

**ROMANCE OF LONDON.**

**THE LIGHT OF YOUTH.**

"A drear November night had lowered over the Great Babel—London. The chill autumnal mist swayed heavily in the air, and hung in dew-drops from the slanting eaves.  
"There was no brilliancy in the lighted shops, and nought save the sullen glare from the lamps above; and houseless dogs crept shivering into doorways, and houseless Want huddled itself beside them on the stones; while hastily and cheerlessly the human current passed outward, longing for the warm chimney-corner, where well-known faces would revive the spirits, and merry voices ring musically round the hearth.  
"The pale milliner tripped lightly on her way and forgot her palpitating heart, and bleeding fingers in the joy of emancipation from the toil that was destroying her. Sleek Fashion rolled on its carriage cushion along the thoroughfare, and yawning its list yawn, became sensible to external objects. Tawdry Vice leered from the vagrant's eye, and sturdy Labor elbowed its way along the trottoir—all the prince and the peasant, the good and the bad, pursued their paths in silent haste—all, save the poor mendicant musician, who stood playing unheeded to the busy crowd.  
"Unnoted, indeed! for what had the thronging wayfarers to do with music on such a night? Though his melodies might awaken visions of many a land—of sunny France, in the age of chivalry—of the latticed bowers of Spain, and the rustic pipings that floated over Tyrolean hills—what were these to the prosaic citizens of 'Chepe'?  
"Yet the player did not drop, though his efforts—and they were of feeble skill—excited little charity in the multitude. Again and again he resumed the violin with freshened energy, until his frame trembled with cold, and the spirit of Hope gradually retreated before Despair. Then he swept the raven curls from his brow; and, while the night-dew soddened into his frame, he bent despondingly over the instrument.  
"No pity for thee, Mariana! he muttered, tearfully; nothing to soothe the agony and sweat of thy dying moments! Ah, why did we leave Italy!  
"You come from Italy?" said a stranger, approaching the poor musician.  
"Si, signor," answered the player; and he looked imploringly upon his questioner. "We are from the banks of the bright Arno—my sister and I, signor; and the death-stroke is on her. Oh, help me—help me, for the sake of Mariana!"  
"Mariana!" exclaimed the stranger, with a sudden start.  
"So wild and agitated had his whole countenance grown at the mention of that name, that a flash of lightning could scarcely have illuminated his features with more fiery lustre.  
"The musician gazed earnestly upon the form before him, but saw nothing to explain the interest it had excited. The stranger was slight even to attenuation; his hair hung down his shoulders in thick masses; and it was not until he turned from the pale, meagre cheek to the black eyes and olive complexion, that the player recognized some of the traits of a countryman.  
"I see it now, signor!" said the musician:—you are from Italy; you, too, have dwelt in my beautiful Florence, beside the Arno. Is it not so?  
"I have," was the faltered reply.  
"Ah! then you know how sad it is to languish for home, when oceans roll between the foot and its native soil. And she," continued the musician—she raves of the skies of Italy in the delirium of her parting soul—our poor stricken Mariana!—You start at that name, signor!"  
"It recalls," said the stranger, "an echo of youth, a forgotten dream—let it pass!"  
"His thin white hands wandered over his face as if to shut out the world for a moment, or hide some fleeting emotion.  
"But you are in want," he added, after a pause—then I will aid you for the love of Italy—and of Mariana."  
"And, as the last words crept from his lips in the faintest whisper, he took

the violin from the musician's hand, and slouching his hat over his eyes, assumed a position beside him on the curb.  
"With something of astonishment, but more of the listless apathy of despair, the poor player yielded without a remark. And the stranger wiped the damp mist from the strings, and tuned the instrument afresh, until at last all was prepared. Then it fell into the hollow of his breast—he raised the magic stick with a triumphant gesture, and a burst of impetuous harmony came like a torrent upon the bystanders.  
"Ah! ah! the spirit of music has found its master genius now! It quails before him; it opens its richest harmonies with the hand of a prodigal. As the golden shower fell on Danae, falls the stream of melody at the touch of the stranger. Like the low wail of an infant's lamentation—like the joyous laugh of an Italian lazzarone—like the soft whisper of a maiden who tells her love—like the mournful sigh for one loved but lost, steal the golden notes from the Cromaon. Every passion has found a voice, every thought of Love, or War, or Restlessness, or Peace, now flashes from the string in cadences of unearthly skill.  
"And Orpheus has charmed the inanimate things of clay. First one and then another pause to listen in bewilderment; and the few become many, and the poor musician's hat grows heavy with the coins that pour in. Little sympathy had the multitude with his sorrow or famine, but they pay him now, as they would a successful mountebank, and he acknowledged it with tearful tears.  
"Suddenly the stranger, who had given no symptoms of surprise at his success, came to a pause. He returned the violin to the player, arrested a public vehicle that was passing, and motioned his companion to enter.  
"Whither will you lead me now?" asked the musician, as they hurried through the crowd.  
"To Mariana!" replied the stranger; and they drove silently away.  
"Following the direction pointed out by the musician, they threaded devious tracks throughout the maze of the great city. And far from the haunts of wealth, in a narrow, lonely street, where the darkness was doubly drear, their conveyance drew up, and the musician alighted, followed by the stranger.  
"They found admission by a key which the tenant produced, and mounted the crazy stairs for some distance. At length, the musician stopped at a chamber-door. He listened, but was still. Some anguish shook him; some dread to encounter the misery within, made him tremble; but, at a signal from the stranger, he opened the door, and they stole noiselessly into the apartment.  
"It required no second glance to tell that it was the chamber of the dying. There was a character about the disarray in which everything was scattered; there was a charnel breath in the atmosphere that hung around the lowly couch, which spoke in plainest language of the grave.  
"The musician drew aside the curtains, so that the light of the lamp fell upon the occupant of the bed, revealing a female form of rarest beauty. The approach of death had left no charm from that mathless countenance, which seemed to have gathered up its lustre in one expiring flash of loveliness; but the long dark hair streamed in ebony waves along the pillow, and her eyes were closed with the exhaustion that succeeds pain.  
"She sleeps," said the poor musician, kneeling beside her; "and her dreams are not of this world, for she seems happy."  
"As he spoke, a burning smile lit up the wan features of the girl. The musician was so wrapt in his watchfulness of her face, that he saw not the agony which shook the stranger.  
"Still by her side, the watcher smoothed her pillow, and drew together the wandering tresses with childlike fondness. While he busied himself in these offices of a devoted love, her countenance grew yet more bright, and an inexplicable splendor played around her parted lips.  
"Suddenly her eyes opened; she

started up from her couch, and, sweeping the dishevelled hair from her forehead, gazed wistfully around. The stranger stepped forward from the shadow in which he had stood; her eyes fell upon him, and she uttered a wild shriek of joy.  
"It is he!" she cried, and her arms clung around his neck—her head sank upon his breast with enraptured gladness,—it is he!—the lost lover who was mine in happy Florence. Did I not say that he would come again, to rest upon my bosom!"  
"Mariana" said the stranger, while tears fell from his eyelids like summer rain; "look at me; say that you forgive—that you will yet be mine!"  
"Again the unutterable splendor rested on her lips.  
"And you have won fame," she continued, without heeding his last words; "I foretold that. What could arrest the genius of Paganini!"  
"Why speak of fame now?" gasped the listener through his sobs; "tell of yourself, Mariana—that you will yet live to bless me!"  
"Hush!" she exclaimed, interrupting him with a hasty gesture. Her eyes grew fixed; she pressed him closer to her fluttering heart. They told me you were false," she whispered in his ear; "but it was not so; you love me now; you have loved me ever, and we shall meet again!"  
"We will never part!" exclaimed Paganini, clasping her frantically, as if to arrest her wavering spirit by the bonds of his embrace, "let my home be thine, and our hands shall be united, as our souls have been. Tell me you will live, Mariana, to be mine!"  
I will be thine," she murmured, faintly; "I will be thine—in—Heaven!"  
"And her head sank for a moment until the cheek touched his. A slight quiver crept through her frame; a long, deep-drawn sigh escaped, and her loving spirit had flown. It was but the dust of Mariana that lay folded in the arms of Paganini!"

**Legislature of South Carolina.**  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1866.

**SENATE.**

The Senate met at 12 m.  
A message was received from the House, concurring in the Senate's resolution asking the appointment of a Committee on the part of the House, to confer with the similar Committee, appointed by the Senate, "to inquire and report what arrangements and provisions should be made for the election hereafter of Senators from this State in the Congress of the United States, in view of the requirements of 'An Act to regulate the times and manner of holding elections of Senators in Congress,' approved July 25, 1866." The House appointed Messrs. Mullins, Haskell and Richardson the Committee.  
Mr. Sullivan introduced a bill to provide for docketing constitutional cases in the Court of Errors.  
A message was received from the House of Representatives, and the Senate returned a message of concurrence, asking the Senate to permit a reference of the following resolution to the Joint Special Committee in relation to election of Senators of the United States, to wit:  
"Whereas this State is at present excluded from the representation in Congress to which she believes herself constitutionally entitled; and whereas at this time an election would have to be made in entire ignorance of the political issues in which the State would be interested at the time when, by any apparent probability, she would be permitted to exercise her right of representation; therefore, be it.  
"Resolved, That, in the opinion of the General Assembly of this State, it is inexpedient to proceed at this session to elect a Senator for the next senatorial term of six years, commencing on the fourth of March next."  
A bill to provide for the admission in evidence of wills made in the execution of a power, received the third reading, its title was changed to an Act, and it was returned to the House of Representatives.  
Mr. Buist introduced a bill for the encouragement and protection of Euro-

pean immigration, and for the appointment of a commissioner and agents, and for other purposes therein expressed.  
At half past 12 o'clock p. m., pursuant to orders previously made, the Senate proceeded to the House of Representatives and voted for Secretary of State and Commissioners in Equity in certain Districts, which resulted as follows: Secretary of State—Gen. Ellison Capers. Commissioners in Equity—Abbeville, Wm. H. Parker; Lexington, H. A. Metts; Marlboro, C. P. Townsend; Pickens, R. A. Thompson; Horry, R. E. Sessions; Newberry, Silas Johnston; Clarendon, D. W. Cuttino; Fairfield, H. A. Gaillard; Sumter, J. R. Kendrick.  
Mr. Thompson introduced a bill relative to legislation induced by the emancipation of slaves.  
Adjourned.  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**  
The Senate returned to the House, an Act to alter and amend an act entitled "An Act to alter and amend the law in relation to the method of counting votes in all elections by the people," which were committed to the Committee on Engrossed Acts.  
Mr. ——— introduced a bill to establish an additional class of flour, to be called Family flour.  
Mr. Hutson introduced a bill to extend the time in which to record lost instruments in writing; also, a bill to provide for docketing Constitutional cases in the Court of Errors.  
Mr. Warley introduced a bill to amend an Act entitled "An Act for the relief of prosecutors and witnesses in criminal cases not capital."  
Mr. Hanckel introduced a resolution, which was sent to the Senate for concurrence, that accounts of Sheriffs for doting prisoners shall be audited by the Comptroller at the rate of fifty cents a day.  
Mr. Perry introduced a bill to further extend the time allowed to the Greenville and Columbia Railroad Company to construct a branch of their road from some point on their main trunk, West of Saluda River, to connect with the South Carolina Railroad at or East of Aiken.  
Mr. Keitt introduced the following resolutions; which were referred to the Committee on Federal Relations:  
Whereas the changed condition of our country, produced by the late disastrous war, is so great as to require corresponding changes in the organic law, before the entire system can be worked in harmony; and whereas the people of South Carolina are anxious that amicable relations should be restored as early as possible between all parts of the Union, that peace, prosperity and happiness may return to the country.  
Resolved, That the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina respectfully invites a convocation of all the States composing the Government of the United States to meet as early as possible in convention, at such time and place as the Congress of the United States may appoint, to fully and fairly discuss and propose such changes in the organic law of the country imperatively requires.  
Resolved, That his Excellency the Governor be, and is hereby, requested to transmit certified copies of the foregoing preamble and resolutions to his Excellency the President of the United States and to the Governors of the various States comprising the Government of the United States.  
Mr. Thomas introduced a resolution, which was agreed to, that it be referred to the Committee on the Military to inquire and report upon the present condition of the military academies of this State, and to recommend such action in the premises as to them may seem proper and expedient.  
**MONDAY DECEMBER 3, 1866.**  
**SENATE.**  
The Senate met at 12 m.  
Mr. Tilman presented the petition of Miss M. H. Buie, praying legislation to provide for the education of

the orphan children of deceased soldiers.  
Mr. Brown offered a resolution that a Special Committee of three be appointed from the Senate, to meet and confer with a similar Committee from the House of Representatives, on the subject of purchasing corn to meet the wants of the people of this State; which was agreed to.  
A bill to repeal the usury laws of this State was taken up for consideration, and after some time, passed in consideration thereof, the yeas and nays were taken upon the question, as follows:  
Yeas.—Hon. J. B. Kershaw, President pro tem., and Messrs. Arthur, Brown, Bratton, Buist, Dozier, Frierson, Grisham, Henney, McCutchen, McDuffie, McQueen, Richardson, Shingler, Skipper, Tillman, Townes, Townsend, Tracey and Weatherly. Nays.—Messrs. Beatty, Charles, Fort, Sullivan, Thompson, G. W. Williams, Wilson, and Winsmith.  
The bill was therefore agreed to, and was ordered to be returned to the House of Representatives.  
Mr. Townsend, from the Special Joint Committee appointed to mature a plan for organizing and establishing a College, etc., reported a bill to carry into effect the donation made by an Act of Congress to the several States and Territories which may provide colleges for the benefit of agriculture and the mechanic arts.  
Mr. Tracy introduced a bill to shorten and regulate the publication of notices to absent defendants in Equity.  
Mr. Fort introduced a bill to call a convention of the people of the State of South Carolina.  
Mr. Townes introduced bills to alter and fix the times of holding the Courts of Sessions and Common Pleas in this State; to repeal the Acts establishing District Courts, and to abolish arrests and imprisonment in civil suits at law, except in certain cases.  
Adjourned.  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**  
At 12 o'clock, the Clerk called the roll, and the proceeding were opened with prayer by Rev. Mr. Boggs.  
Mr. W. A. Moore introduced a bill to extend the limit to the number of sureties now allowed on bonds of Commissioners in Equity.  
Mr. Suber introduced a bill to grant jurisdiction to the Ordinary in certain cases of dower.  
Mr. Springs introduced a resolution, which was agreed to, that the Clerk be authorized to receive the names of such persons as may have been omitted in the tax-collector's lists, in their late returns, to the Governor, who have been deprived of their limbs, or who were permanently disabled in the State or Confederate service during the war, and that he be instructed to publish and file a list of the same with the journal of the House, with the view to a permanent record.  
Mr. Wagener introduced resolutions, which were agreed to, and ordered to be sent to the Senate for concurrence, that it is the solemn duty of a State to provide a proper system of education for her children; that his Excellency the Governor be instructed to appoint a commission of three persons to prepare and report to the General Assembly a system of common schools suitable to our altered circumstances and the requirements of the times; also, that the Committee on Education of both Houses report at an early day upon reviving our former schools, with additional provisions for the teaching of our colored people, until the above report of the commission can be had.  
Adjourned.  
A mystery which quite surpasses the sphinx is astonishing the New Yorkers. It is a living human head, resting upon a very small cushion, and floating in mid air under a strong light. It laughs, talks and recognizes persons in the hall, but there is no obvious body, and it floats at least four feet from the floor, ceilings and walls. It is the greatest puzzle out.