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Poetry

A SIGH.
In the days when earth was young,
Love and laughter roamed together;
Love took up its harp and sung;
Round him all was golden weather.
But there came a sigh anon—
What will be when life is gone?
Laughter then would try its skill,
Sang of mirth and joy undying;
But he played his part so ill,
He set echo all a-sighing.
Ever came an undertone—
What will be when life is done?

Then forever since that time
Love no more can live with laughter;
For bright as in the summer prime,
Winter pale will follow after,
Love in no forth most dwell with sighs;
Joy was left in Paradise.

GOING TO TOWN.

Sadie Goodrich had a rich mother, and beautiful home; but she had no father. He had been dead so many years that Sadie could not remember him. There were no other children, and Sadie and her mother lived just out of the city, and were as happy as the days were long. But once in a while Mrs. Goodrich would sigh, and say, "I wish I knew where poor Carrie is!"
Carrie was Mrs. Goodrich's only sister, whom she had not seen for ten or twelve years. She didn't even know where she lived. Carrie had married very young, and gone away out West and to California, and there had been some trouble between her and her father, and Mr. Goodrich. I believe these two gentlemen did not like the man she married. So, she separated, and wrote no letters. And by-and-by Mrs. Goodrich's father died very suddenly, and then Mr. Goodrich died, and no answer came to the letters that were sent here and there to Mrs. Carrie Blake telling her. And sometimes Mrs. Goodrich thought that her sister was still angry, and didn't want to have anything to do with them, and then she thought that poor Carrie might be sick, or poor, or dead, and then she felt about her.

"I used to be very fond of my sister," she said to her little girl, "just as you would be of yours, if you had a sister a good deal younger than you. Carrie was ten years younger than me, and only nineteen when she married. She would be twenty-nine now. If you had a little sister as much younger, she could be only a year old; for you are only eleven. Carrie was very pretty, and I used to be proud of her. She had yellow curly hair, and large black eyes, and her skin was as white as milk. This looks like her, but not so pretty."

Mrs. Goodrich would then show Sadie a miniature painted on ivory, and Sadie would look at it, and say, "Oh, isn't she pretty! I wish she would come and live with us, mamma!"

This happened over and over, but Sadie never got tired of hearing the story, and seeing the beautiful picture.

One day Mrs. Goodrich came from town with a rocking-carriage for a little boy in the neighborhood.

"Put it in the garden, John," she said to the coachman. "And this evening I want you to carry it over to Mrs. Porter's."

It was then about six o'clock, and in half an hour they would have their tea.

"Just time for me to have a good ride in Charlie's rocking-carriage," Sadie said.

So she ran down the walk, and got into the carriage.

It was a delightful ride, for the seat was nicely cushioned with velvet; there were velvet curtains, and the rockers were smooth, and the carriage pretty painted.

"I'm going to town, mamma," called out Sadie, seeing her mother pass by the door on her way up stairs. "What shall I buy for you?"

Mrs. Goodrich came and stood in the front door, smiling down on her daughter.

"You may bring me one each of us a sister," she said. "And be sure you get back to tea."

Then the mother went up stairs to change her dress, and Sadie chirped at the woodcock, and rocked as hard as she could. "I'm going to town, home," she said. "Hurry! I'm going after two sisters, one for me and one for me."

Then she rocked harder still till the gravel flew, and the carriage did really go a little way at a time, getting nearer and nearer the gate, just as you have seen a rocking-chair rock all round the room. John the coachman came past leading the horses to the stable; the gardener came in, and a visitor went out. Each one stopped a moment to look at the little girl

in the rocking-carriage, and to each one she said that she was going to town.

By-and-by she found herself closer to the gate, and then she was tired enough to rest. As she stopped, pulled her horse in with a "Whoa!" and then dropped the reins, she saw that there was a little girl standing and looking at her through the gate. She was one of the most beautiful little girls that ever was seen, though she looked pale, and her clothes were poor. Her eyes were large and black, and had a bluish-velvet shade to them, like ripe grapes, but her skin was as fair as a lily, and her long wavy hair was a light yellow. This little girl could not have been more than five or six years old, and she looked at Sadie with sad and steady eyes.

"O little girl! who are you?" cried Sadie. "You look just like my Aunt Carrie."

The child said nothing, only looked steadily through the gate at the pretty garden and house, and the nicely dressed little girl riding in that most beautiful carriage. Sadie jumped out and ran down to the gate.

"Come right in and let my mother see you!" she said, eagerly, grasping the little stranger's arm.

The child looked frightened, and tried to pull away, turning and holding out her hands to somebody. Then Sadie saw that there was a poor woman sitting down by the roadside.

"I didn't mean to frighten her," Sadie said. "I only wanted her to come in for mamma to see. Would you come too, and rest? And if you want some supper, you shall have some."

The woman got up and came slowly toward the gate, taking the child's hand when she reached her, leading her back. She looked very pale and tired.

"I have walked a good way," she said, "and I would like to rest. Come, let the little girl want us to go in."

When she saw that her mother was going, little Sadie went quite willingly, and they all walked up the garden path together, the two children in advance, and the woman following.

When Sadie and her little friend reached the front door, Mrs. Goodrich was just coming down stairs.

"Why, my child!" she said, "who have you got there? Why, what a pretty child!"

"I've been to town, and this is my little sister," Sadie said. "And your big sister is just outside the door."

"What do you mean?" her mother said, but kept looking at the little girl. She sat down in one of the hall chairs and drew the child to her.

"Who does she look like, mamma?" asked Sadie. "I thought in a minute, and made her come in for you to see. Isn't she just like Aunt Carrie's picture?"

Mrs. Goodrich still kept looking at the child. "It is strange!" she said to herself. "I didn't think there were two in the world with such eyes and hair together."

Sadie glanced toward the door and saw the child's mother standing there, looking at little Sadie and Mrs. Goodrich, and tears were rolling over her cheeks. As Sadie looked, the woman exclaimed, "Isa!"

The child turned quickly, and Mrs. Goodrich lifted her face as quickly, and the two women looked steadily at each other.

The stranger never moved, only leaned against the door, never even noticed the child when Isa went to her, only looked over her head towards Mrs. Goodrich.

Sadie began to think that it was very odd, and she was a little frightened when she saw that her mother's face turned very red, then very pale, then that she got up and almost ran toward the door.

"Who are you? What is your name?" Mrs. Goodrich cried out.

"O Isa, am I so changed that my own sister does not know me?" exclaimed the stranger, bursting into tears.

Then Sadie began to think that she was losing her senses. For her mother cried out, and threw her arms around the woman's neck, and the woman fainted, and the servant came running with water and smelling-salts, and they carried the woman into the parlor, and laid her on a sofa, and Sadie's mother cried over her, and kissed her, and called her poor dear.

But at last it all came round right. The stranger was better, and sat up, and then Mrs. Goodrich brought Sadie to her, and told her to kiss her dear Aunt Carrie and coax her to stay and live forever with them.

For this was indeed Mrs. Goodrich's sister, Carrie Blake. Her husband was dead, and she was poor, and she had come there to see if her sister still cared anything about her.

"I got no letters, and I didn't know that father was dead till I reached town," said she. "And I only dared to come to you, because I thought you must be lonely."

Well, they made Mrs. Blake and Isa stay there and live with them, and never were people happier.

But Sadie always said that she brought her aunt and cousin from town, when she went there in the rocking-carriage.

Mrs. Blake looked poor and old when she came, but she has got back her good looks now, and there isn't a prettier woman in town.

An Act to further facilitate the Construction of the Grand Southern Railway.

Whereas it is deemed desirable to grant power to certain property holders in the County of Charlotte to aid in the construction of the Grand Southern Railway, by the issue of debentures or certificates of debt, with power to levy assessments upon the said County for the payment of the same, with interest; be it therefore enacted by the Lieutenant Governor, Legislative Council and Assembly as follows:

1. The General Sessions of the Peace for the County of Charlotte are hereby authorized and empowered to borrow such sum or sums of money, in loans of not less than one hundred dollars each, not exceeding fifty thousand dollars in the whole, to be appropriated and applied according to the provisions of this Act.

2. When and as soon as it shall be certified to the said General Sessions, by the Government engineer, or a competent engineer approved of by the said Sessions, that five miles of the said railway is graded and ready for laying and receiving the rails, the said General Sessions shall pay to the said Grand Southern Railway Co., or such other company as shall build the said Grand Southern Railway, the sum of five thousand dollars on the receipt of a similar certificate of each successive five miles being so graded and ready for laying down and receiving the rails until thirty miles of the said Grand Southern Railway are graded as aforesaid, and when it shall be certified as before to the said General Sessions, by such engineer aforesaid that the remaining portion of the said line of railway is completed and in good working order, with the necessary stations, station houses and rolling stock, the said General Sessions shall pay to the said Grand Southern Railway Co., or such other company as shall build the said Grand Southern Railway, the balance of the said sum of fifty thousand dollars.

3. It shall and may be lawful for the said General Sessions to issue debentures with coupons at a rate of six per centum per annum payable semi-annually to the holder thereof in such form and at such place or places as the said General Sessions may deem expedient, which debentures and coupons shall be respectively negotiable in the same manner as promissory notes payable to the holder or bearer thereof.

4. The debentures shall be sealed with the common seal of the said General Sessions, and be signed by the chairman of the said Sessions and countersigned by the Clerk of the Peace for the said County of Charlotte, and shall be consecutively numbered according to the times at which the same shall be issued and shall be made payable in not less than five years and not exceeding fifty years from the respective dates of issue, at such place or places as the said Sessions may deem expedient.

5. All moneys loaned to the General Sessions of the Peace for the County of Charlotte under the provisions of this Act shall be paid by the lenders thereof to the Treasurer of the County of Charlotte, and by him paid to the said Grand Southern Railway Company or such other company as shall build the said Grand Southern Railway, by order of the said General Sessions, the said County Treasurer holding and paying the same exclusively for the purposes of this Act.

6. The said General Sessions are hereby authorized, empowered and directed every year to order assess and levy a rate on the whole of the inhabitants of the said County of Charlotte liable to be rated or assessed for any rate or assessment within the said County of a sum sufficient to pay the interest on the debentures under this Act, and a further sum of not exceeding two thousand dollars as will pay such, and so much of the principal sum borrowed as the said General Sessions may deem expedient, besides the charges for assessing and collecting for the purpose of discharging the principal and interest of the loans contracted by virtue of this Act, until the same shall be paid off; the said several sums to be levied, assessed, collected and paid in such proportion and in like manner as any county rates for public charges, only that the tax upon the poll of each inhabitant shall be not less than half a dollar, and when collected shall be held by the County Treasurer for the payment of the said interest, or interest and principal as the case may be exclusively for the purposes of this Act.

7. The moneys so assessed shall from time to time be applied in payment of the said debentures and the interest thereon and the said County Treasurer shall when

and so often as he may be directed by the General Sessions so to do, give one calendar month's public notice by advertisement in one of the newspapers published in the County of Charlotte, calling in such and so many of the said debentures whether due or not as the said General Sessions may be prepared to pay off, specifying the number of such debentures in such advertisement and the same by and under such order as aforesaid shall pay off accordingly, and from and after the expiration of such notice the interest on such debenture shall cease.

8. Provided always that this Act shall not come into operation or be in force until it shall be determined by a majority of the rate payers in the said County of Charlotte liable to be rated and assessed thereunder that they desired that the said Act may be in force, which said determination shall be arrived at in the manner following, that is to say: The assessors of rates of the several parishes in the said County of Charlotte are hereby authorized and required within two months after the passage of this Act to make in like manner as valuations of property and income are now made by the Assessors of Rates, a list of all the persons liable to assessment under this Act, and deliver such list to the Town Clerks of the several parishes in the said County Act, and such Town Clerks within twelve months from the passing of this Act by written or printed notices to be by them posted up in three or more public places in the said parishes respectively, make known that they call together and will hold a public meeting of all persons liable to be assessed under the provisions of this Act, in their respective parishes, and also fix in such notice the times and places, and which shall not be less than six days from the time of posting up and publishing such notices, and on the day and hour (which shall not be later in the day than 11 o'clock in the forenoon) and at the place in such notice named for each parish, each of the said Town Clerks shall hold such meetings and shall preside at the same, and not before four o'clock in the afternoon of the same day shall close the said meeting; they shall put the question to each person as he presents himself to vote, and whose name is entered on the said list so furnished as aforesaid, whether this Act shall be adopted or not, and shall truly enter his answer "yes" or "no" opposite his name on the said list; the president or manager of any corporation shall be entitled to vote in respect of the property of such corporation liable to be assessed under this Act, and shall vote in the parish where such property is situated; the said Town Clerks immediately after such voting shall transmit the aforesaid lists with the vote thereon to the Sheriff of the County of Charlotte, and if it shall appear to the said Sheriff that the parties who at the meetings in the several parishes in the County have voted "yes" represent a majority in number of the ratepayers present in person or by proxy at such meetings liable to be rated and assessed under this Act, to be estimated by the lists so furnished as aforesaid, then the said Sheriff shall forthwith certify the same to the Governor in Council and the Governor in Council shall thereupon announce the same by proclamation in the Royal Gazette of this Province, whereupon this Act shall be in full operation with force and effect; but if the Sheriff in counting the votes aforesaid, and referring to the said lists shall find that the persons who shall vote at such parish meetings throughout the County in favor of the adoption of this Act do not amount to a majority in number of the ratepayers of the said County, the said Sheriff shall certify the same to the Governor in Council whereupon this Act and everything therein contained shall be and become utterly null and void, anything herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding; and in case of any dispute as to the qualification of any person whose name appears on the said lists, the said Town Clerks respectively shall and may decide the same on the oath of the parties or other evidence which oath the said Town Clerks are hereby authorized to administer and the decision of the said Town Clerks respectively shall be final and conclusive for the purposes of this Act, and any party entitled to vote under this Act may do so by proxy upon such proxy producing and filing with the Town Clerk where the party he represents is entitled to vote, a written authority signed by the said party for whom he votes, such authority to be proved by oath or otherwise to the satisfaction of the said Town Clerk, which oath the said Town Clerks respectively are hereby authorized to administer.

9. The Octopus and the Rats.—The aquarium of the Zoological Station at Naples was, last autumn, attacked by a great number of rats, which not only did considerable mischief to the woodwork, but even caught and devoured a number of the animals kept

in the tanks. In an attack on an octopus however, one of these depredators got by far the worst of the battle, as next morning nothing remained of the four-footed gourmand but the bones and a part of the skin. Though this achievement cannot be compared to the exploits related by M. Victor Hugo, it is interesting as showing that even in captivity a healthy cuttle-fish is well able to take care of itself.

A Yankee out West, who recently wrote home to his mother that he had seen a live Hoosier, has sent her home another epistle on Western etiquette. Here it is: "Western people go to their death on etiquette. You can't tell a man here that he lies, as you can down East, without fighting. A few days ago a man was telling two of his neighbors in my hearing, a pretty large story. Says I, 'Stranger, that's a whopper.' Says he, 'Lay there, stranger,' and in a twinkling of an eye I found myself in a ditch, a perfect quadruped, the worse for wear and tear. Upon another occasion, says I, to a man I never saw before, as a woman passed him, 'That isn't a specimen of your Western women, is it?' Says he, 'You are afraid of the fever and ague, aren't you, stranger?' 'Very much,' says I. 'Well,' replied he, 'that lady is my wife, and if you don't apologize in two minutes, by the honor of a gentleman, I swear that these two pistols—which he held in his hands—'shall cure you of the disorder entirely; so do not fear, stranger.' So I knelt down and apologized. I admire the country much, but darn me if I can stand so much etiquette; it always takes me unawares."

ANCIENT WEAPONS.—An exhibition of ancient and modern weapons has been opened at Birmingham. They date from the fourteenth century. Among them is a breech-loading air-gun, made by Nock, an Englishman, somewhere about 1380. It has seven barrels all of which explode with one blow of the hammer. There is also a beautiful breech-loader, bearing the name of Aquafresca, Borgia, 1694. There are many exquisite breech-loading pistols of ancient date, with ingenious mechanism, and the first attempt at the revolving principle, in the shape of a double-barrelled gun, the barrels turning on a pivot. Many of the guns have reservoirs in the stock for ammunition. One curiosity is a single-barrelled gun to hold two charges. One charge was rammed home, and several were inserted, after which the second charge was placed in the barrel. The top charge was exploded by a hammer about a third of the way up the barrel, and a hammer at the breech then discharges the second.

FAULT-FINDING.—Find fault when you must, in private, if possible, and some time after the offence, rather than at the time. The blamed are less inclined to resist when they are blamed without witnesses. Both parties are calmer, and the accused person may be struck with the forbearance of the accuser, who has seen the fault, and watched for a private and proper time for mentioning it. Never be harsh or unjust with your children or servants. Firmness with a gentleness of demeanor and a regard for the feelings, constitutes that authority which is always respected and valued. If you have any cause to complain of a servant, never speak hastily, wait, at all events, until you have had time to reflect on the nature of the offence.

"Is there a ford here?" asked an English gentleman, who, is making a tour in the west of Ireland, was suddenly stopped by a mountain stream. "O, to be sure, your honour!" said an honest native, "there was once a ford here." "When was it?" asked the gentleman. "It was before the bridge was built, yer honor," answered the good-humored Irishman; but after the passenger used the bridge it got out of habit. "Well," said the traveller, "now that the bridge is broken down, I suppose the ford may have got into habit again. Is it safe?" "To be sure, yer honor—all but in the middle—but that is nothing; and if you can swim, why, there is not a better ford in all the country." "But I cannot swim," replied the gentleman. "Then, yer honor," retorted Paddy, "the only safe way that I know of is as soon as you get out of your depth to walk back again."

The pallant secretary of a life insurance company being in command of a platoon during the late unpleasantness at New Orleans, struck up the gun of one of his men about to fire, on a staff officer, with the exclamation, "Hold! don't shoot at him; we've got a pretty one on him."

A father at Dubuque makes his children address him as follows: "Dad, respected and revered father, I'll take another 'tater'."

"The proper study of mankind is man," says Pope; but the popular study is how to make money out of him.