

POETRY.

BEN BROWN AND THE EDITOR.

For lawyers and for preachers, I wouldn't give a straw, But I knuckle tow an editor in double-bar-relied awa.

He's so handy with the tariff, an' revenue an' such, That a fellow kant see how on airth he cum to know so much.

He minds me of an engineer that runs a roarin' train, With his hand upon the throttle, he keeps his beam's plain.

He don't go thundrin' round a bend twer jump the reg'lar track, But of there's broken rails ahead, he slides his critter back.

When you see the happy journal that is worked by such a power, A whizzin' toward the station jest at the app'nted hour,

You recognize a hustler, tuned strictly up to date, With all its columns crowded like a heavy loaded freight.

You take it from the office, when it's mailed to your address, And open up its pages, still steamin' from the press:

You read its sharp opinions, and masticate its news, A wind up on advertisements tew drive away the blues.

If a fellow lows tew sell a horse, or buy some real estate, Or hire a driver or a groom, he hain't no call tew wait.

He should shove it down in writin' as fast as he kin twipe, An' let some high-class editor jest harness it in type.

I've done some calculatin' on right prof'able concerns, An' I believe in usin' money when it fetches quick returns.

I'm stargin' on printer's ink spr'ed out in variegated ways, Fur when you settle up accounts, you'll allers find it pays.

An' I claim the busy editor suits everybody's needs, Fur he knows just how tew mix the stuff that everybody reads;

An' in tacklin' gen'ral principles, and mainin' 'em about, He's the best 'round performer the kentry has put out.

SELECT STORY.

A CRUEL WRONG.

By the author of "That Fair Face," "She Knew Best," etc.

CHAPTER VI.

"No, Sir Giles, I cannot entertain your overtures for one instant. Noreen is not for you—I have other plans!"

It was like a thunderbolt crashing over the young man's head. He started to his feet—hotly, impetuously.

"I do not understand you, Mr. Ardleigh!" he exclaimed, proudly. "What objection can you make to the alliance?"

"Merely that I shall not suffer it to take place, Sir Giles Messinger. I presume you would not care to marry a girl against her will!"

"Against her will? She loves me even as I love her. The whole business may seem sudden to you, but, believe me, we have been courting unwittingly ever since my trip from abroad."

"Clandestinely, I presume!" sneered the elder man. "A grand confession for an English nobleman to make."

"I did not know it was your niece; I own at first the acquaintance was made in sport. I took her for a pretty child, and she crept into my heart that way by her voice, her innocence. Soon I discovered she was an ardent, loving woman, the sweetest, the purest, I had ever met with; I felt there was no happiness on earth for me without her."

"I fear you will have to do without her. It is really quite useless to continue this conversation, Sir Giles."

"It is a gross insult! I demand an explanation!" and the young man paraded the room excitedly. You can hardly hope for higher rank for your niece," he went on. "Few families in the county can show so flawless a pedigree as the Messingers; few coffers—rich, in fact, in this degenerate age, perhaps has greater weight—are more amply filled."

The elder man's heavy brows were knit, his face was colourless, his thin lips pressed tightly together; in some way the young man's agony affected him, but he could not or would not give in.

Denize gave a shrill, little scream. "Now all is explained," she said. "The child was afraid to face him. She never intends to marry; she has told me so over and over again. I cannot tell her reason, but she appears to have a settled regard to her own safety."

Sir Giles moved impatiently, so that Denize was forced to remove her hand; he looked from one face to the other, asking himself whether their grief was real or assumed. He would not believe Noreen did not love him; he was confident of the girl's truth. For some reason she had been spirited away, with or without their leave. He would find her, his Noreen, his beautiful love!

He scarcely knew his own voice, so great was his emotion, when addressing Mrs. Ardleigh, he asked— "Have you no idea where she has gone? Has she no relatives, no friends? Perhaps she can find the whereabouts of her colored nurse. My mother was speaking about her and her most mysterious disappearance the other day."

"The countenances of both husband and wife became livid; it was the woman who answered, the man appeared to have no power to speak. She laughed strangely, she said— "My dear Sir Giles, what a curious idea to enter your or your mother's head. There was nothing of mystery about that woman's movements. She returned to—her home three days after she brought Noreen. No one has heard of her since—that is the entire story."

"The child is a regular elf; she is playing us a nasty trick to frighten us," Denize said suddenly. "Probably she is prowling about the grounds. Come let us search for her!"

A sudden coincidence, they called it, went straight toward the river; they came upon a group of domestics standing still, with scared faces, speaking in low, concentrated tones. That Noreen was missing, had spread through the mansion.

Suddenly the assembled passengers made a rush towards the gangways; a party of newcomers had arrived, in which all were greatly interested, they promising to add amusement to the voyage, and so on that is an essential requisite on such an occasion.

There were an exceedingly handsome lot of people, after a certain barbarous fashion. A band of Hungarian gypsies, brought over to London that season by some enterprising musician to add novelty to the fashionable concert; in every way the speculation had been a success, they had been the cause of the town.

"Who is it?" "What is it?" "Poor little creature!" were the exclamations. Amongst the rollicking, happy-faced throng, there was one who excited great pity.

Carried between four of the gypsies, on a litter, a kind of temporary bed, was the recumbent form of a young and beautiful girl. Her pale cheeks were in vivid contrast to the men's bronzed countenances; her forehead and part of the hair had arrived, but the other pieces haven't.

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OF SOME USE.

"Depend upon children," said the benignant old gentleman who was addressing the Sunday-school. "We are fashioned by a wiser power than ourselves. There was no mistake made in putting us together. If our hands were placed where our feet are, and our feet where our hands are, how could we get along? It would be exceedingly awkward, children; exceedingly awkward. I stretch my hand out this way. I move my fingers like this. Now, what is this an evidence of, children?"

There was no reply, and after waiting a moment the speaker answered the question himself. "It is an evidence of design. Don't forget that, children," he continued, impressively. "It is an evidence of design. Suppose my eye had legs. How could I use them?"

"You could use them in running your eye over the congregation, couldn't you?" replied a deeply interested little boy near the door.

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"My dear," she said, toying with her fork after the dainty little repast he had set out for the office to-night. "I shall have to go to the office to-night. I've got a little work I want to catch up with."

"Why, Jenny," he said, tears coming into his eyes, "I have been looking forward all day to a quiet little evening with you."

"There, there, Charlie," she said with some show of annoyance, "don't be a gander, and I'll buy you that fur overcoat you have set your heart on. There's a dear boy."

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