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POETRY

LIFE.

A BRIEF HISTORY, IN THREE PARTS, WITH A SEQUEL.

Dedicated to my Friend, on his Wedding Day

PART I.—LOVE.

A glance—a thought—a blow—
It stings him to the core:
A question—will it lay him low?
Or will time heal it o'er?

He kindles at the name—
He sits and thinks apart:
Time blows and blows it to a flame,
Burning within his heart.

He loves it though it burns,
And nurses it with care;
He feels the blissful pain by turns—
With hope and with despair!

PART II.—COURTSHIP.

Sonnets and serenades—
Sighs, glances, tears, and vows—
Gifts, tokens, souvenirs, vases,
And courtesies, and bows.

A purpose, and a prayer—
The stars are in the sky—
He wonders how e'en hope should dare
To let him aim so high.

Still hope allures and flatters,
And doubt just makes him bold;
And so, with passion all in tatters,
The trembling tale is told.

Apologies and blushes,
Soft looks, averted eyes;
Each heart into the other rushes—
Each yields, and wins, a prize!

PART III.—MARRIAGE.

A ga hering of fond friends—
Brief, solemn words, and prayer—
A trembling to the finger's ends,
As hand in hand they swear.

Sweet cake, sweet wine, sweet kisses—
And so the deed is done:
Now for life's woes and blisses—
The wedded two are one.

And down the shining stream
They launch their buoyant skiff,
Bless'd if they may but trust hope's dream;
But, ah, truth echoes—IF!

THE SEQUEL.—

If health be firm—if friends be true;
If self be well controlled—
If tastes be pure—if wants be few,
And not too often told.

If reason always rules the heart—
If passions own its sway—
If love for aye to life impart
The zest it does to-day;

If Providence with parent care,
Metes out the varying lot,
While meek contentment bows to share
The palace or the cot.

And oh! if faith, sublime and clear,
The spirit upward guide;
Then bless'd indeed, and bless'd for e'er,
The bridegroom and the bride!

MANSION HOUSE.

A Jew Doctor, named Crutho alias Dando, who has been several times charged with having, like the notorious Dando of oyster-eating memory, filled his belly without paying for the good fare, was brought before

Alderman Winchester, upon the representation of an eating housekeeper, that he had paid one of his unwelcome visits to the concern.

The defendant, who is a long nosed, sal-low-faced man, and speaks in a squeaking tone, went into a eating house, disposed of eight pennyworth of meat in a short time, and after picking his teeth begged that the landlord would be good enough to chalk it up till next time. The waiter upon looking again at his customer, found to his horror that the doctor was the man who was in the habit of defrauding the trade, and caused him to be locked up in the Compter.

Defendant—I only incurred a debt of 6½ for I am very particular in keeping my accounts, as I think it would be dishonest to contract a large debt. I merely take what nature craves. [laugh.]

Alderman Winchester.—I thought by this time the eating housekeepers were pretty well acquainted with you.

Defendant.—God bless you, when you describe me, you describe every Jew, when you call me in the newspapers a long nosed, meagre looking fellow, you point at the whole fraternity. Besides there are so many cooks who can neither read the newspapers nor the countenance, that I think I can take a pretty good turn yet among my friends in the city and then thank God, the law is the same in Westminster.

The Policeman.—When I took him into custody he refused to walk.

Defendant.—Surely it could not be expected that I would walk on the Sabbath? You Christians say that we ought not to work on the Lord's Day; now I go beyond that, and will not even be compelled to toddle.— [Laughter.]

Alderman Winchester.—Well, as you seem to know that this is not an act of legal criminality, I hope you will consider yourself in honour bound to pay.

Defendant.—Certainly, I shall pay some time or other. [A laugh.] But what makes me angry is to find that these fellows think me guilty of felony. They deserve to be obliged to find a regiment gratis for such brutal ignorance.

Policeman.—My lord, what am I to do when I am called into custody again? He is at it every day.

Defendant.—Do? why take me to the Station house, to be sure; I always like to sleep safe after my meals. [Laughter.]

Alderman Winchester.—You must take charge of him when required so to do. I dare say his family who are respectable will pay.

Waiter.—How am I to know people whether they will pay or not?

Defendant.—Why, whenever you see a long nosed fellow, see whether he is a Jew, and if he is, have your money first, and the depend upon it you are all right.

Waiter.—My missus makes me pay for every plate afore it goes in.

Defendant.—Your missus is right, but she ought to be ashamed of herself to use such language of the Lord Mayor of London as she did. When I told her that I'd have justice before your Lordship, what do you think the dirty plate wiper said? My Lord Mayor says she may go to h—ll; now as I thought the devil had more to do with cooks than with the Lord Mayor, I told her I hoped she'd follow your Lordship.

Alderman Winchester.—I am sorry I can't detain you, and it is useless to talk to you.

Defendant.—I won't give them but one turn a piece and then they surely can't say that they are more than half done. [Laughter] Some people call me Mr Dando; that's a bad comparison. Dando stuffed his stomach, and lived to give his custom to but a few. I eat temperately, and shall live for ever; any one that starves in London is a fool I say.

Alderman Winchester. You may go, and I shouldn't wonder if you were kicked out of the next house you favour with your company.

Defendant. I'd deserve it if I took more than enough; but I see a man gets no credit by being abstemious in the city of London.

The doctor then walked out, admitting

that Alderman Winchester showed an adequate knowledge of the law, and could distinguish between felony and a simple debt.

AFFECTING MILITARY ADVENTURE IN FLORIDA.

The mind of the little public here is much occupied with Major Read's expedition to the Withlacoochee. Both the Major and the Governor deserve great credit for relieving forty unfortunate men from a very perilous situation. You know that Major M' Lemore (now dead) commanded a party to the Withlacoochee for the purpose of establishing a depot, which, it was supposed, would be serviceable to Gen. Scott's army. A block house was built near a lime sink containing water, and communicating with the river. Provisions was deposited, and Captain Holeman was left, with about forty-five men, in command. The distance from the block-house to the river was about fifteen yards. By some unaccountable neglect, the party was abandoned or overlooked when the army retreated, and were often assailed by the Indians. M' Lemore when he left them, promised to return in ten days, but these passed away and many more, and yet they were without news from the army or assistance from their friends. The Indians attacked them nearly every fifth day; sometimes they laughed at them, taunted them, ridiculed the army, bade them "come to the river and wash their feet;" and in directing their fire at the block house, sometimes derisively cried out—"eyes right! eyes left! port hole; shoot!" On several occasions silver bullets were fired from the Indian rifles; and with combustibles attached to arrows, they contrived to set the top of the block house on fire. The besieged threw off their roof, and then suffered much from the exposure to the weather. Yet was there happily no sickness among them; and though the sides of the building were riddled by shot from the enemy, none were killed or wounded within. Poor Holeman became, it said, deranged, or at least partially so; his responsibility was felt too severely, and his mind was at times unsettled. He left the block house with a few men for the purpose of procuring some timber with which to improve his fortifications, and was killed with several others in a sudden and unexpected attack from the savages. After his death the utmost harmony prevailed. A simple military code was adopted by which every man was obliged to perform his duty, and especially to be vigilant. Its rigorous enforcement saved the party from surprise and death. One of the regulations required no muskets to be fired unless the object was within reach and the aim sure. Many Indians were consequently killed, until at length they, taught by experience, maintained a more cautious distance.

Another of their rules required a few persons to supervise those who were on guard, and to shoot down without hesitation him who did not strictly perform the duties of his watch. Minor punishments were prescribed, and, it is said, inflicted on all for lesser offences. At length the provisions were exhausted or spoiled, and the corn scarcely fit to eat. They resolved to send three of their number to seek for aid. The selection was my lot; the three solemnly promised to return as soon as possible if they were living men, and to cry aloud on their return within ear-shot, "All's well!" They embarked in a canoe perforated with bullets, at midnight, and made their way to the mouth of the river, and thence along the coast to St. Mark's. Their course down the river was one of difficulty and peril. They feared to use their paddles or to bail the boat, which was half full of water. From St. Mark's they came immediately hither, and when the Governor persuaded one of them to visit his family while the expedition for the relief of his comrades were preparing, he declined, saying he had promised to think only of the relief of his suffering friends, and he would not taste of the comforts of his home till that was accomplished. In a few days Major Read, with eighty men, embarked in a steam-boat at St. Marks. As the boat could not pass the bar at the mouth of

the Withlacoochee, a lighter was prepared, but she soon sunk. The steam-boat put back, and a long barge and a quantity of lumber were procured. During the voyage the men fitted bulwarks and other defences to the barge. The mouth of the river attained, the barge proceeded up the river as noiselessly as possible; but the moon was shining brightly, and the fires of the Indians were seen on the banks; they encountered a single obstacle, a log of wood in the stream which was soon cut away, and they proceeded. The party in the block house were on that very night desponding, and they had determined, if aid did not arrive before the coming Saturday, to leave their prison and attempt to make their way to Camp King. When the noise of the approaching barge was first heard, it was supposed that the Indians were coming on in force to a night attack, but soon after the signal word "All's well!" was heard. A deep silence prevailed in the block house, and for nearly a minute not a word was uttered; then came the full burst of joy; a long, loud huzza! and loudly was it answered from the barge. Major Read was soon near enough to make the proper enquiries and give the necessary orders. The parties met; tears flowed plentifully, and the deliverers were embraced by the delivered.

FIRST YEAR OF FREE TRADE WITH CHINA

There are residing at Canton upwards of a hundred European and Indian merchants; consisting of British, American, French, Dutch, Danish, Swedish, Spanish, and Portuguese, with Parsees, and Mahomedans, mostly from Bombay and Surat. The principal mercantile firms consist of eight British establishments, seven American, and one joint French and Dutch. The resident merchants of course, are thoroughly acquainted with the trade, and are all men of business, activity, and great integrity. With their assistance, the first year of free traffic has passed over most favourably, and in such a manner as to contradict almost every assertion of the opponents of an open intercourse with the Chinese. Upwards of 80,000 tons of shipping have cleared out for England, for the most part with English crews; yet there has been no example of any quarrel between the sailors and the natives. Instead of a scarcity and inferior quality of tea, as predicted, there have been exported for this country upwards of 43,000,000 of pounds, being 12,000,000 of pounds, or nearly forty per cent more than the average annual exports of the East India Company; and the article has been at least of equal quality, and much fresher than any tea ever furnished under the monopoly system. Under the rated duties at present exacted, an augmentation of the tea consumed has already taken place to the amount, we believe, of about ten millions of pounds, raising the annual consumption of the kingdom from thirty to forty millions. The public revenue has gained in proportion; and instead of an average of three millions, five hundred thousand pounds per annum, we may henceforth calculate that the tea duties will not fall short of five millions; and indeed it may be expected that tea will yield the largest revenue of any one article of our consumption. To ensure this result, however, it will be indispensably necessary that the duty on it should not exceed that on the corresponding articles of cocoa and coffee; reckoning the rate on both, not by quantity but by value, which would imply the necessity of a great reduction as applicable to tea.

A terrible event took place at St Petersburg, on the occasion of a wedding. After the ceremony, the bridegroom was standing by the side of the bride at the door of the Church, waiting for their carriage, when a man rushed through the crowd, and stabbed him with a dagger. It was a Colonel whose sister had been seduced by the bridegroom under a promise of marriage.

A woman near Nantes lately wrapped herself in straw, set fire to it, and thus perished.