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Poetry.

[From the Toronto Grumbler.]

A WELCOME to the SLEIGH BELLS.

A welcome ! a welcome!
To the merry, merry bells,
And the light, swift gliding sleigh,
As their music rings
It merry tidings brings—
"Be mirthful while ye may."

A welcome ! a welcome
To the merry, merry bells
As they dance in tuneful glee ;
Wake the snow clad earth,
With the voice of mirth,
Keeping time to their minstrelsy.

Loose the reins, loose the reins,
Bid the steed bound fast
Through the winters' fleecy gale,
On ! on ! be the cry
As we swiftly fly
O'er river and plain and vale.

A welcome ! a welcome !
To the merry, merry bells,
As their clear sweet voice rings out ;
Let them mingle long
With the maiden's song.
And the hunter's cheery shout.

A welcome ! a welcome !
To the merry, merry bells,
And the light, swift gilding sleigh,
As their music ring,
It merry tidings brings,
"Be mirthful while ye may."

A Good Story.

THE PARTNER;

OR, RECOLLECTIONS OF A POLICE OFFICER.

I had virtually, though not formally, left the force, when a young man, of gentlemanly but somewhat dissipated aspect, and looking very pale and agitated, called upon me with a note from one of the commissioners, enjoining me to assist the bearer, Mr. Edmund Webster, to the utmost of my ability, if, upon examination, I saw reason to place reliance upon his statement relative to the painful and extraordinary circumstances in which he was involved.

"Mr. Edmund Webster," I exclaimed, after glancing at the note, "you are the person, then, accused of robbing Mr. Hutton, the corn-merchant, (the reader will, of course understand that I use fictitious names,) and whom that gentleman refuses to prosecute ?"

"The same, Mr. Waters. But although the disgraceful charge, so far as regards legal pursuit, appears to be withdrawn, or rather is not pressed, I and my family shall not be the less shamed and ruined thereby, unless my perfect innocence can be made manifest before the world. It is with that view we have been advised to seek your assistance; and my father desires me to say, that he will hesitate at no expense necessary for the thorough prosecution of the inquiry."

"Very well, Mr. Webster. The intimation of the commissioner is, however, of itself all potent with me, although I hoped to be concerned in no more such investigations Have the goodness, therefore, to sit down, and favor me minutely and distinctly with your version of the affair, omitting, if you please, no circumstance, however apparently trivial, in connection with it. I may tell you" I added, opening the note-book from which I am now transcribing, and placing it before me in readiness to begin—"I may tell you, by way of some encouragement, that the defence you offered at the police office was, in my opinion, too improbable to be an invention ; and I, as you know, have had large experience in such matters. That, also, I suspect, is Mr. Hutton's opinion ; and hence not only his refusal to prosecute, but the expense and trouble he has been at, to my knowledge, in preventing either his or your name from appearing in the papers. Now, sir, if you please."

"I shall relate every circumstance, Mr. Waters, as clearly and truthfully as possible for my own sake, in order that you may not be working in the dark ; and first, I must beg your attention to one or two family matters, essential to a thorough appreciation of the position in which I am placed."

"Go on sir ; it is my duty to hear all you have to say."

"My father," proceeded Mr Edmund Webster, "who, as you are aware, resides in Regents Park, retired about five years ago from the business in Mark Lane, which has since been carried on by the former junior partner Mr. Hutton. Till within the last six months I believed myself destined for the army, the purchase money of a cornetcy having been lodged at the Horse Guards a few days after I became of age. Suddenly, however, my father changed his mind, insisted that I should become a partner of Hutton's in the corn-trade, and forthwith withdrew the money lodged for the commission. I am not even yet cognizant of all his motives for this seeming caprice ; but those he alleged were, first, my spendthrift idle habits—an imputation for which I confess there was too much foundation ; though as to whether the discipline of the counting-house would, as he believed, effect a beneficial change, there might be two opinions. Another, and I have no doubt, much more powerfully inducing motive with him was, that I had formed an attachment for Miss Ellen Bramston, the second daughter of Capt. Bramston, of the East India Company's service, residing in Hampstead upon his half pay My father strongly disapproved of the proposed alliance ; like most of the successful city men I have known or heard of, he more heartily despises poverty with a laced coat on its back than in rags; and he knew no more effectual plan could be hit upon for frustrating my wishes, than by transforming my expected cornetcy into a partnership in the corn trade, my imaginary sword into an actual goose-quill ; Captain Bramston, who is distantly related to an earl being even prouder than he is poor, and a man that would rather see his daughter in her coffin than married to a trader. 'It was condescension enough,' he angrily remarked, 'that he had permitted Ellen Bramston to encourage the addresses of the son of a city parvenue, but it was utterly preposterous to suppose she could actually wed a corn-chandler.

"Corn-chandler ?"

"That was Captain Bramston's pleasant phrase, when I informed him of my father's sudden change of purpose. The proposed partnership was as distasteful to myself as to Captain Bramston ; but my father proved inexorable—fiercely so, I may say—to my entreaties, and those of my sisters ; and I was placed in the dilemma, either of immediate banishment from home, and probable forfeiture of my inheritance, or the loss of Ellen Bramston, to whom, with all my follies I was and am devotedly attached.

After much anxious cogitation, I hit upon a scheme, requiring for a time the exercise of a considerable amount of deceit and dissimulation, which would, I flattered myself ultimately reconcile interest with inclination ; give me Ellen, and not lose my father."

To which deceit and dissimulation you are doubtless indebted for your present unfortunate position.

You have rightly anticipated. But to proceed.

Mr. Hutton himself, I must tell you, was strongly adverse to receiving me as a partner though for some reason or other he dare not openly oppose the project ; his son, John Hutton, also bitterly objected to it—"

"His son John Hutton ? I know the character of Hutton, senior, pretty well ; pray what is that of his son ?"

Well, like myself, he is rather fast perhaps but not the less a good sort of young fellow enough.

He had sailed the week before last for Riga on business."

"Before you were apprehended ?"

"On the morning of the same day. Let me see ; where was I? Oh, Mr. Hutton's aversion to the partnership, the knowledge of which suggested my plan of operation.—I induced him to represent to my father that I should pass at least two or three months in the counting-house before the matter was irreversibly concluded, for his, Mr. Hutton's sake, in order that it may be ascertained if there was any possibility of taming me into habits of method and application ; and I hypocritically enforced his argument—you see I am perfectly candid—by promising ultimate dutiful submission to my father's wishes, provided the final decision were thus resulted. The main object I thought to obtain by this apparent compliance, was the effectual loosening, before many weeks had passed, of the old gentleman's purse strings, which had of late been over-tightly drawn. I had several pressing debts of honor, as they are called—debts of dishonor would, according to my experience, be the apter phrase—which it was absolutely necessary to discharge ; and the success, moreover, of my matrimonial project entirely depended upon my ability to secure a very considerable sum of money."

"Your matrimonial project ?"

"Yes ; it was at last arranged, not without much reluctance on the part of Ellen, but I have good reason for believing with the covert approbation of Captain Bramston, that we soould effect a stolen marriage, immediately set off for the continent, and remain there till the parental storm, which on my father's part would I knew be tremendous, had blown over. I did not feel much disquieted as to the final result. I was an only son ; my sisters would be indefatigable intercessors ; and we all, consequently, were pretty confident that a general reconciliation, such as usually accompanies the ringing down of the green-curtain at the wind-up of a stage-comedy, would, after no great interval of time, take place. Money, however, was indispensable—money for the wedding expenses, the flight to France, and living there for a considerable time, and no likelier mode of obtaining it occurred to me than that of cajoling my father into good humor, by affecting to acquiesce in his wishes. And here I may remark, in passing, that had I been capable of the infamous deed I am accused of, abundant opportunities of plundering Mr. Hutton presented themselves from the first hour I entered his counting house. Over and over again has he left me alone in his private room, with the keys in the lock of his iron safe, where large sums were frequently deposited, not in bank notes only, but untraceable gold."

"That looks like a singular want of caution in so precise and wary a man as Mr. Hutton," I remarked, half under my breath.

"Nothing of the sort," rejoined Mr. Edward Webster with some heat, and his pallid face brightly flushing. "It only shows that with all my faults and follies, it was impossible for any one that knew me to imagine I could be capable of perpetrating a felony.

"I beg your pardon, Mr. Webster ; I meant nothing offensive to you ; the remark was merely the partly involuntary expression of a thought which suddenly glanced across my mind."

"I have little more of preliminary detail to relate," he went on to say. "Contrary to our hope and expectation, my father became not a whit more liberal with his purse than before—the reverse rather ; and I soon found that he intended to keep the screw on till the accomplishment of a hated partnership placed an insuperable bar between me and Ellen Bramston. I used to converse frequently upon these matters with Mr. Hutton, as unreservedly as I do now with you ; and I must say that, although extremely anxious to avoid any appearance of opposition to my father, he always expressed the warmest sympathy with my aims and wishes; so much so, in fact, that I at last ventured to ask him for the loan of about five hundred pounds, that being the least sum which would enable me to pay off the most pressing of the claims by which I was harrassed, and carry out my wedding project. That favor, however, he flatly refused, under the plea that his having done so, would sooner or later come to my father's knowledge."

"And did Mr. Hutton, after that refusal, continue to afford you opportunities of helping yourself, had you been so minded ?"

"Yes ; unquestonably he did ; but what of that?" sharply replied the young man, his pale face again suffused with an angry flush.

"Nothing, sir ; nothing. Go on : I am all attention."

"Well, I made application to several money lenders with like ill success, till last Monday fortnight, when I was accosted at Mr. Hutton's place of business in the Corn market, where I happened to be for a few minutes alone, by a respectable looking middle aged man, who asked me if I was the Mr. Edmund Webster who had left a note at Mr. Curtis's, of Bishopsgate street, on the previous Saturday, requesting the loan of five hundred pounds, upon my acceptance at six months date. I eagerly replied in the affirmative ; upon which Mr. Brown, as the man called himself, asked if I had the promissory note for five hundred and fifty pounds as I had proposed, ready drawn ; and if so, he would give me the cash at once. I answered in a flurry of joyous excitement, that I had not the note drawn nor a stamp with with me, but if he would wait a few minutes till Mr. Hutton or a clerk came in, I would get one and write the acceptance immediately He hesitated a moment and then said : "I am in a hurry this morning, but I will wait for you in the coffee room of the Bay-tree tavern ; have the kindness to be as quick as you can, and draw the note in favor of Mr. Brown. He had not been gone above three or four minutes when a clerk came in. I instantly hurried to a stationer's wrote the note in his shop, and speeded on with it to the Bay-tree tavern. The coffee room was full except the box where sat Mr. Brown, who, after glancing at the acceptance, and putting it quickly up, placed a roll of notes in my hand. "Do not display your money," he said, "before all these people. You can count the notes under the table." They were quite correct—ten fifties ; and forthwith ordered a bottle of wine. Mr. Brown, however, alleging business as an excuse, did not wait till it was brought—but bade me good day, and disappeared, taking in his hurry my hat instead of his own."

"I was, you will readily believe, exceedingly jubilant at this luckly turn of affairs ; and, strange as it may appear to you, and does now to myself, it did not strike me at the time as at all extraordinary or unbusiness like, that I should have five hundred pounds suddenly placed in my hands by a man to whom I was personally unknown, and who could not, therefore, be certain that I was the Edmund Webster he professed to be in search of.

"What with the effect of the wine I had drank, and natural exultation, I was I well remember, in a state of great excitement when I left the tavern, and hardly seemed to feel my feet as I hurried away to Mark Lane, to inform Mr. Hutton of my good luck, and bid his counting house and corn trade a final farewell.

He was not at home, and I went in and seated myself in his private room to await his return, I have no doubt that, as the clerk has since deposed, I did look flustered, agitated ; and it is quite true, also, that after vainly waiting for upwards of an hour, I suddenly left the place, and, as it happened, unnoticed by any body. Immediately upon leaving Mark Lane, I hastened to Hamstead, saw Miss Bramston ; and as everything with the exception of the money had been for some time in readiness, it was soon decided that we should take wing at dawn, on the following morning, for Scotland and thence pass over to France.

I next betook myself to Regent's Park, where I dined, and confided everything to my sisters except as to how I obtained the necessary funds. At about eight in the evening, I took a cab as far as Haymarket, for the purpose or hiring a post-chaise-and-four, and of paying a few debts of honor in that neighborhood.

I was personally unknown to the postmaster ; and it was therefore necessary to prepay the chaise as far as St. Albans, and I presented him with one of the fifty pound notes for that purpose. He did appear surprised at the largeness of the sum, but requested me to put my name and address at the back of the note before he canged it. In my absurd anxiety to prevent the possibility of our flight being traced, I endorsed the note as "Charles Hart, Great Wimpole St., and the man left the yard.

[CONCLUSION NEXT WEEK.]

Shocking Affair.

By a communication to the Morning News, from the Grand Falls, we learn that a most brutal assault was committed last Friday morning, by Daniel Blaney, Esq, on his wife, causing her death in a few hours after:

"Blaney, after leaving his wife apparently dead in a house, bare headed and bare limbed paraded the public streets calling upon one of his neighbors and smashing in his windows, besides attacking Squire Hartt, but eventually he was arrested and conveyed to jail. The dying testimony of the wife and evidence of the medical attendant, reveal treatment too revolting for appearance in public print. Part of her testimony states "that he had been in the horrors for several days, and last night after much persuasion she gave him half-a-dollar, with which he purchased a bottle of liquor, and that about daylight this morning, without the least provocation, he dragged her out of bed, and commenced this most fiendish assault which has resulted in the death of a woman much esteemed for those virtues which are an ornament to a wife. By this murder, three young children, the eldest aged six, have been deprived of a mother by the brutal conduct of their father, impelled to the act by that half-dollar's worth of rum.'

Point of No Variation.

There is a point in which the Magnetic Needle points directly to the North Star.—That point is the one from which the variations of surveying compasses are adjusted on the United States surveys. The government requires that this variation be calculated ever so many miles distant from a given point, either east or west of the line of no variation as the case may be, and said variation must be noted on the minutes of the survey.—While on the numerous surveys we have assisted hundreds of times in taking this variation. It is a very simple process and can be done by any ordinary surveyor any clear night in the year. But there is something very peculiar about this line of no variation. Some years since it was near Erie and Pittsburg, Pa., extending in a ziz-zag line from the Frozen Ocean to the Gulf of Mexica.—By the many observations made, it has been ascertained that this line of no variation is moving westward. Professor Locke of this city, informs us that by a new instrument just completed for him he has taken the variation here, and finds it to be four degrees and four minutes distant of the true meridian.—January 1825, Prof. Locke took an observation, and found the variation to be five degrees and fifteen minutes, showing that the point of no variation must be approaching Wheeling and is proceeding westwardly.—No one can be satisfied of this fact without wondering what change is going on, for certainly this phenomenon indicates a change in the position of the Earth or its nature, or the North Star. Some of these things must be changing according to this calculation,—[Cincinnati Com.

Freight Railroads Wanted.

When it was first proposed to construct a canal thro' the interior of New York State, Col. John Stevens, of Hoboken, the inventor of tubular boilers, and a gentleman of great mechanical genius, suggested the building of a great central railroad as a substitute.—Had his idea been carried out, our country would have had the honor of being the parent of the railway system. The canal, however was constructed, and proved to be a most successful and beneficial undertaking, and it was not until many years afterwards that a single line of railway was laid in our country. It is impossible to tell how different would have been the results, had the proposed railway been adopted ; but it is now a matter of fact and history, that since railroads have been introduced, they have nearly monopolized the whole business of carrying passengers to and fro, through the interior of our country. For this particular purpose it is universally acknowledged that they pessess an advantage over all other traveling systems, but it is denied by most persons and some who have a very high reputation for engineering ability and experience, that they are adapted for the transportation of very heavy freight. This opinion we think is correct, as it regards the operation of railroads according to their present construction and management, but this does not militate against the principles of railroad economy for such purposes, under conditions of a different character. We believe that railroads may be constructed and operated economically for the purposes of carrying heavy freight.

In reference to superior speed, with light draughts or loads, railroads have surpassed all early expectations regarding them and if they do not carry heavy freight with profit, it is simply because they cannot combine two opposite qualities under one system. It is just as preposterous to expect them to possess the qualities of speed and heavy draught combined, as an animal to excel as a racer on the turf and a draught horse in the furrow. The great expense incurred in operating railroads is for wear and tear, which is enormous, owing to unstable and ill-constructed tracks, and the great speed of the trains.—Were our railroads constructed as permanently as those of Great Britain, it is estimated that more than thirty per cent of the working expenses would be saved annually, and we think they can be so constructed, that eighty per cent of these can be saved. The expenses for wear and fuel of railroads increase according to the square of the speed; thus, if on a railroad running at the rate of fifteen miles per hour, the speed is doubled, the fuel required will be four times as much as formerly, and the other expenses, such as wear and tear of rails, locomotives and cars, in the same proportion, and the liability to accidents will be increased in a still greater proportion. A locomotive on a straight line of good double track (broad gage) has run at the rate of forty miles per hour drawing 100 tuns, engine included, with 1,280 pounds of coke for fuel. By reducing the speed on such a railroad to five miles per hour, which is greater than that on the canals, the working expenses (leaving out those of friction which only double with the velocity) would be reduced sixty-four times ; that is, a locomotive which will draw 100 tuns forty miles in one hour, with two cords of wood, will draw a like load 2.660, miles at the rate, of five miles per hour with the same amount of fuel. We are but in the infancy of railways yet ; the time will soon arrive when broad level and heavy tracks will be laid between all our large inland cities, for the purpose of carrying heavy freight exclusively, and they will do so economically. Such railroads are wanted now, as the expense for carrying freight on our present imperfect railroads is far too high, and merchants have just cause for complaint on this account.

The foregoing remarks are for the purpose of directing the public attention to this important question, and the sooner this is accomplished, the sooner will the results predicated be achieved.—[Scientific American.

An elephant broke loose recently from menagerie in Mississippi, and after doing an increditable amount of damage, came thundering on a cotton plantation, and right into the midst of the owner's slaves. The poor fellows were so much frightened that they turned white ! After their fears had subsided, finding that they were white 'gemman,' they decamped leaving their master with 'nary a nigger.' They had 'saw de elephant.' Southern and Nothern politicans take warning.

nal issues in Poor Condition
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