

"THE FAVORITE"

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THE FAVORITE

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 1874.

NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS.

We request intending contributors to take notice that in future Rejected Contributions will not be returned.

Letters requiring a private answer should always contain a stamp for return postage.

No notice will be taken of contributions unaccompanied by the name and address of the writer (not necessarily for publication,) and the Editor will not be responsible for their safe keeping.

TO CONTRIBUTORS.

The following contributions are respectfully declined: "Canada First;" "To L. B.;" "The Temples;" "The Partridge;" "By no Means Flattering."

MAGAZINES.

MARCH ATLANTIC.—Ralph Keeler's remarkable narrative of how Owen Brown escaped from Harper's Ferry will have a special interest from the circumstances, fresh in every one's mind, of Mr. Keeler's sudden end; and Mr. Howells adds a personal tribute to his memory. The two serials, "Prudence Palfrey" by Thomas Bailey Aldrich, a story of New England and of Colorado; and "Moss Evans," by William M. Baker, a story of Southern life since the war, increase in interest, and have, this month, remarkable passages. The other articles are humorous and picturesque. "Baddeck and that Sort of Thing" by Charles Dudley Warner; "In a Market-Wagon," by G. P. Lathrop; "Life in the Backwoods of Canada," by H. B. K. Poetry: Wonderings, by A. L. Carlton; Mélanie, by W. L. Brigham; Ships, by H. K. Hudson; Patience Dow, by Marian Douglas; Winter Epithalamium, by Charlotte F. Bates; Story: "John's Trial," by P. Deming. Essays: A Medieval Naturalist, by J. H. A. Bone; Aborigines of California, by Stephen Powers. With full criticisms in Literature, Art, and Music.

A SPIRITUAL "MANIFESTATION."—A writer in the Washington *Star* relates the following anecdote of the White House: "During the civil war a letter was received by the State Department, following a telegraph despatch from Boston, relating in terms of such conviction and certainty a plot to undermine and blow up the Executive Mansion, with Mr. Lincoln and all his Ministers, on some Cabinet or reception day, that Caleb Smith, Secretary of the Interior, was confidentially charged to investigate it. He sent for a native District and Union man, known to every citizen, and asked him if it could be arranged to have some expert mechanic examine the White House cellar and approaches, without exciting suspicion among the workmen. He said he knew such a man, and called in Tom Lewis, a reliable master mason. Lewis took a gang of men, picks, shovels, &c., and informing them that he wanted to excavate for a drain or spring which made the cellar damp, had floors taken up, countermines and trenches dug, and informed Mr. Lincoln, who was not a particle scared, that he could see nothing like the work of Guy Fawkes. Caleb Smith was much exercised, however, and telegraphed to his informant in Boston to write more explicitly. The man did so, and assured the Secretary that there could be no mistake about his information, for he had derived it personally by communication with spirits."

SCRIBNER'S MONTHLY FOR MARCH.—The Mountains of Western North Carolina are the subject of Mr. Edward King's graphic "Great South" contribution to *Scribner's* for March; which is accompanied by a profusion of illustrations from sketches by Champney. Dr. Robinson discourses in the same number of the Women of the Arabs; and there is a brief account of "The Heiress of Washington," a very interesting little bit of history. Two articles of special importance are anonymous papers on John Stuart Mill, and unimpassioned, but not the less startling account of the "Crédit Mobilier." There is "A Dream Story" by the author of "Patty;" and a curious tale entitled "The Tachypomp," by a new writer. Miss Trafton's, and Mrs. Davis's serials are continued, and there are poems by R. H. Stoddard, John Fraser, Anna C. Brackett, James T. Fields, and Joel Benton. Dr. Holland, in his "Topics of the Time," discourses of "Literary Hinderances," "The Delusions of Drink," and "The Press and the Publishers." The Old Cabinet is full of "Misery," and in "Culture and Progress" is a notice of some length of the "New Poet," James Boyle O'Reilly.

The March number of *Old and New* has some good story reading, some striking poetry, and some reasonable and instructive papers on social subjects. Although "Scrope" is omitted for this number, Mr. Trollope's novel proceeds as usual; the lively three-part Washington novella is concluded; and there is a very bright California sketch by H. A. Berton, called "The Quickledge Partners." Biography is also pretty strong in this number, their being a curious account of Thomas Muir, who was a victim of the British sedition laws about the time of the French Revolution; a sketch of Mrs. Mary Somerville, the famous lady mathematician, and another of the late Dr. John Warren. Of the three poems, one is a sentimental translation from Ruckert, by Rev. C. T. Brooks; one is a gloomy but striking meditation among the tombs at New Orleans, by the late Joseph M. Field, father of the well-known lively newspaper lady, Miss Kate Field, and the third is an imaginative and thoughtful picture of the Athenian "Winged Victory" and its meaning. The strongest department of the number is its social science, however. Under this head, comes a paper on Labor Organization, with a plan for running a factory on co-operative principles; another of Mr. Quincy's acute paper on charity tax-exemption; and more especially an instructive paper on the U. S. Shipping Law, so-called, and its efficiency in protecting our merchant seamen from the infamous sharking and abuse of the sailor landlords. Under this head also comes a sensible recommendation, by Mr. Hale in the Introduction that it should be made the regular business of the churches to conduct, each in its own district, the "out-door poor relief" business. Some of the minor papers in the "Examiner" and "Record of Progress" belong under the same head, particularly two intelligent and strongly written reviews, one by a man and one by a woman of Dr. Clarke's remarkable book, "Sex in education." Altogether this is an unusually valuable number of the magazine.

St. NICHOLAS FOR MARCH.—The March number of *St. Nicholas* opens with a very useful article on Edward Jenner, by Clarence Cook. Accompanying this is a fine engraving of the statue of Jenner by Monteverde. Miss Alcott contributes a story, "Roses and Forget-me-nots;" Robert Dale Owen has a sketch of his boyhood, "Rascally Sandy;" there is a sea-side story, full of adventure and fun, by Noah Brooks; a sketch of Gulliver, the *Eliputians*, and *Swift*, by Donald G. Mitchell; a well illustrated story, "What the Stork Saw," by H. L. H. Ward; and a narrative true to nature, of a girl's adventures when "snowed in" on a Western prairie. A capital poem, "Elfin Jack, the Giant-Killer," by J. S. Stacey, who is becoming highly popular with the readers of *St. Nicholas*, will delight both old and young. We also find among the poems, a very beautiful bit of verse, by the Editor, called "March;" "Peter Parrot," by Rose Terry Cooke; and a delightful little thing by Mary A. Lathbury, entitled "The Trio," with an illustration by the author. The three serials increase in interest, "Nimpo's Troubles," by Olive Thorne, containing a remarkably well-told story of a poor, half-starved negro man, who accidentally found the key of his master's wine and provision cellar. A dog, named Rob, comes to the front under very favorable circumstances, in Frank R. Stockton's story, "What Might Have Been Expected;" and Jack Hazard and his friend George, in "Fast Friends," develop a genius for money-making which, we expect, will afford the author an opportunity for a good deal of lively incident in the course of the story. The illustrations are up to the usual high standard, and there are some very striking full-page pictures. The engraving called "Some Curious Fisher," drawn by Jas. C. Beard, will open the eyes of the youngsters. The French Story is usually good this month, and is well illustrated. We notice that a "Letter Box" has been added to the attractions of the Magazine. This will be good news to young people who like to ask questions of editors.

OUR JEMIMAS.

The days of "neat-handed Phyllis," the deft attendant of our table and servant of our household, seem to have merged into the dead years of the past. Smilingly, gently, carefully yet quickly she went about her daily toil.

Knowing her work well, she did it as thoroughly as willingly, and her presence in a family was an undeniable sign of domestic comfort and happiness. Now we have changed all that, and for the worse. Phyllis has departed; and her place has been, nominally at least, filled with some great awkward lout of a Jemima, knowing not her right hand from her left, dirty to an unbearable degree, a "crockery-smasher" of most superior excellence, and only quick with that sharp-pointed weapon of female warfare—the tongue. From all sides come to us complaints of a like nature. Servants of any sort are not to be obtained except with considerable difficulty; good ones may be hunted for unsuccessfully for months and months together; while the real old family domestic of the first class, who clung to the roof-tree through evil fortune and through good, who was in fact the *ne plus ultra* of useful, happy, and faithful servitude, has become as rare as the White Elephant, if not as extinct as the Dodo.

This question is broad, long, deep, and of the first importance, and cannot be dealt with as it deserves in a single article; let it be our task now to remark alone on Jemima, the miserably inefficient substitute for the Phyllis of former times, leaving other classes for future opportunities should such present themselves. But we may note *en passant* that there are certain generalities applicable to the whole body of servants of the present day, and that what is broadly stated of one section may be equally well said of all. To return to Jemima—it will hardly be denied that she is, in almost every respect, the exact opposite of her predecessor Phyllis. The latter was well trained, the former is grossly ignorant. Phyllis was a miracle of cleanliness. Phyllis was neat and modest in her raiment as well as in her general appearance; Jemima thinks herself "nowhere" if she cannot gaudily and tawdrily follow "my absurd fashion of the day—if she cannot have a woollen chignon, and a "panier" like unto that displayed by her mistress. Phyllis stayed at home and was happy and contented; Jemima is always "on the gad;" is hysterically miserable when left by herself, and is invariably "on the grumble." Phyllis was affectionate and faithful; Jemima cares for not one living soul in the house she has selected for her temporary abode, and would rather injure than promote the interests of her employers. Finally, Phyllis was deferential and respectful; Jemima is bumptious, aggressive, and counts it her chief pleasure and excitement in life to "pitch into Missus" when she is tired of the service, and longs for that constant change which seems an essential of life to the girls of the present day. Now why should these things be so? The particular causes are many and varied; the general ones can be put in a small compass; but the latter contain the former and will suffice, at least for the present, for our purpose. Lord Howard of Glossop, advertising to this subject at the recent "Appreciation" meeting summoned by his Lordship the Bishop of Salford, hit the nail very straightly on the head when he attributed the inferiority—to use no stronger term—of the servants of the present day to the absence of a "good groundwork leading to advancement." Lord Howard is evidently of opinion that want of proper working education is the cause of our having such bad servants, and he ably pointed out that a sound, practical, religious training—which will naturally produce a conscientious desire to excel in the selected sphere of labor—is what is essential for the production of domestics at once useful to their employers, happy in themselves, and content with the lot they are destined to retain in life. With that opinion we cordially agree, and it compels us so much that we think it almost needless to point out certain additions which might be made in words, but are in reality contained in it, and readily discernible by the thoughtful mind. Practically, we do not educate our Jemimas; we do not lay that "good groundwork leading to advancement;" and until we supply those gravest of all omissions, it will be useless for us to look for valuable and faithful domestics. Those of our Jemimas born and bred and brought up in towns, are, to an immense extent worthless. The air of great cities seems to stifle the moral instincts, to stop the moral growth. There are scenes and sights, and words and deeds of evil always crowding round the town-bred poor girl which must ever blunt, if they do not—and alas! how often they do!—entirely destroy the teachings of religion and virtue; and when the same girl grows up the same bad associations will still cling around her like a deathbearing miasma, and very possibly drag her to destruction. She is vain; fond of finery of companions, of pleasures, and of dissipation; even; she is restless and eager for change; she ignores all ambition to excel because she knows from the state of the servant-market, she can at will get another place; she loses her self respect, and as a consequence, her respects for all others; and she gains that horrible mockery of "independence" which speedily transforms her from a tender woman into a very tangible likeness of the brazen wretches perambulating the streets of every city. She has not been "educated" for a servant; like "Topsy" she has "grown" into the position in which she finds herself; she never finds the path, because she does not care to look for it, "leading to advancement"—looky for her indeed if she does not hit upon the tract going straight to degradation.

Town girls, too, can always obtain remunerative employment, where they are their own mistresses, after working hours—a tempting bait to thousands—but into that and other branches of the question we cannot now enter.

STRANGER THAN FICTION.—The Critics are very fond of falling foul of a novelist for what they term the improbabilities of his fiction. Here is a piece of fact—but, at the same time, so wild an adventure, that he would have been a daring novelist who would have incorporated it in his work:—"During the passage of H.M.S. *Seagull* from Ascension, and in the midst of a heavy squall, orders were given to shorten sail, when Lock, a fine young fellow, and very popular with the crew, was thrown by a lurch of the ship from the topgallant-yard into the sea, a distance of eighty feet. The alarm was given, the engines stopped, the lifebuoy let go, and the boat lowered, but it was thought to be a forlorn hope; and after twenty minutes had elapsed a gun was fired to recall the boat, which returned and was duly hoisted up. Lock was known to be a strong swimmer; but more out of respect for the poor fellow, whom all regarded as gone for ever, than with any hope of saving him, the ship lay to fully an hour after the accident. As the crew were gloomily peering over the bulwarks into the black waters, a faint cry was distinctly heard right ahead, and then arose such a cheer as only British tars can give. The boat was again lowered with wild haste, and from its crew presently came up, loud above the whistling wind, a shout of joy. In five minutes more, Lock stood upon the deck."

EXTRAORDINARY CASE.—An extraordinary case was investigated by the Birmingham (England) Stipendiary. A young couple, the husband only nineteen and the wife seventeen, had, it appeared, both been on the point of committing suicide, after three months' married life, because they believed in certain statements of a fortune-teller in the Black Country. They had visited this fortune-teller together, and the husband had been told that he would have three wives, and the wife would be implicated in serious troubles and would not die in bed. These things, according to the story of the young woman, induced her to buy poison, which she was prevented from taking by the police. She afterwards attempted to drown herself. The lad also wrote a letter to his wife, saying he had drowned himself. The case was remanded, and the police are in search of the fortune-teller.

THE INVISIBLE CHILDREN.—Oh, it is not when your children are with you; it is not when you see and hear them, that they are most to you; it is when the sad assemblage is gone; it is when the daisies have resumed their growing again over the place where the little form was laid; it is when you have carried your children out and said farewell, and come home again and day and night are full of sweet memories; it is when summer and winter are full of touches and suggestions of them; it is when you cannot look up toward God without thinking of them; nor look down toward yourself and not think of them; it is when they have gone out of your arms and are living to you only by the power of imagination, that they are the most to you. The invisible children are the real children—the children that touch our hearts as no hands of flesh ever could touch them.

ROAST TURKEY.—Remove the outer skin from a quantity of chestnuts; set them to boil in salt water, with a handful of coriander seeds and a couple of bay leaves. When nearly done drain off the water, and remove the inner skin of the chestnuts. Cut up half a pound of butter into small pieces, mix it with the chestnuts, when cold, together with a small onion finely chopped. Sprinkle the mixture with pepper, salt, and powdered spice to taste, and stir the turkey with it. Cut some thin slices of fat bacon, tie them with thread over the body and breast of the bird, and set it to roast at a moderate fire, basting frequently with butter. A quarter of an hour before the turkey is done remove the bacon, and just before serving sprinkle the bird freely with fine salt. Serve with sausages.

NEWS NOTES.

A reciprocity treaty is about to be arranged between the Sandwich Islands and the United States.

Forged Western Union Telegraph Bonds to the extent of \$100,000 have been placed on the London market.

A petition, signed by over 850 of the largest steel consumers in the United States, has been forwarded to Congress, the object of which is a reduced and special duty on steel.

A Pittsburg despatch says producers and refiners have formed a ring to raise the price of petroleum.

A Brooklyn Jury has awarded a boy \$2,000 damage for injuries by a horse-car through the driver's negligence.

Three thousand women of New York city have offered their services to the conductors of the Union Temperance Prayer Meeting against the liquor traffic.

The leading manufacturers of Baltimore have memorialized the Secretary of the Treasury, protesting against the eight hour law which he has laid before the House.

The Duc de Broglie has issued an order to Prefects to watch citizens who leave for Chislehurst to do homage to the Prince Imperial on his attaining his majority.

The motion for a plebiscite in Alsace and Lorraine on the question of nationality, brought up in the German Reichstag has been defeated.