

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THOMAS J. WARREN.

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A Selected Tale.

LOOK AT THE BRIGHT SIDE.

BY T. S. ARTHUR.

How rarely is an absent one mentioned with commendation, that a fault of character is not immediately set forth to qualify the good impressions.

It is remarked by Swedeborg, that whenever the angels come to any one, they explore him in search of good. They see not his evil, but his good qualities, and attaching themselves to these, excite them into useful activities.

If, then, we would help our fellow-men to rise above what is false and evil in his character, let us turn our eyes, as far as possible away from his faults, and fix them steadily upon his good qualities.

A young man named Westfield, was the subject of conversation between three or four persons. One of these, a Mr. Hartman, had met Westfield recently.

Yes, Westfield is clever enough in his way, but— And he shrugged his shoulders, and looked a world of misery.

I have never liked the way he treated Mr. Green," said a third. "It shows, to my mind, a defect of principle. The young man is well enough in his way. I suppose, and I wouldn't say a word against him for the world, but—"

And he shrugged his shoulders. Ah, how much wrong has been done to character, and worldly prospects, by a single shrug!

From no lip present came even the smallest word in favor of the young man. No one spoke of the disadvantages against which he had struggled successfully, nor portrayed a single virtue of the many he possessed.

A few evenings after the little conversation we have mentioned, Mr. Hartman was thrown in company with Westfield. The latter, remembering his first interview with this gentleman, whose position in society was one of standing and influence, met him again with a lively glow of satisfaction, which showed itself in countenance and manner.

Disappointed and mortified, Westfield turned from the man towards whom warm feelings and hopeful thoughts had been going forth for many days, and, in a little while, quietly retired from a company, in mingling with which he had promised himself both pleasure and profit.

There existed, at this time, an important crisis in the young man's affairs. He was a clerk, on a very moderate salary. His own wants were few, and these his salary would have amply supplied; but a widowed mother and a young sister looked to him as their only support.

Not many hours of tranquil sleep had Westfield that night. As he lay awake through the silent watches, temptation poured in upon him like a flood, and pressing against the feeble barriers of weakened good principles, seemed ready to bear them away in hopeless ruin.

"That hope blasted!" repeated the unhappy young man.

And what was this fondly cherished hope, the extinguishment of which had moved him so deeply? A few words will explain. Mr. Hartman was a man of considerable wealth, and had just closed a large contract with the State, for the erection of certain public works, to be commenced immediately.

Westfield was a young man of integrity—competent in business matters, and industrious. He had his faults and his weaknesses, as we all have; but these were greatly overbalanced by his virtues.

"I cannot bear these thoughts," he said, starting up from a chair in which he had been sitting in gloomy despondency, and in the effort to escape his troubled feelings, he went forth upon the street. It was late in the evening. There was no purpose in the young man's mind as he walked, square after square, with hasty steps; and he was about returning, when he was met by a man with whom he had a slight acquaintance, and who seemed particularly well pleased to see him.

The very man I was thinking about," said Mr. Lee—that was his name. "Quite a coincidence. Which way are you going?"

"Home," replied Westfield, somewhat indifferently.

"Come with me then?"

"Where are you going?"

"To the Union House. There's to be a raffle there, at ten o'clock, for six gold watches—eleven in each watch only one dollar. I've got five chances. They are splendid watches. Come along and try your luck."

"I don't care if I do," said Westfield. "He was ready to catch at almost anything that would divert his mind. Under other circumstances, this would have been no temptation.

Do you know young Westfield?" he inquired of a gentleman, with whom, sometime afterwards, he happened to be in conversation.

"Very well," was the answer.

"Has he good business capacity?"

"I have heard that he did not treat his former employer, Mr. Green, very well."

"He left him for a higher salary; and, as he has a mother and sister to support, he was bound, in my opinion, to seek the largest possible return for his labor."

"I had Green no particular claim on him?"

"No more than you or I have."

"I heard the fact of his leaving the employment of Mr. Green, commented on in a way that left on my mind an unfavorable impression of the young man."

"Some people are always more ready to suppose evil than good of another," was replied to this.

"I am in search of a competent young man as a private clerk, and thought of Westfield; but these disparaging remarks caused me to decide against him."

"In my opinion," said the gentleman with whom Mr. Hartman was conversing, "you will search a good while before finding any one so well suited to your purpose, in every respect, as young Westfield."

"You speak earnestly in regard to him."

"I do, and because I know him well."

A very different impression of the young man was now entertained by Mr. Hartman.

It was past eleven o'clock on that night as he rode homeward, passing on his way to the Union House, and just at the moment when Westfield, in company with several young men, came forth after the closing of the raffle. They were talking loud and boisterously. Mr. Hartman leaned from the carriage window, attracted by their voices, and his eyes rested for a moment on Westfield. The form was familiar, but he failed to get a sight of his face. The carriage swept by, and the form passed from his vision; but he still thought of it, and tried to make out his identity.

Not many hours of tranquil sleep had Westfield that night. As he lay awake through the silent watches, temptation poured in upon him like a flood, and pressing against the feeble barriers of weakened good principles, seemed ready to bear them away in hopeless ruin.

In a single hour he had become the possessor of a gold watch, which could readily be converted into money, and which, at a low valuation, would bring the sum of fifty dollars—equal to a month's salary. How easily had this been acquired! True, to raffle was to gamble. And yet, he easily silenced this objection; for at religious fairs he had often seen goods disposed of by raffle, and had himself more than once taken a chance. Another raffle for valuable articles had been announced for the next night at the Union, and Westfield, urged by the hope of new successes, resolved to be present, and again try his luck.

The following morning found the young man in a more sober, thoughtful mood. He did not show his watch to his mother, nor mention to her the fact of having won it. Indeed, when she asked him where he had been so late on the night before, he evaded the question.

On his way to the store in which he was employed, Westfield called in at a jeweller's and asked the value of his watch.

"It is worth about seventy-five dollars," answered the jeweller, looking very earnestly at Westfield, and with a certain meaning in his countenance that the young man did not like.

"It is perfectly new, as you can see. I would like to sell it."

"What do you ask for it?"

"I will take sixty dollars."

"I'll buy it for fifty," said the jeweller. "Very well, it is yours."

The execution of Major Andre.—The principal guard-officer who was constantly in the room with the prisoner, relates that when the hour of his execution was announced to him in the morning, he received it with emotion, and while all present were affected with silent gloom, he retained a firm countenance, with calmness and composure of mind.

"I was so near during the solemn march to the fatal spot, as to observe every movement and participate in every emotion which the melancholy scene was calculated to produce.

"I do, Call at eleven o'clock—I wish to see you particularly."

"Do you know that young man?" inquired the jeweller, as Mr. Hartman, to whom he was well known, presented himself at his counter.

"What young man?" inquired Mr. Hartman.

"The young man with whom I saw you speaking at the door."

"Yes. His name is Westfield; and a very excellent young man he is. Do you know any thing about him?"

"I know that he has just sold me a watch for fifty dollars, which I sold for seventy five yesterday, to a man who told me he was going to raffle it."

"The jeweller didn't say this. It came in his thoughts to say it. But he checked the utterance, and merely replied: 'Nothing at all. He is a stranger to me.'"

Had that first impulse to produce an unfavorable impression in regard to a stranger, been obeyed, the life prospects of Westfield would have been utterly blasted.

For the sake of appearance, to keep up a display and make a figure in the world, multitudes adopt the vicious habit of spending more than they earn.

There is much in the habits and customs of society furnishing a strong temptation to this course, yet it is a serious evil. It is not right as between man and man; it is an extravagance that carries in its train a pecuniary injustice.

He who lives beyond his means must supply the deficiency from the pockets of his neighbors, very often upon the strength of a deceptive credit.

There is of course an end to this habit, somewhere, the commercial reputation of the individual must finally be swamped by the number of his unpaid indebtedness; yet the whole process is one of dishonesty, even before this catastrophe reveals it.

Philosophy triumphs easily over past, and over future evils, but present evils triumph over philosophy.

Few people know what death is. We seldom suffer it from resolution, but from stupidity and habit; and the generality of men die because they cannot help dying.

When great men suffer themselves to be overcome by the length of their misfortunes, they let us see that they only supported them through the strength of their ambition, not through that of their minds; and that with the exception of a good deal of vanity, heroes are made just like other men.

It requires greater virtues to support good, than bad fortune.

Neither the sun nor death can be looked at steadily.

We often make a parade of passions, even of the most criminal; but envy is a timid and shameful passion which we never dare to avow.

The evil which we commit does not daw down on us so much hatred and persecution as our good qualities.

We have more power than will; and it is of ten by way of excuse to ourselves that we sin; things are impossible.

If we had no faults ourselves, we should not take so much pleasure in remarking them in others.

Jealousy lives upon doubts—it becomes blindness, or ceases entirely, as soon as we pass from doubt to certainty.

Pride always compensates itself, and loses nothing, even when it renounces vanity.

The Montgomery Convention. This Convention, it will be remembered, assembled at Montgomery, pursuant to a resolution passed at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Southern Central Agricultural Association, in Macon, Ga., on the 21st Oct., 1852.

The purpose of this Convention at Montgomery, was to organize an Agricultural Association of the slaveholding States, which shall hold its meetings, in succession, in all the slaveholding States that may participate in the Association.

From the following account of the proceedings, copied from the Montgomery, Alabama Journal, it will appear that the next place of meeting to be chosen was the State of Georgia, and of it—we were glad of anything that may give a stimulant to the agricultural energies of our State, but are especially pleased at the establishment of a permanent organ of Southern sentiment. We have local interests; of this, there can be no question; interests not sectional alone from the diversity of sentiment between the North and South, but sectional from peculiar social structure, peculiar products, geographical position, and the one and a thousand causes which tend to swell divergence, where radical differences are once established.

These local interests demand a local sentiment, not only must they exist, but that existence must be recognised before they can reach, or start to reach, the true measure of their full development. It is in no captious or unfriendly spirit, therefore, that we say the Southern people ought to often meet and bring into notice every interest and every power which has not full expression in general legislation. Every people ought to do so; it is due to themselves, and due also to the larger communities of which they may happen to form a part, for it is only by the due advancement of all its parts that any society makes true and permanent advancement. It is to be hoped that the State of South Carolina will take this meeting up right heartily; let us so embrace our sister States in this Assembly, that they will never fear association with us.

The Montgomery Advertiser and Gazette, of the 3d instant, says: The Agricultural Convention met yesterday at 11 o'clock, A. M., in the Hall of the House.

A long and able address was read by its President, Mr. Daniel, of Savannah, Georgia, when after the transaction of some preliminary business, the Convention adjourned, to meet at Estelle Hall, in the afternoon, to hear a lecture on Geology, by Prof. Tuomy, the State Geologist. Our engagements prevented us from attending this lecture, which, from the well known ability of the lecturer, must have been a very interesting and instructive one.

The attendance on this Convention though very respectable in numbers, and especially so in talent, was not so large as we had anticipated. Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi were represented.

SECOND DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.—AFTERNOON SESSION. The Convention assembled at 4 o'clock, when Mr. Nelson, of the Troop Hill Nursery, Georgia, delivered an interesting and practical address on Horticulture and Fruit Culture at the South. After which, Col. James M. Chambers, of Georgia, addressed the Convention. His subject was the Agricultural Press.

The Convention then adjourned to 10 o'clock on Wednesday.

THIRD DAY'S PROCEEDINGS. The Association convened as per adjournment, when on motion of Dr. Daniel, of Ga., the constitution was taken up and revised in some of its sections. After which the reports of committees (on documents and Agricultural Institute) were received. These reports were laid on the table temporarily, to hear the address of the Hon. Robert Toombs, of Georgia. Col Toombs was introduced to the association, who interested the assemblage, consisting of a crowded hall of ladies and gentlemen, with an address forcible and learned, setting forth the duties and objects of the association.

The association then proceeded to the election of officers, which resulted as follows:

For President—George R. Gilmer, of Georgia.

For Vice Presidents—H. W. Vick, of Miss.; B. F. Glover, of Va.; Dr. J. A. Wheatstone, of La.; and R. W. Withers, of Ala.

For Secretary and Treasurer—N. B. Cloud, of Ala.

The association then adjourned to assemble in the hall of the Mechanic's Institute, at 9 o'clock.

AFTERNOON SESSION. The association met as per adjournment, when, after the appointment of various committees, &c., the Executive Council was appointed, composed of the following named:

E. A. Holt, Dr. C. Bellinger, B. S. Bible, Ala.; Col. Young, Miss.; Walker Anderson, Fla.; A. G. Sumner, S. C., and James M. Chambers, Ga.

The association then met on Columbia, S. C., as the place for their next meeting in November next.

After the usual resolutions of thanks, &c., to the citizens of Montgomery, for hospitalities and attentions, the association adjourned sine die.

The results of the convention from the comparison and concert of opinions and actions, are calculated to be of eminent benefit to the planting States, and if its meetings are continued for a few years in the same spirit, will be likely to produce a complete revolution in the course of trade, and in improved Southern Agriculture. Senator Toombs' address on Wednesday, was in its main features, one of the most lucid and convincing arguments ever produced on the subject—close and compact as a granite wall, clamped, layer by layer, and built up, with bolts of steel, impenetrable and immovable.

There were some slight errors in statistics, and occasionally a want of fuller explanation in details; but the main features were as true and irrefragable as the everlasting hills. The speech will be published in full in the Cotton Plant.—Southern Standard.

General News.

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DOUBLE HOMICIDE.—A very dreadful homicide was perpetrated near Marlinton, on Friday night last, the particulars of which are nearly as follows:

It seems that Mr. John D. Sims had on his plantation an overseer who had become objectionable to him, and whose removal from his premises he sought to effect. After conversation, an altercation ensued, when the wife of the overseer, being armed with a pistol, threatened to shoot Mr. Sims. Being armed with a double barrel gun, Sims immediately shot her down. Enraged at this, the overseer ordered his son to bring his gun to attack Sims, when the latter levelled his gun and killed the overseer.—Carolinian.

F. A. W. D. ROAD.—The F. A. W. D. Road and Western Plank Road has been completed 119 miles to within 2 miles of Salem. Six miles and a half of the branch leading from the 33 mile post to Evan's Mill, on Deep River, have been completed and will be placed under toll in few days; Six miles more will bring us into communication with Deep River by plank road throughout.

The Engineer of the Road is now engaged in locating the road beyond Salem to the Little Yarkin River, a distance of 18 miles.—North Carolinian.

CHILDREN AND PARENTS.—Let all children remember, (says Dr. Dwight) if ever they are weary of laboring for their parents, that Christ cheerfully obeyed; if reluctant to provide for their parents, that Christ forgot himself, and provided for his mother amid the agonies of the crucifixion. The affectionate language of this divine example to every child is "Go thou and do likewise."

A MAN KILLED BY HIS WIFE.—We regret to learn that on Sunday evening the 1st inst., Wiley Hoffman, of Emanuel county, was killed by his wife. The facts, as we have them from a gentleman of that county, seem to be as follows: Hoffman had been at some of the neighboring dram shops during the day, and had become very much intoxicated; he started for home, and arrived late in the evening; he took his gun and shot a dog lying in the yard, at which his wife made some remarks; he then turned to her and commenced abusing and cursing her, swearing that he would kill her, and picked up his gun and attempted to shoot. She ran and he after her, he threw the gun at her, then took up a stake some eight or nine feet long, pursued her, and coming up with her, knocked her down.—After recovering enough to rise, he still thumping her, she drew a pistol and shot him in the breast, he then drew his knife, she ran again, he after her and continued the pursuit till he fell from exhaustion; he lived but a short while after he fell, but became more composed and sober before he died. Such is the statement we have of this sad transaction; the parties, it is said, have not lived very pleasantly together.

Hoffman was a drinking man, and frequently in his cups. Mrs. Hoffman gave herself up to the officers, and after an examination before Jas. M. Tapley, a Justice of the Peace, was put under bonds for appearance at the Superior Court of that county.—Sandersville Georgian.

The Mississippi Democratic State Convention has nominated John J. McRea for Governor, William Barksdale, of Lowndes county, for Congress for the State at large. Both nominees are, we believe, of the ultra Southern Rights branch of the party. Mississippi, under the late census, is entitled to five members of Congress, and as the State has not been newly districted by the legislature, four members will be elected by districts, and the additional member by the State at large. We mention this to explain the action of the convention.

THE CRYSTAL PALACE BAR.—We take pleasure in saying that the Managers of the Exhibition have resolved to prohibit the sale of all intoxicating liquors at the Refreshment Bar of the Palace. This is wise and right, and will be approved by all whose favor is worth securing. It gives us the more satisfaction to note this prohibition, inasmuch as an impression was abroad that a contrary course was intended.