

THE YOUNG ACADIAN.

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Poetry.

The Momentous Question.

They stood beside the garden gate,
Beneath the elm tree's spreading shade;
It was the solemn hour of eve,
The witching time for lovers made.

He watched the radiant orbs of night,
As one by one they gemmed the sky,
He gazed upon her comely form,
Her lovely neck and lustrous eye.

She nestled closely to his side,
No word she spoke, but only pressed,
With trustful look and gentle mien,
Her graceful head against his breast.

He gazed upon the glossy hair,
Which well adorned that shapely head;
He looked upon her dainty feet,
And then these little words he said:

"Could she be his?"—and as he asked,
He fondly stroked that glossy hair,
"Oh yes"—the farmer said he'd take
Two hundred dollars for the mare.

FOR THE YOUNG ACADIAN.

Sensationalism.

BY J. S.

Of all the curious developments attending modern civilization, not the least remarkable is the craving for startling effects and conditions that promote fever of mind. It is presumable that a love of excitement was always inherent in mankind and rather needed repression than cultivation; but at no time, we think, in the history of the world has the love of the thrilling been so much indulged in or so much catered to as at the present. This, of course, is more noticeable in thickly populated centres, where immense patronage enables caterers to this taste to reap rich harvests. But while such points, like centres of vortices, are seething masses of feverish life, like the ever widening circles, however feeble at the outer circumference, the influence is not unfelt in the remoter regions. One might naturally suppose that the contemplation of the phenomenal progress of events during the past half century, with its marvellous discoveries in science, and mighty engineering feats, should satisfy the cravings of the most

sensation loving nature. But it only seems to whet the appetite for more. There is no portion of the civilized world entirely exempt from the influence of the craze but it is in the larger cities of the neighbouring Union that this fact finds its best exposition. There the demand for startling effects is apparent in every form of popular amusement. The theatre manager knows that to meet with success he must present a succession of gorgeous and dazzling spectacles with startling situations. Seaside resorts, which were wont to be supposed quiet retreats for the wearied, now vie with each other in the magnitude of their efforts to excite their patrons. Colossal representations in fireworks of such natural phenomena as Niagara Falls, or gigantic mock battles including the bombardment and burning of clusters of houses, are the daily entertainments offered to a wonder-loving public. Performers of feats of daring and strength that involve the risk of loss of life or limb are eagerly sought for, and receive fabulous sums as remuneration for furnishing the gaping multitudes with a thrilling experience more exciting than the last. A Capt. Webb to dive from a tower, or swim Niagara, or Kit Carson to shoot an apple from the head of his wife. For it is the patronage of a sensation loving people that incites men to feats of such inutility. Even in their religion is this spirit manifest. Brass bands in the choir, and bold and unique views, and brilliant appeals to the imagination from the pulpit are in demand.

Doubtless to the telegraph and newspaper, which have done so much to intensify modern life, may be attributed much of the development of this mania. The metropolitan newspaper, wielding so powerful an influence in the moulding of public opinion and taste, is a mighty educator. And with its immense facilities for obtaining and disseminating doings of a world in each twenty-four hours, even in its legitimate line it cannot have other than an exciting effect upon life. But it does more; it aims to enhance the taste. To scandal is imparted a more thrilling interest through the glowing details of the interviewer. Boat races and other athletic meetings, which are now but large orgies, are promoted and encouraged by the prominence given them through the newspapers. But not content with the natural material for excitement, journalists vie with each other in the invention of ingenious tales of supernatural order which are related with such an air of truth as is calculated to impose upon the most knowing. It is partly through the metropolitan newspaper that the outlying districts are leavened with the mania. Through it those who cannot bodily participate in the scenes which it depicts may by the vividness of the description

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