

POETRY.

CALDWELL OF SPRINGFIELD, N. J. (1780). Here's the spot. Look around you. Above the height Lay the Hessians encamped. By that church on the right Stood the giant Jersey farmers. And here ran a well. You may dig anywhere and you'll turn up a ball. Nothing more, Grasses spring, waters run, flowers blue Pretty much as they did ninety-three years ago. Nothing more, did I say? Stay one moment; you've heard Of Caldwell, the parson, who once preached the World Down at Springfield? What! not? Come—that's bad; why, he had! All the Jersey's fame! And they struck in the name Of the "rebel high priest." He gave him in their gorges, For he loved the Lord God and he hated King George. He had cause, you might say! When the Hessians that day Marched up with Kniphausen they stopped on their way At the "Farm," where his wife, with a child in her arms. Sat alone in the house. How it happened no one knew But God—and that one of the hiredling crew Who fired the shot. Enough! there she lay. And Caldwell, the chaplain, her husband away! Did he preach? did he pray? Think of him as you stand By the old church today; think of him and that band Of militant boy boys! See the smoke and the lead Of that reckless advance—of that straggling retreat! Keep the ghost of that wife, foully slain, in your view. And what could you do—what should you, what would you do? Why, just what he did! They were left in the lurch For the want of more wadding. He ran to the church, Broke the door, stripped the pews and dashed in on the road With his arms full of hymn books, and threw down his load. At their feet! Then above all the shouting and shots Rang his voice—"Oh, Watts! into 'em—boys, give 'em Watts! into 'em!" And they did. That is all. Grasses spring, flowers blue Pretty much as they did ninety-three years ago. You may dig anywhere and you'll turn up a ball— But not always a hero like this—and that's all. —Bret Harte.

SELECT STORY.

POOR ARTIST'S TRIUMPH.

BY WILL H. EDWARDS.

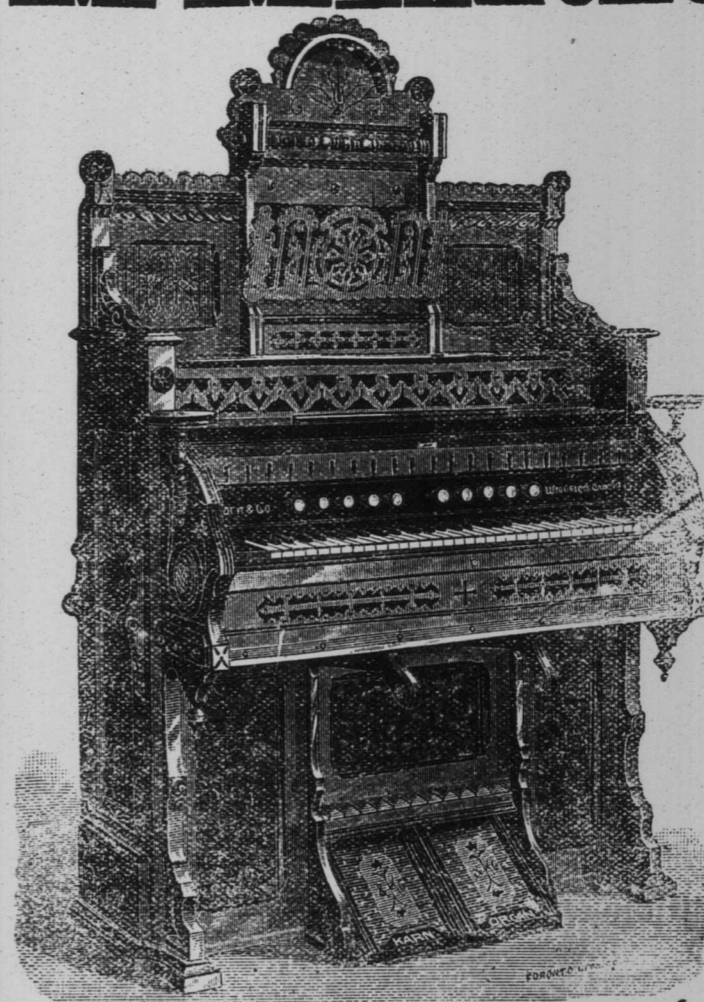
In an old house, in an obscure street of Nuremberg, there lived a little hump-backed man, whose face was wrinkled, and bore a somewhat morose expression, owing, doubtless, to the many difficulties which had beset his path through life, and the cruel ridicule cast upon him by more fortunate but unfeeling neighbors. This unfortunate individual, Samuel Duhobret by name, was about thirty-five years old, and obtained a livelihood by painting large signs (such as hung before inns) and the coarse tapestry which was formerly much used in Germany. By some sudden change of fortune (almost the only one he had ever known), and in consequence of the generous disposition of Albrecht Durer, the painter and engraver, he had been admitted as a pupil into that great master's school, out of charity, for he was too poor to pay the high fee charged for instruction. Here he studied hard, and was an example of indefatigable industry, for he was always there by daybreak, and seldom left till darkness closed in, either studying or helping Durer on his "hazy accountants." This was the name Durer gave to his pupils, Agnes, the daughter of Hans Frei. Madame Durer possessed an insatiable temper, which caused much domestic trouble, and often brought discomfort to her husband's pupils; but having a particular aversion to Duhobret, she vented most of her spleen upon him for the others were either too cunning for her malice to reach them, or else they purchased their peace by conciliating the female tyrant. Yet, in spite of all her shrewish propensities, and the many contemptible remarks calling things put upon Duhobret, he had not a taint of envy or malice in his heart. He was the most even-tempered moral living, and would frequently give his services to those who were the most bitter toward him. The only peace he knew was after his day's work at the studio was over, and he had returned to his poor lodging, a lonely room at the top of the house, where he would often work till long after midnight to earn the scanty means of subsistence, or to push forward a picture which stood upon his easel. After several years of this arduous toil his strength began to fail, and sickness laid him low. One night, after he had reached home with considerable difficulty, he went to the wall to fill his earthen pitcher, but a mist covered his eyes, and a sudden dizziness caused him to reel like a drunken man. At last he regained his room and went to bed. In the morning he was in a burning fever; an internal fire seemed to dry up his blood and scorch his brain. He missed that day from the scene of his labors, but his absence only caused a brutal joke from his fellow-students; none cared to go to his lodging and inquire the cause, though but few among them were not under obligations for some service performed by the poor cripple. Duhobret lay tossing and fro in delirium for four days, quenching his thirst, during his lucid intervals from the feverish madness by draughts of water, now state, from the pitcher he had filled on the evening when he had first felt sick. It was the early morning of the fourth day when Samuel discovered that it was empty. What could he do? He was too weak to go out and refill it, he had no kind friend watching by his bedside to send. Death seemed very near; he could almost feel the icy finger at his heart, while his tongue clove to the roof of his mouth, and his throat was hot and dry as a lime-kin. "Oh, God," he prayed, "let me not die here with none to relieve me. Oh, Thou who didst, through the cross, hear my cry and send me relief. Oh, Holy Mother, pray that now in the hour of my distress, pray that one drop of water may be brought to cool my parched tongue." The darkness of the night began to pass away; the sun shone forth with golden radiance and threw long bright rays upon the floor of his room, but it brought no relief, and but little hope of succor from the outside world. In the same house there lived a poor girl named Bertha, who was a cripple. A disease of the hip-bone, engendered by a fall when an infant, had marred the beautiful proportions of her body, and caused her to limp, and she was a tender heart, and she had often pitied the

poor hump-backed lodger up stairs, although her pity was somewhat mixed with fear, for it was the common talk of neighborhood gossip that he was a wizard. This report was strengthened by the certainty that Duhobret was not altogether ignorant of the science of letters. He could read and write—great things in the days of which we write—and once he had been seen to enter his house bearing under his arm a ponderous book, fastened by huge brass clasps. This last was proof incontrovertible of his alliance to black art, and he was generally feared. Then, besides, he was seldom abroad in the daylight, except when he went to church on Sunday; and no one had ever seen him with his neighbors in the flagon of Rhenish wine with which they were wont to regale themselves on holiday times. Bertha had missed his regular footsteps on the stairs, and she began to wonder what had become of the solitary lodger, so she turned to her widowed mother for an explanation. "Mother, I have not seen Herr Duhobret lately, and I don't think he has left the house. Do you know what is the matter?" "No, child, not I; maybe he's working some mighty spell, which our Lady delivers us from," said the old dame. "Oh, mother, don't say such things of the poor man; I'm sure he does not look like a wizard; and as for his book, look like the clerical read and teach others to read, and they are not wizards. Besides, I've often seen him at church, and he looks very devout. I think he must be sick. May I go and see? Maybe he wants something, and you know that he has no one to send." The mother rather reluctantly assented, and Bertha caught up her crutch and ascended the stairs to Duhobret's room. Having knocked at the door several times, at last she heard a faint sound, which she interpreted into an invitation to enter. Accordingly she lifted the latch, and went into the poor little room where Duhobret still lay unconscious. She quickly divined what was wanted, and ran and filled the pitcher with water. When she came back she began to bathe the burning temples of the sick man, and brush back the thick locks of matted hair which hung wildly about his eyes. Presently he became conscious of the figure so noisily beside him, and gasped out: "Water! water!" She held up the pitcher while he took a long, deep draught of the cooling liquid, and as he drank, new life seemed to flow into his veins. He looked up into her face, his eyes filling with tears of gratitude. "Oh, frau!in," he said, "you have saved my life. I did not think there was one who could be so good to me." "Can't I help you to something more?" she asked. "I thought you were sick, so I came to see if I could help you." There was no fear of magic spells; she had forgotten her thought of his being a wizard in her pity for the sick man. "If you could be so kind, there is one thing I would like. Go to that cabinet. You will find a little money. Will you take it to the apothecary and get me some medicine? I have a high fever." "Oh, no, I will fetch my mother; she is quite a skilful nurse, and she shall make you some herb-tea, and you will soon be well." Bertha withdrew, and soon returned with her mother. After examining him, the latter said: "Dear me! he has a fever, sure enough." She was satisfied, however, that Duhobret was not in any imminent danger, and soon retired to make the necessary decoction of herbs. Need we tell how Bertha watched by the bedside and tended her patient, being relieved by her mother, who administered to the herb-tea, together with some nutritious broths until he was fairly on his legs again, yet still too weak to work. Then they invited him to come down to their rooms, and he played upon the flute for them, to make the time pass away. One day, while down there, as her mother busily spinning, Bertha was knitting, and she ventured to ask a question which had long been troubling her mind. "Do you know, neighbor, that people say you are a great wizard?" "You are a learned man, are you not?" "Yes, indeed; but I don't believe it," she replied. "You are right, Bertha. I am no wizard, nor do I ever believe in witchcraft." "I have very great I was right. But you are a learned man, are you not?" "Yes, I can read a little, and I suppose that is almost sufficient to give cause for the assertion. When I was young I was taught by the Benedictines, and loved to study, but now I am content if I may some day become a painter, though I fear I am too old to do much." "Yes, I am studying under Master Durer, and they are the fruits of his instruction, but as yet I have not sold any. I must try soon, though, for I am not rich and may not allow your kind mother to have such a burden upon her hands." "Oh, don't think of that; we are too glad to be able to render you some little assistance." Then Duhobret fell into a reverie, the scene of which was his picture and how he could sell some of them. He departed to where it stood facing the wall, took it up tenderly and examined it. Then he went back a little way to see its effects from a distance. How fondly he gazed upon it, as if to part with this the fruit of his study. Surely it was life-like. Could he not almost see the leaves as they moved in the breeze? Did not the clouds seem the veriest ethereal, intangible matter, instead of daubs of paint? Poor Samuel! in an ecstasy of joy, "don't shake the life out of me." Then he explained all, and they gladdened his heart by their kind wishes. But there was something more that Duhobret wanted. "My dear madam," said he, "you may know what has been my wish for some time past—in fact since first Bertha came and ministered to me when I was sick. I would wish her. I know she will make a good wife, for she has already been so good to me. I will try and make her a good husband. What say you? And what does Bertha say? Will you be mine, Bertha?" "Well, if you can get such an arrangement, all I can say is, if Bertha is willing, take her, and may Heaven bless you." So saying, she turned toward Bertha for her answer.

THROWN TO THE WINDS.

"Puck" Meyer's Dying Request Faithfully Carried out. A funeral procession wound upon the stairs of the statue of Liberty Sunday afternoon as the sinking sun spread a filmy counterpane of gold upon the bay. At the head of the procession was Capt. Frank Rinschler of the Staten Island Schutzen corps. He carried under his arm a Japanese canister which contained the ashes of Henry Meyer, familiarly called "Puck" Meyer, whose anti-mortem wish was about to be fulfilled by his friends. Mr. Meyer died Feb. 16. His body, escorted by a brass band that played novel and cheerful music, was conveyed to the Fresh Pond crematory and incinerated on Feb. 21. In pursuance of his dying request his ashes, except a small part that was given to his sister, were turned over to Moritz Wegerle, who, with other members of his corps, the New York Schutzen corps, and the Germania Benevolent Association were instructed to scatter them to the four winds from the top of the Liberty statue. That is what took Capt. Rinschler up the steep and winding stairs. Following the Capt. were Lieut. George Winter, Capt. Frederick Finck, Moritz Wegerle, Frederick Weber and Christian Boche. Two quart bottles of champagne protruded from Lieut. Winter's overcoat pocket. Capt. Rinschler had received the jovial beer drinker's remains from Mr. Wegerle in the Staten Island ferry house, where the New York members of the party had waited an hour for Mr. Wegerle. Before he left Brooklyn, Megele had divided the ashes into four equal parts, each weighing nearly a pound, and put each part in a little brown paper bag. When the party got to the top of the granite pedestal of the bronze girl they stopped, and Capt. Rinschler opened the canister which he took from a satchel and took out the ashes, handing a bag to Lieut. Winter, one to Mr. Wegerle, another to Capt. Finck and keeping one for himself. Just before opening the canister Capt. Rinschler remarked: "Here are the ashes of old Puck Meyer. He was a good man. I never knew of any wrong thing that he ever did." All the rest of Mr. Meyer's friends bowed in approval of the sentiment. The procession then moved on, with the four bearers of the ashes in front. It was a weary climb up into the windward tangle of Liberty, and all of the party, composed of the main body of men, were obliged to rest on the way. Capt. Finck gave out early, and turned over his bag to Christian Boche. There were five women in Liberty's head when the procession got there. Each man with a bag of ashes stood at an open window. Capt. Rinschler said: "We have come here to carry out the last wishes of Jolly Puck Meyer." Then the four men threw the ashes out into the air, saying in unison as they had been requested to do by Mr. Meyer: "Here goes the last of Puck Meyer. Happy days."

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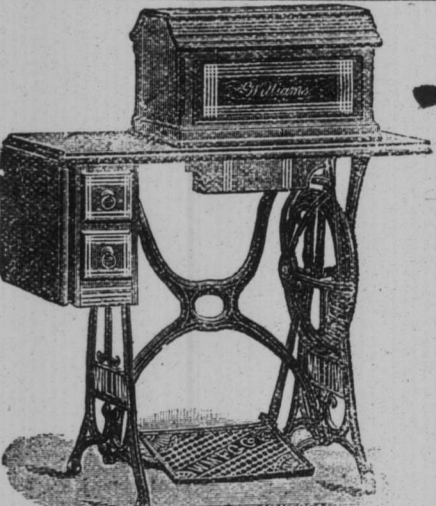
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