Don't Fret

BY MRS. H. C. GARDINER.

There's nothing ever gained by fretting,
As you will find,
If you, this homely truth forgetting,
Perplex your mind
With borrowed fears and borrowed trouble,
And thus your plagues and sorrows double.

The bland south wind your sense doth please,
But, in a trice,
Up springs a spanking northern breeze
As cold as ice,
And chills your blood and mood together;
But fretting will not change the weather.

To lose your self-conceit or money,
Or teeth, or hair,
To break a jar of milk or honey,
Or conserve rare,
May furnish food for sins besetting!
But cannot be replaced by fretting.

What if the busy world is wedded
To sin and folly!
What if mankind are all wrong-headed!
Your melancholy,
And sharp-set words and bitter feeling,
Are each a kindred vice revealing.

The city tongues, which, without lying,
Insinuate
A thousand lies not worth denying,
Whose love is hate,
Though rankest venom are distilling,
Are *never* worth the cost of killing.

Your motives are misapprehended,
Your plans upset,
Your summer friends are all offended—
Ah, well, *don't fret!*
The good and true are yet remaining;
Don't weary them with your complaining.

"There is no grace for borrowed trouble;"
The child that blows
With cheeks distent an empty bubble,
Which spreads and glows
And charms him with its iris setting,
Is wiser than a Jonah fretting.

Lift up your heads! Your courage rally!
The mountain hoar
Minds not the fens along the valley,
But evermore
With strength and aspiration high,
It reaches upward to the sky.

So we, with eyes fixed on the glory
Which shines above us,
Stoop not to write a garbled story,
Or let it move us;
But, all life's crossing ills forgetting,
Reach upward where there is no fretting.

The Devil in Council.

Once upon a time far back in the remote past, Satan, the "Prince of the power of the Air." called a council in Pandemonium Upon his throne of fire sat Lucifer himself, and upon his awful brow gleamed a burning diadem, that glowed and flashed like vivid lightning in smoky air. Myriads upon myriads of fallen spirits—rank upon rank of "Principalities and Powers," thronged to the hall of audience. All forms of evil, grim and horrible, gathered around him like statelies around a blazing star. Silent they sat in that illimitable hall, which the sulphurous flames lighted up, while the lurid smoke hung like a mighty canopy over the scene.

Then rose up Satan—born to rule—who "dwelt like a star apart," matchless in evil as in power, and to the infernal multitude thus spake:

"Prince and potentaries, who do my bidding, and who best serve me when most ye thwart the Almighty; Listen! Ye know that we have tried our subtilest wiles upon the race of mortals; that we have tempted him at all points; and yet he is so hedged in by holy influences, and watched over by good angels sent from above, that scarcely can we destroy a single soul. I cannot glut my vengeance upon them as I would, to spite heaven's monarch. Most noble chiefs, I have called you together to take counsel of their wisdom, how we may best ruin mankind while they dwell upon earth, and afterwards bring them to this pit of woe. Speak ye, each his mind—and him who shall give wisest counsel, and offer strongest means to effect this, our royal purpose, I will give the dominion of the earth and the inhabitants thereof, and a seat at my right hand forever!"

Thus spoke the fiend, and hell, to its utmost center resounded with applause.

Then up rose Moloch, horrid king, besmeared with blood of human sacrifice, and spake:

"O chief of many throned powers, that led the embattled Seraphin to war, I claim the offered prize. I am the spirit of cruelty. I hardened the heart of the first murderer. Give me the dominion of earth, O Satan, and I will make it one with Aceldema. I will sharpen the assassin's knife. I will bring the rack, the wheel, the fire of persecution upon men. I will turn him to be a pirate and man-stealer, and millions shall rot in dungeons and in chains. I will bring War upon earth; and amid the smoke of burning cities, I will teach men to rend each other like wild beast, till the earth shall reek with midnight massacre. I will call them together by tens and hundreds of thousands to gash each other with horrid wounds; I will give them devilish engines, that in a moment shall blow whole squadrons into the air! Then shall they come, O master, shrieking from the red battlefields, to people thy dark dominions!"

Scarce, amidst applause, had the fierce Moloch taken his seat, when Belial arose—the fairest seeming, but withal, the subtilest of the fallen potentates. Graceful in form and aspect—eloquent in speech

"To make the worst appear,
The better reason, and perplex and dash
Maturest counsels; for his thoughts were low,

To vice industrious, but to noble deeds,
Timorous and slothful—yet he pleased the ear,"

and thus he spake:

"I am the spirit of Discord, without whom war and cruelty could never be.—Be mine the task to rule the world. I will spread all false reports, and set every man against his neighbour, and darken the counsels of the nations, till anarchy and confusion and hatred shall arise and fill the whole earth. I will point the tongue of the slanderer as the serpent's tooth and set his heart on fire of hell. I will be author of all evil counsels and false witnessings, and fraud and secret malignity, till even good men in despair shall deny there is a God, and die blaspheming, to come and dwell forever with the damned. Let the dominion of the earth be mine, O master, and thy realms shall be peopled with the souls of men."

Then Mammon, "the meanest and least erect of all the spirits that fell from heaven," arose and said:

"Listen to me, O Satan, for thou knowest my power upon the souls of men.—Give me dominion over them, and hell shall ne'er be empty. I will make men lunatics and fools, and send them through polar snows and torrid burnings to the holes and caverns of the earth, amid savage beast and men more savage, for a few handfuls of yellow dust! So intent shall they be shifting and grasping the paltry ore that they shall forget the starry crowns that heaven offers them; and famine and fever shall come and sweep them like chaff from the threshing floor to the great burning! And even before their livid corpses are fairly stiffened, their companions shall gather like vultures to fight and gash each other for the gold they leave; and in their turn shall fall with all their ill-gotten possessions—giving their bodies to the ravening wolf, and their souls to hell! I too will sharpen the assassin's knife, and help on the robber and burglar. I will lay a spell on the hearts of men and women, that shall work their destruction. The young woman in the pride of her beauty, and with all the stores of her holy affections, shall forget her plighted vows to the youth who loves her, and wed the gray-haired wretch who hath heaped up gold. Nay, men shall bow down and do him reverence, and call him rich and good and great, though every piece of gold he owns is obtained with human blood, or wrung from the hand of want by cruelty and oppression. Nay, the possessor of the gold shall himself become infatuated; and at the black hour of midnight shall steal from his bed on tiptoe, and looking cautiously around him in fear of robbery, shall open his iron chest and count over each glittering coin, and hug it to his heart and worship it. Then shall he go forth and grind the faces of the poor taking usury, and robbing the widow and the orphan, unmindful of conscience or of God; and when the death angel comes, in the last agony, he shall clutch the yellow drops in his skinny hand, and come with all my votaries, and make his bed in hell."

Thus spoke Mammon, and as he paused, Satan "grinned horribly a ghastly smile upon his servant."

Then up arose Arimanes, the Destroyer, and spake thus:

"O thou arch-ruler of the damned, listen unto me! The volcano, the avalanche, the earthquake, the pestilence and famine are mine!—Be it mine to rule the earth. I will pour down burning lava from the mountain tops, burning up the fruits of the earth and overwhelming the thronged cities with all their wealth and people in the twinkling of an eye. I will hurl the avalanche from the glacier's summit upon the slumbering village. I will dry up the springs, and will send hail and blight and mildew upon the fields; and strong men and women and tender children shall go forth, and creeping under the leafless hedges and in the corners of the earth, shall faint and die of famine. I will send the earthquake, and he shall "smack his mumbling lips, when he shall swallow up a city; and the pestilence shall finish what the famine and earthquake leave, and men shall fall in the street, houses shall be filled with the dead and dying, and none shall be left to bury them. Dogs shall howl through the vacant seat without a master; in the palaces and temples the owl and raven shall build their nests, and the ships rot down sailorless; and all the sons of men destroyed by me unwarned will I send to thee as a tribune! Be mine the task, O Satan, to rule the earth, for thy glory, and for mine!"

Loud rang the plaudits as the fiend sat down, and the rest, obsequiously gave place, not doubting that Arimanes should be appointed ruler of the earth. The tumult was hushed, and all waited intently, their great master's decision; when suddenly, from a beetling cliff, far out in the burning lake, arose a blue lambent flame which, while they gazed, took shape—horrid shape—and stood before the assembled fiends. It was clad in vesture wet with blood; the gore hung heavy from his matted locks, and the fiercest fires of hell shot from his burning eyeballs. Even Satan started pale with fear, and Hell shrank back with horror!

"Ha! ye fear me!" hissed the horrid monster. "Ye know me not, powers of darkness, for I am an EARTH BORN SPIRIT, and have long hid myself, aye, for a thousand years, but am now come among you to yield allegiance, and claim the prize this day offerred Fear not, O Satan, but listen and let me be ruler of the sons of men, for none hath power like me in all thy dark dominions.

"Moloch and Belial, and Mammon and Arimanes promise much, but they scarcely know the alphabet of wickedness. Let them be my servants—the minions of my will, and I will both teach them their power and mine. Listen! My shapes and names are legion; I change them at will, walking even in disguise, and to me all doors are open. Where discord and anarchy prevail, there I will be; where cruelty is, there I will come, and burn out from the hearts of men every vestige of mercy, till they become fiends incarnate, and devise unimagined horrors. I will stand beneath the gallows free, and even while the death rattle is in the throat of the criminal, I will drive even to robbery and murder. I will lie in wait in the streets, cities, and plan the midnight fire and assassination. I will plunge my victims into prisons and poor houses, steeping them in poverty and wretchedness to the very lips. I will cast forth their families to want and wintry winds, and the babe shall perish in its mother's arms, with its tears frozen to ice-drops upon her bosom. I will point the dagger of the husband against the breast of his wife, and her blood shall stain the cradle of his children. I will turn the son's knife against his father's throat, and his gray hair shall drip with gore! Where war and vengeance are, there will I arouse their fury to ten fold rage, and blot from the soldier's heart the last vestige of humanity! The incendiary's torch shall be my banner, the crackling flames of burning villages, and the shrieks of murdered innocence, the music of my march.

'I will prepare the way for the pestilence, and open to his ravages the gates of a million dwellings, which without my aid he could never have entered. I will spread famine and disease even in lands of plenty and health; and will seal up the eyes of all my victims so that they shall not see nor know, that the next plunge is into perdition.

"'I will coil myself in the seeds and fruits of the earth,—in the grain-sheafs and the hanging grape-cluster. The fierce fire shall urge (nothing loath) from my hiding place, and men shall think that they shall thus triumph over me, but from the bubbles of the mocking wine-cup I will laugh them to scorn. I will sweep whole continents of their inhabitants, and give 'woes and sorrows and wounds without cause,' to the whole race of man—Yet whatsoever is wounded by me, shall seek me as hidden treasures to be wounded yet again! Let Jehovah send forth from his bosom, spirits pure as the snow-flake, to dwell in earthly bodies; I will seek them out, and plant within their hearts an unquenchable fire that shall consume them; and the cherubim shall watch long for their return at heaven's gate, but they shall never again look upon their Father in Heaven! The student at his books, the mechanic at his toil, the laborer at his plow, will I destroy and none shall stay me. I will coil myself in the brain of the sea-captain, and seal up his eyes; and his vessel and all on board shall be engulphed,' and the bones of the mariner whiten the bottom of the ocean. I will be high or so low but shall feel my bloody hand. I will take the sons of the kings, and the mighty men, and the chief captains and the great ones of the earth, and will mangle them all with direful wound—strip them of wealth, fame—life itself, and fill their last hours with torture; and when every nerve shrieks out with agony, I will open to their startled gaze the horrors of the pit in which I plunge them forever!

"Yet this is not all. I know that ye will laugh, (if fiends can laugh) when I tell you that I will so manage, that mankind will all along think me their friend! The physician shall invoke my aid in sickness, and men shall never be so merry as in the presence of their deadliest foe! I will be at the wedding feast, the scourge of joy; and at the funeral gathering, the solace of their sorrow. I will fix my burning eye upon men, and fascinate them, and bind them in indissoluble fetters; yet shall they shout that they are free, while they dance like maniacs to the music of their chains! I will bind upon their brows the iron crown of suffering, burning with hell fire, that shall scorch and sear their inmost soul and heart and brain, and yet shall they fall down and worship me, and for my sake part with houses and lands, and gold and silver, and wife, and children, and hope and heaven! He that would shun me shall find his betrayer in his own bosom, and where this suffices not to destroy him, he shall struggle alone against millions, and every custom and usuage of the world, and every temptation that man can set before his fellow; shall help me to his ruin! Though it is my mission to torture and destroy the whole race of Adam, yet will I so mix with their business, their pleasures, and their daily habits—so flatter and delude their stupid senses, that they shall pronounce me a 'good creature!' nay a 'creature of God!' Yes, the kings and governments of the earth shall declare my existence a 'public blessing,' and pass laws for my protection, and that of my emissaries, while we walk the earth, decimating the inhabitants and tumbling them into hell! Oftimes, too, will I wrap myself in the spotless garb of religion, and my chosen stronghold shall be in the temple of the Most High, and men shall deem it sacrilege to molest me in my work of murder. Let me then, O Satan, be ruler of the earth, for who else can fill the world with desolation and ruin? Make me thy vicegerent upon the earth and blood and tears shall flow as water—millions of graves shall mark where I have trodden in my triumphal march, and!—

Hell's every wave break on a living shore;
Heaped with the damned like pebbles.

He ceased; one unearthly yell of applause arose amid the stamping of feet, and clashing of adamantine shields. The Arch Enemy stepped from his throne, and led the horrid specter to a seat at his right hand, and spake thus:

"Terrible being! If thou can'st indeed do these things, thou art henceforth my vicegerent upon the earth. Go forth! and hell shall be crowded with the souls of men, thick as autumn leaves, or sand upon the sea shore! But first tell us by what name to call thee." And the fiend answered—

"ALCOHOL!"

So saying, he spread his broad bat wings and hell grew light as he vanished. How hath he fulfilled his mission?

For a thousand years hath his fiery breath,
Smote the wide earth with crime and death,
And furnished men, as daintiest food,
To the red flesh-worm's slimy brood.

Even while thou readest, he is near thee ready to destroy thee and the children body and soul.—*Temp. Courier.*

Agriculture.

A Horse's Petition to His Driver

Going up hill, whip me not.
Coming down hill hurry me not.
On level road, spare me not.
Loose in stable, forget me not.

Of hay and corn, rob me not.
Of clean water, stint me not.
With sponge and brush, neglect me not.
Of soft dry bed, deprive me not.

Tired or hot, wash me not.
If sick or cold, chill me not.
With bit or reins, O! jerk me not.
And when you are angry, strike me not.

Treatment of Horses.

Many valuable horses are yearly spoiled, or nearly so, by the improper management of those having them in charge. Careless or ill-tempered grooms do much mischief to horses. The first do their work in a slovenly manner, while the last, though thorough enough as regards labor, perform their operations in so rough a manner as to excite the animal to resistance, rendering him suspicious and intractable. The first thing to be done, in taking in hand a strange horse, is to come to a pleasant understanding with him. On approaching the animal for the first time, if of the right stamp, the horse will examine the party making his acquaintance with great intentness. This scrutiny should be mutual—eye meeting eye steadily, and, on the part of the groom, pleasantly. If the result of this examination on the part of the horse be favourable, a deep and long drawn respiration will succeed, followed by a return to the food upon which he had been solacing himself when first interrupted, implying thereby that he is ready to be dealt with in such a way as may be deemed best for the interests of all concerned.

On the contrary, if the interview has not been agreable, the horse will throw up his head, look angry, and move restlessly about, indicating that a continuance of the acquaintance is not desirable. In this case, soothing words with corresponding manipulations; the exercise of patience, a virtue as effective with horses as with the genus homo, will generally terminate in a good understanding. This once established, there will be little chance of trouble thereafter. If severity, at any time, becomes indispensable, let it be of a character so decisive as to carry conviction and reformation with it. These attained, let the treatment be such as to convince the animal that nothing is remembered to his detriment in consequence of past disagreement.

In grooming a horse men sometimes use a heavy curry-comb and a heavier hand, not because they are necessary to the cleaning process, but simply to see how the animal will 'cut up.' This is all wrong, and it is a pity that a groom thus abusing his power, could not be made to change places with the horse as often as the wrong is perpetrated. Many horses, and good ones too, are thin-skinned, and peculiarly sensive to the touch of the curry-comb. Such might well be spared the infliction, since a wisp of hay and a card with fine teeth will be found ample for the purpose of cleaning and friction. A heavy and rough instrument, used with an unsparing hand, makes the horse suspicious, sours his temper and sometimes induces disagreeable retaliation. A horse well and properly groomed twice a day, will appear better, feel better, work more vigorously, and be less likely to become ill, than if neglected or left to such grooming only as a fence corner or a friendly

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