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NOT KNOWING.

I know not what will befall; God hangs a
mist over my eyes,
And before each step of my onward path,
He makes new scenes to rise,
And every joy He sends me, comes as a new
and glad surprise
I see not a step before me as I tread the
days of the year;
But the past is still in God's keeping; the
future His mercy will clear;
And what looks dark in the distance, may
brighten as I draw near,
For perhaps the dreaded future has less
bitter than we think.
The Lord will sweeten the waters before I
stoop down to drink;
Or if Marah must be Marah, He will stand
beside the brink.
It may be he was waiting for the coming of
my feet
Some gift of such rare blessedness, some
joy so strangely sweet,
That my lips can only tremble with the
thanks I cannot speak.
O, 'restful, blissful, ignorance,' 'Tis better
not to know,
It keeps me quiet in these arms that will
not let me go!
And hushes my soul to rest on the bosom
that loves me so!
So I go on not knowing! I would not if I
might!
I would rather walk with God in the dark
than go alone in the light!
I'd rather walk with Him by faith, than go
alone by sight!
My heart shrinks back from trials which the
future may disclose,
Yet I never had a sorrow but what the dear
Lord chose,
So I send the coming tears back, with the
whispered words, He Knows.

FOOTPRINTS IN THE SNOW; OR THE VILLAGE MYSTERY.

(From Our Fireside Friend.)

THE MYSTERY REVEALED.

"Dr. Wilmer, what is the matter?"

"It is nothing, I was thinking, only thinking of a *remarkable coincidence.*"

"Coincidence?" she asked in surprise.

"Never mind, pray go on with your narrative."

She looked puzzled by my behavior, but proceeded with her story.

"Her grave was desecrated, by whom I am unable to say, but I have heard that it was the heartless work of some students from the medical university at Castleton, who had neither respect for the dead nor consideration for the grief of the living.

"My dear friends came from the south, and took care of me during my illness. Upon my recovery they would have taken me back to Virginia again, had it not been best that I should remain concealed. I learned from them that Bertrand Wolford was still seeking me. The more I thought of this man, the more I began to fear him. I lived in a constant state of alarm, not knowing at what moment he might appear and claim me. I kept myself as much secluded as possible. I applied myself closely to my studies, striving in this manner to fill my mind not only with useful information, but with something that would enable me to forget in part my great grief and my fear of Bertrand Wolford.

"In this manner, two more years of my life passed quietly away. I might tell you of many pleasant episodes in connection with my schooldays, yet they would be but common place to you. At last I graduated, receiving the highest honors accorded to any in my class. I was now nearly of age, and would shortly be out of the power of Bertrand Wolford, even if he succeeded in discovering my asylum. I began to cherish fond hopes of an early return to the sunny South. I pictured the welcome that would be extended to me on my return to my old Virginia home. I saw in my maiden meditations, bright and beautiful pictures of the valley of the Shenandoah, and I almost longed for wings to fly to my old familiar haunts again.

"My asylum was discovered, and the scene that I had long struggled to avert came at last. One morning, a visitor came to Castleton and called for me. I felt a presentiment of coming danger before I descended to the parlor, where I was informed that he was waiting. Putting on as cheerful a face as I could, I entered the room where he was, and was confronted by *Bertrand Wolford.*

"I stepped back at the sight of his repulsive features with a feeling of alarm and consternation; he looked at me with an expression of cruel triumph and exultation.

"There was no one near to protect or save me; my preceptor, a most excellent and kind-hearted man, came into the room and called me aside, and in a broken voice, told me that he was powerless to aid me. Wolford had come prepared for an emergency; he was armed with a formidable requisition, and there seemed no avenue of escape for me.

"I was allowed to go to my room to prepare to accompany my relentless persecutor. It was a warm, and cheerful little apartment, endeared to me by many fond and pleasant associations. I hurriedly wrapped myself in a thick cloak and hood, and after putting on my overshoes, I stood for a moment in an excited contemplation of my situation. Then there came to my mind a sudden and earnest impulse to escape.

"There was, after all, one avenue before me. My window opened upon a low shed that sloped downward, and its eaves were but a few feet from the ground. It was mid-winter and nearly nightfall, and there were signs in the atmosphere of a coming storm, but I thought not of cold, of fatigue, nor danger—my soul was centered upon one firm purpose, and that was escape.

"I lifted the window and stepped out upon the building below. I crept down the creaking boards to the eaves and dropped to the ground. Then pulling my hood closely over my face, I boldly walked around the building and started down the road.

"Onward I passed, as swiftly as my feet could carry me, until I had succeeded in getting out of the village into the open country. Every sound startled me. I quickened my steps, and my limbs seemed gifted with a strength and agility that were not common to me. The darkness descended about me and still I pressed on; the wind increased in violence and fury, and clouds of snow began to fill the air. I could see the lights of the farmhouses that gleamed dimly through the tempest as I went upon my way, and I did not dare to pause for rest nor shelter, well knowing that Bertrand Wolford would follow me.

"I would have perished from cold and exposure had not my mental excitement and physical exertion kept me warm. One can accomplish wonders when stimulated to action by apprehension and alarm.

"After going many miles my strength began to fail me; I began to believe that I could not travel much farther; the road was becoming drifted and impassable, and my progress grew more and more wearisome and tedious, and at last I resolved to stop at the first house I came to and beg for shelter.

"My eyes soon caught the gleam of a light not very far ahead of me, and, making a final effort, I succeeded in reaching the door of a small cottage that stood near the roadway. Upon knocking it was opened by a pleasant looking old man, who, as soon as he could recover from his surprise at seeing me at such an hour, received me with a kindliness that surprised me.

"A warm fire was burning in the fireplace. I removed my hood and cloak, and sat down in the chimney corner, and soon began to feel easy and comfortable. In a few brief words I explained my situation, and the old man promised to do all in his power to befriend me. Suddenly, while we were talking, his face underwent a great change in its expression. It was not a look of terror, nor yet a glance that frightened me. It was a gaze of unutterable tenderness like that one gives in sudden recognization of a long lost friend. It lasted but a moment, then passed from his furrowed face, but it strangely impressed me. There was something in that old man's presence—a mysterious influence that I have never been able to comprehend.

"At last he spoke to me in a gentle yet faltering tone:

"'Girl, if I were a superstitious man; if I were not positive that you were a creature of real flesh and blood, I would believe you to be a phantom, for you are a living, moving, and tangible counterpart of my wife, whom I lost many years ago.'

"His earnestness startled me; I felt that he was sincere in his assertions. I felt secure in his presence, and I knew that he would protect me.

"I found that he lived alone there, a sort of strange, hermit-like life. He told me that he had few friends; that he had great earthly trials that had made him prematurely an old man. He went to work and prepared me a supper with a celerity that showed him to be accustomed to the life he was living. Then he prepared me a comfortable place to rest, in the low attic of the cottage, regretting that he had no better place to give me.

"I crept up the ladder into the place he had prepared for me. I drew the thick coverlid closely about me, and still shivering with apprehension, I wondered what would be the result of my adventure.

"The wind without continued to blow furiously, the snow drifted in under the low eaves and beat against the panes of the little dormer window in the roof of the cottage. I fell asleep exhausted by my late exertions, and with a prayer of thankfulness upon my lips that I had found shelter and one that had befriended me.

"How long I had lain asleep I cannot tell; it might have been an hour, it might have been much longer. I was awakened by a loud crash and the sound of human voices engaged in an excited conversation. I heard the awful words:

"'*Jack Howland, we have met at last, and my solemn oath shall be fulfilled!*'

"I crept out of the low corner where I lay shivering with terror, and, peering through a narrow aperture in the boards beneath me, I saw the old man lying prostrate upon the floor, his face wore an expression of indescribable terror. The table and furniture were overturned, as if there had been a fearful struggle ere he had fallen. A flaring lamp on a low shelf, attached to the wall, cast a red, awful light upon the scene, revealing every object with dreadful distinctness.

"Standing over the prostrate form of the terrified old man, and brandishing a glittering knife in his hand, stood *Bertrand Wolford*, I recognized him at a glance, and fell back helpless and insensible.

MILDRED'S FLIGHT.

"To a timid young girl like myself, wholly unaccustomed to scenes of violence, such a sight as the one I witnessed in the room below, had an unspeakable horror. Upon recovering from the swoon into which I had fallen, my mind was in such a bewildered and dazed condition, that I hardly knew what I was doing. My first impulse was to scream, but with every effort in that direction I found it impossible to utter an audible ejaculation. I then sprang to my feet, and after walking forward and backward over the loose boards of the attic floor, I drew a white sheet, from the bed in the corner, and throwing it over my shoulders began to descend the ladder.

"Believe me, that in doing this, I had no purpose in my mind. I was so completely overcome by terror, as to be unconscious of what I was doing. I was like a timid bird that, frightened by the glare of a great conflagration, flies directly into the midst of danger. I had no thought nor premonition of the awful effect my singular movements were about to produce.

"As I came down the ladder, Bertrand Wolford stood in the corner near the door, with his eyes fixed upon me with a stony stare. The body of the old man lay quivering in its death agony between us. I lifted my hand and took one step towards him. The bloody knife dropped from his grasp; he clutched his hands convulsively together and dropped down on his knees upon the floor; he trembled and shook in every muscle and limb; he struggled to rise; his eyes seemed starting from their sockets; his tongue protruded from his mouth; he shuddered, and with a shriek of alarm fell backward senseless into the corner.

"I have since learned that he thought me the *spirit of my dead mother.*

"Then into my mind there entered the thought of escape. The door was unfastened. My cloak and hood hung upon the wall close by. I grasped them in my hand, and opening the door rushed out into the storm. I had no idea of the locality where I was, or the direction in which I was going. I threw my cloak over my shoulders as I hurried on, and put on my hood, and struggled ahead through the deep drifts, striving to put as great a distance between myself and the scene of the tragedy as possible. In this manner, I must have gone two or three miles. I began to grow weak and helpless, and rather than perish with the cold and exposure I stopped at a farmhouse. I succeeded in arousing its inmates, who were kindly disposed people, and who spared no pains to care for me, and make me comfortable. I did not dare to tell them my terrible story, fearing that they would not believe me, and being apprehensive that I would be detained in my flight as an accomplice in the crime.

"I invented a plausible story about being bewildered and lost in the storm, which seemed to satisfy them. On the following day I felt remarkably strong, for one who had so recently been subjected to such fright and exposure. My only thought now was of an immediate return to my friend in Virginia. Fortunately, I had sufficient money with me to defray the expenses of my journey, I hired the farmer's son to take me to an adjoining village on the following afternoon, from which place I took the first stage southward.

"My journey home was a long and monotonous one. I was in a constant state of alarm all of the way, but at last I reached the valley of the Shenandoah, without any serious mishaps, or further adventures. I was warmly welcomed by my old friends, who at first wondered at my sudden and unexpected reappearance. I related to my guardian the particulars of my terrible experience. He reasoned that by the time I arrived in Virginia, Bertrand Wolford was out of the reach of the authorities. They felt that my knowledge of his crime would prevent him from further molesting me, and, therefore, to avoid bringing me into unfavorable public notice, we kept silent.

"And so the secret slumbered, and the mystery remained unrevealed.

A HARD LOT.

Mildred ceased speaking, and for some moments both of us sat in silence.

"Is this all that you have to tell me?" I finally asked.

"By no means," she replied. "The rest refers to myself; it is a secret that I have never dared to reveal. The burden has been lifted away that has so long crushed my spirit down. They are dead whom I have had the most reason to fear. I feel that I can now be frank with you. I do not distrust your friendship, nor doubt your sacred honor, and I believe that you will impartially judge me for my actions when you have listened to and reflected upon my statement. A few pleasant and cheerful months passed after my return to Virginia, during which time I neither saw nor heard anything further of Bertrand Wolford. I began to feel confident that he would not trouble me again.

"Meantime a young man of refined and agreeable manners came to our neighborhood to spend the summer months as he said, in rest and recreation. He soon became very assiduous in his attentions to me. I was a young and inexperienced girl. I did not love him, nor was I sure that I liked him, but I permitted him to visit me frequently, and my friends, who regarded him favourable, lost no opportunity to recommend him to my favorable consideration.

"My good guardian who had been more than a father to me was at last taken dangerously ill. He failed rapidly. A few days before he died he sent for me to come to his bedside. He expressed a wish to see me married before his death, for he seemed to have a presentiment of his approaching dissolution. He wanted me to have a protector. I had not the heart to refuse his last request and in an unfortunate moment I consented to marry Conrad Alston.

"We were married very quietly. Many thought the ceremony a strange proceeding, but it was soon forgotten in the more important and serious event of my guardian's death.

"After the funeral was over my husband informed me that it was his intention to take me immediately to New Orleans, where he had important business to engage in during the coming winter. It was a great trial for me to become so widely separated from my friends, and to take up my residence in a land of strangers. The thought of leaving my Virginia home, had not before entered my mind, yet choking down the bitterness that I felt, I consented reluctantly to go.

"Between Conrad Alston and myself there had been from the beginning of our intimacy a want of confidence, a feeling of restraint, and a failure to comprehend either each other's motives or character. He was a cold, stony hearted man of the world. I was a warm-hearted, affectionate and impulsive young girl. Had I been guided by my own inclinations, I would never have married him. Our union was a match made by the influence and advice of others and from the day of our marriage it was a most unhappy one.

"Marriage is a serious and solemn affair. It is a state that should never be entered upon thoughtlessly and inconsiderately. Upon its relations depend the hopes and happiness of not only a day, but of a lifetime. The world contains many beautiful women and noblemindedness, whose lives have been hopelessly saddened, and whose usefulness has been destroyed, by reason of hasty and uncongenial marriages. They who are to-day waiting, hoping and longing for one with whom their future lives may be happily blended, should weigh well their chances before taking them.

"Our journey to New Orleans was accomplished by a sea voyage. We had a stormy and uncomfortable time upon the water and by the time we reached our destination, I was thoroughly dispirited and miserable.

"My husband began to grow impatient and exacting. We went to live in one of the large hotels where, I was very unhappy and discontented. Alston absented himself from me much of the time, refusing to tell me where he was, or how he obtained a livelihood. He exhibited no symptoms of excess nor dissipation, but he obtrued such an utter lack of principle and moral character in his words and actions, that I soon began to regard him with [illegible] dislike and [illegible]

"One day when [illegible] to follow him. [illegible] thick shawl and [illegible] the street in the [illegible] taken. I soon [illegible] walking leisurely [illegible] a short distance [illegible] tinued to follow [illegible] way behind him [illegible] nearly a mile. A[illegible] of course, rough lo[illegible] him familiarly, [illegible] with them a few [illegible] passed into a gilde[illegible] street, and disap[illegible] stood near the do[illegible] cognize him as he [illegible] drew near and [illegible] inquired if he kne[illegible] whom he had just [illegible] he eyed me inqui[illegible] a careless laugh:

"Know him? [illegible] rascal in town. [illegible] and cut-throat. [illegible] affair here last sp[illegible] sent him to t[illegible] been hiding all [illegible] waiting for it to [illegible] comes back bold[illegible]

"I waited to he[illegible] suspicions were [illegible] ced back to the [illegible] utter dejection a[illegible]

"The grief, w[illegible] of the few hours [illegible] my discovery of [illegible] are indescribable [illegible] sound of his retu[illegible] arose and con[illegible] entered the ap[illegible] changed woman.

"He was astou[illegible] pearance, but m[illegible] a cold indiffe[illegible] triumph; he said[illegible] tion of his care[illegible] turned and left [illegible]

"In about an [illegible] companied by a [illegible] of the evening, [illegible] recognize. His [illegible] greatly puzzled [illegible] to strike a light, [illegible] looked at our vi[illegible] I found myself co[illegible] sive and relentl[illegible] visage of *Bertrand Wolford* again."

IN THE TO[illegible] OF THE WOLF.

"I saw at a gl[illegible] trayed. I realiz[illegible] my marriage wi[illegible] result of a preco[illegible] part of Bertrand [illegible] his power. I un[illegible] Alston, the refin[illegible] had been but a [illegible] man's hands, to [illegible] and wicked purp[illegible] executed what h[illegible] a success that [illegible] perfect approval [illegible]

"The old man [illegible] expression of cr[illegible] wolfish jaws.

"I felt so com[illegible] deception that [illegible] upon me, that al[illegible] was aroused to a[illegible] nor cower before [illegible] him with a look [illegible] nation, that he [illegible] me. I took one [illegible] my hand I excla[illegible]

"*You are a m[illegible]*

"His face grew [illegible] minute he seem[illegible] self control. He [illegible] whom some sudd[illegible] presented itself.

"Alston advan[illegible] grasped me roug[illegible]

"Come, woma[illegible] with this acting [illegible]

"I threw him [illegible] evidently surpris[illegible] back and began [illegible] me, like one w[illegible] next to do. He[illegible] that any violence [illegible] attract immediat[illegible] character was w[illegible] wish to be brou[illegible] questionable not[illegible]

"He turned to [illegible] yet spoken, an[illegible] voice:

"She evident[illegible] meet you—you [illegible] when she has reg[illegible]

"The old mar[illegible] silenced by my w[illegible] to meet a timid [illegible] He encountered [illegible] woman.

"He turned w[illegible] and glided from [illegible] ed by Alston; h[illegible] cited. They [illegible] door, leaving m[illegible]

"I heard the [illegible] footsteps. Then [illegible] terrible reality o[illegible]

"The first qu[illegible] me was, what co[illegible] Bertrand Wolfo[illegible] me? Was he [illegible] been taught to b[illegible] as he had establi[illegible] ceedings in a co[illegible] impossible. N[illegible] abandon his chit[illegible] fancy among str[illegible] nor follow her a[illegible] relentless persec[illegible] a natural child [illegible] such feelings of [illegible] I felt for the ma[illegible] presence. He h[illegible] and means that h[illegible] me into his powe[illegible] he thought he h[illegible] I believed that h[illegible] pelled by some d[illegible] ed further, that [illegible] motives in pursu[illegible] incomprehensible [illegible] prompted him t[illegible] crime many mont[illegible]

"To me my ear[illegible] book. Of my mo[illegible] I knew nothing, [illegible] already related. [illegible] hold the great se[illegible] could but nunders[illegible] mystery would be [illegible]

"What disposit[illegible] ed to make of me [illegible] Their first effort [illegible] remove me to; so[illegible] where they could [illegible] without attracting [illegible] mined to resist o[illegible]

[illegible] of the deepest [illegible] me I resolved [illegible] disguised myself in a [illegible] and started out on [illegible] rection which he had [illegible] dited him. He [illegible] long smoking a cigar [illegible] end of me. I con[illegible] me, keeping a little [illegible] way behind him [illegible] until we had gone [illegible] last he met a group [illegible] ing men who greeted [illegible] and after conversing [illegible] moments he turned and [illegible] saloon adjoining the [illegible] peared. An old man [illegible] who seemed to re[illegible] passed in. I timidly [illegible] in a faltering voice [illegible] who the man was to [illegible] poken. For a moment [illegible]ively, then said with [illegible]

"He's about the biggest [illegible] e's a regular gambler [illegible] he had his hand in an [illegible] ng that ought to have [illegible] penitentiary. He's [illegible] summer somewhere [illegible] ow over, and now he [illegible] than ever."

[illegible] r no more. My worst [illegible] w confirmed. I hast[illegible] otel and sat down in [illegible] l despair.

"Wretchedness and misery [illegible] immediately following [illegible] lston's real character, [illegible] At last I heard the [illegible] ning footsteps and I [illegible] onted him as he [illegible] tment a resolute and [illegible]

[illegible] ded at my altered ap[illegible] pearance, but m[illegible] my accusations with [illegible] a cold indiffe[illegible] nt smile of pitiless [illegible] triumph; he said very little in justifica[illegible] tion of his care[illegible], but shortly after [illegible] turned and left [illegible] e room.

"In about an [illegible] our he returned ac[illegible] companied by a [illegible] man, who, in the dusk [illegible] of the evening, [illegible] I did not at first [illegible] recognize. His [illegible] ngular actions at first [illegible] greatly puzzled [illegible] c. Alston proceeded [illegible] to strike a light, [illegible] lifted my eyes and [illegible] looked at our vi[illegible] tor and to my alarm [illegible] I found myself co[illegible] fronted by the repul[illegible] sive and relentl[illegible] s visage of *Bertrand Wolford* again."

IN THE TO[illegible] OF THE WOLF.

"I saw at a gl[illegible] nce that I had been be[illegible] trayed. I realiz[illegible] d in one moment that [illegible] my marriage wi[illegible] Alston had been the [illegible] result of a preco[illegible] erted plot, upon the [illegible] part of Bertrand [illegible] Wolford, to get me in [illegible] his power. I un[illegible] erstood at once, that [illegible] Alston, the refin[illegible] villian and vagabond, [illegible] had been but a [illegible] nning tool in the old [illegible] man's hands, to c[illegible] rry out his mysterious [illegible] and wicked purp[illegible] es, and that he had [illegible] executed what h[illegible] had undertaken with [illegible] a success that [illegible] erited his employer's [illegible] perfect approval [illegible] nd satisfaction.

"The old man [illegible] looked at me with an [illegible] expression of cr[illegible] d triumph about his [illegible] wolfish jaws.

"I felt so com[illegible] etely outraged by the [illegible] deception that [illegible] had been practiced [illegible] upon me, that al[illegible] the woman within me [illegible] was aroused to a[illegible] ion. I did not shriek [illegible] nor cower before [illegible] im. I arose and faced [illegible] him with a look [illegible] of such honest indig[illegible] nation, that he [illegible] egan to retreat from [illegible] me. I took one [illegible] ep forward and lifting [illegible] my hand I excla[illegible] ed with emphasis:

"*You are a m[illegible] rderer.*"

"His face grew [illegible] ghastly, and for a full [illegible] minute he seem[illegible] d to wholly lose his [illegible] self control. He [illegible] looked like one before [illegible] whom some sudd[illegible] a avenging spirit had [illegible] presented itself.

"Alston advan[illegible] ed towards me and [illegible] grasped me roug[illegible] y by the arm.

"Come, woma[illegible] " he said, "have done [illegible] with this acting [illegible]

"I threw him [illegible] off with a strength that [illegible] evidently surpris[illegible] d him. He stepped [illegible] back and began [illegible] irresolutely regarding [illegible] me, like one w[illegible] o hardly knew what [illegible] next to do. He[illegible] was doubtless aware [illegible] that any violence [illegible] upon his part would [illegible] attract immediat[illegible] attention, and as his [illegible] character was w[illegible] -known, he did not [illegible] wish to be brou[illegible] at into any further [illegible] questionable not[illegible] iety.

"He turned to [illegible] Wolford who had not [illegible] yet spoken, an[illegible] said in a charged [illegible] voice:

"She evident[illegible] "[illegible] is not prepared to [illegible] meet you—you [illegible] d better call again [illegible] when she has reg[illegible] ned her composure." [illegible]

"The old mar[illegible] had been effectually [illegible] silenced by my w[illegible] ds. He had expected [illegible] to meet a timid [illegible] d alarmed young girl. [illegible] He encountered [illegible] resolute and fearless [illegible] woman.

"He turned w[illegible] hout even speaking, [illegible] and glided from [illegible] e room, closely follow[illegible] ed by Alston; h[illegible] th were greatly ex[illegible] cited. They [illegible] sed and locked the [illegible] door, leaving m[illegible] alone and a prisoner. [illegible]

"I heard the [illegible] nd of their departing [illegible] footsteps. Then [illegible] fully awoke to the [illegible] terrible reality o[illegible] my situation. [illegible]

"The first qu[illegible] tion that occurred to [illegible] me was, what co[illegible] d be the motives of [illegible] Bertrand Wolfo[illegible] d in thus following [illegible] me? Was he [illegible] father, and I had [illegible] been taught to b[illegible] eve that he was, and [illegible] as he had establi[illegible] ed that claim by pre[illegible] ceedings in a co[illegible] t of law? It seemed [illegible] impossible. N[illegible] natural father would [illegible] abandon his chit[illegible] in her helpless in[illegible] fancy among str[illegible] gers, as he had done, [illegible] nor follow her a[illegible] bsequently with such [illegible] relentless persec[illegible] ion. Neither would [illegible] a natural child [illegible] gard her father with [illegible] such feelings of [illegible] orror and aversion as [illegible] I felt for the ma[illegible] who had just left my [illegible] presence. He h[illegible] sought every method [illegible] and means that h[illegible] could contrive to get [illegible] me into his powe[illegible] This undertaking [illegible] he thought he h[illegible] now accomplished. [illegible] I believed that h[illegible] acts had been im[illegible] pelled by some d[illegible] p purpose. I believ[illegible] ed further, that [illegible] he had some secret [illegible] motives in pursu[illegible] ng me, as base and [illegible] incomprehensible [illegible] s the motives that had [illegible] prompted him t[illegible] commit that great [illegible] crime many mont[illegible] before.

"To me my ear[illegible] history was a sealed [illegible] book. Of my mo[illegible] er, or her antecedents [illegible] I knew nothing, [illegible] yond what I have [illegible] already related. [illegible] This man's mind [illegible] hold the great se[illegible] et of my life; if I [illegible] could but nunders[illegible] d his motives, the [illegible] mystery would be [illegible] revealed.

"What disposit[illegible] n my captors intend[illegible] ed to make of me [illegible] ould only conjecture. [illegible] Their first effort [illegible] ould doubtless be to [illegible] remove me to; so[illegible] a place of security [illegible] where they could [illegible] ry out their plans [illegible] without attracting [illegible] attention. I deter[illegible] mined to resist o[illegible] y endeavour upon [illegible]

[illegible] the part of either of the two men to force or entice me away from the hotel where I was stopping.

"I resolved to take advantage of the earliest available opportunity to leave the place. I knew that every movement that I made would be closely watched and that I would have to be as wary and cautious as my captors were. I knew that it would be impossible for them to keep me long in durance where I was.

"I could not bear the thought of returning in disgrace to my friends in Virginia. I was proud-spirited and sensitive, and besides this, I felt that Alston would be certain to follow me there.

"My room was connected with an adjoining one, which was unoccupied. The door was locked, but the key was in my possession. I unfastened it with a beating heart, and found that the room into which it opened, was connected with the hall by another door, which stood slightly ajar. I hurried back to my apartment and hastily proceeded to disguise myself as I had done upon a former occasion. Then getting together my valuables and a few necessary articles of wearing apparel I crowded these into a small satchel and taking it on my arm, I quietly passed out into the hall.

"On my way down the stair-case, I encountered Alston on his return. I walked boldly by him; he was so near that I could have touched him with my hand as we passed each other. He did not recognize me. A minute later, I was out of the hotel. I walked rapidly down the street expecting every moment to hear the footfalls of pursuers behind me."

The saltness of the ocean has been made the subject of some interesting investigations by Gorchhammer of Denmark. The means of a large number of complete analyses of water gives 34,304 of in one thousand parts of water, unequally distributed over sixteen regions. The tropical part of the Atlantic is the softest, the amount of salt regularly decreases toward the poles; yet the northern Atlantic is more salt than the southern—an influence of the Gulf stream. Only a part of the water evaporates between the tropics directly returns to land and sea in the form of rain another part is carried to the polar regions, is there condensed to snow and ice, and returns to the equatorial belt, either in great fresh water currents or in veritable ice streams. In the Indian and Pacific oceans the lowest water seems everywhere to be the saltiest.

A process of making artificial leather has come in use in Sweden, which, though not wholly new or original, has some economical features of its own. In this process, the manufacturer takes leather wastes, leather cuttings, leather shavings or other small bits of the material, either new or old, and renders them to a kind of fibrous pulp, by hand labor, or by machine or mill—that is by grinding, pounding cutting rasping, carding, or grating; If old waste is used, it is first cleansed thoroughly. This matter or pulp is then kneaded with india rubber, which is rendered fluid, or dissolved in oils or spirits, and treated with ammonia. This part of the operation is performed by cutting the india rubber into pieces and mixing it with the oil of turpentine, after which it is allowed to remain undisturbed in a closed vessel, until it is dissolved. When the rubber is by this means dissolved ammonia of a strength of thirty per cent, is added, in the proportion of about equal parts by weight of ammonia to the india rubber contained in the solution. When the mass has become of a grayish white color it is ready to be mixed with the pulp.

A method of treating animal hair for the uses of the hatter, which has been kept secret for a long time, is now found to consist in the application of a solution of the nitrate of mercury, for the purpose of preventing the putrefaction of the fibre. This substance, however, is very deleterious, it is said, both to health of the workmen and to the implements of the trade, and recently carbolic acid or creosote has been used to great advantage as a substitute. This has the property not only of preserving the animal matter, but of causing the hairs to contract, thus rendering them more apt to felt. The subsequent treatment of the fibre is according to the process usually pursued in this industry, and the carbonic acid may be added to the oleaginous or astringent elements used by hat manufacturers.

For some years past one of the most important engineering undertakings in Paris has been the boring of the great artesian well on the Place Haber, the difficulties attending which have been enormous. It is stated that, though the work is pushed on with characteristic French activity, the progress is not more than 16 feet per month, and it is expected that eighteen month's time will be required to finish the work. The boring tools now in use are worked by means of a steam engine of forty horse power; a load of excavated soil requires seven or eight hours to be raised to the surface. The object of this well is said to be not so much the increase of the water supply in the city as the establishment of public baths and wash houses at a cheap rate, as the water, as it issues from the well, is expected to be about ninety-five degrees Fahrenheit.

Practical Patriotism.—At a public school examination an eloquent clergyman made a brief address to the pupils on the necessity of obeying their teachers and growing up loyal and useful citizens. To emphasize his remarks he pointed to a large national flag spread on one side of the room, and inquired, "Boys, what is that flag for?" A little urchin, who understood the condition of the house better than the speaker, promptly answered, "To hide the dirt, sir."

A Lumberman.—A gentleman who missed a passenger train on one of the railroads running out of Boston put up with the accommodations afforded by a freight train loaded with lumber. He said when he arrived home at midnight, it took his family six hours and a paper of needles to pick the slivers out of him, and that he never got so much cheap board in so short a time in his life.

WHAT THE GRAND DUKE ALEXIS SAYS ABOUT THE YANKEES.

The St. Petersburgh correspondent of the *Baltic Gazette* has seen advance sheets of the first volume of the Grand Duke Alexis's account of his voyage around the world. This first volume is exclusively devoted to a description of the Grand Duke s adventures in the United States. The above mentioned correspondent writes as follows about it:—

"This is certainly a very curious work. To judge from what I have read of it—whether his Imperial Highness wrote it himself, or whether an abler pen did it for him—the book is intensely interesting. The Grand Duke says that his reception in New York almost stupefied him. Up to the last moment he had not thought that so brilliant an ovation would be rendered in Republican America to the son of a Monarch. He was very weak when he landed in New York, and during his progress up Broadway frequently felt like fainting. But everybody was so kind to him that he tried to look pleased, as he was in his heart of hearts. Broadway, he says, in his opinion, is the finest thoroughfare in the world, because everything there—houses, shops, and the people—look not monotonous but gay, lively and bright. What amused him perhaps more than anything else was that of the bands, upon catching sight of him, struck up, not the Russian anthem, but the so-called "Dirge of St. Catherine," which was played in Russia only at the funerals of a member of the Imperial family. The cheers of the people were more deafening than any he had heard in Europe, from which he playfully concludes that lung disease cannot be very prevalent in the New World. As to the soldiery, the variety of uniforms struck him as extremely odd. He says he saw, peacefully side by side, helmeted Prussians and "kepied" Frenchmen, red-coated Englishmen, and Irish troops bearing the banner of the Green Isle.

The Gaand Duke cannot praise too highly American hotels. American fare he thinks, however, is too rich. "There is at their tables," he exclaims naively, "always too much of a good thing. I asked for the peculiar dishes of America, and at the hotel they could not give me any. Their cooks were Italian and French. The landlord shrugged his shoulders when I asked him about it. Out West, however, my desire was at once gratified. I dined one day on baked pork and beans, a very palatable dish, which would certainly bear transplanting in Russia."

American manners, the Grand Duke thinks, are a little awkward and angular; but decidedly pleasant on account of everybody's frankness. He tells a number of curious anecdotes of his experiences with the aborigines. In Washington he was told that the Irish servant girls at the residence of M Catacazy were dying to see him. He put on a cap and an old travelling coat, and went unheralded down into the kitchen among them. He was not recognized by the Biddies, and chatted with them for half an hour. He found out that one of them had an idea of where Russia was situated, and one of the girls even asked him if the Czar always wore a crown on his head, adding that she knew the Queen of England always did. Equally amusing in the account of his reception at Omaha, Nebraska, where a member of the Legislature congratulated him on the success of his father in the war with France! Another legislator of that State wanted to know if it was always cold in Russia.

The town of Pioche, which has had the reputation of being the wickedest place on the Pacific slope, is trying to reform its manners. One of its local papers solemnly assures the public that there has not been a homicide in the town for over a month. Good for Pioche.

Tit for Tat.—A Presbyterian clergyman, while walking the deck of a steamer at St John's, N. B., where secoccesionism had considerable footing, noticing the American flag flying from the masthead of a ship, tauntingly said to Col. Favor: "Why don't you take a slice off that flag, since you have lost a portion your of country;" Yankee like, the colonel quickly replied; "Why don't you tear a leaf from your Bible, because a part of your church have fallen from grace?" The clergyman had no more to say on that subject.

One form of industrial co-operation has proved successful in England, though it has been successful nowhere else, and that is co-operative stores, where the goods are sold to the members at very little more than the wholesale prices. From the returns received in 1871 from 746 co-operative societies it appeared that the number of members was 267,964, the share capital being $11,529,000 and loan capital $1,077,500. The total amount received by these societies for goods sold during the year amounted to $47,197,000. The total number of co-operative societies in the United Kingdom is 1,300, and if they are all doing an average amount of business equal to that shown above, the total value of goods sold must amount to about $75,000,000. It is rather remarkable that co-operative stores do not flourish in London or the larger cities; it is only in the secondrate and smaller provincial towns that they succeed best. The reason of this lies in the peculiar notions of women about shopping. In the smaller towns there is not much choice between one store and another, and hence the women can be induced to make their purchases constantly at the co operative stores—an essential to success. But in the metropolis and the larger cities and attraction to women of running about and examining the articles in various stores is so great that the co-operative stores, which are of course plainly conducted on economical principles, are not able to compete with the showy establishments of the private dealers.

Two hundred workmen employed in the New York Tobacco manufactories, have struck for an advance of 10 per cent, which is refused by the employers.

DRESS REFORM.

There is no movement in favor of reform that cannot plead an existing abuse as the reason of its being. The most narrow minded cold water fanatic can point to the evils of drunkenness; the opponent of marriage quotes instances where the indissolubility of the marriage tie has worked the bitterest misery; and the Communist is never at a loss to show that our social system frequently results in the starvation of honest workmen. And so, too, the enthusiastic advocate of trousers for women has truth on her side when she denounces the corset and demonstrates the folly of long skirts. The mistake she makes is that of the temperance fanatic, the free lover, and the Communist. She permits her indignation at incidental evils to carry her to an absurd extreme.

The women who met at Vineland the other day to plead for dress reform set forth the usual truisms as to the injurious effects of tight lacing and heavy skirts but the positive measures of reform which they advocated were really unimportant. In all its essential features, except that of hideous ugliness, dress reform had already been accomplished. Women now know the dangers of corsets, and only foolish women indulge in tight lacing. The shoes except for house wear, have become absolete; and the long dresses which formerly swept the sidewalk are now the exception instead of the rule. And even complaint that women are universally injured by the excessive weight of skirts hanging from their hips has lost its point since the introduction of the light skeleton skirt, and the growing practice of suspending the weight of the skirts from the shoulders.

The whole question of dress reform as discussed at Vineland is simply one of a few inches more or less of length of skirt and of the advantage of trousers. Nearly all sensible women now wear short walking dresses, which are quite short enough to possess all the advantages of the Bloomer skirt without its ugliness. As for trousers, the woven drawers now commonly worn in winter are quite as warm as trousers, while the exemption of the sex from the necessity of wearing closely fitting trousers in summer time is an enviable advantage. The only positive result achieved by the Vineland Convention was the signing of an agreement on the part of certain of its members to wear dresses four inches from the ground. Such dresses do not require trousers as their complement, as is daily proved by the hundreds of ladies whose street walking dresses are no longer than the standard presented at Vineland.

The truth is, the dress reform advocates are fighting for a cause that is already won, and the only thing they can achieve is to sully the victory with the taint of trousers. They are silly women who will compress themselves with tight corsets and sweep the crossings with long dresses, but their minds and morals must be reformed before their dresses. It is grossly unfair to quote these follies as those of all their sex, and it is a waste of time to organize societies to convince them of the fact—of which they are perfectly aware—that they cannot violate the laws of nature without paying the penalty.

THE MODEL SHEEP MAN.

The best sheep man we have ever heard of was a soldier at Stonewall Jackson who saw somewhere how valuable are sheep renovating worn out land, and after the cruel war was over he went home to his poor farm and bought 13 ewes, all that fortunately, he was able to buy. He put them in a small field of briars and weeds, which they soon destroyed, then he fed them on bran and meal. In the winter he sheltered them well, feeding oats and swamp hay, and in the Spring he had 13 fine lambs. Saving the manure, he planted the old briar patch with corn and harvested a fine crop. All his spare time was devoted to caring for his sheep. The next Spring he had more lambs; he was able to plant more corn; then came more lambs, when he sowed clover and grew turnips; and now, to-day, as a result of such small beginnings, he has several hundred fine young sheep, free from disease, bringing him $2,000 a year, while his farm has become extremely fertile and he is a rich man. We know that thousands and thousands of poor young men have a free course open to them to become wealthy by beginning in the same way. But the trouble is, the way is too humble and slow; they want to get along faster; they have no patience no faith no pluck.—Truly it does seem small business to watch a dozen sheep, as if were beneath the attention of a bright American youth, but if said youth will look the subject all over he will see it worthy of all his powers. A young man can afford to sit down with a dozen sheep on the plains, live in a dug out, and feed on antelope meat, rather than undertake to become independent in a city on a clerkship of $1,000 a year.

A man in Hartford has stopped his newspaper because his name was printed in a list of advertised letters, and his wife, happening to see it first, went and got it for him and found it was from a young lady, who complained that he didn't meet her at Worcester, as he promised.

The Woodman's Firework.—According to the *Journal of Chemistry*, a girdle of compressed cakes of gun cotton around the trunk and ignited will instantly cut down the largest tree as cleanly as the keenest knife.

New