

Poetry.

For all who Die.

It hath been said for all who die
There is a tear,
Some faint, bleeding heart to sigh
For every life;
But in the hour of pain and dread
Who will draw near,
Around my humble couch and shed
One farewell tear.
Who'll watch the fast departing ray
In deep despair,
And soothe the spirit on its way
With holy prayer?
What moment round my couch will come
In words of woe,
And follow me to my long home
Solemn and slow.
When lying on my earthly bed
In my sleep,
Who then by pure affection led
Will come and weep?
By the pale moonlight of the rose
Upon my breast,
And bid me sleep my dark repose,
My lonely rest.
Could I but know when I am sleeping
Low in the ground,
One faithful heart would be keeping
Watch all around.
As if some sun lay shrouded beneath
That cold gloom,
'T would mingle the pangs of death
And light the tomb.
Yes, in that hour if I could feel
From halls of glory,
And beauty's presence one would steal
In secret.
And come and sit or stand by me
In night's deep noon,
Oh, I would ask of memory
No other boon.
But ask, a faithful heart is mine,
A deeper love,
From all I've loved in youth's sweet time
I soon must go.
Draw round me my pale robe of white
In dark sleep,
To sleep through death's long dreamless night
Lone and forgot.

Literature.

TEMPTATION:

The Lady of Ashurst.

CHAPTER XXXVIII.

ANOTHER PUNISHMENT OF MR. ASHLEY'S TRIAL.

Bessie took refuge in the private parlour attached to her suite of apartments, believing that Delaney would be sure to seek her there before he took his departure.

She knew that the Welby family were in consultation on Kades' destiny in Mrs. Welby's chamber, and she felt secure of at least an hour of uninterrupted solitude, provided Delaney did not make his appearance. Bessie undressed herself for every step, and flushed and grew pale as they were mistaken for the one she believed must yet come.

Her expectations were not doomed to disappointment. So soon as Delaney had completed his arrangements for leaving Niagara, he sought the parlor in which he had, of late, spent so many pleasant hours.

With scarcely defined feelings as to what he desired to gain in this passing interview, he knocked at the door and entered the room, to find the only one he particularly cared to meet sitting alone with a book in her hand, which she did not seem to have been reading.

Delaney quietly asked: "I have called to bid you farewell, Miss Ashley. You have probably heard that the illness of a friend summons me away."

"Suddenly chilled by his changed manner, she replied quite as coolly: "You—Bessie told me at dinner that you were going. I hope your friend is not seriously ill."

"No—I fancy not; but he is an eccentric person—a seafaring man just in from a voyage. As he has few friends—in fact, none that I know of who have a nearer interest in him than I possess—I feel bound to go to him without delay."

"Is the gentleman a relation?" she presently asked, to break the awkward pause that ensued.

"No—I first made his acquaintance on ship-board. My father died at sea, Miss Ashley, and the kindness shown to him in his last illness by Captain Martin bound me to him for life. I would go to his assistance in similar circumstances, if he summoned me from the other side of the world."

"That would be but right, Mr. Delaney; such a claim as that is sacred—of course you should lose no time in going to your friend."

She scarcely knew what she was saying, but she looked up; their eyes met, a flash of electric light seemed to issue from them, and for the space of ten seconds the gaze of each one was held spellbound by that of the other. All that a look could express was said by the other, and all that a look could receive was given by the one who had so many reasons for, as yet, concealing the interest they felt in each other.

At length Bessie tore her eyes away from the fascinating splendor that flashed into them from the dark orbs of Delaney, and a rosy flush mounted to her cheeks. He clasped her hand in his, and she, in her own, and in a low, excited tone said:

"Farewell, Miss Ashley; I shall see you again before your tour is ended. Welby will keep me informed of your whereabouts. Present my adieux to the other ladies, for I have scarcely a moment to remain, even if I had the power to do so."

Delaney left her standing there palpitating with shame and indignation at the exposure she had made of her feelings, and the evident gratification it seemed to afford him. He had taken with him the assurance of her regard, while he shrunk from committing himself to words. Such was her unguessed thought, for at that moment a wild and blissful hope was thrilling the heart of her lover, and he was resolving to risk everything to make her his own.

He went on his way that night, buoyant as a lark, though he was going to the sick bed of one he loved. The next morning he found himself in New York, and hastened at once to the boarding house in which Captain Martin usually stayed when in that city.

Delaney found his friend still confined to his bed, though not dangerously indisposed. He was indeed so at present, and it took his utmost skill to amuse him and keep him quiet as to be necessary to do so. He nursed him carefully, read to him, and while Martin slept, he amused himself by painting a miniature of Bessie on ivory.

Triflingly did the lover's memory serve him, and the radiant image which had so deeply enchanted him soon smiled back into his eyes with that look of living light which had laid bare her secret.

When Martin awoke, the young artist could conceal the fact, and, in the contemplation of which he pursued his passion, but one day he was not quite so much engaged in his movements. The sick man detected his attempt to put something from his sight, and he peevishly asked:

"What are you hiding from me, Delaney? If you have anything that affords interest to yourself, I really think you might show it to an old hulk laid up at anchor as I am."

After a moment's hesitation, the young man replied: "I will show you a picture I have been painting, which I think is a fair specimen of my art."

"Umph! Thinking of marrying, I suppose, on the pretence you can win by your brush. I hope, for the sake of your sanity, that the girl has some money of her own."

Martin impatiently held out his hand, and without replying to his last words, Delaney placed the square of ivory within it. He glanced at the sweet face, and in an excited tone asked:

"Who is this? It is the strangest resemblance I ever saw in my life. She might be Frank Wilde's daughter; but that is impossible, for his child died."

"No—that young lady is not Mr. Wilde's daughter,"

"Who, then, is she? What name does she bear?"

"That is Miss Ashley of Maryland. She is the grand-daughter of Judge Ashley, who was a friend of your father's."

But his further explanations were cut short by the excitement of Martin. He raised himself upon his elbow and thundered:

"Who did you say she is?"

"The grandchild of a distinguished Maryland judge, and a man of large fortune. But unluckily for her, her father left his estate to his two grand-children on the condition that they shall marry each other. The one that refuses loses all. If I may with Bessie, for I am desperately in love with her, and I have a faint hope that she will succeed in winning her for my own."

"Why can't you speak English?" growled the excited listener, who seemed to be making a great effort to control himself. "As to the girl, if she will have you, ask her frankly, and trust to Providence for the rest. I tell you, she is free to love her—to win her—in spite of Judge Ashley's will; and when she knows what I can tell her, she would sooner starve than touch a penny of his estate, if she has in her the spirit of her father."

"For father was the son of the old gentleman, Captain Martin, and from her hand the true heir of the Ashley estate. Since you've told me about the will, the cunning of that woman is plain enough to me. But I won't accuse her—no I won't till I am convinced, and then I promise to deal gently with her for your sake, as well as that of the bright-haired lassie you love, with that time, claim as you wish."

"Good-bye, old friend. If you will talk in enigmas, I cannot pretend to understand you. I hope you will have a prosperous voyage and safe return. In spite of your kind hints that I should be loquacious in the background of her fate, when you come back you may find that my golden-haired goddess has descended to the prosaic level of a poor artist's wife."

"So much the better, lad—so much the better for you both if that should happen. Good-bye, again, and God bless you!"

Delaney was not set on shore, and went back to the boarding-house in a deep reverie. Every tender and generous impulse of his nature had been aroused by the hints of Martin. Unlike the ordinary generations of the world, the intimations that poverty and perhaps disgrace, might befall him, he had not shrunk from, only deepened the fervent love he bore to the girl, and made him more resolute to snatch her from the evil to come.

That morning he had received a letter from Welby dated from Newport; during his detention in New York the party had visited Canada, and returning by the way of Boston, they were now on their way to New York, and would find them ready to return home. The weather was still delightful, and in the hope that they could be induced to linger as long as the skies were genial, and the breezes soft, Delaney set out to join them.

Treed by a Wolf.

A tired but happy looking crowd of miners were gathered in the one business house of a small mining camp, not very many miles from Denver, one Saturday evening. The week had been a pleasant one, and work on the shafts had been prosecuted vigorously, as it was necessary that certain development work should be done before snow came, which might seriously impede, if not stop operations altogether for the winter. The store, like all of its kind, added to its other stock of necessities a plentiful supply of "blagues," and under its cheering effect the boys became quite talkative, and their experience, when the country was new, became quite extensive.

"Did I ever tell you how I was treed by a wolf?" asked Bill Gourley, one of the oldest miners in the camp, and a baritone of the baronies. The responses were unanimously in the negative.

"Well, I'll tell you how it was," said Bill. "You see, I had just been down to creek (Cheery creek, what is now Denver) to order some supplies for our camp, and toward evening was on my return through the snow-belt here, when I saw standing before me on the trail a huge gray wolf, not one of the small, snarling, cowardly coyote kind, but a powerful limbed brute, as large as a Newfoundland, but which appeared to me at that moment several times larger. There he stood, gaunt and fierce, snarling his chops with a vim over his anticipated meal, that was anything but pleasant to the possible possessor of it. What to do I knew not. If I made a dash to get away, the brute would follow me, and I had no gun for repairs and had no revolver with me. In this dilemma I cast my eyes around and saw a solitary pine tree a few rods from the trail to the right. Without further deliberation I ran to it and climbed to the top, and there I waited for the wolf, who, at these tireless friends I knew could outrun or at least tire the fleetest horse, and I had forgotten to say, I had left my gun for repairs and had no revolver with me. In this dilemma I cast my eyes around and saw a solitary pine tree a few rods from the trail to the right. Without further deliberation I ran to it and climbed to the top, and there I waited for the wolf, who, at these tireless friends I knew could outrun or at least tire the fleetest horse, and I had forgotten to say, I had left my gun for repairs and had no revolver with me. In this dilemma I cast my eyes around and saw a solitary pine tree a few rods from the trail to the right. 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