

# Literary.

(ORIGINAL AND SELECTED.)

## A TRAGEDY.

By J. BOYLE O'REILLY.

A soft-breasted bird from the sea  
Fell in love with the light-house flame,  
And it wheeled around the tower on its airiest  
wing.

And floated and cried like a love-lorn thing;  
It brooded all day and it fluttered all night,  
But could win no look from the steadfast light,  
For the flame had its heart afar,  
Afar with the ships at sea;  
It was thinking of children and waiting wives,  
And darkness and danger to sailors' lives.  
But the bird had its tender bosom pressed  
On the glass where at last it dashed its breast:  
The light only flickered, the brighter to glow;  
But the bird lay dead on the rocks below.

Help yourself and others will help you.

Fame is a bright robe, but it soon  
wears out at the elbows.

A doubt is the heaviest thing you can  
pick up and try to carry.

He who will not answer to the rudder  
must answer to the rocks.

Clothes that speak for themselves  
leave their wearers nothing to say.

The best reward for having wrought  
well already is to have more to do.

The road to heaven is too narrow for  
you to travel it and pass anybody on the  
way.

If you have never been in adversity  
you have never found out who your real  
friends are.

Inheritance is the least dishonest way  
to acquire wealth, and generosity is its  
only excuse.

Trouble and perplexity drive us to  
prayer, and prayer driveth away trouble  
and perplexity.

As we must render an account of ev-  
ery idle word, so must we likewise of  
our idle silence.

Be careful from whom you accept fa-  
vors. The duty of gratitude may be-  
come a heavy burden to you.

True courtesy is kind. It exhibits it-  
self in the disposition to contribute to  
the happiness of others.

Harsh counsels have no effect; they  
are like hammers which are always re-  
pulsed by the anvil.

All true work is sacred. In all work,  
were it but true hand-labor, there is  
something of divineness.

One's self-satisfaction is an untaxed  
kind of property which it is very un-  
pleasant to find depreciated.

Courage combined with energy and  
perseverance will overcome difficulties  
apparently insurmountable.

Never fear to bring the sublimest mo-  
tive to the smallest duty, and the most  
infinite comfort to the smallest trouble.

Labor may be a burden and a chastise-  
ment, but it is also an honor and a glory.  
Without it nothing can be accomplished.

Sweetness that never sours will do  
more to soothe one's pathway through  
the world than great accumulation of  
wealth.

Character is made up of small duties  
faithfully performed, of self-denials, of  
self-sacrifices, of kindly acts of love and  
duty.

Some souls there are like the cactus  
blossom, surrounded by a prickling  
mass of ugliness, themselves a marvel of  
sweetness.

As there are no blessings which may  
not be perverted into evils, so there are  
no trials which may not be converted  
into blessings.

Work is the best educator of practical  
character. It evokes and disciplines  
obedience, self-control, attention, ap-  
plication and perseverance.

Honest good humor is the oil and  
wine of a merry meeting, and there is  
no jovial companionship equal to that  
where the jokes are rather small and the  
laughter abundant.

It is a true blessing of our age that we  
are beginning more and more to esti-  
mate a man, not by what he owes to his  
birth and fortune, but according to the  
advantages he has won for himself by  
his mind and heart that even those  
whom civil order has placed in the low-  
est rank are learning to think of their  
rights and to feel themselves as creat-  
ures who can demand respect.

A thoughtful and considerate sobriety  
of mind, so that one always knows what  
he is about and what he means to do  
and what he means not to do, as con-  
trasted with a headlong, impetuous, and  
reckless mode of acting, is a cardinal  
quality in living a successful and a vir-  
tuous life. Men must think and do so  
seasonably, if they would make the  
journey of life wisely. Every young  
man needs to learn this lesson.

Sympathy is costly; aid of every sort  
is costly. But, as Dr. Johnson said, so  
are spite and ill-nature among the most  
expensive luxuries in life. It costs us  
immensely to be rude, ill-mannered, or  
mean; it costs us much to give way to  
unrighteous anger, to harbor spite or ill-  
nature. If we must spend so much of  
our life forces upon others were it not  
better to spend it in kindness than in  
unkindness?

Every one needs to avoid, as far as  
possible, obvious dangers. But we ought  
not to forget that such avoidance simply  
means, in many cases, the running into  
dangers just as great, though less obvi-  
ous. There is a point, therefore, at  
which we must accept dangers, as well  
as a point at which we must shun them.  
To place too much stress upon their  
presence, is to paralyse all effort; to  
place too little stress upon them, is to ig-  
nore a divinely appointed agency for  
keeping us wise, alert and sensible of  
responsibilities. Indeed, as an eminent  
preacher said: "The world would not be  
fit to live in if there were no dangers in  
it. Dangers are God's whetstones with  
which to keep men sharp."

There are men and women who have  
a genius for drawing the very best out of  
all their associates. A sensitive nature  
feels unconsciously the personal atmos-  
phere of another, and the cynic or a  
satirist shuts up such a nature as com-  
pletely as the cold or the night closes a  
sensitive flower. In the presence of a  
cynic or a satirist a sensitive person is  
dumb and helpless. In a genial and ap-  
preciative atmosphere, however, such a  
nature opens as freely as the flower that  
was closed opens at the touch of the  
sun. There can be no happier function  
in life than to so act upon people that  
they think their best, speak their best  
and do their best.

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