of her sex; and she thinks him one of the noblest, handsomest and most talented of men—witness that poetry, now, with which he is entertaining her. What a mind he has!

Do you notice that tall man walking the deck, speaking to few, scanning the water and the sky occasionally, and then resuming his nervous walk? How does the sea look to him? He was three days ago seeing to his business, when a telegram was put into his hand. It ran thus: "Return immediately; Lucy sick." Telegrams are concise. Lucy is his wife. They were married a couple of years ago. There is another Lucy in his home—a little one who can only crow and clap hands and kiss, but not speak, and the hasty friend has not said which Lucy is sick, and his telegram of inquiry has brought no reply, for they are slow about such things in many of the parts. And he had to take the first fast ship, put up with such a berth as they could give him, and cross the channel to find out which Lucy is sick, and how ill she is, or if, indeed, she is dead already, and this is the way they have gently put it to him. How does the sea look to him? Dreary? Yes, and more. It is like a great heartless foe of his. He would annihilate it, if he could. It parts him from Lucy and from the intelligence he "dreads yet dwells upon."

How does it look to that pale-faced lady, whom a little boy in vain tries to hasten as she moves languidly to a place on deck? She was married—not prudently, her friends said—and her husband took her abroad. He was not brought up to anything particular, but having what is called a gentleman's education, he presumed he could turn his hand to anything.

He tried and failed; tried something lower, but it did not realize his hopes. It came to be "trying for something;" then it became "trying for anything." Then it was nothing but "trying," trial upon trial. Then courage failed, for bad times continued longer than any one supposed. Then health failed, and but for a clergyman and a hospital, who knows how death might have come? And so she was left a widow. She never wrote much home; she knew the tone of reply would be, "We told you so." But now she is a widow; her heart is too utterly broken to be proud any more. A letter came from an elder brother offering her a home, and she is going to it. But, ah! it is a mockery to call it "home." Her heart knows better. That was where her husband was, and every turn of that screw that throbs through the ship's length is carrying her farther away from his buried body and her buried hope. The sea is a great, dull, monotonous piece of a dismal world to her. Its waves that are dancing to those young eyes at the stern, are only moaning and threatening to her.

And yet it is well that there are little ones to look into the brilliant blue ridges with wonder, and cheery voices to quote poetry, for oh! to how many is there "sorrow on the sea!" And this is because there is sorrow on the land, for our eyes bring hues and color to the picture, and its broad expanse, "calm or convulsed," reflects not more the clouds that flit over them, than the changeful moods of men and women that gaze upon them, and behold them in the light of their joys or fears, their joys or terrors.

The "Fast" Lover.

Alas! the time has gone by when girls shun the fast young man. "I don't like your goody-goody youths," says Miss Innocence, who scarcely knows what she is talking about. "I admire a man with a spice of Satan in him." Young lady, are you one of that too numerous class who prefer the society of "fast" young men to that of honest, true-hearted gentlemen? Is your ideal of a companion and protector one of those unprincipled "bloods," of whom your parents heartily disapprove, who is so wild in his habits that you yourself are afraid to trust him, yet whom you deem far more sociable and entertaining than men of conscientious scruples? Then have a care! If a man is bent on sowing the wind, you should be wise enough to take care that you do not expose yourself to reap the terrors of the whirlwind. Above all things, a young lady should abhor the courtship of a willful profligate, being assured that he will be as faithless to a wife as to other women. Meet his advances coldly—particularly if he considers himself irresistible, as he doubtless does—as the wound to his self-love may result in making him see himself as others see him. And you need not hesitate to let him know why you repel his advances. If he has the stamina to attempt to regain his manliness of character, a sharp, yet sympathetic, rebuke from a lady whom he respects may do much to put him on the way toward a reformation of life. Should he show himself conscious of his false position, put him on a long probation of good behavior, and govern your own relations toward him accordingly. But should he show no such consciousness, and decline to undergo the test, you have no more certain proof of his absolute unworthiness, and the sooner you wash your hands of him the better it will be for your peace of mind. Don't let romance blind your judgment.

The pivot upon which the arguments of the opponents of equal suffrage turn is the question of sex. Though sex does not prevent a woman from working eighteen hours a day at housework, or ten or twelve in a workshop, often enduring hardships that would appall her more muscular brother, it is still urged as an unanswerable reason why she should not be permitted a fair share in the profits, as well as the labors of life. What is the question of sex, and how far does its influence extend, as a hindrance and a stumbling block to women? If the Bible and Plato are to be believed, the two sexes, at the entrance of life, are on an equality. Says the Bible, of God's creation of the human race, "Male and female created he them, and blessed them, and called their name Adam in the day when they were created;" and Plato, when his disciples, with much of the spirit of levity which is seen at the present day in the disciples of a higher Master, had asked his opinion on the woman question, answered them in the following words: "Neither a woman as a woman, or a man as a man, has any special function, but the gifts of nature are equally diffused in both sexes. The same education or opportunity for development which makes man a good guardian (or ruler) will also make woman a good ruler, for their original nature is the same."

A SCENE IN CHURCH.—The day was intensely cold. The congregation had assembled and the services were begun. A man muffled in heavy coat and scarf entered and, walking hurriedly down the aisle, seated himself in a conspicuous place. Directly before him sat a man with fiery-red hair. The newcomer deliberately took off his gloves, and with an air of perfect satisfaction and comfort, alternately held his hands near the red head before him, and rubbed them in a manner which Hood has described as "washing his hands with invisible soap, in imperceptible water." The preacher witnessed the whole performance, and, having a keen sense of the ludicrous, he lost control of his risibility, and, to the consternation of his congregation, roared with laughter.

A country deacon went home one evening and complained to his wife that he had been abused down at the store shamefully. One of the neighbors, he said, had called him a liar. Her eyes flashed with indignation. "Why didn't you tell him to prove it?" "That's the very thing—that's the trouble," replied the husband; "I told him to prove it, and he did prove it."

Beware of prejudices; they are like rats, and men's minds are like traps. Prejudices creep in easily, but it is doubtful if they ever get out.

The worst thing a young lawyer can do is to commence drinking as soon as he is admitted to the bar.

We know a fisherman who is said to be crazy, but we are prepared to prove that he is a seine man.

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