

Thursday, May 20, 1870.

AN UNFORTUNATE BEREAVEMENT.

Quite an amusing incident occurred in Baltimore recently, in the vicinity of Patterson Park, and is the popular gossip in that section at present. A young gentleman, who prides himself on his polished manners and refined tastes, had been, previous to the affair we are about to narrate, paying his addresses to a young lady connected with one of the first families in that locality. On the night mentioned he accompanied her to a private entertainment at the house of a friend, and in conversation and music the hours flew by until the clock struck twelve, before the ardent couple started for the home of the fair one.

Arrived there, they kissed a good-night, the maiden to seek her couch, and he, as was presumed, to seek his home. But no sooner had the door closed behind her, than an idea struck him to give her a surprise. It appears that the young lady's room was on the second floor, and the young man was acquainted with the fact. He, therefore, provided himself with a ladder, placed one end on the ground, leaned the other against the house, and ascended to the window of the unsuspecting girl, doubtless designing to lull her to sleep with one of his sweetest melodies. But, alas, for the fertility of human hopes, fate had decreed it otherwise, for just as he was getting his voice in trim, a large bull-dog belonging to the family, and not liking the looks of things, made a noisy raid on the chap on the ladder. This was so unexpected that it completely disconcerted him, and the start that he gave caused the foot of the ladder to slip, and down went our serenader, but into still deeper trouble. He fell from the frying-pan into the fire.

The girl's parents, it seems, occupied the room immediately beneath her, and the ladder, as it slipped down the side of the house, landed with the precious weight, fell directly through their window, landing our aeronaut square into the room, breaking glass, sash and all in the demolished window, waking the old folks so unceremoniously from their slumbers that ideas of burglars, earthquakes and tornadoes rushed through their terrified brains. Our hero, thunderstruck at this strange denouement, attempted to beat a retreat.

To go out of the window he dare not, for old Kase was out there, growling at a furious rate. So, believing discretion to be the better part of valor, he sought to find his way out to the street door, but in this he was foiled, for before he could make his exit from the bedroom the old gentleman had seized him by the coat collar, and while attempting to extricate himself from the old gentleman's firm grip he was confronted at the stairs by his lovely Dulcinea, with a lamp in her hand, on dishabille, and screaming with fright.

He was, of course, recognized instantly, but without waiting for apology or explanation, went out of the front door with the old gentleman's right foot in uncomfortable proximity to his latter extremities. He left his hat, but declared it was stolen from him by robbers. The father the next morning consulted a lawyer, and it was through that functionary that the story has leaked out.

AN ANECDOTE OF JEFFREY AND COCKBURN.—In a case in which Jeffrey and Cockburn were engaged as barristers, a question arose as to the sanity of one of the parties concerned. "Is the defendant, in your opinion, perfectly sane?" said Jeffrey, interrogating one of the witnesses, a plain, stupid-looking countryman. The witness gazed in bewilderment at the questioner, but gave no answer. It was clear he did not understand the question. Jeffrey repeated it, uttering the words, "Do you think the defendant capable of managing his own affairs?" Still in vain: the witness only stared. The father the next morning consulted a lawyer, and it was through that functionary that the story has leaked out.

SENSIBLE ENGLISH CUSTOMS.—Among the many absurd, there are some sensible, customs in England that might be profitably introduced into our American life. An English servant never slams a door, but says it to with the hand upon it; never throws the window up or down, but raises or lets it fall deliberately; never addresses you without a bow or curtsy, and never, or very rarely, becomes rude, no matter how great the provocation. Again, no Englishman ever eats or drinks in a hurry. The toasting of the glass of spirits or pint of ale is an American innovation, as much as the boiling half-masticated food. The plowman in his bodden frock and iron shod brogues, requires his time to slip his ale; the wretches who haunt their charms in the gaudy glare of the gin palace, and drown their sorrows in the poisons, lingers over the glass; and the wretches, no matters how great your hurry, who good-will you bribe by a pot of "half-and-half," stares as you hasten him to drink it at a gulp, and wonders at "the manner of them furriners."—Lippincott's Magazine.

NOTICE.

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