

## Original Poetry.

For the DESERET EVENING NEWS.

## THINK OF ME.

When joy and gladness fill thy heart,  
And tranquil peace sweet memories bring,  
When hope reveals a future bright  
And pleasures over the pathway ring;  
When sitting in the happy glow of day,  
Where gleams no harbor dawn to find  
And loved ones circle round thy knee,  
Then let a thought of me be kind.

When silent in the moon's pale light  
You sit and think of friends who dear,  
Or when you gaze on happy days  
And breathe the fragrant evening air,  
When future hopes illumine thy path,  
And all thy soul with ecstasy  
And naught disturbs the picture fair,  
Let one bright thought bring thoughts of me.

When other hearts their vows shall breathe  
And other hands shall thus be joined,  
When other eyes thy path shall watch  
And strive to cross the happy road,  
And truly all thy ways are peace,  
And all thy days glide happily,  
And bliss supreme thy cup has filled:  
I pray thee then, O think of me.

## RENT, THE CONSCRIPT.

(From Temple Bar.)

PART I.  
It was in a dull garrison town in France. I was utterly weary of the place. Business took me there, and business duties were longer than suit either my pleasure or my pocket. I had reason to hope that the affair I was engaged in would prove lucrative in the end, but that was long in coming, and in the meantime I was not short of cash, and had to economize strictly.

With this laudable end in view, I generally dined at a small restaurant in one of the streets leading from the market-place. I had the advantage of being decently kept, and was much frequented by the subalterns of the regiment in garrison.

One of the most regular customers at this restaurant was a sous-lieutenant. He was a man of middle age; his grave countenance was tinged with melancholy. His thick moustache was already grizzled, and a scar across the cheek added to the general grimness of his appearance. There was something about this man that attracted me in spite of his grimness. By the medals on his coat, he had evidently been distinguished in active service, and by the manner of his brother officers, he was as evidently held in respect. What attracted me so much in this man was the singular change that came over his countenance when he spoke and smiled. It was as if he had two natures, one overlying and keeping back the other, that was only allowed to appear on the surface at rare intervals. That man has a history, I said to myself, and I watched him with interest.

The good people who kept the restaurant had one child, a chubby, round-faced urchin they called Babot; what his real name was I never heard. The favorite amusement with the boys of the town was playing at soldiers. Babot had one day got possession of an old tin sampan; this he had converted into a drum—to his own infinite satisfaction—when a party of older boys, marching past, seized the main drum and made off with it, leaving Babot howling.

Hearing the outcry, Fabre—that was the name of the sous-lieutenant I have been describing—started up from the table and strode to the door. I told him, fearing the child had met with an accident. Fabre was first. Finding what had happened, he took the boy in his arms, and carried him to the nearest toy shop, and a smart scolding and a drum soon turned tears into crowing laughter.

"There," said the sous-lieutenant, setting the child down, "if you tell the boy to take this from you, tell them that Fabre will be after them. Poor little fellow! we none of us like to lose our treasures, do we, Babot?"

As he spoke there came into his face that sudden change I have spoken of. He sighed deeply, and as he pronounced the word "treasures" his voice faltered. This trivial incident led to conversation, and from that time Fabre and I became friends. When he was off duty, we frequently strolled together along the walls, or the poplar-lined banks of the sleepy river. He had been in both the Crimean and Italian wars; was a man of keen observation, and excellent company, when once the ice of habitual suspicion and reserve was broken through.

One evening we were strolling about the town, when a party of conscripts was marching in. They were evidently country lads for the most part—raw material, slouching and awkward. Each had the number he had drawn staked in his hat. Some were indifferent or sulky, others laughed and shouted—one or two looked downcast, and a few were sunk in the deepest dejection.

"Poorer devils!" Fabre exclaimed, with an emotional ring in his voice, regarding them compassionately as they passed.

I was surprised. Fabre was so completely the soldier, that till that moment I had never occurred to me to question his motive for joining the army. Then it flashed across me.

"You were a conscript, perhaps?" The thought seemed to have found utterance almost involuntarily. I was vexed with myself, fearful he might be offended. He had always maintained a degree of reticence as to his personal history.

"If I don't have any interest in the matter, he should have said," Fabre replied. "It is a simple story, scarcely worth the telling."

Relieved from the fear of having given offence, I assured him, with perfect sincerity, I should feel an interest in all he chose to tell me. We were now in a boulevard where there were shady trees and seats at intervals.

"Let us sit down then," Fabre said; "it is cool here," and he lifted his military cap. "M'sieu shall hear all, if he pleases."

"We were only peasants," he began, as we sat down under the acacia trees and lighted our cigars. "We were born a few miles from Poix, in Artois, I and my father and my father's father, before him. My father was a vine-dresser. When my brother Pierre was a mere youth, and I a little more than a child, my father met with an accident that ruined him; and after that he was unable to work at the vine, and was glad to take any odd job that came to hand. Pierre did not count for much; he was idle, and had a roving disposition. Instead of helping he was always getting into trouble."

the garden. We could send poultry and vegetables to the market at Poix (in the east, and so it would go on by degrees, till at last I should find myself master of a vineyard. Oh, it was a beautiful plan of life I had laid down! A thing to laugh at—was it not, M'sieu?"

"Toinette and I had been playfellows when we were children, and whenever I pictured a home of my own it was with Toinette there. I dare say there were prettier girls in the village; I do not know. I only know that I loved her, and love is not critical.

"Years went on, and I grew from youth to manhood. The little store accumulated slowly, for you see it was but a few francs here and there that I could save. But I thought when father had the carrying business, we should get on rapidly. Toinette listened to all my projects, and encouraged me in what I was endeavoring to do. I was now nearly twenty-five, and I had all but a few francs of the sum I had been working and saving nine years to gain. Nine long years!

"I knew I should be able to earn the rest of the money, wanted before the winter was over. Toinette was weaving some pretty scarlet fringe to trim the harness of the horse I was going to buy. She was to meet me on the road home from Poix, and have the first ride in the new cart; and when father was fairly started as a carrier, I was to speak to the curé about our marriage. We had settled it all you see.

To be continued.

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