

sarcasm which no one else save Plowden could use with such withering effect.

"Perhaps my honorable opponent would ask why I waited to ply my enquiries until the return of Bernot from his tour: why I waited until that time to learn from Mrs. Murburd what I might have learned before, and perhaps with much less trouble. I answer, that I waited to see and to watch Hubert Bernot — to read in him the signs that never fail to betray a man on whose conscience rests the burden of a secret crime.

"Perhaps also, the honorable gentleman would further ask, what course I should have pursued if my plans had failed — if the orders I gave to my agent — with a haughty emphasis on the word *my* — had failed of their effect.

"I answer, that regarding Hugh Murburd, if his friendship for Hubert Bernot had been found by Mr. Conyer to be a sordid thing — if he would build up his own fame or fortune on the ruins of his friend's honor — then would his evidence have been very easy to obtain, and if I had utterly failed to get Mrs. Murburd's testimony, other evidences of the prisoner's guilt which are yet to be shown, would be produced, and those evidences would almost set aside the necessity for examining the last witness.

"I intimated on myself the care and labor which were necessary to obtain this peculiarly given testimony — his voice quivering with sarcasm — that the reputation which 'Roquelare' bears for vigilance and expert tracing of clues, however slight, might be maintained. I have detailed the successive means which I have taken to gain this evidence, to manifest, as I said before, the thoroughness of my work.

"Whether the counsel for the defence will endeavor to show that the crime of the accused was committed in the rash impulses of youth, or possibly in self-defence, though it was shown on the corner's request that malice alone could have struck the blow which sent the unfortunate man into eternity, I know not — I only say — again he drew himself up and looked scornfully about him — 'if, when there is completed every link in the evidence which is still to be added, and no doubt as to the guilt of the prisoner remains on a single rational mind; when it is proven that he did not give himself up until he felt upon him the very grasp of the law; when it is remembered that he is one of the elegant young men of society of whom wealth and social standing often form a defence for every crime; when it is shown that if it were some poor, illiterate wretch who occupied the place of the prisoner, justice would speedily have its course; when reflection summons the number and frequency of the red handed murders which disgrace our city, and how necessary are salutary examples to deter immorality from corrupting the very laws themselves; when all these things have been carefully weighed, and yonder prisoner pays not the penalty of his crime, then is 'Roquelare' an empty title which means neither truth nor justice, and I shall be glad to fling its very memory amid the contemned things of the past."

For an instant Bernot raised his bandaged wrist in full sight of the gaping, startled throng, then slowly lowered it, and took his seat amid the most profound silence, and not until it was announced that the court had adjourned for that day, did the awestricken people seem to recover their faculties.

Hannah Moore, having at last recovered from her own especial flurry, was so indignant that "Roquelare" should have produced such damaging evidence, and so angry with Bernot as being the prime and successful mover in the case, that it was with difficulty she prevented her ire from discharging forth an exceedingly discourteous epithet at the great pleader, and delivering it in such a manner that it might be heard by the gentleman himself; but she contented herself with saying, in a voice so loud that her words were distinctly audible to every one in her vicinity.

"It is the devil's own work, so it is — that 'Roll your care' — to be entraping up a decent body as it does. And faith, the devil will give that great lawyer beyond there, that flustered me so, his wages yet; mind that now!" glared fiercely on the strangers about her, who were beginning to show their appreciation of her amusing anger by various grins, and whispering picaresqueries, which the honest-hearted woman was very much inclined to regard as insults to herself.

John McNamee, fearing the result, should her indignation become too hot, as it very easily did, took her hurriedly on his arm and escorted her to the street, while the other servants of the Bernot household closely followed.

"Where's Sam Lewis?" she said, when John, quite sure that she was beyond the reach of any stray spark being applied to her inflaming temper, released her from his somewhat over-tight grasp.

"Come here, Samuel Lewis," she said, "and let me shake hands with you, — extending her own stout fist — 'you're a credit to everybody this day.'"

ished ears, and stepped with alacrity to her side.

"I say you're a credit. You gave your evidence beautifully. You bamboozled the great man till he couldn't make nothing out of you; and that's what none of the rest of us done —" looking back scornfully at her fellow-help — "you're a credit to the house you live in, Samuel Lewis, and I'm proud of you," with another grip of the little man's hand that almost brought the water to his eyes.

The little under-water never stepped so lightly; he never held his head so high; he never made so much of his little thin form in walking; holding himself so erect that he felt as if he had grown two inches in as many minutes; and he offered his arm to Miss Moore, and Miss Moore accepted it, and he looked at everybody they met, and he wondered what they would think if they only knew that he was Samuel Lewis who had given his evidence "so beautifully." And when they arrived at the Bernot mansion, and found a poor itinerant musician droning some most doleful ditty beneath the parlor windows, the quick, brave manner in which the little man darted at the poor Italian, and the sudden way in which the latter retreated with his hurdy gurdy, were very creditable evidences of Mr. Samuel Lewis' desire to perform the most gallant acts of duty.

"We've had music enough," bawled Sam, near the poor old musician, "musical near been the ruin of this ere family, and we don't want no more of it."

"You're a jewel, Sam," said Hannah, delightedly patting him on the back when he returned after his exploit, "and when all this trouble is over — as poor God grant it will be soon — and that poor dear Mr. Hubert will be home safe and well, we'll have one night of it, and you shall be honored for this day's work."

TO BE CONTINUED

A LESSON FOR PARENTS.

Here is a nice little story from the land of steady habits, and we can commend it to the notice of parents.

"After reading a good many volumes of dime novels, little Henry Hopkins, Eddie Kendrick and Johnny Hayes, of Shelton, Conn., became impressed with the idea that Uncle Sam is not exterminating the red men fast enough and that it was their duty to go in and help him. They got together some butcher knives, a revolver, a couple of dollars in coin; quit school, turned their hat bands down, and set out for the great West via Albany. They rode to that city in a box car, and in Albany an unsentimental police officer pulled them off the car, and locked them up in a police station. They told the Albany Superintendent of Poor that they had started West to kill Indians, but he paid for tickets for them from Albany to Shelton and now they are at home again."

This is not an isolated incident, by any means. Happily, in this case, the issue was innocent enough. The gutterite novelists, who confine their tinisal ravings to the red men of the plains and the white scouts, are comparatively harmless. But there has arisen a new school of gutterites, who pattern after Bulwer, Edgar Poe, Gaboreau and others without the fine instinct which caused those writers to convey a moral in their stories without a word of preaching. These gutterite editors and authors are heroes. They are always handsome, dashing fellows whose burglaries, murders and other crimes are glazed over with fine names.

These gutterites are flooding the market with the vilest sheets, sold for ten and five cents. Small cigar and candy stores keep the "libraries," where boys and girls can exchange what they buy at the rate of two for one. Thus, any little chap who has five cents is sure of the perusal of a crude eulogy of crime. Furthermore, the better educated of the gutterites have obtained a foothold in a portion of the daily press, unscrupulous editors having found that they can increase circulation in certain directions by pandering to this most depraved taste.

The influence of this literature is seen in far worse shapes than that of the case we have quoted. The whole community has been startled by the police unearthing gang after gang of regularly organized juvenile burglars. And observe. These gangs were not composed of street arabs — uncared for waifs, newsboys and hooligans. They were those children who have frequently money whereof we have indicated the deleterious use with that amount of education to absorb the lesson conveyed in flash broadsheets and just enough intelligence to put them in practice.

Anguish has wrung many hearts. But let the parents ask themselves if they were not the architects of their own misfortune. It will not be sufficient for them to say that they have forbidden such trash. Have they not often carried equally vile stuff into their homes in the shape of newspapers? Have they provided good literature for their children? We do not mean ascetic reading, but healthy, stirring and interesting histories, of which there is abundance. There are at least five hundred books now on sale that are perfectly sound and at the same time fascinating to the young. We cannot undertake to name them. It is the duty of every parent to read and select for himself; or if he thinks himself incapable, to consult some friends, his spiritual adviser being the best. If he neglect this duty he must take the consequences.

A BORN MUSICIAN.

Many years ago, and when I was just beginning my career as an artist, I made a sketching tour in a picturesque district of Lancashire. It was on an exceedingly afternoon that I suddenly halted in front of a pretty cottage on the outskirts of a village whose beauty was bewildering both in variety and extent. I had already resided in every nook and cranny of the neighborhood for painting purposes, but this particular cottage was so bewitching in its prettiness, that I could not pass it by without the gate of a little copse on the opposite side of the road was open, made me determine to enjoy its inviting shade and exercise my art at the earliest time.

To my mind, whitewash is only beautiful when it is applied to a house's exterior; and on country cottage walls where a soft glow of green leaves, and waiting the time and water is always matter in the right place. Backed by spreading trees and rising meadows beyond my little house, I felt that the gate of a little copse on the opposite side of the road was open, made me determine to enjoy its inviting shade and exercise my art at the earliest time.

"What a perfect water color it will make!" I said to myself. The time was only a little past 3, and I was prepared to give some of the sketching to the artist's eye. The only sound that reached me from the cottage was the occasional cry of a baby, invariably followed by some infant, and sometimes, perhaps, to relieve her own toil, I had reason to suspect that, earlier in the day, the wailing of a child reached me. I was now in a large scale; but whatever work was now in progress in that little establishment was being carried on in a peaceful one, and I was thankful for the absence of curious gazers and rustic critics. Not that I ever discourage such visits, but I am better that his work should have reached some degree of completeness before it is subjected to criticism, and I have sometimes found the presence of on-lookers embarrassing.

For a full hour, at least, I had sat sketching within the shade of the copse, when I suddenly heard a noise as of a small army approaching from the village. Soon, however, the voices of children reached me, and I was glad to see that the village school had "closed" for the day, and that the children were going to school, and that the school was being tested by the noise of the children's voices.

My gratitude upon receiving the picture was not less than that which I felt when I saw the artist's hand to the top of his head to the "old" of his eye, exclaimed the man, "I had the father, with tears in his eyes. 'God bless yer, sir, for makin' the childers so grand!'"

Twelve years passed away, and I found myself the possessor of a very good local reputation as a painter. As I am not now writing the story of my struggles and successes from the time I dabbled in water colors on the roof of a house in the village, I will only say that my first big picture was hung at the Academy, and that I had a very good success in the like of that picture. I settled down as a citizen and an artist, I determined to join some of the societies in the village, but to my great chagrin I found that I was not a member of any of them.

It was only when the meal was finished, and as I judged, the clearing away had begun, that I saw a man in a dark coat and hat, who came from the mother, and was uttered in such loud tones that I could not help hearing every word of it.

This was followed by a fearful, "Oh, mother!" from the boy, and then some words of protest which, however, were quickly suppressed. The man then turned and expostulation on the part of the mother. It was to the effect that she had "slaved and slaved from 1 o'clock, that morning till now, and she has not yet the boy objected to the doing of something which owing to the speaker's rapid delivery I did not hear. The man then went on; but I knew by his sudden change of voice that he was sorry for her crossness, and felt for his disappointment. "You might be very soon she regained her ordinary tone, and I was sure the boy was no longer crying, and that she was coaxing rather than scolding. I saw the man then turned and expostulation on the part of the mother. It was to the effect that she had "slaved and slaved from 1 o'clock, that morning till now, and she has not yet the boy objected to the doing of something which owing to the speaker's rapid delivery I did not hear. 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