

THE LITERARY TRANSCRIPT, AND GENERAL INTELLIGENCER.

Vol. I.—No. 118.]

TUESDAY, 27TH NOVEMBER, 1838.

[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

THE TRANSCRIPT

IS PUBLISHED

every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday MORNING.

BY THE PROPRIETORS,
W. COWAN & SON,

at the Office No. 13, St. John Street, opposite the Palace Street.

Edited by T. J. Thompson.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

Town, 10s. per annum.
sent by Post, 15s. per annum.

Advertisements, Communications, &c. may be left at the Office, and at the Book-Store, No. 26, St. of Mountain Street, at which places the paper may be had immediately after publication. Printing of every description executed with neatness and despatch, and on moderate terms.

MATCH-BREAKING.

A TALE OF AN ENGLISH COUNTRY TOWN.

(Continued.)

Rose Stapleton was about twenty years old, at a complete personification of youth in her appearance and motions; perhaps I may be tempted to have been guilty of tautology in my sentence; but I know many girls whom I might have never been young—who are, and always have been, destitute of the sprightliness, elasticity, and freshness of youth—such was not Rose Stapleton; she was remarkably pretty; and her beauty on account of its decidedly bright and juvenile characteristics, was likely to be peculiarly objectionable to the sight of an old maid. She had profusion of rich sunny tresses, intensely blue eyes, rosy cheeks, and scarlet lips, and teeth as brilliantly white, that Miss Malford said they afforded an infallible indication of consumption; the figure of Rose, however, had nothing consumptive about it, being some what plump the middle size, and inclined to a degree of plumpness which might have injured a girlish air, had it not been counterbalanced by the light and sylph-like agility of her mien. Rose had also a smile so very sweet, as to give reason to suppose that her temper was equally so. Mrs. Stapleton was generally considered and denominated a worldly-wise woman; but I am of opinion that she was rather injured by the phrase; she had none of the old, calculating policy, which usually appears in such a character. She certainly looked an expected that her daughter should marry a wealthy man, and the exceedingly ardent attractions of Rose did not seem to under such a hope at all unreasonable; but she took no particular means to secure her point, save giving smiles and invitations to rich men, and cool receptions and averted looks to poor ones.—She did not carry her beautiful nose to display "her buskins gemmed with morning dew," in the early promenade of hellenism, or to "waive her golden hair" in the stirring breezes of Brighton.

Rose Stapleton was not educated or put forward for display; she neither acted charades nor shot at archery meetings, nor officiated at any fancy, nor stilt-dramatized in folies—she was simply an engaging unsophisticated girl, with a lovely face, moderate accomplishments, and a fine temper. Mrs. Stapleton showed one proof of strict attention to her daughter's matrimonial interests, which she considered to indicate great shrewdness on her part, but which in my opinion was decidedly the reverse. She did not permit Rose to form a close intimacy with any of the girls among her acquaintance, as she felt it would not be desirable to have her accompanied by female associates, she readily accepted the overtures of Miss Ogleby and Miss Malford to exceeding sociability. Mrs. Stapleton argued to herself, with what she considered the tact of a woman of the world, "If Rose be surrounded by young and attractive girls, the attentions of any one disposed to admire her will be divided, or perhaps even alienated; now, Miss Ogleby and Miss Malford are excellent foils, and although they are

worthy kind creatures, no man in his senses who is a good match, would ever think of offering to either of them; then they are both very fond of Rose, and will be sure to draw her out, and speak highly of her if required, as she is young enough to be the daughter of either of them, and of course is quite out of the question as a rival."

Poor Mrs. Stapleton, she little knew the intuitive hatred felt by an old maid for a young beauty; she was a thoroughly good earning woman, without the least taste for mischief, and would just as soon have thought of amusing herself in breaking matches, as in breaking china.

Rose also gave full credit to the protestations of friendship which she received from the spinsters; she and her mother both rather wondered that two or three gentlemen, who had seemed greatly to admire her, had never made any serious proposals to her; but they little imagined that the constant spying, the officious intrusions, and the sly insinuations of their two dear friends, were the real cause of the apparent coolness and dilatoriness of the lovers. Had Rose selected young and pretty girls for her intimate associates, they would have been frequently sought for by beaux, who would have been anxious to become their partners in the dance, or their escorts in the rural walk, and they would have been too well employed and too well pleased to watch and circumvent all her proceedings; but Miss Ogleby and Miss Malford were always at hand to relieve guard with each other; they acted, in fact, the part of complete *duennas*, but poor Rose never suspected them to be such, since she was unable to picture a *duenna*, abounding in compliments, tender phrases, and fair speeches. One of the favorite amusements of the people of Allingham was to join in picnic parties to some secluded and beautiful spot in the neighbourhood, and these pleasure parties were often productive of anything but pleasure to the old, rheumatic, and ailing.—They were generally fixed a week or ten days beforehand, and therefore, as weather in England is generally rainy if it is particularly wanted to be otherwise, it was no common thing to see the whole party set out armed with umbrellas, followed by servants laden with wrapping cloths and box coats. Sometimes they made their way through thorny hedges to the peril and destruction of scarfs, veils and drapery; sometimes they pursued the path of a slippery declivity, not infrequently achieving the whole distance from top to bottom in a minute, at the slight expense of a spoiled dress, or a fractured limb, and they then refreshed themselves after their fatigues by sitting with their legs doubled up under them, in the fashion of a Turk or a tailor, upon the wet grass, eating cold delicacies from plates sliding on their laps, and maintaining a useless conflict with the wasps who hummed around them, attracted by the good cheer in which they abounded.

Now Rose was eminently qualified to appear to advantage at these picnics; she had unrivalled abilities at scrambling—she wore no finery which it could injure her temper or her spirits to get spoiled—she scarcely ever caught cold, she had a natural grace, which prevented her from appearing awkward, even in the doubled-up attitude fitted to a picnic-board—and her beautiful complexion could triumphantly defy the most searching ordeal of a bright blazing July sun; and to these recommendations those of an exquisitely turned foot and ankle, and my readers will not be surprised that the firm of Ogleby and Malford deemed it particularly necessary to act as a shadow to Rose on every picnic party, lest any of the young men who were in the habit of frequenting them, should be so struck with the charms of Rose, and the combined delights of country seclusion, spreading trees, cold chickens, and champagne, as to put their admiration into the awful and tangible shape of an offer of marriage. Once Miss Ogleby got a sprained ankle by rapidly following Rose down some rude steps cut in a rock where a young officer in the neighbourhood was tenderly conducting her, and Miss Malford had a severe cold and sore throat from insisting on sitting between her dear Rose and the hand-

some attorney of Allingham on the damp grass, at the chairs and camp stools had been provided for the seniors of the company. The kind-hearted unsuspecting Rose went constantly to sit with Miss Ogleby, and read to her, till the sprained ankle got well, and she was indefatigable in her presents of lozenges and black currant jelly to Miss Malford; using the continuance of her sore throat; she would have softened the hearts of almost any other adversaries, but match breakers have no hearts of their own, and their greatest pastime consists in probing and tormenting those of other people. An event was now to happen which converted the envious ill will of the Ladies towards the blooming Rose into decided and malignant enmity. Every town has its great man, and Allingham had every great man belonging to it. Sir Peregrine Dalling, a baronet of old family and large fortune, had a mansion a little way out of the town; he was about forty-five years old, had high spirits, a loud voice, and a strong constitution; he was fond of the country, fond of field sports, and especially fond of embellishing and improving his beautiful residence, and therefore had about as great an aversion as Hawthorn, for

"That region of smoke,
That scene of confusion and noise,"

known by the name of L. don.

A country town is generally full of ladies, who are keenly alive to detect every symptom of a marrying man, provided such man be possessed of sufficient fortune to render a marriage with him desirable; but, strange to say, nobody ever suspected the possibility that Sir Peregrine might be inclined to marry. I rather think that I can assign a reason for this strange dulness. Sir Peregrine had been a widower five and twenty years, and during that time no one had ever heard a whisper of his predilections for flirtations; now, when an old bachelor fills in love, and wishes to marry, no one is ever astonished, it may be supposed, that he is anxious to ascertain the effect of a married state of existence; but when a widower has remained wifeless for a long period of years, it may easily be conjectured, either that the good qualities of his deceased partner have wedded him to his remembrance, or that her bad ones have afflicted him from encountering the chance of a second edition of them in the person of a second wife. Accordingly, nobody attempted to entrap Sir Peregrine as a husband, although all were delighted to receive his lavish civilities and hospitalities as a master of a large income, and a large house. His parties were numerous and his presents abundant; he was a kind hearted, generous man, and as he did not see through the characters of our two spinsters, and was pleased with their attentive obliging manners to him—gifts of fruit and game, and drives in his carriage, were frequently at their command, and as they really believed him unlikely to marry, they spoke no more than the truth when they designated him as "an excellent neighbour, and a great acquisition to Allingham."

One morning, Sir Peregrine called on Miss Ogleby, and after some nervous hesitations, and divers twitchings of his hat, actually confided to her that he thought of again entering into the matrimonial state. Miss Ogleby, who to do her figure justice, was so upright as to be on the continual bridle; now bridled still higher; she bit her thin pale lips to make them red, shook the long gold ear-rings, in her ears, and artlessly sported with a drooping side ringlet of her wig; she could not doubt that his intention referred to herself.

"The object of my choice is your most intimate and highly valued friend," pursued the baronet.

Miss Ogleby loosened her hold of her ringlet, and ceased to bridle; she bit her lip, however more violently than ever; her most intimate friend was Miss Malford; could it be endured that her sister match-maker should slyly have secured such an excellent and splendid match for herself!

"Dear Sir Peregrine," she said, "my very heart aches for you; Miss Malford has certainly forced her self into some degree of intercourse with me, but I do not know any one calculated to make a worse wife; her person is tall of a

malevolent old fairy, and her actions are not far different; she is the terror of her servants, whom she starves, insults, and insults; the horror of the poor, to whom she never gives a shilling, her donations entirely consisting of lectures on the expediency of living on oatmeal and red herrings, and facilities of bringing up a family on ten shillings a week, and a perfect spirit of discord among her friends and acquaintance, who can trace most of their quarrels and misunderstandings to her mischievous investigations. Do, Sir Peregrine, consider twice before you place your happiness in the charge of such a woman."

"My dear Miss Ogleby," said the baronet, "you give yourself needless pain. In respect to Miss Malford's bad qualities, I may reasonably be allowed to suppose that they must be counteracted by some powerful recommendations, else you could never be induced to indulge her with so much of your valuable society; but whether her qualities be bad or good can be of little consequence to me, except as a common acquaintance. I am on the point of endeavouring to gain the hand of another of your intimate friends, Rose Stapleton."

(To be continued.)

MISCELLANEOUS EXTRACTS.

Twenty eight Jewish converts within a few years were baptised at Liverpool, where is a regular Hebrew service with the Hebrew liturgy of the church of England.

Mrs. Ann Highman, of Nottingham, England, died recently, from mortification of the tongue, occasioned by the prick of a needle which she had in her mouth.

Encke's Comet was observed at Liverpool, (Eng.) on the night of the Sept. 27. Its right ascension was 2h. 30m. 21s. and north declination 38 deg. 2m. 54. Its appearance was that of a hazy star of the tenth magnitude.

The King of Naples has published an edict against duelling, whereby a murderer in a duel shall be punishable as a common assassin, and the bodies of both parties buried in a profane place—seconds in a duel, beavers of challenges, and all who take part in a duel ending fatally, are to be punished by death.

There is a rumour of a rebellion among the turkeys, chickens, ducks and geese—a rise in the poultry-yard—on account of the New England Governors having appointed the same day for Thanksgiving. It is not true that the neighbour of the Argus is at the head of it—he was only deputed to wait upon the pigs and get their views in regard to the foul conspiracy of the Governors.

It has been said that there never was a man with long legs who was not an arrant coward;—that nature, knowing their lack of courage to face danger, generously provided them with an extra length of legs to enable them to flee from it.

Teachers are much wanted in Ohio, in the neighborhood of Cincinnati. Liberal salaries will be given to those who are efficient.

The cows of the Durham breed, were sold last week near Philadelphia at an aggregate of \$4760, averaging \$476 each.

The contractor of the first municipality, New Orleans, is brought in a bill of \$400 for poisoned sausages for destroying dogs this session.

The French government has granted unqualified freedom to all slaves in their province of Guiana.

Houston, the seat of Government of Texas, contains a population of 3000 persons, and is said to be rapidly increasing.

There is a portion of the Wilmington and Raleigh rail road fifty miles in extent, which is said to be as straight as a line can be drawn.

The New York Sun gives the following as "Finn's last"—"What sort of a light do you call that in front of the Jew's synagogue, asked a friend, of Finn, as they passed up Crosby street the other evening. An Israel-light was the reply."

The quantity of flour received at New York, by the Erie canal, from the 15th of April to the 1st of November instant, was 838,994 bbls.