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NEUTRAL IN POLITICS-DEVOTED TO LITERARY, COMMERCIAL,

VOLUME II.

LANCASTER, C. H., SOUTH CAROLINA,



AGRICULTURAL, SCIENTIFIC, GENERAL AND LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, MARCH 9, 1853.

WE CLEAVE TO TRUTH, WHERE'ER SHE LEADS THE WAY."

NUMBER 5

R. S. BAILEY.

ADVERTISING.

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Delected

OUR MINISTER'S WIFE.

BY MARY MAY.

[CONCLUDED.] The next morning, on taking the stage for N—, (from whence I could take the cars to B—,) I discovered in one of the -,) I discovered in one of the passengers the young minister with whom I had been so pleased the day before. He trunk returned to me. was conversing, easily with a fellow traveller, but soon took an outside seat to give the vehicle was already crowded. I was much disappointed, Pil assure you.

ing somewhat of an elevation, I there paused, attracted by the beauty of the attracted by the beauty of the attracted by the beauty of the autrounding scenery; I lingered some time, but recollecting that about be in parawkward situation should I linger too long, I turned my steps towards the depot. On my way I passed a lovely cottage standing near a church. By the side of the house was a gerden, and as the terriforms of flowers was wafted towards in least of the louse was a gerden, and as the terriforms of flowers was wafted towards in least only shook her finger at me, and bantered my "sensitiveners," as she termed it playfully saying that she thought for all decenting her good these to long. A fruce to your nonsense Helen; I'll hear no more of it; for I have never 'painted my her oine' as you say, but to explain why I am desirous to discover this Agnes now, more than heretofore, I will daughter, an i very kindly did he receive me telling me that I must go with them for a little paradise appeared to my eyes. of the cars in the distance, and turning trastily to descend from my rocky eminence my dress caught upon a projection in the Gence, and I was thrown violently upon the rough stones. I was at first stunned; but npon recovering a little I attempted to rise, but found I had sprained my ancle; as I heard the train go thundering by but a short distance, my brain whirled to them.

and I fell back helpless and insensible. When next I opened my eyes, I was lying upon a bed draped with white. The and bore the fragrance of many flowers upon its breath. I could not realize what and very hard I tried to collect my scattered senses. Turning my head a little, I perceived a man anxiously watching me, but the effort pained my head, and I closed my eyes again, when I beard a sweet voice softly inquire,-

"Is she much burt, doctor? what do you think of her ?"

"Not dangerously, miss, I trust, but her head is cut; she just now opened her eyes, and I think will soon recover her senses but who she is I cannot imagine, she erust be a stranger in N-

"Mother," said the young lady, addressing gently but earnestly some one who out of sight, - "Mother, I know not why, but the young girl's face is strange-ly familiar to me, and now that the blood is removed I am the more convinced that

I have seen her before.

How that voice thrilled through my heart;—eagerly I listened to hear its tones again, but I only heard subdued murmurs in another room. Gently the breeze stole in and fanned my brow, and I felt its reviving influence; gradually I remembered all, and as I thought of the train that I heard so furiously passing me, I suddenly ex-

"Oh I shall be too late for the cars; what shall I do ?" and I started quickly up, but as quickly my dizzy head dropped back upon the pillows. In an instant the doctor was by my side, and bidding me

be calm, administered a cordial.
"Where am I!" I asked, "and why am "You have met with an accident," he

replied, "but compose yourself now, for you are in good hands, and shall know all soon. You must keep quiet now."

In a few minutes I involuntarily unclosed my upon (for I was already yielding to the effect of the cordini, and was dropping

Two elderly ladies now made their ap-TERMS:

TERMS:

THE "LEDGER" is published every Wednesday morning, at the low price of TWO DOLLARS per Annum, if paid IN ADVANCE: Two dollars and a half, if payment be delayed three months, and THREE DOLLARS at the end of six months.

Two elderly ladies now made their appearance, and Helen was fairly dragged from the room, and I was compelled to obey the physician's orders; but after I had enjoyed a refreshing sleep, and the doctor was gone, mutual explanations took place. I told my story, and then Helen explained that she with her parents had but just returned from Europe, but as they stopped at a Southern city upon their return, in which her father had business to transact, they were travelling by iness to transact, they were travelling by railroad to B—, and had stoppped to visit a sister of her mother's for a few days; she was wife to the Rev. Mr. N and it was their garden I had climbed the stones to examine. I had been found a short time after by some men who were passing, and they had conveyed me to the house supposing I belonged there.—
Mrs. N——had me carried in, and imme diately sent for her physician. Helen in-formed me that her father had gone in the train in which I intended to have taken passage to B-, to prepare for their

"Upon sending for my baggage, it was ascertained that it had been sent to B——— as it was marked for that place, and Henlen immediately wrote to her father informing him of all the circumtrunk returned to me.

I remained a week in Mr. Nfamily, and by constant and kind nursplace to a woman and three children, as ing, I rapidly recovered. I often heard Learning, when the stage stopped at N——, that it would be nearly an hour before the cars arrived, I left my beggage, a short absence but an hour before I was right." marked for B——, at the depot, and started for a stroll about the pleasant town of N——, for I was glad enough to be released from the crowded stage.

a short absence but an nour before I was brought there, and had started directly for B——, in company with her father, and she added, "I intend you shall make his acquaintance forthwith, you are both released from the crowded stage.

I wandered up a broad street that led such literary characters." I begged of to the outskirts of the village, and ascend- my friend to say nothing about my writ-

that I could never consent to be dependeac on any one, while ! had health and strength; it was of no avail, and overcome by their kinduess, I agreed to remain with them until my ancle recovered entirely (for I could scarcely walk then, although the wound in my head was healed,) on condition that I might make myself useful

- laughingly answered.-Well, Helen will arrange those matters with you, for as she is soon to be claimed inds were nearly closed, but a soft and carried off by a certain young gent, I breeze floated in by the muslin curtains, dare say she will find enough to keep you busy.

This was news to me, and as I looked had happened at first, or where I was, up quickly, it was just in time to see Helen's blushing face darting from the room, whilst her father exclaimed,-"What are you running away for, Helen ! am I exposing a secret?" and turning to me be added, Indeed, I did not suppose that among so many women you had been ig-norant so long, for"—but here his wife interrupted him by endeavoring to box his ears for his ungallant insinuations, remark. ing that he had surely in that instance "lost his case."

My heart was grateful towards my kind host and his wife, but how can I express the gratitude I felt, when in a most parental manner they expressed a desire that I would remain with them and become to them an adopted daughter. I could not at first realize that I had found such true with mock gravity she bowed as she refriends, and I felt that the spirit of my an- plied, gel mother in truth watched over her lonely child. It was finally decided that I should go to B-, and remain with Helen until her marriage, which would take place in a few months, after which she would make it her home at the

South. She had in Europe met with a young Southern planter, and their acquaintance had resulted in an engagement, and it was to make ready for the wedding that Mr. R----- bad sooner than be intended, re-

turned to America. We were soon settled in B-, and as Helen's uncle R-had returned and again occupied his editorial chair, I once more commenced writing. To my great astonishment the first article published was the sketch I had written upon the sermon of which I have spoken. I had not in the least intended it for publication, but upon examining my papers I found it had been accidentally sent amog oth-

into a does, and saw bending over me a face the sight of which brought a cry of joy from my lips.

"Helen!" I exclaimed, and "Merciful the areas it is Clara S.—!" was the response, as Hister R.—, for she it was, clasped me in her arms, where I laughed and cried by jurns, the distance I laughed and cried by jurns, the distanc A day or two after, as Helen and my

he had already been informed; he did not, however, seem to know that he had ever seen me before, for which I was inwardly

a word about her, and now we'll see who wish me to be. Say, will you have me or not? You know I love you, and to have you I am determined."

wish me to be. Say, will you have me felt somewhat awkward at first, I was not have you I am determined." rejoicing, when he suddenly exclaimed.
"Helen, who is the Agues that writes

for your uncle's paper, do you know?" I involuntarily started and turned deadly pale. Helen glanced towards me quickly, but meeting my appealing look, she quietly answered,—
"How do you suppose I should know

who are my uncle's contributors, when I have not even been on this side of the did globe this year and a half or more ?" I breathed again.
"Well, I presume you do not know; bu

f I recollect, it is over two years that I have read that signature, and even when in college I used to wish I knew who Agnes was, but now I an quite anxious upon the subject."

"Do pray coz just inform me why you are so anxious, and perhaps I can coax my editor uncle to relieve your suspense. I dare say it is some horrid old maid, some antiquarian schoolmarm, who rejoices in the sweet name of Jemima Higgins, or Hepsey Doolittle, and now aston ishes the world with quotations and borrowed ideas, (which she can no longer 'teach to school') under the romantic name of Agnes." And here Helen made a motion for me to sit st'll, for I was about making my exit.

"You surely would not say so, Helen," some of them speaking of "Hubert," and when I asked of Helen who he was, she told me it was Mr. N and pure mind, but of one who has early seen affliction. So far I think I am

"Yes, yes, I know young gentlemen are apt to paint their heroines with all the charms of youth, beauty, and innocenceand of course Agnes already, in your vivid imagination, possesses a lovely, sad countenance, shaded by soft brown ringlets,

perfume of flowers was wasted towards me, I longed to view the interior, and prompted by curiosity, I mounted a pile of stones that I mi_ht look over the high pathetically portrayed the subject of the sketch, that it has made me quite ashamed of tameness of my sermon. I should one whose powers of imagination are so brilliant, that I perhaps may catch a reflection."

A ray of light seemed to flash into Helen's mind, as she east a quick, penetrating glance upon my burning cheeks, for the blood mounted in torrents to my temples. tingling indeed to my finger ends. Unperceived by her cousin she cast a tormenting look of intelligence upon me and then

resumed,-"Well, I d d read the article you speak of but not for a moment did I imagine that the writer had quoted so eloquently from my reverend cousin, though I anderstood you created quite a sensation in W. but really I am quite indignant that the beau ideal' of yours should attemyt to rob you of the glory of your best sermon by her 'brilliant imagination.' After all, Agnes may be some young divine in disguise, for 'pureminded afflicted' young ladies are not apt to write sermons."

" Pshew, Helen, you are incorrigible. I do not see as your long absence from home has in the least made you more serious, and I should now suppose you are old enough to cease your trifling." Mr.

N. spoke seriously.
For a moment Helen's face flushed, but

"I beg your reverence will pardon me. for as when I left home you were nobody but my cousin Hubert, whom I had serious intentions of setting my cap' for, as soon as I was old enough, I cannot, so soon after my return, become accustomed to the awe and dignity of your ministerial robes, especially, as I have not yet heard you 'hold forth.' In that respect Agnes has the advantage, and probably appreciates your dignit . For the future I will endeavor to bear in mind, before you, that wnich I forget in your father's presence, that ministers are not men, but reprovers of light heartedness, and allow me to add that I am happy my 'cap' is otherwise disposed of, and I have no partiality for longaced folks; but remember if you would make a convert of me, it must be by smiles not by frowrs,"

" Have you done, Helen," said Mr. N. laughing heartily, "I really was not a-ware before, of your intentions concerning me, and I fear I shall not look with favor upon that young planter who has supplant-

entered and turned the conversation. Soon after, Mr. N. took his leave, and then I had to explain to Helen that I had before seen him, and told her also that the sketch which had been the subject of so mistake, and by no means would I have him know me as the author, and much.

Then I will take you by force," said he,

" I only did it to plague him," said she for playing the parson to me, and I shall Helen made her parents promise to keep cie's effice, and bade him not to tell her ocusin Hubert who Agnes was until she egress, and as I again screamed with tercousin Hubert who Agnes was until she was willing. Helen was a great favorite of his, so he readily agreed, and great was her triumph, when as nearly every week Agnes appeared in the ______, he would again and again endeavor to make ______, he would again and again endeavor to make ______, he would again and again endeavor to make ______, he would again and again endeavor to make ______, he would again and again endeavor to make ______, he would again and again endeavor to make ______, he would again and again endeavor to make ______, he would again and again endeavor to make ______, he would again and again endeavor to make ______, he would again and again endeavor to make ______, he would again and again endeavor to make ______, he would again and again endeavor to make ______, he would again and again endeavor to make _______, he would again and again endeavor to make _______, he would again and again endeavor to make _______, he would again and again endeavor to make ________, he would again and again endeavor to make ________, he would again and again endeavor to make _________, he would again and again endeavor to make ___________, he would again and again endeavor to make _______________. her disclose who the original was. He had asked her mode D, and had only discovered by him that she did not reside in W., but might have been there some time, for all he knew to the contrary. She saw

pit at B., in the absence of its regular pas-One day he informed Helen that he had at last found out who Agnes was, With surprise she asked who told him, and when he answered-"the authoress herself," she looked at me with a puzzled air, and I was as much surprised as Hel-

Mr. N. often, and often heard his discours-

es, for he was at the time supplying a pul-

"Well, who is she, Hurbet, " quietly sked Helen.

"Not a horrid old school-mistress, as but a pious young lady who belongs to the church where I now officiate."

Helen's astonishment was unbounded out with a wicked glauce of mischief at

And will you not tell me how you dis-

overed your paragon, and who she is ! " "You have already told me that you know who she is so I need not mention Agnes now, more than heretofore, I will that, but will tell how I found out. At productions. At one time I learned in had been insulted and pursued. conversation that Miss L. had relations in W., and that whilst on a visit there, a few months since, she then first heard wrote the sketch upon my sermon;" and though she old not exactly acknowledge the fact, her blushes and confusion confessed for her; so Helen you might as well have told me at first, but after ah I Agnes. can hardly believe it now, for I should not suppose her in conversation, to possess the intellect that her last production

shows. However, I suppose slie does not choose always to shine. Helen laughed unrestrainedly, and to my own emotions, I could not analyze them, for insensibly to myself had the encomiums unsuspectingly tayished upon me by Mr. N., but urged me to greater exertions to improve my mind and talents and insensibly, too, had my heart, as I more and more became acquainted with the son of those who were so kind to me, been drawn towards him, and eagerly did I listen to his conversational powers in private, as well as his discourses in public, treasuring up every word, to think of afterwards, and how often did I used to wish he were my brother, or my cousing even, and how when I heard him praising another as the writer of my poor productions, a pang shot through my heart, for

which I could not account.

I had not all this time forgotten aunt Brown, but had often visited her, though at first she had expressed a fear that now I had got among the grandees, she cosed I would feel above her," though, as she said, somehow she always though my mother and myself didn't come of common folks! One afternoon I visited the old lady and at her entreaty stopped to tea with her, which I sh uld not have for now. From your loving done had I known that I should have seen her son George, whom I had met but once since my return to B. It became quite dark before I started for home, but I was for the present to be no more an just as I was leaving the door, I met icorge, who offered to accompany me, which offer I decidedly declined, and walked quickly onward. Taking the nearest way home, I was obliged to pass through an unfrequented street for a short distance but scarcely had I entered it, when I heard rapid footsteps ceased beside me and some one, seizing my arm, I, looked up and saw the face of George Brown, distorted by passion, as the flickering rays of the street lamp fell upon him.

"Unhand me," I cried, "what do you mean by this treatment? I can go safely home well enough alone. Let me go this instant."

"Clara S." said he, "liston to I have before now asked you to be my wife, and you refus d, but I swear you shall be, if not willingly, you shall by force. You think you are too good for a fellow like me, I suppose, but if von

I trembled with affrig'st, but endeavored much conversation had been published by that his present course was no way to

did I regret she had told him what she did.

Then I will take you by the start of the last ped me in his arms.

I screamed, but he stopped my mouth with my shawl, whilst be dragged me into a dark pa sage near by. Desperately I take great care that he is well punished," struggled, and by a violent effort I releas ed myself and fled down the alley, closely he secret, and then proceeded to her un- pursued by my persecutor. The alley led proaching. I had nearly fellen to the ground when I started to run, for in the struggle I had, the locket containing my mother's miniature, which I constantly wore, fell from my belt, and as Brown overtook me in the court, when I turned upon him, he snatched the locket in endeavoring to seize me, and as I wildly started from him the chain broke which confued it around my nec't, and I stumbled.-Had he not been somewhat stunned at the blow I gave him, he would have surely overtaken me the third time but recovering myself, I ran frantically back through the dark passage and down the narrow street towards . home, fear lending wings to my feet; I heard Brown pursuing after me, swearing at my escape and heard, too, others in pursuit, probably ou would have me believe, Miss Helen, not knowing for what or why; but I met no one until I had turned into a well lighted street, where breathless and ex-

hausted I rushed towards a gentleman and lady who were passing erying, "Why Miss S.," exclaimed a well-keown voice, "what is the matter and why are

It was the voice of Mr. N., but so great

was my emotion that I could only cling one place where I visit I have often no- to him, bursting into a paroxysm of tears

fence that enclosed the hidden paradise, resume my former employment; in vain I are several quotations from my remarks but that all my endeavors were fruitless, crowd for that purpose, I soon became Whilst gazing. I heard the faint rumbling joined with Mr. R——'s entreaties,) tion of the writer has so truthfully and productions. At one time I have a faint rumbling in the state of the He then said he was on his way to lecture with the lady who was with him

whom he introduced as Miss L. Upon like much to cultivate the acquaintance of me preach. I involuntarily exclaimed, looking at her I recognized an old school-"Then you are perhaps the Agues who mate, the same who had years before made the cruel remark when I received the medal. She either did not or would not remember me, for she only bowed coldly, She it was whom Mr. N. thought his

So exhausted was I that I could scarcely support myself, and Mr. N. meeting some friends who were on their way to lecture consigned Miss L. to their care promise ing to be there as soon as he had conveyed me safely home.

Great was the indignation of Heler

and her parents, as with sobs and broken sentences I told my story, for Mr. R. in a truly lawyer style questioned and cross-questioned until he learned the whole. They had felt uneasy at my long stay, but not knowing where I went knew not where to send for me.

I showed my hand, which was much wollen by the force of the blow I gave the young villain who insulted me. My grief was excessive at the loss of my moth-

Mr. R. started off to get a warrant to arrest Brown, but he was not to be found although diligent search was made.

The next day a dirty scrawled paper was brought to the door for me, and bearer .mmediately departed. Upor opening it, these words were written in almost illegible hand,

Dear Clara, - I am sorry that I scared you so last night, but I'm mad enough that you escaped. I'll have you yet, though see if I dent. Fore you git this, I shall be out to sea. The pictur I shall keep, 'cause it looks like you. So good by

Imagine my indignation and disgra at this note, but glad enough was I that

noved by his persecutions. Old Mrs. Brown came to see me, and tried to smooth the matter over to me but though I loved the old lady for he kindness to me, I would accept of no apologies or excuses for her son. had told her all about it when they went there in search of him; but she confirmed the tidings that he had sailed on a long voyage early that morning; and she ad ded, "I will see, my child, that he shall never trouble you again, and you shall have your locket when he comes back, if I can get it by any means. I'm sorry, though, you can't like my George any

Mr. N. came in to inquire all about my adventure, and much interest and sympathy did he express, and afterwards he remained conversing with me for a long time; indeed, I had never before conversed office, and wended my way home, leaving with him, perfering to listen; but now, as Mr. R. and Helen to explain as they elen and her mother were out I was might.

and rallied her cousin unmercifully upon "his Agnes," asking him "if he had yet caught a ray from her brilliant powers of imagination?"

"It is very strange, cousin Hubert," continued she, "that her imagination was so dim a few years ago when Clara and myself were her schoolmates; for I should have supposed that some few sparks might have emitted there, but on the contrary she was voted rather dull. I presume, however, some splendid mecoric phenomenon must have suddenly

burst forth from her hitherto clouded

orain dazzling the literary world in gen-

ral, and our young divine here in parti-

ular. Eh, Clara, what say you?"
"I know nothing of Miss L's talents at present," I replied; "and you know I was not much acquainted with her at

"I already know that she formerly at ended school with Helen, but I think she did not recognize you last evening, Miss Clara; why did you n t make yourself known as an old acquaintance?"

I was silent, but Helen replied,

"You need not tell me Clara was not ecognized; she could not so soon have forgotten her; and did you but know Clara's school girl history, you would not wonder that she did not claim acquaintance with Miss L. I dare say she asked you who she was and all about her, as if she had never seen her before, did she not?" Mr. N. smiled and confessed that she did, but still averred that she must have

forgotten me. "Just inform her," said Helen, "that she is now my adopted sister, and see if it

does not revive her memory somewhat."
The next day as Heien and myself were walking out, we met her cousin Hubert who joined us. He seemed very serious, and even Helen's raillery could not elicit from him a smile. As we came near "I am goine in Helen observed a moment, for remy speak to me uncle seen walking with a automation, or even a reverend who looks as if he were going to be suspended,-Come, Clara!" and away she bounded up the steps, but Mr .N. fol-

lowed, saying. "You will not so unceremoniously take your leave of me, for I was about to call here to procure a book of your uncle; and as to the 'being seen ,' why, I don't know what you fear, but surely my 'dignity, of which you tell so much, might well suffer suspension, if I am seen escorting such a sad madeap as yourself."

"Ah, if you have entered the lists against me, I will, to use a vulgarism, 'back out,' "said the laughing girl, as we entered the office.

We were informed that Mr. R. had stepped out for a few momnts," and, invited to await his return. Helen took a seat at her uncl's desk, to the great lisarrangement of his numerous papers, and Mr. N. retired to the recess of a win dow, to examine a volume. In a few moments Mr. B. entered, and without perceiving Mr. J., he advanced hastily towards me, exclaiming. "Why, here is my little Agnes! I did

ot expect to see you out, for I have ins heard from my brother about your adventure. What business have you to be out after dark fighting with rowdies? Ha! ha! I did not suppose you possessed so much spirit, I should like to have seen the blow you gave the rascal with your hand which I see you have bound up, but I fear it has deprived us of the use of your pen at present. Jump up, you sauce-box, out of my editorial chair, and pick up those papers you have scattered about, said he to his neice, "whilst Agnes tells me the particulars of the rascally affair,' and as the old gentleman adjusted his spees and seated himself, he perceived Mr. N., who had come forward.

Eagerly Mr. N. seized his hand, as he ejaculated, "Do I hear aright? Did you call Miss S., Agnes; Is it indeed so?"

Poor Mr. R. dropped into his editorial, aintly crying "Bless me, girls, I have exposed your secret, and I suppose it is all over with me now! Have mercy, Helen, for I did not know you had hidden the very man who shouldn't know, in my sanctum!

He was interrupted by Mr. N., who earnestly enquired, "Is not Miss L. your contributor Agnes ?

" Don't know any Miss L -- never heard of her " growled the crest fallen editor .-All I can say is that the only Agnes my paper ever had is that little anti-non-resstant, who looks, now, like anything but knocking down rowdies; and if you desire any further explanation, just ask that crazy consin of yours, who is made up of mishief, and stands there and looks as if she would gladly box my ears. It's the last secret of hers I'll have anything to do with," and the discomfitted old gentleman wiped the perspiration from his brow, for he was quite mortified that Mr. N. should discover that he had entered into Helen's stratagem, as he now perceived he had unwitingly exposed some roguish plan of hers, the full particulars of which he re-

mained in ignorance.
Scarcely knowing what I did, I left the

Mr. N. returned with Heler, to tea, and felt somewhat awkward at first, I was much was he, as well as myself, annoyed soon quite at my ease. Helen came in by Helen's merry glances, as she in her and rallied her cousin unmercifully upon own style related the whole to her parents proposing that I should write a book, entitled, "The Ecclesiastic in search of his Agnes.'

IN ADVANCE.

After tea, Helen betook herself to the piano, her parents went out to pass the evening, and Mr. N. seated himself by my

"You will, I hope," said he, "forgive me Miss, S., that I have so long been blind to your merits, but I must confess that until yesterday's conversation, your youthful appearance and extremely retiring man-ners have led me to think you scarcely more than a child, though I own your history has deeply interested my feelings .-It is too late to apologise, for the many, to you foolish speeches I have made. I have indeed discovered Agnes. I shall be like Mr. R. and blame my lively cousin for making me talk before you, causing you to remain to hear me, for she has told me all, and how very fearful you were, that I should know you to be the author of the sketch upon my sermon. You surely need not have regretted it in the least; I am sure I never shall myself, but shall ever consider the publishing of that piece a hap-

py mistake." " I trust, sir, that you will not for a mo ment think that I wished to deceive you-It was only my over-sensativeness in not wishing to be known as saystee, and the dread that you should know that I presumed to enlarge upon your discourse, that has caused me to be silent when Helen has teased you so unmercifully;" and here we both laughed heartily as we brought to mind some of her sallies to her cousin,-

He resumed, " I am bitterly deceived in Miss L. and although I thought her to be the Agues I sought I could not in the least reconcile her in my mind, as the kind of person whom I supposed Agnes to be; had I only known you better, I might soon have guessed nearer home. Last evening, when I gave Miss L. to understand that iug to me, as a friend of yours, which, when she afterwards learned that you were one of this family, she tried to retract, saying

she would be happy to renew the acquaintance. I left her, disgusted at her heartlessness, and it was the thought that one whom I thought talented and amiable, as well as pious, could appear so much the reverse as she did last evening, which caused my scriousness to-day. Supposing her to be my "beau-ideal" as Helen says, sought in vain for qualities in her, which I now see I ought first to have looked for in yourself."

Quite abashed, I endeavered to change the conversation, and as Helen ceased her music and came to my relief, I succeeded, but from that hour Mr. N. and myself were the best of friends, our friendship soon ripenning into affection, and a few weeks after, in the same hour that Helen became Mrs Merton, I was converted into a minister's wife, for nothing would suit Helen but that their wedding and my own should take place together. Hubert's parents had come to claim me as their adopted daughter, but took me to their arms as their own child.

With many tears I parted from Helen who immediately started for the South, but we have since had many happy meetings, as she every year or two visits the North, and we have thrice journeyed to her home in the sunny South. She is the same light-hearted being, and even now rallies my husband about his first Agnes, who is still living in single blessedness.

Directly after our marriage, Mr. N. accepted a call to settle over a new society, and I, not then eighteen, entered upon the duties of a minister's wife. I had yet to discover, that when a society hires a pas-tor, they consider that the wife is hired alse, and pick flaws in her with the same impunity they use in finding errors in her husband. I had also to learn, too that the conversation, the housekeeping, the every action, indeed, of a pastor's wife, is discussed with the same freedom with which the pastor's sermens are criticised; but the years of my married life have been truly happy, and I have nothing of which to

When my little Agnes was a year old -for by no other name did my husband ever call me until after the birth of my girl, when he bestowed the name upon her -when she was a year old I was one day startled by Mr. R., Helen's uncle, entering in a great state of excitement. He abruptly placed a paper in my hand, and point ing to an advertisement, fell breathl to a chair. Dreading I knew not what,

read the following lines:
"The subscriber, wishing to gain intelligence of one Clara S., who resided in this city three years since, will generously reed information. Inquire at the

House, for ADAMS, Room No. 29."

The first thing I thought was, that it mas a ruse of George Brown to discover me, and so expressed myself to Mr. R and my husband. I had heard nothing of him since the note I received when he sailed from B., and I had never dared to venture to his mother's house since, and had heared nothing of the old lady what-

[CONCLUDED ON FOURTH PAGE.]