GREAT SALT LAKE CITY, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 1865.

ALMOST DIVORCED.

One would not guess they had ever a difference in their lives, just to see Mr. and Mrs Puffer jogging along comfortably together in the same straight-backed green wagon, drawn by the same pumpkin-andmilk horse which took them home on the first day of their honeymoon; or, if not the very same horse, one precisely like it. Neither would one think it to see them of Sunday-he in sky-blue swallow-tailed coat, and she in her invisible green satin bonnet, sailing off like a tug-boat towing sfull-rigged schooner, he being exceedingly spare, and she being exceedingly port-

And yet they once came as near dissolving into twain again as one flesh ever did. No one knows of it however, excepting Counselor Sabin and I; and now, if I tell it to you, you are by no means to repeat

the story. spuffy old woman in caps and spectacles, when she was instead, a plump, applefaced girl, with eyes the color of whortleberries, and skin the color of milk, she had away very taking to the youths of her acmaintance—a way of which, I discover, he and her coevals by no means secured the monopoly; for, truly as I write, I see, mder the elm tree by my window, a maiden, in a line of decent full two generations later, standing idly enough, swinging her paraso! to and fro, and smiling up from under the green ribbons of her jockey, as innocent and artless as a damask rose; and I know, as sure as sure can be, that every careless wave and motion is to that boy beside her-a being with hair parted behind, shining with oil, and with no beard worth naming—as the twisting of a mider's web around a tender hearted fly.

But I do not pity his weakness in letting a bit of blue-eyed calico sway him back and forth as lightly as she does her potted-handled parasol, because I know they are only playing at a game of see-saw, and years hence Master will be up and down. Then it will be my lady's turn to fetch and carry, while she believes a tender word and smile will make amends for

everything.

"Punctured by pins and tortured by fears," yet I rejoice in his pangs and doubts, for the time is brief enough. I'll warrant me that he plays the mouse and the the cat in their story. So also I am glad in my heart for every prick and torment that the whortleberries and milk wrought upon young Puffer's callow heart while he was away back in speacers and soap locks; because I am positive it was along of his man's despotism and love of self that I have this story to tell.

There came a time, of course, when, having carded and spun and wove and made her twelve dozen of everything after the manner of the olden time of princesses, this plump, white-faced girl dressed in muslin, heavily embroidered by her own crafty fingers, and further decorated by a wreath of apple-buds and wild myrtle upon her hair-which was of itself like a whole bush of whortleberries-in the pretence of admiring witnesses, was made Mrs. Puffer by a dignified, venerable clergyman, who lived in the times when ministers were not mere men. Thus her marriage had the grace and good omen of being a ceremony in which solemnity and good sanctity impressively mingled And Mrs. Grundy, who by no means confines herself to camp and court, affirmed there had never been a wedding in Northumberland which promised better; though the wretch took care to add, with a hypocritical sigh, that good beginnings make sometimes sorriest endings. The wretch was right, too, as she most frequently is. in a measure, for of a truth the heaviest

tempests sometimes come convoyed by remarkable bright mornings.

The mother of mischief is no bigger than a midge's wing; and let me, who am an old bird, tell you, young aspirant after the holy sacrement of matrimony, a little secret worth a dozen of love powders and magic potions. Never for any consideration, as you value your domestic bliss, intimate by word, look or gesture, that the lord of you-modest man-is, may, can. must or will be in the wrong upon any possible occasion. Believe heartily in the perfections of his attributes, if you are able to; such an annihilation of your judgment and common sense will make you more comfortable, doubtless, although it is not totally essential. The appearance, however, if not the reality, most certainly is; therefore, in either event, die and give no sign. Unfortunately for Mistress Puffer, but fortunately for the story, she lived too long ago to have the benefit of my Long and long before Mrs. Puffer was large experience and ready benevolence, and so of her own knowledge she must

"Alas, how easily things go wrong."

Springs and summers and autumns and winters had followed one another in monetonous level, each bearing its burdens of cares and labors; house cleaning and planting, butter and haymaking, harvesting and fruit drying, sledding and sewing; then the same round of toilsome duties over again and again, until Mistress Puffer was a wife of so many years that she had long answered to her matronly name with no more blushes and sweet shyness, but as though she had been born to it; until she went on making her soap and cider apple sauce with sedateness and unction, as if she had always regarded these commonplaces the destined sphere and elected end of woman (as mayhap she had;) and as if she had never, no never, in her wildest days, gone from her chamber to a merrymaking by way of the window and shedroof instead of the stairs; being, you see, too generous to disappoint her fellows, and too thoughtful to run any risk of disturbing the repose of her parents, who, J. H. VAN NATTA. themselves no longer young, had a straight-laced notion that everybody ought to be sleepy by 9 o'clock.

But all this time while she was growing matter-of-fact and portly, in the midst of 116m her bakings and brewings, the washings and stitchings, a little cloud no bigger than a man's hand had arisen in her horizon, and was slowly overspreading the zenith. At least not much bigger, to be explicit, it was just the size and took the form of a milk pail.

"I wish, husband, you would not milk in the strainer pail. I don't think it is a

Continued on page 59.

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