

AN ITALIAN LEGEND.

BY GEORGE T. LANGRAN.

Adam—although it is not written in Sacred Lore—Had children many in Eden; Their number twenty-four.

One day as Adam with them Was sporting on the strand, 'Neath the tree, he saw coming The Angel of the Lord.

Fearing lest he'd be denied, Adam hid his children there, In a rosy thicket fair.

Their guests as down among them; And such discourse they bore As children and angels might With heaven just next door.

When they had ceased their sporting, "A special blessing I bear," Uproke the smiling Angel, "To these, thy children fair."

"To all the children of Adam, Gather about my feet, O health and wealth, the breeze, The dews of prosperity;

"And may they never know sickness, Or death, when such things shall be, But life be on this green award, And up under this garden tree."

The upspoke Father Adam, "Hail in sadness and half in shame: For these, my other children, A blessing I crave—the same."

"When I saw thee approaching, Mid the roses I bade them hide; But repeat to them the blessing, For the goodness of God is wide."

Slowly the puzzled Angel Made answer, "That cannot be, I have the Lord God's blessing: To the children that I could see;

"But it shall be on earth here, Through all the coming years, When one of the children hidden At this time is found to tear."

"His happier brother or sister May be blessing with him divide; Nor be its own share diminished, For the blessing of God is wide."

And so it ever has been, And so it ever will be; When the fortunate child shares his blessing With the one in misery,

Somehow, around about him In the dull world, he deserves The count of Eden's blessing: And the glance of an Angel's eyes.

A THEBODY.

Dead! Dead! Dead! By the wild sea's cold kiss blest; And hearts that are lightest will know of grief.

Mourn! Mourn! Mourn! For the dark clouds of sorrow and night; And the faintest of heart-sorrow and grief.

Sleep! Sleep! Sleep! To the music of fairy bells; But the still, cold hill shall no more be the sound of marriage bells.

Ab! the star of life has set In the gloomy aisle of the deep; And dark hearts are breaking for one sweet look.

Of eyes closed forever in sleep.

THE ENGINEER'S STORY.

BY SUSAN COOLIDGE.

"This is about it," said John Scott, the engineer, as the train slowly crested a long, gradual grade. "You're atop of the Rocky Mountains, now, ma'am."

Emily Vaughan looked to left and to right, and was conscious of a feeling of disappointment. She had pictured the top of the Rocky Mountains as something quite different from this. Here there was no sprawling heights or sudden gulches, only a wide rolling plateau, some distant peaks which did not look very high, and far ahead a glimpse of lower levels running down into plains. It seemed hardly worth while to have come so far for so little.

"Really," she said, "but where are the mountains? They don't look nearly so high as they do elsewhere."

"Naturally," responded the engineer; "things don't appear so high when you're as high as they are. We're atop you know."

"But there's no low-off, no wonderful distance, as from the top of Mount Washington. I confess I am disappointed."

"It's kind of queer," said John Scott, with a dry chuckle, "now, folks from the East keep alluding to that little hill as if it were the standard of measurement. We don't think so much of it this way. Why, ma'am, you're about two thousand feet higher at this minute than if you were at the top of that little shuck of a Mount Washington that they all think so much of."

Miss Vaughan smiled, but she experienced a shock nevertheless. The New England mind does not easily accustom itself to hearing its sacred mountains thus lightly spoken against.

"Have you ever seen Mount Washington?" she asked.

"Oh, bless you, yes!" replied John Scott, cheerfully. "I was raised over to Fryburg, and grew up alongside of it. I thought it was a pretty big concern when I was a boy, but now—" He closed the sentence with a short, expressive laugh.

Miss Vaughan changed the subject. She was not offended. She had grown to like this rough, good-natured engineer in the course of the three days' journey, during which, favored as a relative of one of the directors of the road, she had several times been privileged to ride, as now, in the engineer's cab for a better view of the country.

"Have you been long on this road?" she asked.

"Pretty near ever since it opened. I run the third through train that come out from Chicago, and I haven't been off the line since, winter or summer, except for three months when I was laid up with a broken leg."

"This must look very differently in winter," said Miss Vaughan, noting the treeless landscape, and the snow still glistening on the higher peaks to the left.

"You may believe it does! The first year when the snow-sheds wasn't built, it was terrible. I was running that train that

stuck in the snow seven days—perhaps you'll remember about it; it was in all the papers. I shan't ever forget that, not if I live to be as old as my grandfather, and he didn't die till he was ninety odd."

"Tell me about it," said Miss Vaughan, persuasively, seating herself on the high side bench of the cab, with that air of attention which is so entailing to the story-teller; amusements are few and far between in the long monotony of the overland journey to California; besides which, Miss Vaughan dearly loved a story.

"There's that much to tell," said John Scott, with something of the feeling which prompts the young vocalist to complain of hoarseness. "I had a very hard time falling things, either."

Then, won by Miss Vaughan's appealing eyes, he continued:

"We ran all fair and on time till we was about two hundred miles beyond Omaha. Then the snow began. It didn't snow much at first. The women-folk in the train rather liked it. They all crowded to the windows to see, and the children hatched. Any thing seemed pleasant change after his sagebrush, I suppose. But it went on coming, and the drifts grew deep, and the cars had to run slow, the older ones began to look so hoarse, and I can tell you that we who had the charge of the train felt so."

"We was just between two of the feeding stations, we put on all the steam we could, hoping to push through to where provisions could be got at in case we had to stop. But it wasn't no use. The snow kept coming. I never see it come so."

The flakes looked as big as saucers, and the drifts piled so quick that, when we finally stuck, in about ten minutes no one could see out of the windows. The train would have been clear buried over if the brakemen and the porters hadn't gone the whole length over the roofs every half-hour, and swept it off with brooms and shovels. We had a lot of shovels aboard, by good luck, or else nothing could have saved us from being backed up outright. It was just terrible hard work, I tell you. There wasn't no more laughing among the passengers by that time it come to that, and the children stepped hatching."

"Oh, the poor little things! What did they do? Were there many on board?"

"That was the worst of it. There wasn't plenty for any one to eat. We had stuck just midway of the feeding stations, and there wasn't a great deal of anything on boards besides what the passengers had in their lunch-bags. Our lady she had a can of condensed milk, and they mixed that up for the babies—there was ten of 'em—and so they got on pretty well. But there was about five other children, not babies, but quite hale, and I don't know what they could have done if it hadn't been for the young lady."

"The young lady?" said Miss Vaughan, looking up with some surprise, for with the words a curious tremble had come into the engineer's voice, and a dark flush into his broad face. "What young lady was that?"

"It was a most odd case, and I don't know what she was, but she was the best of the lot. The last two days they were ragged and snuffy, and when the snow got crusted over, so they could walk on it, they used to tread on it, and when they were all out of water melted in a puddle over the stove all we had to eat or drink."

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edies, suggested one of the porters; for we'd all got into the way already to turning to the young lady whenever things were wrong.

"Well, I went for her, and you never see any one so level-headed as she seemed to be, no new just what to do; and she had the right medicine in her bag; and in less than an hour that poor lady was quite comfortable, and her husband the most relieved man I ever saw. Then the young lady come along where I was standing—there wasn't nothing for me to do, but I was waiting for the doctor, and there might be—and said she: 'Mr. Scott, I am growing anxious about the fuel. Do you think there is plenty to last? Suppose we were to be kept here a week?'"

"Now just think of it! Not one of us dumb fools had thought of that. You see we was expecting to be relieved from hour to hour, for we had telegraphmen both ways, and the snow had stopped by that time, and none of us had any notion it was going to be the job it was to dig us out. Only the young lady had the sense to remember that she might last longer than we was calculating on."

"Says I, 'If we was out here a week, there wouldn't be a shovelful of coals left for any of the fire, let alone the engine. It's a tight squeeze, but that ain't matter if we are a little crowded,' says she.

"Well, of course it was the only thing to do, as we see at once when it was put into the young lady's head. It was a tight squeeze, but that ain't matter if we are a little crowded, says she.

"That was the way I come to see so much of the young lady. I had a right to keep me about the engine, so I kind of detailed myself off to wait on her. She was busy all day long doing things for the rest of the train. I don't know what she was doing, but she was a good deal of help."

"I can see her now, standing before the stove roasting jack rabbits for the others' lunch-bags. She was a good deal of help, and when the snow got crusted over, so they could walk on it, they used to tread on it, and when they were all out of water melted in a puddle over the stove all we had to eat or drink."

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LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE.

[To correspondents—Write on one side of the sheet only, and make your letters as brief as possible. In every instance the name of the writer must be forwarded to secure attention, as anonymous correspondence is promptly consigned to the waste-basket.

Federation of the Empire  
To the Editor of The Sun:—

Sir—I notice in THE SUN of the 31st ult., a letter from George R. Parkin on the federation question, which has of late, received considerable recognition by writers on both sides of the Atlantic, and on all sides of politics, but it is the only question of the day which is not presented in an intelligible form; its meaning, therefore, it is not possible, in every instance the name of the writer must be forwarded to secure attention, as anonymous correspondence is promptly consigned to the waste-basket.

Mr. Parkin, that is if there is any other gentleman of culture, abilities, and earnestness, and ranks very highly in my estimation as a man and a gentleman. This subject of federation has engaged his thoughts for a long time. He has done upon it in your Institute two seasons ago, and his remarks attracted much attention and some delegate of the Central Association of Young Men in I, think, Toronto, to represent them at a general convention to be held in London (England) some time in the course of the summer. I believe, therefore, that no gentleman is better qualified to discuss the merits of the great scheme proposed than Mr. Parkin, and if there is any other gentleman of culture, abilities, and earnestness, and ranks very highly in my estimation as a man and a gentleman. This subject of federation has engaged his thoughts for a long time. 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