# THE EVENING NEWS.

Saturday, - - - June, 3, 1871.

## THE OLD MAID OF THIRTY-FIVE.

BY ETHEL BRANDE.

[CONTINUED.]

What a complete change from the dark, chilly room above, and the society of my own sombre thoughts, to these cosy comfortable parlors and this pleasant company, every one of whom had something agreeable to say to me, as, with Robert beside me to keep me in countenance, I received the friends who crowded about me! What a change, too, had come over the family! All the restraint which had so vexed me during the day was gone. My uncle and aunt were ten times kinder to me than usual, if such a thing could be possible. My cousins, too, were completely transformed into polite and agreeable people. And as Willie presented me with a magnificent bouquet, he whispered—

"Let this atone in part for my saucy speeches to-day, Cousin Laura."

I thought at that moment I could have forgiven him much greater offenses.

"Now," said Robert, "we are to have a series of tableaux, all in your honor, Laura. You are not expected to take part in them, otherwise than to be staring at them most intently, for I assure you they will be something remarkable."

I laughed, promised to stare at them "most intently," and seated myself with such of the company as were not actors. In our rather old-fashioned mansion the library connected with the parlors by means of folding doors, and these being now pushed aside, disclosed the theatre of performance. The changes which the library had undergone accounted also for the hammering sounds I had heard in the morning.

The first tableau was rather a failure. It represented Robert in a very picturesque dress, and with a drawn weapon, over Fay who crouched upon the ground in terror. The bright weapon, so near his curly head, must have quite frightened my little favorite, for he made a very perceptible movement, which greatly amused the spectators, but destroyed the effect of the picture. Then followed the representation of Evangeline, with sweet, sad face, sitting by the "nameless graves;" Ruth among her sheaves of wheat, besides various groups which looked remarkably well. Little Red Riding Hood, which character was represented by blooming Madge Walters in a charming red cloak, was another attractive feature.

But the tableau which most engaged my attention was the last of all, where David, was represented as mourning over the dead Absalom. Willie as Absalom, lay in the very semblance of death, every feature in perfect repose. There was a hush among the spectators, for perfect stillness was such a novelty in connection with our roguish Willie that this seemed real. Over the bier bowed David in all the majesty of woe. The face of the actor was hidden from my sight; but the bowed form, the attitude alone, proclaimed the depth of human suffering. Never before, to my knowledge, had I seen the person who represented David—nor did he seem known to the company; for when the curtain fell, every one asked of his neighbor the question, "Who acted David?" None knew.

A little later in the evening I managed to find Willie, who looked now as little like the dead Absalom as it was possible to look, and endeavored to extract from him some information in regard to the stranger; for, strange to say, that was the subject upon which my thoughts oftenest dwelt. But Willie pretended perfect ignorance.

"How should I know who it was, when my eyes were closed the whole time? I tell you what, it isn't an easy thing to act Absalom."

"But you certainly know who was leaning over you, Willie?"

"I know? I had as much as I could do to keep still."

I saw there was nothing to be extracted from Willie, so I attacked Robert upon the subject. But my question remained unanswered, for Robert was again seized with one of those fearful fits of coughing that had engaged my sympathy in the morning.

"Now that I have recovered, Laura," said Robert, when it pleased him to stop coughing, "just come with me into the dining-room, away from this crowd. I have something there to show you."

And something there was: for there stood my good old uncle, with a beautiful gold watch in his hand, which he presented to me with a few simple but affectionate words. Then followed my aunt with a gift at once elegant and appropriate. And then, in their turn, each of the boys. Before the presentation of his gift, which was an elegant rose-wood writing desk, Robert attempted to make a speech, but broke down in the midst of it, to the great amusement of all, for Robert was very seldom embarrassed. Ah! how little justice I had done them all that morning! I had accused them of not caring for me, of wishing me out of the house; and here had the whole family united in honoring my birthday and remembering my tastes. How much had I, old maid that I was, and thirty-five years old, to be thankful for! How like a stab did every one of those kindnesses seem, when I thought of my morning's soliloquy! As these ideas passed through my mind, I raised my eyes and encountered those of Katie, who, childlike, had been fluttering about from one room to another, and was now watching me.

*To be continued.*


EIGHTH INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION OF THE MECHANICS' INSTITUTE WILL OPEN TUESDAY, August 8th, 1871, And continue Four Weeks, Day and Evening, IN THE PAVILION, Union Square, SAN FRANCISCO.

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d130 3m A. S. HALLIDIE, President.

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PURSUANT to an execution to me, directed by the Third Judicial District Court of the Territory of Utah, I shall expose at public sale, on the steps of the Court House, in the town of Farmington, Davis County, and Territory of Utah, on the 6th day of June, A.D. 1871, at 10 o'clock a.m., the following described premises, to wit:

Lot three (3), Block three (3), Plat "A," Farmington Town Survey, containing 10 acres more. Also a certain tract of land, known as the Rice Farm, being south of the town of Farmington, bounded on the north by William Rice's and Thomas Ringer's farms, on the east by the Mountain Road, on the south by Mill Creek, and on the west by the Lake, containing (50) acres, more or less.

To be sold as the property of Leonard G. Rice, at the suit of John A. Morrow.

Terms of sale CASH.

E. T. PATRICK, U. S. Marshal.

May 16th, 1871. d131 4t


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