

When at length all was arranged to my satisfaction, I placed the horrid mask over his face and led him to the mirror. He started back and involuntarily placed his hand to his head, as if to take it away, but my interference prevented. He even pleaded that the penalty I had threatened to inflict in case he refused to go, might be spared him. But I was inexorable; I was anxious to see the result, and the delay caused by his unwillingness vexed me.

A renewal of my threats of exposure succeeded in removing all obstacles, and we immediately set about our adventure. Cautiously as thieves, we crept through the yard, and each took his station, Robert at the door, and I at the window nearest him.

The curtain was partly drawn aside, so that I could easily distinguish every object in the room. As I had anticipated, she was alone. The domestics had retired, and I knew her old father too well to believe that he was any where but in the arms of Somnus; for he was one of those sensible persons whose maxim is, "Early to bed and early to rise."

Julia—and I never shall forget how lovely she was—sat beside a small table in the centre of the room, apparently deeply absorbed in a book. Her fair hand supported her head, and her hair fell gracefully down upon her neck in beautiful natural ringlets. She was a delicate wild flower, that had budded and blossomed under the shelter of a father's roof; and the sunshine of gladness and the dews of affection, had ever lighted and cheered her way.

At length I gave a signal, and a loud rap was given. She paused for a moment, listened attentively, and then, laying down her book, arose and approached the door. As she opened it, the mask slipped boldly in, according to my directions. How shall I describe the scene that followed? Even now I shudder to think of it! Instantly all earthly hue fled from her face, and, with a piercing shriek, she staggered back a few paces, and fell heavily to the floor. Quicker than lightning, I sprang through the doorway, and knelt at her side. I grasped her waist; its pulsation had ceased! I placed my hand upon the heart; that also was still! She was dead!

I can recall little else that took place that night. The domestics, who slept in an adjoining room, had been awakened by that terrible shriek, and came rushing in to learn the cause of the uproar. I could not have spoken, even had explanation been necessary. I was overwhelmed with grief and self-condemnation. I could only point at the lifeless form of poor Julia, and at the mask which Robert had torn from his face, and dashed to the floor. He stood gazing at me, with a cold, vacant stare, that I but too well understood. More I cannot remember.

Ten days passed, and I woke from a raving delirium. My first inquiry was for Robert. They led him to my bedside; but, oh, what a change! I stretched out my clasped hands, in an agony of grief and remorse, to implore his forgiveness. He neither moved nor spoke; but that same unmeaning stare drove home to my heart the fearful conviction. Alas! he was a hopeless idiot!

Fifteen years have elapsed since that never-to-be-forgotten era of my life. I never have, I never can, forgive myself for having been the cause of so much misery, though I have sought and hoped for forgiveness from on high. I never can look upon a mask without a shudder, or hear its use denounced, without alluding to my experience. And you, my young friends, when you are tempted to play tricks upon others, I am sure, will stop to consider, that what seems to you so innocent and harmless, may, perhaps, in the end, prove a "fatal joke."

#### FAMILY FINANCIERING.

Mr. Benjamin Wilkens, being engaged in a protracted jollification, had exhausted all his funds, used up all his credit, and spouted almost everything spoutable about his house, not excepting the tea-kettle and baby's cradle, and came home yesterday afternoon, with the faint hope of finding something on which "my uncle" would advance enough to replenish the bottle. His wife happened to be absent: it was a good opportunity to carry out his design. He searched every apartment, every cupboard, every chest and closet, but nothing which a pawn-broker would call negotiable presented itself, except the Sunday bonnet and only silk dress of the absent Mrs. Wilkens. These he eagerly seized,

and in a few minutes they were duly ticketed and put away by an Israelitish money lender in South street. Mr. Wilkens repaired to a tavern with the proceeds, and made himself perfectly happy for two hours, treating every body, and sustaining his character as a glorious, generous, and whole-souled fellow. Before night the money was gone, and Mr. Wilkens reeled home, threw off his clothes, tumbled into bed, with a conscience perfectly at ease. In the meantime Mrs. Wilkens had missed her best bonnet and silk dress, and suspecting what had happened, she made a search among the clothes which had been thrown off by Benjamin, her husband, and found the pawnbroker's certificate. Then, while Benjamin snored sonorously, she made up the clothes in a bundle, coat, vest, pants—everything—Benjamin's only suit; took them to the same pawnbroker, and pawned them for one dollar. In the morning, Mr. Wilkens awoke, no clothes to put on; terrible cursing and swearing, but all to no purpose. The old fellow had to keep close at home all day, in terrible affliction for want of liquor; nobody to sympathize with his distress. At night he put on his boots, wrapped himself in a blanket, made his way to the tavern which he favors with his custom, and tried to borrow some raiment. All his jolly companions collected in the bar-room, enjoyed Benjamin's dilemma. Not one had a rag to lend him; all gathered around him, hustling him about amid the most uproarious laughter. At last he broke away from them, and made his escape from the house; but his woolly masquerade soon obtained him a situation in limbo. This morning he obtained his discharge, and one of the watchmen compassionately loaned him a pair of ragged nankeen pantaloons. He started for home; not with a very light heart we guess, but certainly with a very thin pair of inexpressibles.—*Philadelphia Pennsylvanian.*

#### THE FUTURE WIVES OF ENGLAND.

My pretty little dears, you are no more fit for matrimony than a pullet is to look after a family of fourteen chickens. The truth is, my dear girls, you want, generally speaking, more liberty and less fashionable restraint; more kitchen and less parlor; more leg exercise and less sofa; more making puddings and less piano; more frankness and less mock modesty; more breakfast and less bustle. I like the buxom, bright-eyed, rosy cheeked, full breasted, bouncing lass, who can darn stockings, make her own frocks, mend trousers, command a regiment of pots and kettles, milk the cows, feed the pigs, chop wood and shoot a wild duck as well as the Duchess of Marlborough or the Queen of Spain; and be a lady withal in the drawing room. But as for you pining, moping, wasp-wasted, putty-faced, music-murdering, novel devouring, daughters of fashion and idleness, with your consumption soled shoes, silk stockings, and calico shifts, you won't do for the future wives and mothers of England.—[Mrs. Ellis's Lecture to Young Ladies.

PHYSIOLOGICAL FACT.—A surgeon in the U. S. Army, recently desired to know the most common cause of enlistments. By permission of the captain of the company, containing fifty-five, on a pledge never to disclose the name of any officer or private except as a physical or metaphysical fact, the true history was obtained of every man. On investigation, it appeared that nine-tenths enlisted on account of some female difficulty; thirteen of them had changed their names, and forty-three were either drunk or partially so at the time of their enlistment. Most of them were men of fine talents and learning, and about one third had once been in elevated stations in life. Four had been lawyers, three doctors, and three ministers. The experimenter believes, if it were not for his pledge of secrecy, that this would be as interesting a history, and would exhibit the frailty of human nature as fully as any experiments ever made on the subject of the passions.

#### THE CITY OF VENICE.

Venice is a labyrinth. There is no city like it in all the world. It always was an unintelligible place, and it is still unintelligible. It contains a population of 115,000 inhabitants, located in 27,918 houses. There are 112 religious establishments, though at one period there were no less than 228. Of bridges, chiefly of marble, there are 806, and small communicating streets no less than 2,108. The city is seven miles in circumference. The grand canal is nearly 300 feet wide;

other canals are wide enough, but the widest street is not more than 10 to 12 feet from house to house, and the majority do not exceed 8. Horses are unknown, and the largest animal to be seen is a dog. The foundation of the city commenced in 402, when the Venetians fled to the Lagunes, before the invading army of Alaric, the Goth. The city is built upon 72 small islands, with pile and stone foundations for the buildings. The church of "Santa Marie de la Salute" was constructed in 1531, as a monument of thanksgiving for the cessation of a great pestilence, and rests upon one million two hundred thousand piles. This church contains 125 statues.

It is said that in Venice there are thousands who never saw a hill, or a wood or an ear of corn growing, or a vineyard, or a green field, or even a horse and carriage. The canals are traversed by gondolas, a species of canoe, twenty-five feet long, with a little cabin in the centre, sufficiently spacious for the accommodation of from 5 to 10 persons. These gondolas and their furniture and equipments are all black, and when they move upon the water they have the appearance of floating hearses. The black cloth which is thrown over the cabin top is fringed with tassels, and exactly resembles a funeral pall.—*Cor. N. Y. Commercial.*



## Agricultural.

#### THE TOMATO.

This plant or vegetable, sometimes called Love Apple, or Jerusalem Apple, which belongs to the same genus with the potato was first found in South America. The use of this food is said to have been derived from the Spaniards. It has been long used also by the French and Italians. The date of its introduction to this country is unknown. It is said that the tomato has been used in some parts of Illinois for more than fifty years. Its introduction to our tables, as a culinary vegetable, is of a recent date. Thirty years ago it was hardly known, but as an ornament to the flower garden, and for pickling. It is now cultivated in all parts of the country, and found either in a cooked or a raw state on most tables. In warm climates it is said they are more used than in northern, and have a more agreeable taste. It is now used in various parts of the country in soups and sauces, to which it imparts an agreeable and acid flavor; and is also stewed and dressed in various ways, very much admired, and many people consider it a great luxury. We often hear it said that a relish for this vegetable is an unacquired one scarcely any person liking it. It has, indeed, within a few years come into very general use, and is considered a particularly healthy article. A learned medical professor in the West pronounces the tomato a very wholesome food in various ways, and advises the daily use of it.—He says that it is very salutary in dyspepsia and indigestion, and is a good antidote to bilious disorders, to which persons are liable in going from a northern to a warmer climate. He recommends the use of it also in diarrhoea, and thinks it preferable to calomel. The tomato is a tender, herbaceous plant, of rank growth, but weak, fetid, and glutinous. The leaves resemble those of a potato, but the flowers are yellow, and arranged in large divided branches. The fruit is of a light yellow and a bright red color, pendulous and formed like the squash-shaped pepper. There are smaller varieties, one pear-shaped variety, and also red and yellow. These are eaten and relished by many from the hand. The red are