# Qurrent Titerature.

PLANTING OF AN APPLE TREE.

WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT.

Come, let us plant the spple tree, C eive the tough gr en sward with the spi Wi le let its hollow bed he made; There gently lay the roots, and there Sift the dark mold with kindly care,

And p ess it over the a tenderly; As 'round the steeping infant's feet We softly fold the or die-sheet, So plaut we the apple tree.

What plant we in this apple tree? Bud ., which the breath of summer days Shall lengthen into leafy sprays: Baughs, wh re the thrush, with crimson breast,

Shall haunt and sing, and hide her nest; We plant upon the sunny les.

A shudow for the noo- tide hour, A sh-lug from the summer shower,

When we plant the apple tree.

What plant we in this apple tree? Swe ts for a hundred flowery springs To load the May-wind's restless wing-When, from the orchard row, he pours Its fragrance through our open doors;

A world of blossoms for the bee, Flow-re for the sick girl's silent room For the glad infant, springs of bloom; We plant with the apple tree.

What plant we in this apple tree? Fruits that shall swell in sunny June, And redden in the Augu t no n, And drop when gentle airs come by, That fan the blue September sky;

While children come, with cries of glee, And seek them where the fragrant grass Betrays their bed to those who pass, At the foot of the apple tree.

And when, above the apple tree, The winter stars are glittering bright And winds go howling through the night, Girls, whose young eyes o'erflow with mirth Shall peel its fruit by cottage-hearth, And guests in prouder bomes shall see,

Heaped with the grape of Cintra's vine, And golden orange of the line, The fru t of the apple tree.

The fraitage of this apple tree, Winds and our flag of stripe and star Shall bear to the coasts that lie afar, Where mon shall wonder at the view, And ask in what fair groves they grew;

And sojourners beyond the sea Shall think of childhood's careless day, And long, long hours of summer play In the shade of the apple tree,

Each year shall give this apple tree A broader flush of roseate bloom, A deeper maz ; of verdurous gloom, A loosen, when the frost-clouds lower, The crisp brown leaves in thicker shower,

The years shall come and pass, but we Shall hear no longer, where we lie, The summer songs, the autumn's sigh

In the bough of the apple tree.

And time shall waste this apple tree Oh, when its aged brandles throw Thin shidows on the ground below, Shall fraud and force and iron will Oppress the weak and helpless still?

What shall the tasks of mercy be, Amid the toils, the strifes, the tears Of those who live when longth of yours Is wasting this little apple tree?

"Who planted this old apple tree?" The children of that distant day Thus to some old man shall say: And, gazing on its mossy stem, The gray-hatred man shall and "A poet of the land was he, Born in the rude, but good old times; fis said he made some quaint old rhymes On planting the apple tree."

horse he rode was found dead a mile further back.

I had been glad that he was away from home, out of reach of the storm, never dreaming that he was right in its way on the prairie; and so when he was brought in, white and still, I would allow myself to think of nothing only that he had fainted. When the doctors and others came to me, saying : "Try and bear it Mrs. Howard; your husband has been dead hours," I said : "It is not so!" And then I grew angry that they should tell me so dreadful a thing, and breaking away from them I threw myself down beside him, calling him all the old, loving names, pressing passionate kisses on his face.

But he was silent and cold-so cold that the chill from his lips struck to my that I was a lady; so that if Mrs. David heart. I could not see. I thought I was dying, too, and was glad.

But I lived; if grief killed women, few would be living. The gray clouds of November hung

over the earth when I was strong enough to face life again. The necessity of earning a living was brought sharply to my remembrance when I found myself rly penniless.

My girlhood's home had been in Al bany. I had married Harold against my proud old father's express command. I loved him; therefore it mattered little to me that he was poor.

But father was exceedingly angry that his daughter should throw herself away on a penniless fortune hunter as he chose to call my husband. I knew that Harold was not a fortune hunter, so I married him, and we came to Kansas and settled in the little town of Pearl. Our short year of married life had known no cloud. Now all was changed. I was a widow of 20, the daughter of a rich man, therefore unused to methods of earning my own living. I could not ap peal to my father. He had disowned me, and I, had inherited something of his own indomitable will. What should I do? I could not sew.

There was music teaching, that infalli-able resort of all broken down gentle women, but that I could not do; I was out of practice, and I hated teaching. An idea came to me like inspiration I had a natural genius for cooking. After my marriage I did my own work, and my husband had often said that, being

the daughter of a wealthy man, it was marvelous that I could cook like a French-woman. I formed my plans at once. What cared I for social position -1, whose life was darkened forever? I sold all the furniture, all the jewelry

I possessed, except my wedding ring; secured testimonials as to character from leading citizens in Pearl, and telling no one where I was going, went to San Francisco. When I arrived I had one trunk containing my clothes, and money enough to board me cheaply for one month.

The next day after my arrival I look-ed over the wants in a daily paper. One struck my fancy in particular, and I determined to answer it :

WANTED. ... IMMEDIATELY, A FIRST CLASS Cook: good wages and pleasant home to com-

I put on a plain grey dress-I did not wear the mourning; Harold would not have wished it-and called at the address given. There was an appalling array of women in the vestibule of the large house which I entered. The servant seemed puzzled when she answered my ring as to what I was, until I said : "I came to answer the advertisement."

She understood, and seated me beside a fat Irish woman who looked upon my diminutive figure with unmistakable scorn.

One by one they went up stairs, and one by one they came down again. Judg-ing by their faces, the interviews were

shortly after Mrs. Davidson appeared and gave orders for dinner, informing me that I should have to assist in wait ing on the table when there was com-pany; that my wages would be \$12 per month, and that she would send the coachman to my boarding house for my trunk.

Then began a strange life for me, ye I was not unhappy. I mourned my husband, I grieved over my alienation from my father. But I gave satisfac-tion to my employer, because I could cook to perfection.

Of course I had no friends. The other ervants looked upon me as a rara avis but I managed to secure their good will By feeding my employers well I gained their esteem also, and, having been there six months, Mrs. Davidson one day told me that she had never known what it was to live till I came to her. I did not presume upon my education, or the fact

son had felt doubtful, as I know she did, regarding the expediency of employing "lady help," she had found her doubts groundless. I attended strictly to my work.

So the time passed until I had been cook a year. I had been required, perhaps a dozen times, to serve the dinner I had cooked, and those were the only times I had seen the grey eyes of Mr. Temple-Mrs. Davidson's nephew-who had entirely recovered on the regimen

food I had prepared for him. One day Mrs. Davidson came down stairs and said :

"Mrs. Howard, I am going to give a dinner next Wednesday, and you must do your best, for I expect a valued friend from the East whom I especially wish to honor."

I did my best, and the dinner, served at 8, would have tempted a king. When it was time I went in with the

cream, but I nearly dropped "the tray I carried, for at the right of the hostess sat my father. Judge Dellaire. Strong man that he was, he grew

white to the lips as he sprang to his feet erying : "Madge, Madge! My daughter!"

Chauncy Temple grasped the situation more readily than the others, took the tray from my hands, thereby saving some lovely Dresden china from destruction, and a moment later I was cry-

ing in my father's arms. Mrs. Davidson behaved with the utmost presence of mind. Turning to the astonished guests, she said : "You will excuse us for a moment," and leading the way to the library, left me alone with my father, saying as she kissed me, "I am rejoiced.'

Dear old father! He was delighted to get his little girl back. Shortly after Harold's death he had concluded that he wanted his daughter bad enough to put up with her husband. Receiving no answer to the letter he addressed to the place where he had last heard of us, he began a vigorous search. He traced us to Pearl, and here heard of my husbands death, losing of course further clew, be

cause I had told no one where I was go ing. Mr. and Mrs. Davidson were friend of his younger days, of whom I had never heard him speak. Being in San Francisco on business, he naturally stopped at their house.

Mrs. Davidson will have to advertise for another cook, he said. I could see that he was shocked at my plebeian calling, but joy at seeing me outweighed all other emotions.

That was four years ago. Father took me back home, and tried by everpthing that money could buy or love suggest to make me forget my sorrow. Sometimes Chauncy Temple visited us, and a year after my return home he asked me to be his wife ; but I said "no." Another man would have given me up; not so with Chauncy Temple ; he waited patiently.

"I don't ask you to forget the past," he said ; "but I love you so dearly that I know I can help to make you happier." Six months ago my father said to m "Madge, my daughter, I should be glad to see you the wife of Chauncy Temple. Not that I expect you to forget, but you are young, and could be happier with interests in life." nev Mr. Tomple had been several weeks in Albany, attending an interminable law-suit. That night he said to me : "Madge I will wait forever, if need be. I don't want to take Haroki's place in your heart; but can you not, love me a little, too? As for me, I shall love you always, and none other. Can you not trust vourself to me?"

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The Young Widow.

He was dead, they told me, and I did not believe it-my noble handsome husband! It could not be true, and I laughed in the face of the physician when he repeated the assertion.

Not 12 hours before I had kissed Harold good-bye, and watched him ride away over the prairie. It was a lovely day, but to an experienced eye the clear out white clouds, showing so vividly against the dark blue of the sky, were the banners of the vanguard of a storm But no one could have foretold that a terrible cyclone, two hours later, would burst upon us, leaving ruin and death behind it.

Yet so it was. Two hours after my husband had said: "Good-bye, Madge lon't sit up for me, I may be late," and passed from my sight, a black funnelshaped cloud appeared in the southwest, and half an hour later it broke over the little village of Pearl. Strangely enough it swept only the western edge of the place, leveling on to the town of Aibion, where the destruction was fearful.

But Harold, my husband, was caught on the plain right in the path of the velone no shelter on either side which he might reach in time. A party of home returning hunters found him on the prairie, a few hours after the storm had passed, lying face downward, where the cyclone had dropped him after carrying him no one knows how far. The

satisfactory. Feeling my courage take flight I was ushered into the preence of the lady of the house. She was a handsome woman of 40, with a look of weariness and vexation on her face. Near the window, in an easy chair, sat a man of perhaps 30, whose face indicat-ed that he was recovering from a severe illness.

An expression of surprise crossed Mrs Davidson's face as she asked : "Did you answer my advertisement a a first class cook ?" "Yes, ma'am," I replied, "I think I

could please you." "But-I beg your pardon-you do not look like a cook." I felt my face flush as I answered :

"One need not be less of a lady because one is a cook."

" No," doubtfully. "Have you ever been in service""

"No, Madam," I answered; "but I can give you testimonials as to character, and I should be glad to prove to you that I can cook. Please do not think," I added eagerly, interpreting the par-plexed look on her face, "that because I was not born in that station of life that T shall expect to be treated differ-

ently from any other servant. Being compelled to earn my living, I have chosen this in preference to any other method. Will you look at my letters?" offering two or three.

She took them, and, crossing the room gave one or two of them to the gentle man at the window, who had not seem ingly been listening to the conversation. Evidently the letters were satisfactory, for after a few low toned remarks Mrs. Davidson returned to me, saying

"I will try you. My nephew is just recovering from a fever, and I shall want you to exert your utanest skill in his be-

Ringing the bell, she ordered the ser vant who answered to take me to the

kitchen, adding : "You may tell whoever calls hereafter that I have engaged a cook." I followed the girl to the kitchen, and

I thought about it a week longer, and the day he left for home I gave him his final answer. To morrow-no, to-day it is past midnight now-I shall be the wife of Chauncy Temple.

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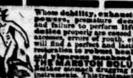
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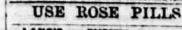
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