

All night the snow fell and the wind howled and in the morning, great white hills stood, where but yesterday had been deep hollows.

Wearily dragged the children to the school-room, to wearily loiter through another day.

The window panes were blocked with snow and frost and a grey gloom overhung the dusty benches and chalk-marked boards. The teacher was late that morning, and the children began to hope that he was ill, and that so they would have a holiday, for home was much more pleasant than this big cheerless room. But he at length appeared, took his accustomed place behind his desk, and surveyed his pupils.

All the seats were filled excepting the front one, in which a solitary, mournful little girl sat alone. A dead silence fell on the children, they felt that something was coming, they knew not what. At length he spoke, and his voice sounded strange to the little ears. "Children," he said, "a sad thing has befallen us since we last met, one of our number will never meet with us again."

He looked at the little one in the front seat, and all knew that her small companion and she would "never speak to each other again."

Only a child's quarrel! that was all! But it made an impression on a child's mind that was to last throughout a lifetime; form a noble woman, and make its influence felt throughout all Time.

NOTES ON "THE PRINCESS."

One of the live questions of the present day is that which concerns the political status of women. This question was no less important in 1847, when Tennyson first published "The Princess." But at that time the movement was far more complicated; for it involved women's social, educational and political rights. Besides, the too zealous enthusiasm of supporters like Amelia Jenks Bloomer, who advocated, for one reform, that woman's dress be similar to man's, gave to the movement a grotesqueness which the more temperate and thoughtful deeply regretted. It is to be remembered, therefore, in reading this poem, that it was written when the question of Women's Rights had become ridiculous, having gone so far as to demand a complete separation of the sexes. To-day, such absurdities have dropped away. Woman's social privileges and power have been fully recognized; their right to the highest educational advantages conceded; and varying degrees of political freedom granted. In spite, however, of such concessions, the movement is still making rapid strides; and the study of the poem in our academies is calculated to acquaint us with one great feature of our age.

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The edition of "The Princess," from which our text is taken, is that of 1855. Four others preceded. The first appeared in 1847. The second, which contained for the first time the "Dedication to Henry Lushington,"