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TALES OF THE JURY-ROOM.

Eamns in jus. PLAUT. Pomilius, Act v. Dogberry. Are you good men, and true? . Much Ado about Nothing.

BY GERALD GRIFFIN. AUTHOR OF "TALES OF THE MUNSTER PESTIVALS," ETC.

THE NINTH JURYMAN'S TALE.

THE LAME TAILOR OF MACEL.

" Or man, or spirit

I answer thee! Behold me here-behold me! " I was musing On things that are not of this world: aye dallying

With dreams that others shrink from; communing With disembodied Nature in her den Of lonely desolation, silent and dark." JULIAN the Apostute.

CHAPTER I.

Birth of Chenides-Some account of his father-The early love of learning, and dislike of his needle—Makes ucquaintance with a sophist—Desires to behold a supernatural being-Consequence thereupon.

In this lonely desert I prepare, my dear Chrysanthus to give an account of the singular adventures which have induced me to fly the haunts of men, and to consume in silence and solitude, and I burning sands, and in the practice of religious austerities, a life once chequered by a variety of worldly adven-

I was born in Macel, a place of little note, in Cappadocia, toward the middle of the fourth century. according to the christian mode of computing time. My father, who exercised the trade of a tailor, was obliged to take up his residence in this remote district, owing to a circumstance which may be worth relating.

He had been long settled in a comfortable way of business, in the city of Alexandria, which was at that time, pretty evenly divided between the Pagans and the Christians, although it was easy to see that the scale was already turning in favour of the latter, and almost all those persons who filled the public offices were of that persuasion. Still, the former were formidable from their multitude, and, though sacrifices were more rare amongst them than heretofore yet they did not forbear to have their festal days and ceremonies, which they observed in a manner, that was often as little to the comfort, as it

was to the edification of their neighbours. My father was one of a very numerous class, who as yet belonged neither to the one side, nor the other. His parents had been pagans, but already somewhat cooled in devotion to their gods, by observing the progress which the new faith had made amongst their friends and acquaintances, so that they were not very strennous in instilling into their children's minds, that abhorrence of the Christians, which had been no small part of the religion of their forefathers. The result of this indifference, was that my father abot up in what might be called, a sort of meutral ground, between the two persuasions, so that when he had arrived to man's estate, little more could be said of him, than that he was a very excellent tailor. Few people in Alexandria and any great opinion of his religion, but all were unanimous in praise of his work, and with that he appeared to be content. I cannot help thinking, that he was encouraged in this middle course, by observing that it procured him advantages, in the way of his business, which he would probably have missed, had he openly declared himself on the one side or, the other. As it was he numbered amongst his customers persons of every description, and contented himself with avoiding to give offence to any by his sentiments, while he strained every nerve to please them call in the fashion of his garmenter apart and lougues sor

Persons of this character, are, bowever, always in

most decided partizanship. It happened one day, when my father was at work amongst his men, that a neighbour, who was a christian, dropped in to look after a cloak which he had left to be repaired, and asked my father what course he intended to observe on the approaching festival of Serapis?

pectation of a tumult."

My father, to whom the intelligence caused no slight uneasiness, applauded the resolution of his customer, at the same time that he evaded giving any direct answer to his inquiry respecting the line of conduct himself intended to pursue. Indeed he could scarce have done so, for he knew not himself distinctly, as yet, what it was to be. If he refused to hang lamps and flowers over his door, as was the custom with the pagan citizens, he ran the risk of severe injury, both to property and person, on the part of the incensed votaries of Serapis, and Isis; and if he complied with the custom, he lost at one sweep the countenance of all his christian patrons, who were, by a great deal, both the most numerous and the wealthiest portions of his customers. In cases of this kind, where the temporal gains and losses on both sides were exactly of one weight, I must do my poor father the justice to say, that he was always careful to give the casting vote to conscience, and as he had privately a leaning to the christian side, he indulged his predilection in this instance. Poor man! the consequence to him, was as disastrous as if he had incurred it from the purest motives, and he had all the sufferings of a confessor with, I fear, but a very small portion of the merit belonging to such a character. His customer, already spoken of, was right in supposing that there would be a turnult on the night of the feast of Serapis. It began as the noisy revellers passed some doors which had no lamps and garlands hung out in honour of the occasion. Before the Prefect could make his appearance, in order to quell the sedition, the rioters had already plundered and almost demolished several houses, amongst which was that of my poor father, whose worst anticipations had merely pointed to a probable diminution of custom.

Thus totally ruined, and obliged to leave the city he took refuge, after many vicissitudes not worth detailing, in the remote corner of Cappadocia, already named, in which I was born, within a year of the foregoing occurrence. I was bred up to my father's business, more, I confess to his liking, than to my own taste; for I was naturally gifted with a reflective turn of mind that could never be content to waste all its force upon the insignificant details of so humble a profession. Accordingly, from the time when I first learned to finger a needle, until I was fifteen years of age, a day scarcely passed over my head on which I did not receive a severe chastisement, either verbal or manual, from my father, for some piece of neglect, occasioned by absence of es to indulg in abstract reflections, when I should be attending to the work upon my knee. My thoughts, indeed, it is true, were not occupied about idle and frivolous subjects, such as games, plays, shows in the amphitheatre, and such toys, but they were as completely hurried away from my mechanical tasks, and my clipping and stitching was as much neglected as if they had been busy about the sillies fancies in the world, and that seemed to my father the very nucleus of the calamity.

"Tell me one thing, Chenides," he would say. when my good genius put it into his head to reason with me, rather than vent his wrath upon my body, If thou wert hungry. (as thou art like often to be at this tailoring,) to whom would'st thou apply in thy necessity, to a sophist, or a baker?"

To such a question, there could be only one answer given. "To a baker, father," I replied.

"Most truly then," said my father, "art thou named Chenides, which signifies, the son of a goose when thou deemest that those who are in want of well wrought attire, cannot reason as correctly When a customer comes into our shop, it is not a new Pythagoras he expect or wishes to find behind. the door, but a good working tailor, and if thou hast all the philosophy on earth, I would not give a dry pea for thy wisdom, while thou continuest a dunce at the needle and sheers."

"It may be as thou sayest,' I replied; "but if thou interpret my name, 'Son of a Goose,' in respect of my descent, by what name, then shall men call thee. O father?"

Offended by what he conceived the impertinence of this inquiry, my father without making any angwer in words, fell to beating me over the shoulders, the usual accompaniment of his instructions:

I could not, however, deny the justice of his re-proaches, and strove to amend; but my predilec-tions though repressed, were not extinguished. In truth, my father was not altogether reasonable, for it your aid. If you have any existence, other than in is hardly possible that a person of a rational mind, could remain satisfied with the merely animal kind of training with which he would have me be content. As for him, he seemed to care for nothing but his trade. The place was not so poor but there were one or two sophists to give lectures in it, with one of whom I managed to scrape an acquaintance by affording him the aid of my needle in repairing any fissures made by time in his threadbare garment a task which his poverty, and the thinness of his auditory, obliged him often to impose upon me. In return for such good offices, he gave me a general knowledge of the doctrines of various philosophers, such as sufficed to stimulate the desire of informa tion which I already entertained, without satisfying it. I well remember the feeling with which I returned from the first lecture I ever heard him deliver, having stolen away from the house, when my father thought I was in bed. I can well remember the absorbed and absent state of feeling, the dilation of mind which I experienced, as I returned homeward moonlight through the narrow streets, my imagination full of the speculations of various schools, and revolving with a sort of wondering delight, the doctrines of the stoics, the Epicureans, the Peripatetics, Pythagoreans and others, which I had heard detailed in the course of the evening. The fat Cappadocian slave, (the only one whom we possesed,) whom I had bribed with a measure of Greek wine to open the door softly for me on my return, their neutrality more troublesome than the was faithful to our contract, and I retired to rest un. speaker, were never fully decided in his thoughts, I had likewise cause for anxiety of a more vulgar from a Phanecian word, signifying an elephant.

perceived by my father, to dream of atoms and transmigrations, matter, and spirit, and I know not what beside, which had constituted the subject of my good sophist's lecture.

But what most of all awakened my interest, were those discussions which treated of a separate state "For my part," said he, "I will hang no lamp of existence in a manner somewhat superior to the over my door, though they were to drag the house about my ears. I hear some say there is every exwe commonly associated. Everything relating to this favourite theme, had for me, whose mind had never received any training of the kind, a fascination, which might have been destructive to a person of less simplicity of character, but I was naturally blessed by Providence with a quiet contented disposition, and a good humoured turn, which I would not have exchanged for the heads of all the sophists in Greece. Day and night, however, I devoted every instant that I could spare, to my beloved studies. All the money I could save out of the little gains allowed me by my father, went in the purchase of such books as I could procure in the place. An accident, which all my friends considered a very serious misfortune, but for which I found abundant consolation in the leisure it procured me, enabled me to reach a greater proficiency in learning, than it is possible I might otherwise have for a long time attained.

One night, after reading over, as was my wont, the Golden Verses of Pythagoras, in which I took an especial delight, I was so hurried beyond myself, by reflections connected with these subjects, that the morning began to dawn before I could get a wink of sleep, and when I did so, it was but to dream of spectres, shades, starry influences, and all things connected with that mysterious world, of which I had heard and read so much, and respecting which our sophists gave such conflicting accounts. With nerves exhausted from long continued study and intense reflection, and now still further weakened by want of sufficient sleep and by uneasy dreams, I arose before sunrise and walked out in the fresh morning air, hoping by it influence to dispel the weariness I felt, before the hour should arrive for opening my father's shop.

At no great distance from our dwelling, stood the magnificent castle in which the two young princes, nephews of the Emperor Censtantine, were kept secluded, in order to be educated in a manner suited to their birth. The building was furnished after the Roman style, with extensive gardens, baths, and fountains, and often in walking at evening by the little river which flowed by its walls, did I admire the happy condition of those youths, thus furnished from their very childhood with all that could enrich the mind, and form the understanding. Mathematics, dialectics, all that related to the science of reasoning, those sciences, of which I could receive but stimulating glimpses, as I did of the outer walls of that royal abode in which they dwelt, were at their daily use, with the assistance of the most celebrated masters, in fathoming their depth. What a difference between their lot, and that of a poor tailor's son! Even the half starved sophist, who sometimes flung me a piece of instruction by way of reward for keeping his rags tegether, as one throws a bone to a hungry beggar, and whom I looked upon as a living mine of information, was I understood, a mere dunce, compared to the least proficient of those who were entrusted with the tuition of the young princes.

The dusky twilight of morning, and the gloom of the trees, by which the castle was surrounded, invested it on this occasion, with a solemnity more than usually impressive. As I rambled along by the river side, which was considerably lower than the site on which the castle stood, I perceived a spot immediately adjoining the garden walls above, which seemed to command an extensive prospect of the heights of Mount Argous and the surrounding country. The ascent to this spot from the place on which I stood, was rather precipitous but I was not yet the "Lame Tailor of Macel," as the people called me after my mishap, and I reached it without much difficulty. While I remained gazing on the landscape, yet dimly lighted, and revolving in my mind the difficulties which my humble condition opposed to the gratification of my ruling passion, the acquisition of knowledge, one reflection led to another, until, as persons are wont sometimes foolishly to use when alone, I began to utter some

sentences aloud. Where were now the times, I asked, when immortal beings were accustomed to hold communion with the sons of men? I had heard from my relatives, when a child, an infinite number of stories relating to the discovery of hidden treasure, through some preter-natural agency. Why will not some being from that shadowy world, step in to my assistance at his moment, since none of my own species are willing to assist me? Appear, if ye exist ye who are so much talked of, and so little seen. fear you not; I court, I call upon you. This is the scene, and the time for your manifestation, and here is a being, who, of all others, requires and implores

the speech of babblers, appear !" Turning as I uttered these foolish words, which I shall regret the longest day I live, I beheld standing immediately between me and the garden wall a figure which fixed my attention in a more forcible manner than any on which I ever yet had set my eyes. It was that of a young man, about the middle size, his neck thick and short, his shoulders huge and incessantly in motion, and his feet in an irresolute attitude, as if deliberating whether they should stand or go. His eyes had a kind of disagreeable light, that seemed as if their owner wished to read my very soul, yet they shifted and twinkled when their gaze met mine, as if not willing, to undergo a similar scrutiny in return. His mose unil mouth had a disdainful expression, while his lower lip hung downward in a manner that gave a peculiar hideous air to the whole countenance, and a beard pointed and grisly, completed the uncouth appearance of the whole figure. How he had come there I could not divine, for I possessed the only pathway leading up the steep ascent. If human, he must have used some hidden passage through the massive garden wall, and if more or less, he must descended from the air above, or arisen through the solid earth. That he was not an immaterial, being, however, I soon discovered, both by the effects, of his motion, and the sound of his voice, which was, at the same time violent and hesitating, as if the

and strove to cover his embarrassment of mind. by a needless vehemence of expression. "Whom do you call?" he said with a glance, in

which derision was blended with curiosity." "Thee-if thou canst assist me," was my reply. "What is your difficulty?"

"The ignorance in which I was born, and in which I unwillingly remain," I answered, with a readiness which afterwards surprised me. "And what kind of knowledge do you seek?"

"That which brings happiness." The lip of the stranger curled more than usual, and he said, with a voice that had more of contempt

than of compassion. "Of what calling art thou?"

"A tailor." "And thou dwellest in Macel?"

" Yes." " And what is thy wish at present ?"

"To travel, if possible, to Athens, and become a disciple of one of the numerous sophists who give instructions in that city." " But that will require money."

"Ayel that is my difficulty. Alas! the needle and the shears will never bring me these." "Art thou a Christian ?"

" No." "A pagan, then ?" he asked, with vivacity.
"Nor a pagan neither. I have been brought up

in ignorance of all but tailoring."

Thy father was wise."

"If so," I replied, "he was a shrewd miser of his wisdom, for he never shewed nor shared it. If he be wise, for teaching me nothing more, then the eagle is wise, and wiser than he, for to say nought of the difference between flying and stitching, he teaches his young to soar rather than to sit. And. if all men be no wiser, why, then, our race has been ill used; for the eagle, and the lion, and the dolphin, have their garments ready made, while nature has left our outward furnishing to the tailor. I doubt there is something at the bottom of this wonderful design, which has placed us so far beneath, and, at the same time, so immeasurably above all other animals."

"Thy father should have made thee a barber, and not a tailor," said the stranger. "Knowest thou not that silence and gravity are as commendable in the latter calling, as the lack of both in the former?"

"I crave pardon if I have offended," I replied, "but there are moments when, as I meditate upon the subjects, I find an ardour arise within me which it is impossible for me to restrain. They talk of the wisdom of contentment, but is it contentment? -is it not rather slavish indolence of spirit, to eat drink, sleep, stitch, and clip on, from day to day, without knowing whence I come or whither I go driven on at raudom like a pilotless bark in the Agean, on a cloudy night? I know that I come from my mother's womb, and go to the grave of worms, but if that be all, the beginning and end the alpha and omega of my journey, why do I fancy more? why can I fancy it? To be born—to marry—and to die! If that be all, would I had never been !--or would, at least, I had never been cursed with longings that make the mind miserable, without making it wise. The bee, the ant, the bird the beast, seem all contented with their several des-The fish, ask he cleaves the shining waters around him, as not of his origin or end; the rainbow-tinted butterfly, as he sports in the noonday sun, inquires not what shall be his doom when the snow cloud shall gather once more upon the summit of Mount Argeus. Their hour of enjoyment is not embittered by those impatient questionings which make the present to me a dreary blank, and fix my thought for ever, either on the past or on the future."

"If thou be as expert at the needle, as thou art with thy tongue," said the stranger, "I blame not thy father for confining thee to the use of it. But tell me, dost thou reckon personal courage amongst those qualities with which Nature has endowed

"I am not, I think, more fearful than tailors in general." "It is a prudent answer. Here then, let me bind

this cloth over thine eyes, and follow me in silence. I consented without speaking, and he bound the cloth upon my eyes. Then, desiring me take hold of his garment, he moved around several times, as if with the view of rendering me unable to tell in what direction we were about proceeding. After walking five or six paces, we descended suddenly about half that number, when the stranger bade me stoop low, and follow him, still retaining my hold upon his garment. I did so, and after treading for some time what seemed to be a low and vaulted passage, with many windings and several abrupt descents, I could perceive, by the sound of our foot-steps, that we had entered a capacious chamber.— Here, with a sudden twitch, the stranger wrested his garment from my grasp, and after listening to his hastily retiring steps as they grew fainter from distance, a sullen sound like that of a massive door, sent home with violence into its place resounded through the place, and all was silent after. I called, but there was no answer: I took the bandage from my eyes, but could see nothing. All was dark around me, and the idea that either a silly or a mischievous trick had been played upon me, filled my mind with shame and indignation.

After an hur had elapsed in the most distressing reflections, I began to grope about the gloomy vault in which I was left, to seek for some mode of egrees, but in vain. Nought met my hands all around, but the massive circular wall, nor could I, in the ponderous door, find either chink or bole, to satisfy me that I still retained the faculty of vision. Calling out might saubjectrine, even supposing I should be neard, to still more unpleasant treatment; so I resolved to reserve that measure as a last resource; and allow a reasonable time for the capticious stranger to return, if he entertained any idea of so doing.

CHAPTER II.

Another question arose to my mind, namely, whether the person I had been conversing with was in reality a supernatural being, who had come at my summons, or a mere creature of flesh and bone like myself. A few reflections conducted me to the latter conclusion, yet not so surely but there still remained a great degree of perplexity upon my mind.

kind. What would my father think of my absence, and in what way would he receive me on my return? On this point, however, there was no use in dwelling, and it was never my wont to torment myself by broading over the anticipation of evil which of necessity must be. Accordingly, I rather yielded to musings of a more congenial nature, and began in my own mind to compare the present state of darkness and confinement in which I was placed, with the ignorance that enveloped my mind, and which I was so anxious to have dispelled.

While my thoughts were thus engaged, I gradually felt the effects of the want of rest and mental labor of the previous night, and although I judged the day must be considerably advanced, I soon fell into a profound and dreamless sleep, from which I was at length awakened with sensations of pleasure so exquisite that I never can forget their influence.-As my senses returned, delicious strains of music came floating from a distance, that seemed to lend them a celestial softness. At the same moment (a sound not less delightful to my cars,) I heard the massive door thrown open, and a figure entered, which, by the light of a lamp it bore in one hand, I soon recognised to be that of my morning acquaint-

I was about to burst forth into reproaches, but he laid one singer on his lips with a warning frown, and beckoned me once more to follow him in silence. Having no alternative, I complied, and emerging from the dungeon, (for such it seemed to be,) I entered a handsome arbour, seated on a slope thickly clothed with foliage, from which I had a view of an extensive garden furnished with fountains, baths, and aqueducts, of princely grandeur. Some musicians seated under a date tree, produced in concert, the sounds which had broken so agreeably upon my slumber. While I gazed with wonder on a scene so new to my eyes, my guide accosted me in the hesitating tone which was customary with him.

"I have at length found an opportunity," he said, "of resuming our conversation. I left thee abruptly but it would have been dangerous to us both, had I tarried an instant longer. This is a tolerable nest, is it not, the Causars have built for themselves in Cappadocia?"

It is, indeed, magnificent."

"And yet the Romans never busied themselves very deeply with the discussion of such subtle matters as thou sufferest to come between thee and thy rest. But thou art fasting long. Here is food, and while thou catest, we can converse a little longer, at our ease, on topics which appear to be of equal interest to us both." "I pray thee hold me excused," I replied. "Thou

hast already used me very ill, and carned for me, at my father's hand, that which I believe thou wouldst not be very willing to suffer in my stead."

"Nay, go not yet," he said, "cat first, and let it not appear that we part in anger."

So saying, he unfolded a napkin and placed it on the grass, on which we both reclined while he spoke, and I ate at leisure.

" I said," he resumed, " that those world-conquering Romans never troubled themselves very deeply about points of abstract knowledge. How to what the sword, and draw up the legion, were to them matters of more general interest than any attempt to point out the exact line which separates matter from spirit. Yet what are a host of bearded sophists, in the presence of a single centurion in his coat of mail, and half a maniple of Roman soldiers at his back. The eagle of Jove is a nobler bird than

the owl of Minerva."
"I have never felt so," I replied, "nor ever can.
If excellence exists in force and strength, then Cresar himself must yield to the animal from which he takes his name. I had rather be the poor sophist in fetters, than his gaoler with his key and his ignorance."

"Art thou so satisfied, then," said the stranger, that hapiness cannot consist with ignorance." "I know not in, or with what it consists." I replied, "and with such ignorance as that, how can it

consist?" Here I entered into a long detail of all I learned and thought upon subjects so interesting to me. "From all thou hast said," resumed the stranger

after a long and thoughtful pause, "I am disposed to befriend thee. Thou seemest in earnest, which is being more than half way to success, in any pursuit whatever"

"And what art thon." I asked, "who takest so strange an interest in my fortune?" The stranger paused an instant, and then said : "Hast thou never heard of him, who, at five and twenty years of age, had conquered the most power-

ful empire in the world, and who died at two and thirty, leaving after him a name which will fill all history to the end of time." "Thou meanest Alexander of Macedon!" "I am he!" said the stranger.

At this, I burst into a fit of laughter. "Thou!" I exclaimed, "why he has been dead for many ages."

"I am he, nevertheless," persisted the stranger, the same diamond in a new casket—the same soul in a new garment of flesh."

My first supposition had been, that the stranger either jested, or was a lunatic; but I now suspected that I had to deal with a disciple of Pythagoras, who held in common with all his sect, the doctrine

of the transmigration of souls.

"and by what name," I asked, evading any disputation as to his identity with Alexander the Great, "by what name is it thy fortune to be known

at present?" "Restrain thy curiosity," he answered. "Enough for thee, that I desire to serve thee, if thy mind hold, as I have no doubt it will, thou shalt have the means of seeing Athens. Only meet me to-morrow morning, at the same spot where we met to-day, and at the same hour, and I will tell thee more. This

is a festal night in the palace, being the birth day of Gallus, the eldest of the young princes." We parted, but not to meet so soon as we had arranged, for it was on that very evening, within & few paces of my father's door, that I fell and broke the bone of my left leg, thus earning for myself, the name which I ever after bore, of The Lame Tailor of Macel. During my illness, my unknown acquaint ance sent me by the hands of a slave, a sum of money sufficient for the purpose which.

The name Cresor is said by some to be adopted