

[Written for the Tidings.] TO A QUONDAM FRIEND.

"Not a sigh shall escape from the heart thus beguiled, I will bear like a man what I feel like a child.—Byron. We once were friends—at least in name— Few friendships e'en are stronger, But ah! between us coldness came And we are friends no longer! No matter where the blunder lies, Or what the unwise taken, I would not give one cent for this That are so prone to breaking! Perhaps you deemed my love for you Had grown a trifle colder, As love sometimes is apt to do, While it is growing older. I did not, though, admire you less In loving, too, another— You each had ample power to bless, Had it not been for 'tother! And thus it was I came to meet Unlooked for, dire disasters, And entered a two-fold defeat In trying to "serve two masters." Well, be it so!—I'll try and bear My part with resignation, Nor yield up wholly to despair Because of our flirtation.

FRANK.

"A DESERTED VILLAGE."

WILLIAMSBURG, JOSEPHINE CO., Sept. 19, 1877.

EDITOR TIDINGS:—If I were in possession of your gift of the "divine afflatus for a few moments I would be tempted, in imitation of that model composer of good English, Oliver Goldsmith, to set this communication to poetic measure. The subject of my sketch, however, is deficient in one important particular necessary to commend it to favor of the immortal Nine—it hasn't a poetical name, certainly not as endearing a one as "Sweet Auburn." The town of Williamsburg, in its growth and decadence, is a fair example of a class of mushroom villages peculiar to mining communities. Its existence dates as far back as to 1850. Then, under the stimulus of a mining excitement very common in those days, it grew in a few weeks to a population capable of casting about three hundred votes. An event that helped to expedite the early growth of Williamsburg was the digging of a large ditch by Maury & Davis and others at an expense of about \$20,000 to supply the mines of the vicinity with water. The mines were at that time what were called good diggings and paid excellent wages after deducting expenses for water. Such prosperity, however, has usually proven to be of too ephemeral a character to insure permanency to any other interest dependent thereon, as those who invested in town lots, in business houses, in livery stables and workshops and in expensive hotel property in the once lively town of Williamsburg, soon learned to their cost. Money for a while, though, was plentiful, business brisk, saloon keepers and gamblers were in "high feather," and the "burg" every now and then enjoyed the sensation of a "man for supper," or breakfast as the case might be, which meant, in the parlance then prevalent, a heartless and, perhaps, unprovoked murder at the hands of some reckless bully or bandit, then so numerous in our semi-civilized communities. There is a place of burial under the brow of the hill just below the old town site that still bears melancholy evidence of the former existence of horrid crime. In that rude and uncared for cemetery sleeps many a luckless victim, cut down in the prime of manhood in obedience to the barbaric spirit of earlier times, "unknelted, unhonored and unsung." But Williamsburg will probably never witness such scenes again. As a town, it has existed only in name for several years. Most all the buildings were long since torn down and removed to other localities. The avocation of the saloon keeper is gone, and with it the bandit, loafer and gambler. Mr. Layton commenced last week the work of demolishing the old hotel building, which has for many years been occupied by him as a store house and dwelling, preparatory to moving with his business to the main road on Applegate and nearer the locality of his future mining operations. Connected with this building are many interesting reminiscences for those who have previously lived here, but not important enough perhaps to interest the general reader. Here the youth and beauty of the vicinage were often wont to assemble in obedience to each Tersi-chorean summons, "to chase the glowing hours with flying feet," yet animated in most instances with a further, reaching ambition than that of "The dancing pair that simply sought renown, By holding out to the each other down." With Mr. Layton's departure and Mr. Barkdell's, who also expects to move, the burg becomes untenanted, save by "the wicked flea" and the tenacious cocklebar.

Men who can't tell a rutabaga from an old tin pail are now at the country fairs, and begin their orations with "Fellow-farmers." Etiquette does not require you to shake hands with a crowded parlor.

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Our soap has been pronounced by those who know SUPERIOR TO ANY IMPORTED ARTICLE.

Give it a trial and support home industry.

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May 12th, 1877. no48tf.