

**HOLDING DEATH IN CHECK.  
A TOUCHING SCENE.**

I was conversing not long since with a returned volunteer.

"I was in the hospital as nurse for a long time," said he, "and assisted in taking off limbs, and dressing all sorts of wounds, but the hardest thing I ever did was to take my thumb off a man's leg."

"Ah!" said I, "how was that?" Then he told me:

It was a young man who had a severe wound in the thigh. The ball passed completely through, and amputation was necessary. The limb was cut off close up to the body, the arteries taken up, and he seemed to be doing well. Subsequently one of the small arteries sloughed off. An incision was made, and it was again taken up. "It is well it is not the main artery," said the surgeon as he performed the operation, "he might have bled to death before we could have taken it up." But Charley got on finely and was a favorite with us all.

I was passing through the ward one night about midnight, when suddenly, as I was passing Charley's bed, he spoke to me: "Harry, my leg is bleeding again." I threw back the bed clothes, and the blood spurted up in the air. The main artery had sloughed off.

Fortunately I knew just what to do, and in an instant I pressed my thumb on the place and stopped the bleeding. It was so close to the body that there was barely room for my thumb, but I succeeded in keeping it there, and arousing one of the convalescents, sent him for the surgeon, who came on a run. "I am so thankful, Harry," said he, as he saw me, "that you were up and knew what to do, for he must have bled to death before I could have got here."

But on examination of the case he looked exceedingly serious and sent for other surgeons. All came that were within reach, and a consultation was held over the poor fellow. One conclusion was reached by all. There was no place to work save the spot where my thumb was placed; they could not work under my thumb, for if I moved it he would bleed to death before the artery could be taken up. There was no way to save his life.

Poor Charley! He was very calm when they told him, and requested that his brother, who was in the same hospital might be called up. He came and sat by the bedside, and for three hours I stood, and by the pressure of my thumb kept up the life of Charley, while the doctors had their last conversation on earth. It was a strange place for me to be in—to feel that I held the life of a fellow mortal in my hands, as it were, and stranger yet, to feel that an act of mine must cause that life to depart. Loving the poor fellow as I did, it was a hard thought; but there was no alternative.

The last words were spoken, Charley had arranged all his business affairs, and sent tender messages to absent ones, who little dreamed how near their loved one stood to the grave. The tears filled my eyes more than once as I listened to those parting words. All was said, and he turned to me. "Now Harry, I guess you had better take off your thumb." "Oh, Charley! how can I?" I said. "But it must be, you know," he replied cheerfully. "I am very thankful to you for your kindness, and now, good-bye."

He turned away his head. I raised my thumb, and once more the life current gushed forth, and in three minutes poor Charley was dead.

**PROGRESS OF MACHINERY.**

Scarcely a century since the coarsest cloth could only be obtained by the middling and wealthy classes, but since then the looms, spinning jennies and cotton gins have contributed to reduce the price of cloth to so low a figure that the poorest can now be comfortably clothed for less than one-fourth the sum which apparel then cost. Then compare railroads and steamboats with coaches and sailing vessels; when we used to rely upon the latter we used to go creeping about the country at a five mile pace, and at an enormous waste of time and money. Now behold the difference; where one man formerly traveled there are now a hundred. So great has been the increase of travel that there are now more extra railroad and steamboat employees than there have been coachmen and hands of sailing vessels displaced. Indeed so manifest are the advantages of machinery as an aid to travel and transportation that it is rare indeed to hear at this day any objection to its use. Besides the construction of railroads and the building and repairing of cars, tracks, &c., and the work connected with steamboat architecture has called into requisition more manual labor than formerly, and has obliged the laborers to incorporate skill, as an element to their avocations, which skill elevates the laboring classes, enables them to rank higher, and to change their occupation both to their own advantage and to that of the community in which they reside.

We might go on and show that machinery continually contributes to reduce the price of the necessities of life, and by increasing the demand therefor, to give additional employment to manual labor. Such being the case, it would be well for all to reflect, and then we shall seldom hear any denunciation the application of science to manufactures and the useful arts, but on the contrary every improvement, every new addition to labor saving machinery will be welcomed and appreciated; with the firm expectation that the experience of the past, with respect to machinery, will be a sure guarantee for its usefulness in the future. —Chicago Journal of Commerce.

Some graceless wag has invented a Lord's Prayer for the Haverians after this style: "Our father who art in Berlin; may your name be reviled there; may your kingdom be shaken, and your will be no more done upon earth than in heaven. Give us our daily bread, which you have taken away, forgive our sins as we forgive our people who sold their; yield no more to the temptations of unity, but deliver us from that confounded Chancellor Bismark!"

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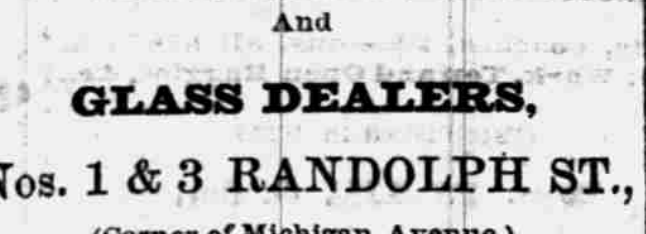
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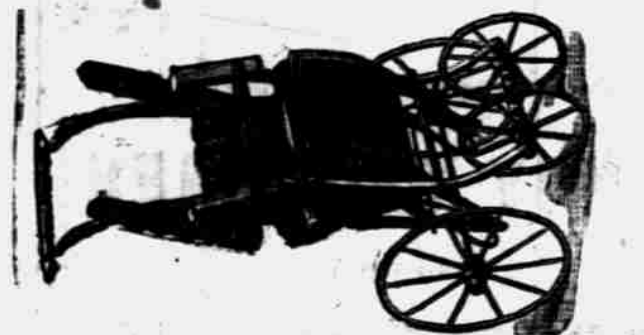
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