

The Poet's Corner.

Praise-God-Barebones.

From Harper's Weekly.
I and my cousin Wildair met
And tossed a pot together—
Burnt sack it was that Molly brewed
For it was nipping weather.
"Fore George! To see Dick buss the wench
Set all the inn folk laughing!
They dubbed him pearl of cavaliers
At kissing and at quaffing.
"Odd fish!" says Dick, "the sack is rare,
And rarely burnt, fair Molly;
"Would cure the sorest Crop-eat yet
Of Pious Melancholy."
"Egad!" says I, "Here cometh one
Hath been at's prayers but lately."
—Sooth, Master Praise-God-Barebones stepped
Along the street sedately.
Dick Wildair with a swashing bow
And touch of his Toledo,
Gave Merry Xmas to the rogue
And bade him say his Credo.
Next crash a cup to the King's health
And eke to pretty Molly—
"Twill cure your Saintliness," says Dick,
"Of Pious Melancholy."
Then Master Barebones stopped and frowned;
My heart stood still a minute.
Thinks I, both Dick and I will hang
Or else the devil's in it!
For me I care not for old Noll
Nor all the Rump together,
Yet, faith! 'tis best to be alive
In pleasant Xmas weather.
His worship, Barebones, grimly smiled—
"I love not blows nor brawling,
Yet will I give thee, fool, a pledge!"
And took! He sent Dick sprawling!
When Moll and I helped Wildair up.
No longer trim and jolly—
"Feed'st not, Sir Dick," says saucy Moll,
"A Pious Melancholy!"
ELLEN MACKAY HUTCHINSON.

She Wouldn't be Jealous.

"No, sir!" exclaimed Harry Vane, as
threw himself back in his easy chair,
and gracefully removed a fragment
Havana from his lips for the purpose of ex-
haling a cloud of the perfumed smoke;
"no, sir," he repeated, "I wouldn't nar-
ry a jealous woman is she was the rich-
est horses in the world. I have a natu-
ral taste for variety, do you see; and the
most I want of a wife is to keep house
for, and take of things, and give me a
little leisure to make myself agreeable to
womanhood in general. When nothing
more agreeable turns up, why, of course,
then you have the privilege of enter-
taining the wife, and the consolation of
knowing that her husband is
the most accomplished lady killer in
town, will, I take it, be ample compen-
sation for all her services in my behalf.
But you see for her was any way jealous
she might not think so."

"It would be possible," I should think,"
said Walter Everett, "that she might
be inclined to disagree with you. I
should think any woman who loved you
would naturally object to such an ar-
rangement."
"Oh, phaw, Everett!" exclaimed
Harry, "that proves you to be a novice.
Don't you know that love in a female
heart is made up of just two elements—
vanity, and self-sacrifice? Just give a
woman a husband and she is proud of, and
you—or, that is, you might not be able
to—but a man of my accomplishments
can coax her into anything under the
sun. Wait till I marry! I'll show you
how to manage a wife. I'll show you
how to unite all the freedom of a bachel-
or with all the privileges of a Bened-
dict."

Walter smiled, and puffed away at his
cigar in silence.
The two young men were clerics in a
large mercantile establishment in the
city. They occupied apartments in the
same house, and generally on very close
and intimate terms. Perhaps it may not
be necessary to inform the reader that
Harry was somewhat of a coxcomb,
though he was no means so immoral
as might be inferred from his own ac-
count of himself. This Walter knew,
and he could therefore listen to his ut-
most serenity, even though perfectly
aware at the time that the speaker in-
terrupted serious ideas of finally bestow-
ing the ineffable honor of his name and
protection upon a certain little cousin of
his own, Miss Susie Stanton. That his
confidence went so far as to lead him to
conceal from the said young lady the
sentiment so frequently expressed, he
cannot vouch. Indeed, the writer has
the idea that the two frequently talked
over in private this unfortunate failing
of their mutual friend, and studied fre-
quently to devise some method of reduc-
ing the proportions of Harry's organ of
vanity.

Nothing very very effectual, however,
was accomplished during the courtship,
and in process of time Mr. Harry Vane
entered the state of matrimony, under
the full conviction that his loving Susie
possessed not spark of jealousy.

To do her justice, she was not natu-
rally of a jealous disposition; but beside
her innate amiability in that respect, she
had a little bit of that shy, womanly
pride, which made her resolve that she
wouldn't be jealous. No, indeed, she
would never be pointed at as a jealous
wife, neither should Mr. Harry Vane
have the pleasure of insinuating that he
managed his wife, that she was instruct-
ed and trained at home to look conven-
iently in the other direction, whenever
he chose to open the invisible battery
of his fascinations upon any innocent and
unsuspecting young female. No, no;
the little lady was too acute for that.

It therefore happened that whenever
at ball or party Mr. Harry Vane made
himself particularly agreeable to any lady,
Mrs. Harry Vane also cultivated the
same individual. If Mr. Harry Vane
only danced with the young lady, or es-
corted her out to supper, Mrs. Harry
Vane contented herself with the most
amiable inquiries after the said young
lady's health, and gracious hopes that
the family at home were quite well. If
Mr. Vane danced twice or thrice with
the young lady, Mrs. Vane straightway
invited her to call, and intimated that
she should very soon give herself the
pleasure of visiting the young lady, and
if matters went still further, and Mr.
Harry Vane indulged in a little tete-a-tete
of a flirtation, Mrs. Harry Vane immedi-
ately fixed a day, and asked the young
lady to tea.

By this aly way of fighting fire with
fire, she had succeeded in extinguishing
a half dozen glowing penchants in the
bosom of her liege lord; while, at the
same time, the uniform sweetness and
amiability of her own conduct could not
fail to deepen the admiration and respect
which Harry had possessed for her when
he married her.

So it went on for a year or two, and
Susie found herself a mother. After
that, things seemed to mend a little; but
baby's charms soon lost their power, and
Susie's trial took another form. Her
loving heart, which was constantly,
thought quietly, watchful of Harry's
lightest movements, was wounded at his
most sensitive point. Harry frequently
left home without inviting her to accom-
pany him, or even informing her of his
destination. Much as her anxious fears
were startled by this new shadow upon
her domestic peace, Susie had the dis-
cretion to say nothing, but meanwhile to
double her assiduity in winning him to
home pleasures. All her efforts, how-
ever, availed her little; at least one even-
ing in the week he continued to spend
away from her. It is possible at this
juncture she may have been taking her
cousin, Walter, into her confidence.

One beautiful morning in July Harry
seemed in no hurry to go down town.
He lingered reading his newspaper after
breakfast till nearly nine o'clock, and
then dressing himself carefully in his
handsomest suit, carelessly bade his wife
good morning, and strolled leisurely up
the road, instead of going down it, to-
ward his place of business. The quick
perceptions of his wife had noticed a
strange disquietude in his manner all
the morning, and she smiled a quiet
smile to herself, as she stood before the
mirror in her own room, arraying her-
self in her most becoming walking cos-
tume. For Mrs. Harry Vane was going
out too.

She fitted a dainty pair of boots to her
pretty feet, and tightened the fastenings
of her sweetest pair of kid gloves, put
on her most bewitching bonnet, and then
took the last glance in the mirror to assure
herself that there wasn't a sweeter or
more captivating little woman than Mrs.
Harry Vane. "He has good taste, at
any rate," she soliloquized, and that is one
consolation." But the little half-smile
which closed the sentence intimated that
it wasn't so very consoling after all.

After her own toilet was completed,
baby was dressed in his richest and most
spotless robes, and Mary was entrusted
with the precious charge and bidden to
follow her. Down the road tripped the
little lady, taking the shortest way to the
river side. Here lay the steamer, with
flags flying and whistle blowing, just ready
to convey a party of happy excursionists
down the river. Mrs. Harry Vane tripped
lightly over the pier, followed by Mary
and baby, and the next moment the
gallant steamer with its holiday company
was fairly under way. Mrs. Vane walked
leisurely to the fore part of the vessel,
and there apparently very much to her
surprise, discovered Mr. Vane sitting in
most attentive proximity to a handsome
and showy young lady, who was evidently
quite the slave of Mr. Vane's fascina-
tions.

"Why, good morning, Harry!" exclaimed
Mrs. Vane, in her sweetest and most
cordial tones; "this is, indeed, a delig-
htful surprise. I had not anticipated the
pleasure of your company. After you
left home I happened to notice the ad-
vertisement of the excursion, and baby
seemed so ailing lately, that I thought it
might do him good to take an excursion;
so I dressed myself as quickly as possible
and hurried down here."

What would Mr. Harry Vane say in
reply to this most amiable and wife-like
greeting? Mrs. Vane was not at a loss
however, to fill up the pause which his
hesitation occasioned.

"This lady is a friend of yours, I pre-
sume—introduces me to her, Harry,"
said she, turning to the lady. "Mr.
Vane's circle of friends previous to our
marriage was so very extensive, that I
have not even yet made the acquaintance
of all of them. I hope, however, to know
them all in the course of time, for noth-
ing gives me greater pleasure than to en-
tertain Harry's friends. Your name is—
—?" I didn't quite understand.

"Miss Wentworth," replied the lady,
bowing stiffly.
"Ah! yes, Miss Wentworth," said
Mrs. Vane, complacently. "I do not re-
collect hearing Harry speak of you; but
it is all the same; my memory is very
treacherous; and indeed he might have

mentioned your name usually. You
know, a dozen times, and still I
might have forgotten it. But bless me!
where is the baby? Mary, come here."

Mary answered the call, and placed
the blue-eyed little wonder in the arms
of its delighted mamma.

"Mamma's precious little darling!
Was it warm?—so it was. Mamma will
take off its hat—so she will. There—
does it see its papa?—there, so it does,
and knows him, too—precious angel.
See. Miss Wentworth, see how well the
little darling knows its father, and he
isn't four months old yet." And Mr.
Vane danced the chubby, red faced little
thing up and down in Mr. Vane's face,
and asked enthusiastically, "didn't Miss
Wentworth think he was just the im-
age of his 'pa'?"

There were several Harry's acquaint-
ances on board, by whom the affair was
thoroughly understood; and it was not
long until the story passed from lip to
lip, and smiles and titters and jokes at
poor Harry's expense, circulated in every
direction. He excused himself as speed-
ily as possible from the society of the
ladies, and walked moodily to the other
end of the boat, and there stood con-
templating what he should do to extri-
cate himself from this dilemma.

"What the deuce am I to do? he soli-
loquized. "To blow out at her, as I
should like to, would only raise a row
and circulate the story; and I can't rid
of her, for the boat won't put back, I
suppose, on my account. Gad! if the
water wasn't so hot, I'd drown myself.
To bring that red-faced little imp with
her, too! It is a pretty child enough,
though; of course it couldn't be any
else and be my child; and she looks
deuced pretty herself, too, to-day. She's
a vast deal prettier than Madge Went-
worth ever was—the baggage. If I ever
get out of this scrape, catch me risking
my reputation for another bold flirt like
her."

Meanwhile Miss Wentworth, who pos-
sessed a deal of womanly tact in her
way, had overcome in a measure the em-
barassment of her first meeting with
Mrs. Vane, and had entered very affably
into conversation with her. The baby,
as if determined to do its part, was as
sweet-tempered as its mamma, and cooed
and laughed to the infinite delight of
Miss Wentworth, who was, or pretended
to be, exceedingly fond of pets. Mrs.
Vane's amiability was perfectly irresis-
tible, and when Mr. Vane returned he
found the two ladies on the best possible
terms. When dinner was announced
Mrs. Vane called to Mary to take the
baby, and raising, exclaimed, "Mr.
Vane, give your arm to Miss Wentworth"
at the same time appropriating the other
to her own use, "and we will hurry in to
dinner. This stiff breeze gives one such
an appetite."

At dinner, Mrs. Vane's first attentions
were given to Miss Wentworth, and the
least failure upon the part of Mr. Vane,
(who, to tell the truth, was a little ab-
sent minded,) to observe the wants of
that young lady, was reprimanded by
Mrs. Vane.

"My dear, Miss Wentworth will take
some more fowl," said Mrs. Vane.
"Harry dear, help Miss Wentworth to
some of these delicious pears. Miss
Wentworth, allow me to assist you to
some of this sauce; I assure you it is de-
licious."
After dinner, the two ladies, with the
baby, retired to the ladies' cabin, and
Harry enjoyed an hour's immunity from
the society of either. He retired aft to
enjoy (?) his Havana. Let us hope that
his fragrance served, in some measure, to
calm his troubled mind.

It was nearly dark when the excu-
sionists returned, and Harry called a
cab for the ladies, and directed the
driver to his own residence.

"Harry, my dear, how can you be so
impolite!" said Mrs. Vane. "We must
see Miss Wentworth home first by all
means. She has been complaining of
fatigue for the last two hours, and I must
protest against her being driven a mile
or two out of her way upon my ac-
count."

Harry was obliged to acquiesce, and
Mrs. Vane had the satisfaction of leav-
ing Miss Wentworth at her own door,
and bidding her a most affectionate fare-
well, with the hope that she had enjoy-
ed the day, and would experience no in-
convenience from the fatigue it had oc-
casioned her.

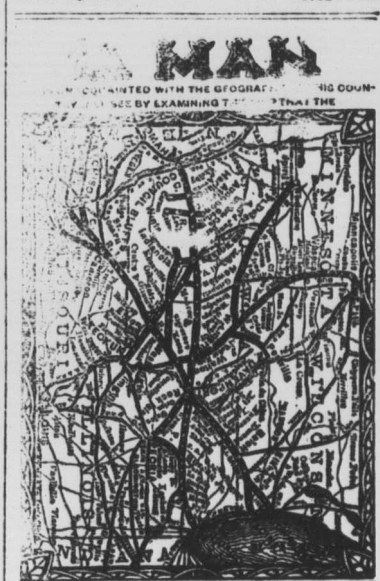
That was the last of Harry Vane's
wanderings. The name of Miss Went-
worth was never mentioned in his house;
and there was no allusion to his faults,
Susie had conquered.

She is gray-haired now, and her fail-
ing strength is supported by the tenderness
of her grand daughters, and it may
be that to them she sometimes repeats
the story of the woman who wouldn't be
jealous.

Never Give Up.

If you are suffering with low and de-
pressed spirits, loss of appetite, general
debility, disordered blood, weak consti-
tution, headache, or any disease of a
bilious nature, by all means procure a
bottle of Electric Bitters. You will be
surprised to see the rapid improvement
that will follow; you will be inspired
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return; pain and misery will cease, and
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