



### HAGAR IN THE DESERT.

The stricken Parent ceased her lonely way,  
For Hope no longer lent a cheerful ray;  
Ah! if alone, how calmly could she die,  
And leave the world without a ling'ring sigh.

But there was one, which to her aching breast,  
Poor Hagar clasp'd—it was her Child she prest:  
"Ah no," she cried, "where'er my footsteps turn,  
My wretched fate in agony I learn.

"No cooling spring invites me here to lave,  
My burning lips—my wand'ring life to save;  
Thou too must die, my poor, despised boy,  
The source of all my griefs, yet still my joy:

"Could life for thee a sacrifice be given,  
Oh! freely would I yield that life to Heaven;  
But Heaven in tender mercy has decreed,  
That ere we part my sinful heart must bleed.

"One kiss be mine—one look, perhaps the last,  
And then a long farewell to all the past;  
Since thou must die, at distance I will wait,  
To mark the end of thy unhappy fate.

"Oh Thou! to whom none e'er have prayed in vain,  
List to my voice—my weary limbs sustain:  
Take, take my life, but bear my darling child,  
Far from the lion's grasp—this desert wild."

The ear of Pity caught the voice of woe,  
And bore it heaven ward from this vale below.  
On clouds upborne appeared an angel bright—  
It cheered her heart, and blest her aching sight:

It told of hope—and now her joyous ear,  
Caught the soft voice that came her heart to cheer:

"Hagar," it said, "fear not, thy prayer is heard,  
List to thy God—mark well his sacred word:  
Arise! lift up thy child—he lives! from him,  
A mighty race it is decreed shall spring."

### VARIETIES.

**SENSE OF TOUCH.**—It is known that the tops of the fingers, the tip of the tongue, and some other parts enjoy the sense of touch in a pre-eminent degree, and are capable of judging much more delicately, concerning what they are placed in contact with, than other portions of the body. This was attributed partly to habit, partly to their shape, and many laid great stress on the faculty with which these extremely moveable parts could be adapted and applied to bodies undergoing examination. Now for the first time has it been proved by Weber, that quite independently of all these extraneous circumstances, the skin itself varies in the intensity of its tactile power; and that this arises not from the mere varying thickness of the epidermis, the general delicacy of the conformation in the cutaneous tissue, but from an original difference in its organization. All these facts tend strongly to overturn the common hypothesis, that the sense of touch is diffused throughout the whole texture of the skin, and render it much more probable, that it is performed only by certain small organs, extremely minute, and in size comparable to points, but differing much in their mode of distribution, being very crowded together and numerous in some parts of the skin, while in others they are more sparingly present, and are, as it were, thinly scattered. On this supposition alone, we can account for the signal differences in tactile disorientation, which the different portions of the skin exhibit.—Dr. Graves on the Sense of Touch.

**FRENCH SWISS COSTUME.**—The following morning, I proceeded to Stantz, the capital of the other Unterwalden, before breakfast. I had not, higher in the valley, a diminutive of the Schwytz cap, already mentioned, but here the costume was entirely changed, the girls having the hair clubbed behind, and decorated with red ribbons, while the matrons had the club ornamented with white rosettes. Many of the latter seemed to have literally pulled their hair out by the roots, in the efforts to draw it tightly back into this club, or ball. I saw four, who certainly had not a hundred fibres left among them all, and one was actually bald, with the exception of the back of the head, where there was a dirty rosette, attached to send down. A few wore flat straw hats also, and I still saw one or two of the cocks' combs. The guide was of opinion that the frost had killed the hair at the roots in the case of the bald ladies!—[Cooper's Excursion in Switzerland.]

**A LADY IN AN IRON MASK.**—Among the numerous curiosities of the castle of Steinberg, I shall mention only one. It was a thin but very strong iron mask, with clasps and locks of the same metal, of which a redoubted baron of olden times is said to have made frequent use. It appears that he had a very handsome wife, who was sadly coquetish, and more fond of exhibiting her pretty face than he at all approved of.—Whenever he sturred from home, therefore, he was wont to incase his slippery partner's head in this iron mask, and put the key in his pocket. Tradition says that the gentlemen mistook his application, and quite misplaced the protection, as the lady, though she could not exhibit the light of her countenance to her lovers, whispered still softer endearments through the bars and in the end taught the foolish noble, that in love, as in war, physical obstacles, so far from keeping out an invading enemy, generally serve as his best stepping-stones to conquest.—Winter in Lower Styria.

**MADNESS AND CIVILIZATION.**—It is a curious fact, but impossible to be controverted, that madness is one of the attendants upon civilization and intellectual cultivation. According to many well-authenticated accounts, it is comparatively unknown among savages, although we should consider the statement very questionable, we can easily imagine that in a state of barbarism its virulent activity is rarely excited. It is easily conceivable that the mere animal in the shape of man, who eats, drinks and sleeps, giving no thought for the morrow, is less liable to become deranged than he of a more polished and meditative character. Von Humboldt states that he had found few cases of insanity among the American Indians; and a similar remark may be applied to Russia, China, and Turkey—in which we may instance the hospital at Grand Cairo, a city containing 300,000 people wherein M. Dergennes found only 14 afflicted with a nervous malady.—[Neville on Insanity.]

**CURIOUS DISCOVERY.**—Weber has discovered a very remarkable fact, that the left hand is more sensible of heat or cold than the right in most persons.—Thus, when the hands of a person lying in bed, and of exactly the same temperature, were plunged each in a separate vessel of hot water, the left hand was believed by the person to be in the hotter medium, even though the water it was in was really one or two degrees colder than the other. Weber has rendered it highly probable, that the greater sensibility which the left hand undoubtedly possesses in perceiving the changes of temperature is owing to the circumstance of its being covered particularly on its palm, by a thinner epidermis, in consequence of being less used.—Dr. Graves on the Sense of Touch.

"ONE THING AT A TIME,"—Is an old maxim, yet not older than it is true. And nowhere is it more true than in relation to eating. When you are eating, above all, remember, *one thing at a time.* By neglecting this rule, many a person has lost his life. The food and drink which we swallow must

all pass over the top of the windpipe. A very small piece of any thing which is hard, falling into this pipe, might and would cause death, unless soon got out by coughing or opening the windpipe. To prevent this accident there is a little clapper or trap-door which closes while the food is passing over it, unless we talk, or laugh, or cough. You see, then, the reason why we should avoid doing so, if possible. We cannot always avoid coughing, it is true; but if we try, we can generally get every thing out of our mouth before we begin to cough. Laughing and talking with food in our mouths, is also wrong.

The following anecdote will show our danger. A gentleman at an hotel in Charlottesville, Va. while eating his supper, was seized with a fit of coughing. He ran into the bar-room saying he was choked, and though medical aid was called, in a short time his breathing ceased. His windpipe was opened, from which he obtained temporary relief, but expired in a few hours. His chest was then examined, when a piece of beef was found as low in the windpipe as it could, from its size, possibly get.

Dr. Franklin, whose opinions on life and manners are the result of close observation and sound principle, has given us a moral code in the following epitome:

**Temperance.**—Eat not to fullness; drink not to elevation.

**Silence.**—Speak not but what may benefit others or yourself; avoid trifling conversation.

**Order.**—Let all your things have their places; let each part of your business have its time.

**Resolution.**—Resolve to perform what you ought; perform without fail what you resolve.

**Frugality.**—Make no expense, but do good to others or yourself; that is, waste nothing.

**Industry.**—Lose no time; be always employed in something useful; cut off all unnecessary actions.

**Sincerity.**—Use no hurtful deceit; think innocently and justly; and if you speak, speak accordingly.

**Justice.**—Wrong none by doing injuries, or omitting the benefits that are your duty.

**Moderation.**—Avoid extremes; forbear resenting injuries.

**Cleanliness.**—Suffer no uncleanness in body, clothes, or habitation.

**Tranquility.**—Be not disturbed about trifles or at accidents common or unavoidable.

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