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MISS JENNIE E. LINES.

WASHENAW COUNTY BIBLE SOCIETY.

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The Michigan Argus

ANN ARBOR, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1860.

No. 779.

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The Wedding Ring.

By L. P. FLAHER.

I open wide my treasure box— A golden circle great to me; Ah! no wonder star to the ear, No wonder that I sigh.

For is the boundary of that ring Is all the joy of my life; "I hoped to love her, I hoped to love her."

It could not be, and I must bear My pain and sorrow as I may; But yet the anguish has its balms— It teaches me to pray.

Our names are given in the gold— I wonder if in hours of gloom, She sometimes thinks her rippling tresses Turn a thought on me.

And picture to her mind the kiss That heralded the ring she gave, Ah! remember, five and ten, Or slumber in my grave.

But "what the pleasure or the good? Why should she weep or even sigh? Perhaps she feels the joy to live, That I should feel to die."

I dreamt the ring and close the lid— Would I could so shut out the past; For why recall so sweet a hope, To claim a tear at last?

THE CONTRAST.

"Ah! Ned, Ned, you're a sad, wild fellow."

"So my mother says, anyhow, don't you think I do credit to her training?"

"No, my boy," said a silver-haired old man, "I remember your mother when she was a young lassie; her cheeks were like two red apples, and when the crimson was dimly spread so as not to shame the white, her eye was full and bright, not dim with sorrow as it is now. Some great grief must have changed her so sadly. Her rounded limbs and dainty foot, her beautiful throat and white, dimpled arms, I will remember. And she has been a kind mother, her counsels, like 'morn'ing dew and evening showers, have fallen upon your way—and yet, Ned, you call her the 'old woman'—Ah, boy, it never was so in my time."

"Oh, well," said Ned, tossing his handsome head, and hastily thrusting back the brown and glossy curls, "I am going to get married and be a dutiful son. No one can say that I neglect my mother, at any rate; though perhaps I am a little rude."

"Did you send that sugar, to-day, and the other little articles that I ordered?"

"Yes, my mother," said Ned, "I'll send you my little present, as they say together in their next cottage home."

"I declare, Ned, I forget it," his wife replied, blushing; "I was so busy finishing my dress for the ball, that it quite slipped my memory."

"Mother wanted them last week—sugar and salt, tea and coffee, and about everything else she was out of; what a stupid dog I am to forget so; here, Sam—Ned—Jack, where are you? what not one of them at home?"

"I should have gone to the hussling frolic, I believe," said Mrs. Ellis; "I intended to send those articles before they went, but I have such a short memory."

"Ditto to that," chimed in Ned; "but I must go round and see the old lady. I haven't even called to know whether she is well or sick."

The widow sat over the scanty fire, watching the hissing-water, as it splashed and fell from the little tin tea-kettle. A loaf of bread stood on the small table by her side. Her creamer was empty; the bowl, minus sugar, no sugar, no butter, no little luxury, nothing but the crust, the wet white loaf, and the scrap of tea that dusted the bottom of the ancient silver teapot.

The widow bent closer over the fire and there were tears in her aged eyes.

"He should have thought of his old mother," she murmured, fidgeting with her hands and the wet napkin on her bosom, but then, being just married so, I suppose I ought to consider her always with a little wild—a little wild; but he has got a good heart, I know he has; still, he shouldn't have forgot his poor old mother."

The good old lady leaned back and crossed her hands upon her bosom. Her thoughts had that golden heat nestled against her heart! How had those ever-living eyes drawn smiles from her own eyes, even when in lonely widowhood. How had she wept with him as he prattled toddled about her knees—the treasure of her life—the blood of her very heart—the apple of her eye. And after years had passed she remembered the often sold denials, the patted garment, the faded bonnet, all beautiful as jewels to her, because they purchased the great gift of education for her boy. And after all this she had neglected her old mother. Oh, shame! ungrateful man! that can so repay love tender as the love of an angel.

Look upon another scene. A bright, noble face, was that of young Arthur McLean. His eyes were vivid dark; his hair rolled back in glossy curls on a manly brow. His dress of earnest life emanated that fresh young countenance; the soft light of love unkindled it as he gazed in a, low tones to the gentle being by his side.

"Mother will not live with us," he said, "she has too long reigned over her own household to sit quietly by the side of another."

"I am sorry, Arthur," replied a sweet voice; "the picture I have framed in my heart will be incomplete without mother. Her meek face, her snowy curls, her honey fingers, her low voice and quiet influence would make our little home a paradise. Will she not be very lonely?"

"I have taken care to engage a cottage close to hers," answered Arthur, "know you can never get along without showing her your bright eyes at least a dozen times a day, to consult on little household matters—such as what dainty dish will best please the taste of your lord and master."

Alice shook her finger at this piece of impudence, and looked as though threatening as her pretty face would allow.

"And how do you get on now that Arthur has gone and is married?"

The Home Union Committee.

Washington, Dec. 13.

The Home Committee of thirty-three met to-day, and took the following action on that portion of the message referring to the pending difficulties in relation to the South. Mr. Rust, of Ark., offered the following:

Resolved, That, in the opinion of this committee, the existing discontent among the southern people, and the growing hostility among them to the Federal government, are greatly to be regretted; and that, whether such discontent and hostility are without just cause or not, and that any reasonable and proper constitutional remedies and effectual guarantees of their peculiar interests as recognized by the constitution, necessary to preserve the peace and the perpetuity of the Union, should be promptly and cheerfully granted.

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