The New Northwest.

THURSDAY.....MAY 1, 1879.

PAPA'S LETTER.

I was sitting in my study,
Writing letters, when I heard,
"Please, dear mamma, Mary told me
Mamma mustn't be 'isturbed;

"But I'se tired of the kitty—
Want some ozzer fing to do.
Writing letters, is 'oo, mamma?
Can't I write a letter too?"

"Not now, darling; mamma's busy;
Run and play with kitty now."
"No, no, mamma; me write letter—
Tan it you will show me how."

I would paint my darling's portrait
As his sweet eyes search my face;
Hair of gold and eyes of azure,
Form of childish, winning grace.

But the eager face was clouded
As I slowly shook my head,
Till I said, "I'll make a letter
Of you, darling boy, instead."

So I parted back the tresses
From his forehead high and white,
And a stamp in sport I pasted
'Mid the waves of golden light.

Then I said, "Now, little letter,
Go away and bear good news;"
And I smiled as down the staircase
Clattered loud the little shoes.

Leaving me, the darling hurried
Down to Mary in his glee:
"Mamma's writing lots of letters—
I'se a letter, Mary, see."

No one heard the little prattler
As once more he climbed the stair,
Reached his little cap and tippet,
Standing on the entry stair.

No one heard the front door open,
No one saw the golden hair,
As it floated o'er his shoulders
In the crisp October air.

Down the street the baby hastened
Till he reached the office door:
"I'se a letter, Mr. Postman;
Is dere room for any more?

"Tause this letter doin' to papa;
Papa lives wir Dod, 'oo know;
Mamma sent me for a letter—
Does 'ooink 'at I can go?"

But the clerk in wonder answered,
"Not to-day, my little man."
"Den I'll find an ozzer office,
Tause I must do it I tan."

Fain the clerk would have detained him,
But the pleading face was gone,
And the little feet were hastening
By the busy crowd swift on.

Suddenly the crowd was parted;
People fled to left and right,
As a pair of maddened horses
At the moment dashed in sight.

No one saw the baby figure,
No one saw the golden hair,
Till a voice of frightened sweetness
Rang out in the open air.

'Twas too late; a moment only
Stood the beauteous vision there;
Then the little face lay lifeless,
Covered o'er with golden hair.

Reverently they raised my darling,
Brushed away the curls of gold,
Saw the stamp upon the forehead,
Growing now so icy cold.

Not a mark the face disfigured,
Showing where the hoof had trod;
But the little life was ended—
"Papa's letter" was with God.

Accommodating.

Mr. Burdette, the humorist of the Burlington *Hawkeye*, in describing his adventures while traveling on railroads, thus sets forth the unreasonableness of certain passengers:

A woman with three bird-cages and a little girl has just got on the train. She arranges the three bird-cages on a seat, and then she and the little girl stand up in the aisle, and she glares around upon the ungallant men who remain glued in their seats and look dreamily out of the window.

I bend my face down to the tablet and write furiously, for I feel her eyes fastened upon me. Somehow or other, I am always the victim in cases of this delicate nature. Just as I expected. She speaks, fastening her commanding gaze upon me:

"Sir, would it be asking too much if I begged you to let me and my little girl have that seat? A gentleman can always find a seat so much more easily than a lady."

And she smiled. Not the charmingest kind of a smile. It was too triumphant to be very pleasing. Of course I surrendered. I said:

"Oh, certainly, certainly. I could find another seat with scarcely any trouble."

She thanked me, and I crawled out of my comfortable seat, and gathered up overcoat, my manuscript, my shawl-strap package, my valise and my overshoes, and she and the little girl went into the vacant premises as soon as the writ of ejectment had been served, and they looked happy and comfortable.

Then I stepped across the aisle; I took up those bird-cages and set them along on top of the coal-box, and sat down on the seat thus vacated.

I apologetically remarked to the woman, who was gazing at me with an expression that boded trouble, that "it was much warmer for the canaries up by the stove."

She didn't say anything, but she gave me a look that made it much warmer for me, for about five minutes, than the stove can make it for the canaries. I don't believe she likes me, and I am uncomfortably confident that she disapproves of my conduct.

Poetry and Married Life.

The Philadelphia *Ledger* has the following under the above head:

There are those who contend that the romance of life ends with marriage. All the blissful illusions of young love, they say, are gradually dispelled by the hard and flat routine of prosaic and practical life. Certainly, if love be an illusion, marriage will destroy it. Those who imagine that life hereafter is to be a paradise of bliss, where self-denial and self-control are needless, where trouble and pain cannot enter, and where the only duty of life is to enjoy what has not been earned, will certainly become disenchanted by marriage, as by any other actual experience. All that is really illusory will be dispelled. But that marriage is to take away aspiration, hope, delicacy, or anything that helps to form the poetry of life—that is to diminish or degrade the love that has led to it, and put into its place a prosaic respectability, station in life, money-making and fashion—is an idea that needs no toleration. If this were true, then, indeed, would wedded life be a thing too mean and sordid for high poetry, or for pure romance. That there are men and women who do thus pervert the meaning of marriage is a sorrowful fact, but it is owing, not to the institution, but to their mi-taken views of life and its aims. It is not marriage, but the mockery of marriage, that brings such disaster to the purest and best parts of our nature. The truest elements of romance exist wherever generous devotion, brave endeavor and steadfast love inspire the heart, and no situation in life is better calculated to develop these qualities than that of marriage.

One of the editors of the Reading *Times* has translated "Baby Mine" into Pennsylvania Dutch. Now, if he could only translate the author, and the boys who whistle the air, into some far-away lands, this country would feel grateful enough to start a monument to him—and never finish it.—*Norristown Herald.*

Astonishing Feats in Jugglery.

In Delhi, India, we saw the celebrated basket trick, which is sometimes poorly imitated by professional magicians in this country. A native produced a basket and blanket, and after permitting us to see that they contained nothing, inverted the basket on the ground and covered it with a blanket. We paid no attention to his incantations, but kept our eyes fixed on the basket and the space around it, resolved that no boy should be smuggled into it or out of it without seeing him. What made the feat still more wonderful was the fact that the performer stood in a clear space and we could look down upon him as he proceeded. He went through the customary act of thrusting a sword through the interstices of the basket, when the cries of a boy were heard, as if in mortal pain, issuing from the basket. Turning it over there was a boy within, apparently unhurt and seemingly enjoying the fun. Restoring the basket with the blanket over it, to its former position, with the boy underneath it, the juggler went through some incantations, and then running his sword under the blanket, tossed it away from him. Turnover the basket no boy was to be seen. So far as anything could be observed, there was no possible place in which the little fellow could be concealed.

Another feat quite as astonishing we saw performed in the streets of Constantinople. An itinerant musician showed us a cane, which had the appearance of being wood and very knotty. This he tossed in the air as high as he could, and when it struck the ground it took the form of a live serpent, with blazing eyes and rapid movements. It looked like a dangerous specimen, and one which no man in his senses would like to approach. Catching up this monster, the fellow coiled it around his neck and fondled it, while it writhed and exhibited the most venomous qualities. Throwing it high up in the air, it fell to the ground the same cane which we had handled at our ease. It was the trick which Aaron performed in Egypt when he turned his rod into a serpent, and the Egyptian musician did the same thing in imitation.

The World's Amanuensis.

The essayist is a poet in prose; letting the world flow past him, and from the whimsical, the grave and melancholy, he extracts his mirth and moralities. His main gift is an eye to discover the suggestiveness of common things; to find sermons in the most unpromising texts.

This writer has no lack of subject matter. There are essays everywhere and one only needs to be the world's amanuensis. The coffin of a pauper carried carelessly along, is as good a theme as the funeral procession of an emperor. Craped drum and banner add nothing to death; penury and disrespect take nothing away. Two rustic lovers whispering between the darkened hedges, is as good an essay as if one had seen Romeo touch the cheek of Juliet in the moonlit garden. A curly-headed child asleep in the sunshine before a cottage door is sufficient inspiration for a discoure.

If a thing is useful to an essayist, he is not squeamish as to where he picks it up. He is shy of friendship, and fears love, for he knows that both are dangerous. He believes that life is full of bitters, and he holds it wisdom that a man should console himself as far as possible with its sweets, and finally is the last man to relinquish the shabbiest substance, to grasp at the faintest shadow. —*Rural Home.*

LIFE IN SAN FRANCISCO.—Mrs. Ada C. Bowles, writing of San Francisco, her new home, says:

I have called San Francisco the "City of Rooms," as compared to Philadelphia, the City of Homes; a term you would think justified could you but see the large proportion of houses with bills in the windows of "Furnished Rooms to Let." Many causes exist no doubt for this state of things, such as high rents, high wages of servants, and a changeful population, containing a large number of unmarried men and women, away from distant homes in search of fortunes or health. But above all the other causes I believe risks in stock-gambling, the indulgence in which costs many a man his home, or the savings which would give him one. Houses can be built here so cheaply, demanding no cellar, no burying of water and drain pipes below frost lines; no thick walls and strong roofs to bear heavy snows, that industry and economy would soon give every man his own home and fireside.

A LIE STICKS.—A little newsboy, to sell his paper, told a lie. The matter came up in Sunday school.

"Would you tell a lie for a penny?" asked the teacher of one of her boys.

"No, ma'am," answered Dick very decidedly.

"For sixpence?"

"No, ma'am."

"For a shilling?"

"No, ma'am."

"For a thousand shillings?"

Dick was staggared. A thousand shillings looked big. Oh, would it not buy lots of things? While he was thinking another boy called out behind him, "No, ma'am."

"Why not?" asked the teacher.

"Because, when the thousand shillings are all gone, and all the things they've got with them are gone too, the lie is there all the same," answered the boy.

It is so. A lie sticks. Everything else may be gone but that is left; and you will have to carry it with you, whether you will or not. A hard, heavy load it is.

Life is but a span; marriage is a double team; and youth wedded to old age is a tandem.

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