

The Daily Reporter.

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McMinnville, Or. - - Mch. 22, 1887

If I Should Die To-Night.

The following poem was written at Astoria, Oregon, in 1875, by a person who had conceived the notion that he was to die that particular night, from a strange dream revealing to him his own tomb stone, duly inscribed as he walked through a cemetery. It was passed around among his friends, and was published in two or three places soon after. The Washington Star of last week reproduces it credited to Henry Ward Beecher. Beecher was not the author of it:

If I should die to-night,
My friends would look upon my quiet face
Before they laid it in its resting place,
And deem that death had left it almost fair;
And laying snow-white flowers against my hair,
Would smooth it down with tearful tenderness
And fold my hands with lingering caress.
Poor hands so empty and so cold to-night;
If I should die to-night,
My friends would call to mind with loving thought,
Some kindly deeds the icy hands had wrought;
Some gentle word the frozen lips had said;
Errands on which the willing feet had sped;
The memory of my selfishness and pride,
My hasty words would all be put aside,
And so I should be loved and mourned to-night.

If I should die to-night,
E'en hearts estranged would turn once more to me,
Recalling other days remorsefully.
The eyes that chill me with averted glance,
Would look upon me as of yore, perchance
And soften in the old familiar way,
For who could war with dumb unconscious clay?
So I might rest forgiven of all to-night.

Oh friends, I pray to-night,
Keep not your kisses for my dead cold brow.
The way is lonely, let me feel them now.
Think gently of me; I am travel-worn;
My faltering feet are pierced with many a thorn,
Forgive, oh, hearts estranged, forgive, I plead!
When dreamless rest in mine I shall not need

The tenderness for which I long to-night.
It may not be considered prudent for us at this time to harrow the feelings of the person who wrote, nor unearth the dismal domestic trials which lead to the production of this poem, but should like for the Star and all others who so admire it, to know that it was an Oregon production.

To persons having lands to sell we say, send a description and price of same AT ONCE to Hon. J. E. Magers, chairman of the board of trade committee, so that he can sell for you to parties coming from the eastern states, many of whom come directly to his office.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Lafayette.

Mrs. Judge Hurley has been quite sick for some time with pneumonia, but is on the mend.

Miss Belle Belcher had a relapse, and has been dangerously ill again, but we are glad to hear she is once more improving.

A. B. Westerfield and wife were made happy by the advent of a little girl on Tuesday morning, the 15th. The "Register," however, came out on time.

"The flowers that bloom in the spring,
tra la,

Grace window and table and shelf.
And the children keep bringing them in, tra la,

And I ask them where they have been, tra la,

Then answer the question myself.

Then answer the question myself,
For I see by the mud on their shoes that they bring

Bouquets of the flowers that bloom in the spring,
Tra la, la, la, tra la, la, la, la,

The children keep bringing them in
Tra la, la, la, tra la, la, la, la,

The flowers that bloom in the spring."

Thursday evening another one of Lafayette's famous dime sociables was held at Old's hall. A fine cake was sold, the pieces being numbered and selling at 25 cts. The person drawing the highest number was to receive a silver butter dish. The lucky number was drawn by Jas. Olds. The proceeds of the sociable were something over \$14. Lafayette is determined to have street lamps and these sociables help to swell the fund. A dance at Old's hall on Saturday night was gotten up for the same purpose. We have not heard what sum was realized on that occasion.

Friday evening a jolly crowd of "old married folks" gave W. B. Carey and wife a surprise party, taking them completely by storm. The party carried baskets of good things, and about half past nine a splendid lunch, including coffee, was passed around and fully enjoyed by all present. A pleasant, social time was had, and it was nearing 11 o'clock before the party dispersed for their homes. Wes. and his family are soon to leave for eastern Oregon, and this party was arranged by their friends because of their near departure. They carry with them to their new home the good wishes of all the community.

SELINA.

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