

THE BEGGAR'S VICTORY.

(Concluded.)

"For a moment he hesitated—yet only for a moment; then with a smile of joy on his countenance, returned each note to the dusty pages of the old Philosophy, moved back the straw to its usual corner, took down his blanket, folded it close around him, and laid down upon the straw to sleep, with his head resting upon the old book for a pillow, feeling happy even in his utter poverty, thus to escape the pain temptation had inflicted; but free again from the harrowing his inmost feelings had been subjected to by the sudden discovery.

"For years he had hoped for a bright day to come, when some friendly hand or kind event should place him above poverty's darkness, safe in the sunshine of simple comfort.

"Like a thunderbolt, wealth—a tremendous fortune—had slipped into his possession, had come without an effort on his part to gain it. And though at first it dazzled, at last it pierced him with bitter pains. Like a happy Summer rain upon a seared foliage, came justice to his side, and over the tattered garments of the beggar cast a mantle of safety, that filled his very soul with joy and made him live again. Thus liberated from the spell of curious influence, the beggar went to sleep poorer than before, for in the ashes of the hearth, ruined, lay his hemlock block.

"Those who passed the warehouse of Robert Ritterbone, Jr., on the day following that on which the young merchant had sent from his office the beggar with the package of books and old papers, observed that upon the door a notice like the following had been placed: 'Closed until further orders.' The wooden shutters were left up during the day, and on Broadway a report went round that Ritterbone was a hopeless bankrupt.

"That night the young merchant sat by his mother's side in the parlor of his home in Greenwich street, unhappy, disconsolate, ruined.

"By reckless speculation and inattention to business, his father's fortune had escaped him, and by order of his many creditors, the well-known house of Ritterbone was closed.

"Even his mother, by his extravagant course, was now, in her old age, homeless, and before them lay a dark future, devoid of means to live upon. For the first time Robert Ritterbone began to think—for the first time saw himself as HE WAS, and keenly repented for the past, swore firmly from his heart from that moment and forever, to labor and wait. First thunder with electric flashes of pains real, then the calm behind the departing storm. Rising from his seat, he threw his arms about his aged parent's neck, and wept.

"Hope, my son, trust in Providence, He will provide," sorrowfully returned the calm and resigned matron of many years.

"At that very moment a loud knocking at the front door caused the young bankrupt to leave his mother's side and answer the call. As he opened the door he saw the beggar of the previous day, and was near closing the door again, without asking what was wanted, but a request from the unknown prevented him.

"Robert Ritterbone, I wish to speak to you."

"I have nothing for you and cannot see you," was the reply.

"You have lost, I have found; I must see you if but for a moment only," answered the beggar.

"Then without invitation, the unknown followed the steps of Robert Ritterbone into the parlor, even moved up to the richly-carved centre table and putting thereon the old Philosophy that had been given him the day before, to the great astonishment of mother and son, said:

"This old book, Mr. Ritterbone, I do not want, it can do me no good. I cannot sell it as it is, I would not if I could; with the rest you gave me I purchased bread, and thank you for them. This book must be of great value to you and its loss would effect you greatly, therefore, I have brought it back."

"Leave this house, beggar, and take the old trash with you, how dare you thus intrude," said the young merchant, excitedly.

"Stay, Robert, take this and leave us poor boys, we thank you for such thoughtfulness," exclaimed the old lady, handing the unknown a few silver coins, undoubtedly the last she had.

"No, no. I cannot take it unless you will receive in return, these papers, which I found last night in this old book," said the beggar, taking from the Philosophy the crumpled notes and placing them in his kind appreciator's hand.

"O, Robert, my boy, for Heaven's sake, on your knees before this innocent unknown, thank Him, for by this boy's most noble honesty we are saved," and helpless the poor woman sank down overpowered upon the floor.

"My father's writing, as I live," exclaimed Robert Ritterbone, as he stood by the table an hour later, and examined one by one the ten bank notes.

"Mother, see this," and he gave her the note on which was written:

"If all the rest has flown away, No longer bend thy steps astray."

"O, Robert, what a lesson you must see visible in these words placed upon this note by your thoughtful father, do heed them, my son, and Robert, a heart such as this poor boy, our noble benefactor, truly possesses, is seldom found, he must and shall be well rewarded."

From that hour Robert Ritterbone was a different man.

"Fifteen years later and the Ritterbone had passed from earth, never to return. Upon the swinging sign a new name had made its appearance—Carlane & Co. As the adopted son of the benevolent Ritterbone family, the beggar boy changed with the flight of years from an unknown wail into one of the most wealthy and successful merchants of the city. And though many years have passed away since he had to beg for his daily bread, never for one moment has he regretted the resolution made in his lonely garret home; the determination to restore the old Philosophy with its precious sentence to its legal owner, but which, whenever remembered, has seemed the greatest victory of his life, the triumph of the humble beggar boy over a terrible temptation to do wrong. Harry, my story has ended, and I will only add 'that one act, if but an imperative duty to do,

was and has ever been the foundation of all my success in life and is to-day the germ of all I hope for in a future I must soon behold."

Just one week from that day I saw Carlane placed in his silent tomb at Turleytown.

When I had prepared to leave forever the pleasant halls of Avon Orchard, and was about to depart with few memories of my departed friend, the kind old house-keeper gave me a little note, which informed me that his last act in life had been, to make me the recipient of all his wealth. It was his earnest wish "that during life its benefits I should enjoy, as together we had flamed in years before, in the bright sunshine of Avon Orchard, amid the Blue Hills of Turleytown."—New York Dispatch.

GIANT PHANTOMS ON THE BATTLE GROUND OF NASHVILLE.

Most of our readers know the location of three bald-headed hills—rendered so by the ravages of the late war—lying between the Charlotte pike and the river, in sight of and some two miles distant from the capitol. The outer lines of the Federal works may still be seen along their sides and crests, but there are no houses, trees or fences, to further break the dull monotony of their outlines. Let any one who is desirous of witnessing a startling natural phenomenon, which throws the mirage of the plains, and the mist-visions of the Scottish coast entirely in the shade, ascend the central mound in a direct line from the city, on any clear day, about an hour by sun. When half way up the declivity he will see other hills, palpable even to grass clumps and little stones gradually rising in the air, beyond the ones he is ascending. If he pauses, these huge phantoms remain stationary; if he advances they continue to rise before him, until within a few yards of the intrenchments, when they suddenly vanish into nothingness, like scenes in a dissolving view. How long this strange freak of mist and sunlight has held court near us, it is impossible to say, for except some superstitious whisperings of negroes, nothing has been definitely known until within the past week. The scientific wherefore of the foregoing we will not pretend to give at present, but trust that some of our professors and savans will, in a few days, lay before us a thorough explanation of this new wonder.—[Nashville Union.

The question of substituting iron cars in lieu of wooden ones, upon the eastern railways, is being again discussed by some of the eastern papers. Anything to lessen the perils of railroad riding will be hailed with joy by the traveling public.

A negro gang in Vicksburg recently exhumed bodies from the Jewish graveyard at that place, and cut off the fingers of the corpses for the sake of the rings they wore.

Some Germans from Ohio, who have lately been at work in Kentucky, are disgusted and express their determination to "go back to America."

Hides! Hides!!

HIDES!!!

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BUCK & WRIGHT AHEAD.

As may be seen by the following article, which we copy from the New Orleans Times of 15th inst., Buck & Wright have borne off the highest premium in the stove line at the New Orleans Fair. Six entries were made with Buck's "Brilliant," away ahead of the heap.

The great stove trial was resumed yesterday at 12 o'clock, before a largely increased crowd over the day preceding. The sturdiest good humor seemed to prevail, both among the exhibitors and spectators, all of whom seemed thoroughly imbued with the good old P. R. principle "may the best stove win." Promptly to the time the committee appeared on the judges' stand, Saunders, particularly, glowing with excitement and responsibility. The entries were the same as at the previous trial, and the engineers had not been charged.

At ten minutes to one the drum tapped, and all lights up. Norton's Furnace, run by Mr. E. Wood Perry, led off in smoke, amid the cheers of the crowd and loud cries of "Go it, old one." Charter Oak followed, and the rest gave vapor immediately after. In four minutes, just as they were (as we might say) rounding the quarter stretch, "Cotton Plant" popped in broad all followed suit as quickly as though life depended on the issue, but Buck's Brilliant had started fire with broad sire in the stove. Then came the tug; the cooks' countenances glowed like the stoves, a perpetual snapping of opening and shutting doors resounded over the arena. Stoves were patted, coaxed and petted as though they were human beings. All seemed confident of winning, and the crowd envied the scene with numerous and encouraging comments from time to time. Mr. Perry's efforts seeming to be the greatest favored.

(At twenty minutes past one "Cotton Plant" threw open its throttle valves and announced that it wanted no more fuel. All the others "about up" and "keeping dark." At the time for the bread to be baked approached, excitement had increased to a baking heat, both with and without the stoves. At last Perry's furnace turned out its bread in 42 minutes. Norton's Furnace followed suit, in 42½; Cotton Plant next, in 43. Then Charter Oak, in 43½; then Good Samaritan, 44½, and lastly Buck's Brilliant, in 47. The grand result of the trial was as follows: Norton's Furnace, E. Wood Perry, bread weighed 7 lbs 3 oz; burned fuel 7½ lbs. Charter Oak, Rice, Bros. & Co., bread weighed 7 lbs 4 oz; burned fuel 6½ lbs. Peerless, Campman & Co., bread weighed 7 lbs 4 oz; burned fuel 7½ lbs. Good Samaritan, bread weighed 7 lbs 3 oz; burned fuel, 7½ pounds. Cotton Plant, Levi & Navra, bread weighed 7 lbs 1 oz; burned fuel, 7½ lbs. Buck's Brilliant, Buck & Wright, bread weighed 7 lbs 4 oz; burned fuel, 8½ lbs. At the conclusion of the trial, the bread was taken charge of by the Awarding Committee and locked up for an hour, at the expiration of which it was all eaten by them, in accordance with their duty, and the gold medal awarded for best wood stove to Buck & Wright, of St. Louis, honorable mention being made of the Peerless, Campman & Co.—New Orleans Times, Jan. 15, 1895 & 17-3m & 19-1

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