LOVELINESS.

Once I knew a little girl,
Very plain:
You might try her hair to curl,
All in vain:
On her cheek no tint of rose
Paled or blushed, or sought repose:
She was plain.

But the thoughts that through her brain
Came and went,
As a recompense for pain,
Angels sent;
So full many a beauteous thing,
In her young soul blossoming,
Grave content.

Every thought was full of grace,
Pure and true;
And in time the homely face
Lovelier grew;
With a heavenly radiance bright,
From the soul's reflected light
Shining through.

So I tell you, little child,
Plain or poor,
If your thoughts are undefiled,
You are sure
Of the loveliness of worth;—
And this beauty not of earth
Will endure.

—Maria Locey, in St. Nicholas.

ROMANCE OF A RICH GIRL.

Mr. Coupon was a wealthy New York merchant doing an extensive business. Upon that account he was much respected by his fellow men, and equally respected by himself. He had two children, a son and a daughter, the former a young man of twenty-five, who occasionally helped him in his business in that condescending and amateurish manner which the sons of rich men usually employ.

The daughter was just eighteen, a ravishing blonde, named Eudora, whose golden hair and violet eyes had been the unconscious means of having an exquisite bouquet, from an unknown admirer, sent to her every day in the week, even Sunday not excepted.

Eudora idealized into a hero the unknown sender—for hero she was certain he must be. Without any cause for doing so, she connected him with an incident which had occurred during the previous summer, while she was staying at Cape May.

Accustomed to gratify every caprice, and wooed by the loveliness of the summer night, she had set out late one evening to visit a friend, driving along the starlit sands, and accompanied only by her father's coachman. A sudden thunderstorm came up. The sky blackened. The horses became frightened at the increasing noise of the surge of the sea. The driver, losing his presence of mind, endeavored in vain to stop them.

When within a few yards of her friend's house, the carriage was overturned, and Eudora would have been dragged along and probably crushed to death, had not a man, loitering near, suddenly dashed forth and stopped the terrified steeds, handed them over to the now partly recovered driver, and rescued Eudora, unhurt, just in time to place her in the hands of her alarmed friends, who hurried anxiously from their house. She turned to thank her deliverer, but he was gone. In the darkness she had not seen him. There was no clue by which he might be recognized in the future. She was a young lady given to romance, and the consequence was that she dreamed of him in her heart.

The great rival of Mr. Coupon in business was a man of thirty, who had raised himself from nothingness, and whose character, strange to say, was as blameless as his reputation. By one of those caprices in which the creative force so often indulges, this gentleman, with a disposition as sunny as a Skye terrier's, rejoiced in the name of Radiance. He was unmarried and wealthy, and was apparently troubled with no kinsmen, either rich or poor. Yet none of the men with whom he transacted business asked him to their houses, none of them had any intercourse with him beyond that necessitated by commercial affairs. But all spoke highly of him, all esteemed him, and there was not one who, at some time or other, had not been indebted to him for financial aid.

Perhaps it was this which made Mr. Radiance inly sorrowful, notwithstanding the natural gaiety of his temperament and the abundant glow of cheerfulness he diffused. He was singularly handsome, with a frank and open look, and a complexion which, for flawlessness and delicacy, any woman might have envied. His manners might have been inherited from Chesterfield. He was well read, spoke several languages, and was accomplished in manly pastimes. Miss Eudora Coupon, on the few occasions when she visited her father's establishment, and Mr. Radiance happened to be there, had not failed to remark the athletic perfection of his figure and bearing. Once her mother who chanced to be with her during their down-town visit, remarking the passing glance Eudora had bestowed, said to her in a half whisper:

"It is a pity, isn't it?"

"Yes," answered Eudora, "a great pity," and immediately forgot the object of her compassion, as is the custom of the children of the world.

Evidently there was something about Mr. Radiance that the people could not stand. Why, for instance, should Mr. Coupon have been on intimate business terms with him for years, why should he be indebted to him for having twice been saved from failure, and yet never once have asked him to his house—nay, have even shuddered at the mere idea? Why should many of Mr. Coupon's business friends hold the same relations toward Radiance, and have recoiled from taking him into their homes, as if he were a leper?

Plainly there was something in this man—something beneath and beyond character—which rendered social intercourse with him repellant in the highest degree. Was it really true that his character was as good as his reputation? Was there no hidden crime, atoned for perhaps, yet leaving behind it an indelible stain? Was he a ticket-of-leave man? Notwithstanding his grace, his handsomeness, his culture, did he not bear with him that forlorn and terrible aspect which those sustain who have known the silence of a cell, this horror of the lock-step, the awful loathing and the degradation of serving out a term.

Upon a certain day Mr. Coupon was seriously embarrassed in money-matters. He was one of those dashing business men who run along the road of life at break-neck speed. Radiance was then the only man upon whose help he could depend. To Radiance accordingly he went, and explained his situation, setting forth that he needed a loan of a very large amount.

Mr. Radiance listened to him calmly. The two men were alone in the little office, the door of which was closed.

"Well," said Radiance, who seemed to be more than usually cheerful, "I'll help you."

"I knew you would," said Coupon.

"On one condition," continued Radiance.

"Condition granted," answered Coupon; "you are always reasonable."

"Yes, I am always reasonable," said Radiance. "The money is ready for you on condition—"

"Go on;" said Mr. Coupon, as Radiance hesitated.

"On condition," repeated Radiance, eying Coupon steadily, "that you ask me to dinner at your house to-night."

Mr. Coupon sat stupefied.

"Ask you to dinner—at my house?" he managed to gasp.

"Yes; I will be sure to come," and Radiance nodded his head slowly, as though he were anticipatively enjoying the treat.

"You know I can't ask you," said Mr. Coupon, with his breath coming very short.

"I am sorry I can be of no service to you to-day," said Mr. Radiance about to open the door.

"Stay," said Mr. Coupon, breaking into perspiration. "You know I would ask you if I could."

"And why not?"

"You know why not."

"I am not in the least aware. Is there a spot on my reputation?"

"No."

"Are any of the men who frequent your house better educated or better mannered than myself?"

"Few as well."

"I—I don't like to mention such a thing, but are you or are you not under some slight obligation to me?"

"Very great obligations."

"Then listen—every day, for months past, a bouquet has been left at your door for Miss Coupon."

"How do you know that?"

"Because I am the unknown who sent it."

"You! You dared?" And Mr. Coupon rose in his wrath as though to lay violent hands on this audacious, yet innocent offender.

"Yes, and I have dared to do a great deal more. Do you remember last summer when Miss Coupon, driving at night along the beach at Cape May, the horses ran away, the driver became frightened, the carriage was overturned and Miss Coupon would have been crushed to death if I had not stopped the horses—"

"You? you? you?" and this time Mr. Coupon sank upon his chair, and all the power of the vernacular seemed to be condensed into the second person plural of the pronoun.

"Yes, I did that; I wandered there to be near her. I have saved from death your child, whom I adore, yet at whom I dare not cast a glance. I love her, oh with such passionate love, yet I dare not breathe it to her even by a look, And I have saved you, her father, from what would be to you much worse than death, since it would mean the pangs of poverty. Yet you shudder when I ask you to invite me to your house. And why is it! Because my face is black. I am a negro."

The silence in the little office was broken only by the sobs of the wretched man who had hid within his arms, which were supported by his desk.

All was tragically true. Black as the darkest of his race, yet with features so Caucasian in their regularity that a white man might have envied it, the fatality of his birth shut the door of happiness from him, and left him alone amid the added curse of culture.

Mr. Coupon sat paralyzed. This, then, was the hero after whom his daughter had secretly pined, whom she had erected into a god, that her romantic imagination worshiped.

"We are obliged to you, infinitely obliged," he said at last, rising. "But of course this ends everything. I must be ruined now."

Radiance took no notice of him. He had raised his head and was writing rapidly.

"Good morning," said Mr. Coupon, opening the door.

"Good morning," said Mr. Radiance; "but before you go take this," and he handed him a check for the amount necessary for his salvation.

"No—no? I cannot, I must not accept it now."

"Take it," said Radiance. "With it I purchase the right to love your daughter infinitely, in secret, and forever. I shall send her no more flowers, and presently her curiosity will die. Though this black skin makes me to her a creature less than human, my soul can worship hers." He paused a moment, then added:

"And you must never tell her—"

"No—no, of course not," exclaimed Coupon, grasping the check a little tighter. "Good morning."

Then left alone, the black man muttered, as one speaks in a dream, "I could bear anything—except—that she should laugh!"—New York Hour.

How to Get Rid of Rats.

The plague which rats are in many places renders justifiable almost any means of getting rid of them. A correspondent who has had practical experience, writes to a contemporary stating that caustic soda is the best and speediest means of getting rid of them. "Cream caustic soda, seventy degrees in strength, costs," he says, "nine pounds per ton, but it can be purchased in tin kegs from any drysalter at about ten shillings per hundredweight. It is in a solid state, and can be easily broken up in small pieces large enough to push into a rat hole. I proceed to use it thus: Melt some in an iron or stoneware vessel, and pour it into the holes, so that the ground around may be saturated with it; then jam one or two pieces into the holes, so that the rats may not undermine and scratch them away. When the rats come to the mouth of the hole and smell the soda, they will begin to scratch under to remove it; but the fluid soda has wet the soil or stones around, and their feet will be blistered, and they cannot remove the solid pieces. Exposure to the air keeps the surface of the soda always wet; but long before the pieces are entirely melted away, the rats will have forsaken that hole. As to dogs or poultry suffering by its use, care should be taken to keep them from touching it. Where the ground is undermined by a series of holes, I would insert pieces of wood covered with soda into the holes, and slowly pour a quantity of melted soda on the ground around, giving time for it to dry it. Rats are exceedingly cunning; and if they find themselves constantly liable to get themselves severely burned when running about their favorite haunts they will entirely forsake the premises. As to handling caustic soda, it should not be touched with the ungloved hand, and care should be used when breaking it not to let it spark on the face or eyes; and I think with these instructions and a little perseverance the man must be careless who cannot free his house or buildings from rats.—Chambers' Journal.

Bonnets to match the costume are to be the rule, and the fashionable woman will have a bonnet for every street dress and theater toilet. There is to be a decided effort to revive large bonnets, but the small capote and the becoming Langtry turban are prominent among the shapes prepared for the fall opening, and will surely hold their own.

FASHION NOTES.

A velvet and velveteen season is predicted.

Copper color and mignonette are again fashionable.

Tennis shoes are fastened by bows of colored ribbon.

A dress entirely of silk is no longer correct for street wear.

A bunch of sweet peas is a favorite corsage boquet at present.

Colored embroideries are very stylish and come in every conceivable shade.

Straw demijohns of the smallest description are employed for cologne bottles.

Grays, browns and indefinable shades of blue or blue-green bid fair to be very popular.

Vests of chamois are introduced in many of the street suits with very good effect.

Some of the prettiest yachting suits seen this summer are of dark blue flannel with red satin waistcoats.

There is nothing new yet in the style of cutting, but we are likely to witness the increasing success of tight-fitting vests with full, flowing jackets.

White and cream colored dresses of Chinese silk, trimmed with Malines lace and brown or cherry ribbons, are favorite summer costumes of the Princess of Wales.

Dresses with rick-rack trimming, be it joyfully announced, are confined this season to third and fourth rate summer resorts. Rick-rack insertions are known no more in fashionable places.

The first importations of fall dress goods are rough finished cloths in camel's hair of a single color that look coarse but are of fine wool, with that oil finish that makes a fabric agreeable to the touch.

Cunning little low-necked, short-sleeved dresses for children are made of pink, blue and strawberry sateen, surah, chambery, or linen, embroidered or plain, over plaited waists of white muslin or guimpes with sleeves.

All that is known at present of autumn wrappings is that they will be worn of every shape, the old fashioned paletot excepted. What is particularly outlawed is the ancient sleeve, cut separately, that is to say, not in one piece with the wrapping. The sleeves of the winter wraps will all be the continuation of the barbe of the front, or will form part of a cape. Velvet ribbons will be much used for trimming dresses and wrappings.

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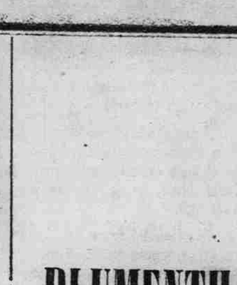

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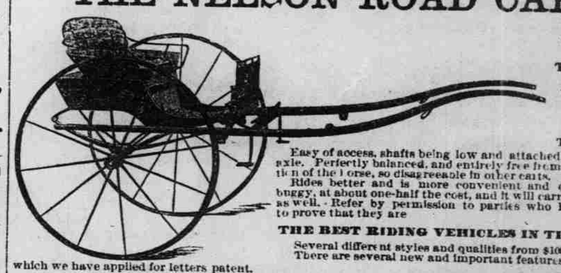

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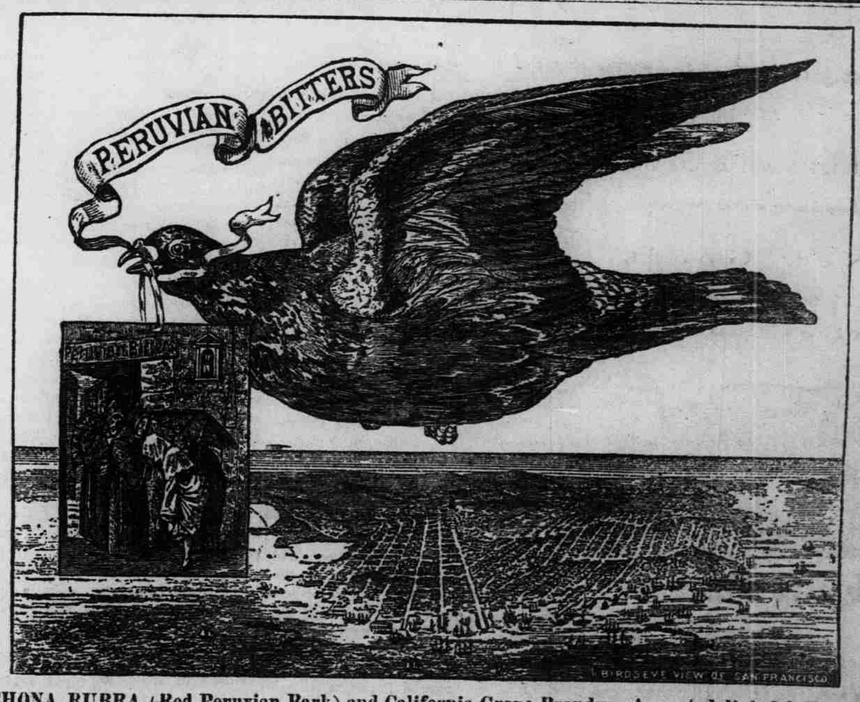

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