

"THE FAVORITE"

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THE FAVORITE

SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 1874.

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TROUBLE.

That "man is born to trouble," is a fact con-
 tinually and physically expressed, from the first
 shrill cry in our swaddling clothes, to the last
 breath heaved at the gate of eternity. Setting
 this down as a leading and unalterable princi-
 ple, of the human destiny, it seems but wise to
 meet the trials and crosses of every-day life
 with something like cheerful resignation, and
 blunt the sting of that very "busy bee," Trou-
 ble, by "making the best of it." Vainly do we
 grumble and repine at the innumerable inci-
 dents which occur to mar our wishes and de-
 range our comforts. Weak and childish is the
 everlasting murmur on the lips of those who
 appear to be determined to be as unhappy as they
 can; for the indulgence of a rebellious and ungrat-
 isfied spirit only fixes vexation deeper, and
 makes the whole aspect of life gloomy and dis-
 torted.

All philosophers, in all ages, have asserted
 and proved that our great sum of happiness is
 composed of small social items; yet how
 strangely is this forgotten in the jostling, jar-
 ring, selfish conduct developed in simple in-
 stances of hourly exhibition! Strong heads and
 fine heart will suffer themselves to be chafed
 into feverish excitement, or depressed into cold
 sullenness, by events and positions alike trivial
 and unimportant. The principle of natural be-
 nevolence, and the qualification of cultivat-
 ed reason, are generally unemployed where
 they would be of the greatest service. They
 should operate on the jagged and minute angles
 of domestic circumstances, as light and science
 on the broken and sharp-edged bits of glass in a
 kaleidoscope; and the very material which too
 often only supplies matter for anger and discon-
 tent, would, if treated philosophically, be often
 converted into a medium of pleasure. The un-
 universal plague—Trouble—take what shape it
 may, has no more efficient antidote than a re-
 solution to "make the best of it;" yet how we
 fail to apply the practice to the theory!

Who has entered an omnibus as the twelfth
 passenger, and not found himself the "despised
 and rejected of all?"—treading on toes that
 pertinaciously refuse to accede an inch of the
 roughfare—falling on shoulders that preserve as
 broad a character as possible, lest the luckless
 intruder should endeavor to penetrate beside
 them, and encountering a general expression of
 eyes which may be construed into anything but
 the word "welcome." Has he not been com-
 pelled to struggle into some homoeopathic space,
 and sit pinched and perpendicular as if in a

strait-waistcoat, much to his own discomfort and
 that of his immediate neighbors? Most of
 the passengers have distinct and elevated
 ideas of their own convenience, and deem it
 unbearable to exist in a crowded vehicle. They
 condescend to avail themselves of the cheap
 public conveyance, but they are annoyed at the
 pressure and indiscriminate order of company
 attached to such travelling, and think them-
 selves personally wronged by a temporary in-
 fringement on their perfect luxury. Now, a lit-
 tle mutual civility and sense of justice would
 annihilate the derelictions from good nature and
 good breeding so often observed. We admit that
 omnibus travelling is not surrounded with
 charms for those who possess refined and aris-
 tocratic notions of transit. Six feet of "gentle-
 manly proportions," and as many yards of lady-
 like folds of satin, require more room for ease
 and display than can be afforded by the huge
 locomotive; yet why not accept the accommo-
 dation kindly and fairly, and render Trouble less
 by "making the best of it."

Who has looked on at a "friendly game of
 whist," and not had frequent opportunity for
 pitying the folly and passions of one or two of
 its constituents? Who would fancy "amuse-
 ment" is the avowed purpose, as the fierce re-
 buke or scowling glance is levelled at some un-
 happy victim who triumphs with indiscretion,
 revokes in ignorance, or leads a wrong suit? The
 real and ultimate importance of the occupation
 is merged in good-fellowship, and a furtherance
 of the purposes of civilised society; but, alas!
 many a disunion of well-intentioned minds has
 followed "a friendly game at cards," many a
 listening ear has been offended by intemperate
 language uttered in the heat of temper, and
 many a family circle disturbed by those who
 have neither sense nor feeling sufficient to take
 a "bad hand" or a "bad partner," and "make
 the best of it."

Some of what are called the usages of society
 are irksome to many of us; but it will not do to
 condemn them. So long as they do not require
 of us any sacrifice of principle, it is better to
 conform. There can be no harm in masking
 mortification with a smile, in withholding the
 expression of our opinions and sentiments when
 their utterance can do no good, in evading
 questions which it is against our interest to an-
 swer directly, or in being polite to people whom
 we cannot esteem. Candor is a virtue; but it
 is not advisable to wear one's heart on one's
 sleeve in society. The rule laid down by Pascal,
 one of the purest of men and most rigid of mor-
 alists, is a good one: "It is not a condition,"
 says that excellent man, "that we state only
 what is the truth; we are bound also not, at all
 times, to say all that is true; because we ought
 only to give publicity to things that may serve
 a useful purpose, and not to such as may cause
 pain to individuals without conducing to general
 utility." Oh, that all gossiping busy-bodies
 would give heed to this sage advice—this sound,
 Christian logic!

SYMBOLS OF THOUGHT.

As the ocean reflects the heaven, so the ma-
 terial shadows the spiritual. There is a myste-
 rious sympathy between the soul of man and
 the external world. It is more than a sensuous
 pleasure that we experience when we gaze on
 the beetling cliff, or the midnight sky, or stand
 before the St. Cecilia of Raphael; when we
 listen to the song of the birds, the distant chime
 of evening bells, or the melodies of Mozart. As
 the poet has said, "The meanest flower that
 blows may stir thoughts that do often lie too
 deep for tears."

Whether we are moving in the region of na-
 ture, which is the region of God's wonders, or
 in the region of art, which is the region of
 man's wonders, we observe that each is a trans-
 cript of the author's mind. Nature is an open
 volume, in which are written the great thoughts
 of God: art, the medium through which is
 feebly expressed the great conceptions which
 enter the mind of man. Leaving the former,
 let us look more closely into the latter.

Soul can speak to soul in various ways; by
 the glowing canvas and the sculptured rock;
 by a glance, a smile, a tear; by that action in
 which conception becomes far more than airy
 thought. Yet of all these modes of expression
 language is at once the noblest and most
 ethereal. The immediate connexion between
 thought and language we cannot perhaps un-
 derstand until we cease to "know in part," and
 come to know "even as we are known." All
 that we now seem able to learn is this: The in-
 dwelling spirit looks out upon the external
 world, and working upon the impression it
 thence receives, by some hidden process lays
 hold of language as its medium of communica-
 tion, and sound and word carries the now em-
 bodied thought back to the outward world.

Language, then, is not simply the means of
 communication between man and man; it is
 the articulate expression of the spirit's inner life;
 the last and finest result of mental effort; the
 truest index of individual and national charac-
 ter; the faithful source of information when all
 the springs have failed; the noblest embodi-
 ment of the human soul; the music in which
 that soul warbles forth the gathered harmonies
 of the surrounding universe. As the pale and
 modest moon—the throne of the poet, and an
 object of admiration to all—dallying with the
 rippled clouds, and coquetting with the stars,
 bathes the night in a mellow radiance, which is
 but the reflection of another's light,—so lan-
 guage is the humble medium through which is

expressed the poetic and moral thoughts, the
 lofty and sublime conceptions, which are the
 offspring and glory of the soul!

After language, thought is more aptly expres-
 sed in painting. Obedient to the touch of the
 skilful painter's brush, the canvas glows forth
 with the sublime ideals that exist within his
 mind, and his lofty thoughts are gifted with a
 still and silent immortality. As we look upon
 some pictures, there seems to gradually dawn
 upon us the whole modulated beauty of a poem,
 written not in alphabetical characters, but in
 soft, sweet, variegated light. We prize the pic-
 ture just as we should the book, which, by
 means of types arranged by some nameless
 printer, transmits to us the thoughts of a Milton
 or a Luther; so deep, so pure is the pleasure it
 imparts, so beautiful, so sweetly attractive, so
 endless the imaginings it invokes, so thickly
 crowding, so noble, so natural the thoughts and
 associations it suggests!

In the realm of architecture and sculpture,
 also, we find grand embodiments of the thoughts
 and ideals existing in the mind of man. If we
 go to the shores of aged and plundered Greece,
 although we find but the remnant of a former
 exuberant wealth in glory and art, that has es-
 caped the destroying hand of time and the in-
 roads of barbarians, yet there is enough, and
 that in a sufficient state of preservation, to in-
 dicate the essential characteristics. In each
 work of art found there, there is embodied
 some thought, set as a jewel in a precious
 casket. The Greek was eminently successful,
 because every form born and shaped from the
 material was the image of some animating
 idea, the symbol of some thought. All their
 works were conceived in the love for ideas, and
 in a profound impulse of nature, regulated by the
 severity of law, and lovingly nurtured by the
 outward life. The effects of these works cor-
 respond with their origin. The moral dignity
 and grace which passed over from the soul of
 the artist into his work, communicates itself to
 the beholder; and the devotional feeling in
 which the work was conceived affords a key to
 the great truths which these works of art so
 aptly symbolize.

ST. NICHOLAS FOR MAY.

The frontispiece of *St. Nicholas* for May is a
 very large and remarkably fine engraving illus-
 trating a passage in Goethe's Poem, "Johanna
 Sebus." Indeed, this number contains many
 engravings of unusual excellence: Miss Hallock
 has two, one of which is a specimen of her very
 best work on wood; Miss Ledyard has two;
 Eytling and Sheppard each has a capital piece
 of character drawing; there is a beautiful little
 thing copied from Michelet, and a picture from
 one of Hensche's graceful and dainty sketches.
 There is even a drawing from a native Japanese
 artist. The literary contents this month alter-
 nate very fairly between the practical and the
 imaginative. There is an article on the "Origin
 of Blind Man's Buff;" one on the workings and
 wonders of the Telegraph; a paper by the late
 N. S. Dodge, on "Auctions All Over the World;"
 "Christmas City," a capital description of a
 toy-town which can be built by any smart boy;
 an account of the origin of the story of Blue
 Beard; a true story from Holstein, of a mission-
 ary stork, and an article with illustrations de-
 scriptive of "Haydn's Children's Symphony." As
 to fiction, there are the three serial stories by
 Trowbridge, Stockton and Olive Thorne, all full
 of interest this month; a story of Greenland,
 with an adventure with polar bears; a delightful
 little home-story called Miss Fanshaw's Tea-
 Party; a Japanese Fairy tale, and "The Jim-
 my Johns' Sailor-Suits," one of Mrs. Diaz's
 popular sketches. "How Perissimons Took Cah
 on Der Baby," by Mrs. Lizzie W. Champney, is
 a most delightful piece of southern dialect poe-
 try, and with its capital illustrations, is sure to
 be popular with old and young. "In the Wood"
 is a sweet little poem with a sweet little pic-
 ture. The Departments are all good as usual,
 especially Jack-in-the-Pulpit, in which there is
 a pre-eminently funny story of a low-spirited
 turtle. The Riddle Box contains one of the best
 puzzles of the day, an every-day song, written
 in the "Language of the Restless Imps."

WHAT WILL YOU TAKE FOR YOURSELF?

It is said that every man has his price;
 young man, have yours? Will anything at all
 buy you? Will you even sell yourself by a little
 deceit, a little falsehood, by evading the truth
 to gain somebody's favor, to raise you in some-
 body's opinion, or to accomplish some desired
 end? Will you even so far forget yourself, your
 friends, your position in society, your best in-
 terests, as to thus sell yourself for the favor of
 another?

Doubtless, you now spurn the thought, and
 yet have you not often done so? Be careful, be
 honest in reply. Answer only as the little
 voice within prompts. Remember that it is of
 daily occurrence with mankind. Others, who
 think they are just as good, just as strong in
 character, who value themselves just as highly
 as you, are daily selling themselves.

Will you prove yourself a man, and talk, and
 act, and live like a man? Will you even coun-
 tenance by your approval, by your influence,
 by your patronage, that which in your heart
 you know to be wrong, for fear of giving offence,
 for fear of losing somebody's favor, or subjecting
 yourself to somebody's cutting jest? If sur-

sounded by the jovial associates of former days
 where the convivial bottle is freely passed, and
 you are urged to partake of an *extra* glass, can
 you, even if there be none present to expose
 you to those whom you know think better
 things of you, say "No?" (Can you, every-
 where, under all circumstances of temptation,
 say "No?" If you can, then indeed do you
 possess true nobility of soul; then indeed may
 your friends safely lean upon you, and feel
 proud of you.)

Even those whose solicitations to evil you have
 refused to accept, will respect and love you
 more because you are proving yourself a man.
 They who sustain such a character are building
 upon a rock, and will find themselves sur-
 rounded by friends comprising the best and
 noblest of mankind. All love you because they
 know they can trust you. Let your price be
 above earthly treasures or temptations, and
 you will thus gain not only nobility of character
 and soul, but the respect and love of all the
 pure and good.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

"KNIGHTS GOING TO BATTLE."

In the picture by Sir John Gilbert, A.R.A.,
 we see the chivalrous van-leaders of a medieval
 army, such as is described in some of the histo-
 rical romances of Sir Walter Scott—

With all their banners bravely spread,
 And all their armor flashing high.

A very brilliant and lively spectacle, no doubt,
 of the "pomp and circumstance" of old-fashion-
 ed warfare! The young Prince or Lord who
 commands this party, choosing himself to bear
 the standard as he approaches the ranks of his
 foemen, has disdained the usual protection of the
 steel casque or morion, such as is worn by his
 comrades riding on each side. His head is cover-
 ed with a simple velvet cap; but, with this
 exception, he is clad in a complete suit of plate
 armor, and is no doubt quite ready to take in
 hand either lance, or mace or battle-axe, or
 sword, for the actual combat now about to
 begin. The horses, we should think, are likely
 to suffer worse than the Knights in the coming
 fray; but when a fully armored cavalier was
 once dismounted he could not be expected to
 fight with much agility on foot. His victorious
 antagonist, on the other hand, might find it
 more difficult to pierce him in a vital part of the
 body than the Roman gladiator when a prostrate
 competitor in the arena was condemned
 to death. For this reason, to save time and
 trouble in the field, and to make a certain
 pecuniary gain of the achievements of martial
 prowess, it was customary to admit each over-
 thrown and captive knight to ransom. As for
 the poor unarmored yeomen and peasants, who
 carried their spears, bills, and bows in the train
 of these gallant gentlemen, they were left to
 the common chances of slaughter. It was just
 the same, as we learn from Homer's *Iliad*, with
 the Greek and Trojan soldiery following those
 aristocratic heroes of antiquity who wore brazen
 armor like that of Sir Walter's English and
 Scottish knights.

NEWS NOTES.

The vote reached in the Presbyterian Council
 engaged in the Swine heresy trial, resulted in a
 triumphant vindication of the accused. The
 vote stood 15 for to 15 against conviction. The
 friends of Professor Swine are jubilant.

Severe skirmishes between the Republicans
 and Carlists have occurred in the neighborhood
 of Bilbao. The Carlists attacked and were re-
 pulsed with heavy loss. Thirty Carlists were
 captured. The Republicans lost 100 killed and
 wounded.

The following is an extract from a private
 letter from the Mayor of New Orleans: "Unless
 resources for relief be increased in some way to
 \$100,000, many thousands must perish by fa-
 mine; even that will not be more than suffice
 to save lives till the flood subsides, and over-
 flowed lands are again tillable."

The Committee on Ways and Means at Wash-
 ington by a vote of 8 against 2, have expressed
 themselves opposed to the restoration of 10 per
 cent being taken off the rate of duty on certain
 articles in the second section of the Tariff Act
 of June 6, 1872. The restoration of 10 per cent
 would increase the revenue about eight millions
 annually.

At the examination of the breach of the reser-
 voir, at Northampton by the Legislative Com-
 mittee, it was proven that the work had not
 been done according to the specifications, as the
 foundations had not been built four feet below
 the bottom of the reservoir, as specified, and the
 result was that the water worked through the
 earth under the foundations and gradually
 caused the breach. The embankment, also, of
 the wall proves to be forty feet narrower than
 the contract specified.

Hon. Henry Page, State Treasurer of Arkan-
 sans, has resigned. Both branches of the Legis-
 lature passed a joint resolution appointing a
 committee to investigate the conduct of Sena-
 tors Clayton and Dorsey and representatives in
 Congress in attempting to overthrow the State
 Government. Commissioners were appointed to
 supervise and control the ensuing election for
 delegates to the constitutional convention. A
 bill of pardon and amnesty to those engaged in
 the late insurrection has been introduced in
 the House.