Easley Messenger.

TRUTH, LIKE A TORCH, THE MORE IT'S SHOOK IT SHINES.

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WHAT LOVE IS.

Smiles and tears are common things;
Hearts that throb like fluttering wings,
Sudden blushes, causeless sighs,
Tender glances of bright eyes,
Yieldings to the least demands,
Whispers soft and touch of hands,
Grief when time awhile divides—
May mean love—or aught besides.

These may come and these may go,
Though of love you never know;
Though love's tone have these, alone
Love has attributes its own,
That can ever dearer make
Life but for the other's sake—
That can welcome death as sweet
When 'tis life cast at love's feet.

Love unites, as when the sun
Melts two cloudlets into one;
Wishes to one center tend;
Hopes and fears and fancies blend,
As two melodies combine,
Forming harmony divine;
As two rivers, soul with soul
Joins to make the perfect whole.

ARP PULLING FODDER.

A Rural Task for a Modern Philosopher.

We are pulling fodder now. I've hired two men to pull by the day and two to pull by the hundred bundles. I want to see which is the cheapest. But they got me anyhow, and I cant help it. If they pull by the day they don't make 150 good bundles apiece, which they ought to make at 75 cents a day, and if they pull by the hundred they make over 200 bundles, and some of them are mighty light. But it is all right I reckon They are watching me and I am watching them. It is the same old story—capital against labor. There are tricks in all trades. You can count the hands in a bundle, but you cant the blades in a hand, and so they can make them heavy or make them light according to pay. I've hired cord wood cut by the cord and they can pile it so loose that a pack of hounds can follow a fox right through it and never touch a hair. But it is no deep laid scheme to cheat you. They are just sloshing along and you can settle with a darkey easier than any creature upon the earth. A mean man can pay them in bacon at fifteen cents a pound and flour at four when the cash would buy one at ten and the other at three, and he can cheat them twenty-five per cent. in the weights and they will never know any better and never care. The Lord never made such an easy, unsuspecting creature as a free nigger. There are white men who take advantage of them and cheat them and get their labor for their vittles and clothes, but the darkey is sure of a living anyhow, for if he cant earn it he can steal it, so it is all right anyhow and the races keep about even. Some farmers are tricky, too, when they take chickens to town the sickly ones are sure to go, and the best potatoes are put on top of the basket. The richest pine is on the outside of the load, and some rotten corn will get in the sheller when the meal is for market. The merchant has his tricks too. He will bait you with something for less than cost and make it up on something else at fifty per cent. To keep up with hard competition he will sell you shoes with pasteboard soles and nails that break in two under the hammer and shoddy goods of all sorts, for his customers wants everything at the lowest price whether it is good or bad, add it is buckle and tongue whether the merchant can get ahead of his customers or they get ahead of him. One thing is certain, when the merchant forgets to charge anything it is lost, forever lost. If he makes a mistake in change or weight or measure he hears of it if its in his favor, and if it is the other way maybe he dont. I dont know for certain. The miller mixes corn meal with his flour nowadays. They all do it up north and our millers say they have to do it too to keep up, and they comfort themselves with the idea that it is healthier and better, even though it is a fraud upon the consumer. The baker gives six loaves for a quarter instead of five, and that satisfies his customers, though the five weighed just as much as the six do now. Anything to satisfy and keep the people calm and serene. There is a power of comfort in going home and showing up your bargains. It proves that you are smart in a trade, or popular with the merchant, and that shows how smart a good merchant is for he can make ninety out of one hundred customers believe he likes them better than anybody. Civility and a little pleasant flattery is splendid capital for a merchant. If my wife was to hear accidently that she had the prettiest and best mannered daughter in the community she would go right there to trade and would'nt jew him down on anything.

When I was a young man I was a merchant for several years, and Mrs. Arp, that now is, used to come and trade with me and I fell in love with her across the counter, and I was sorry the counter was as wide as it was, and she was sorry too I reckon, and I showed my devotion so tenderly and said such sweet things that she used to come most every day and she done all the family trading and some for the nabors and never priced anything but just said so many yards or so many pairs and I had liked to have got rich off of her before I married her, which was all right I reckon for it kept the money in the family and no loss on our side. A store is a good thing to marry on, that is a dry goods store, but the young man had better own it if he wants to make a sure thing of his girl. After he marries the next best thing he can do is to sell out his store and quit that sort of business, for a merchant's own family account breaks him oftener than anything else, for it is so easy to send to the store and it does look so much like that things out of one's own store don't cost anything. I never kept store but six months after I got married, but me and my wife have kept other peoples stores a going for the last thirty years, and they have done pretty well considering.

But the biggest fraud of all is in the marrying business, and the man is guilty of it heap oftener than the woman. I'm not talking about the regular society woman in town or a city for I don't think that anybody can cheat her, she is generally an iceburg in a passel of fine clothes, and she dont know how to do anything but read novels and visit, but the average girls who marries for love is oftener fooled than the average man. The time used to be when a man dident begin to forget his wife until he had been married ten or fifteen years, but now he forgets her in a few months and wont stay home of nights if he can help it. Some nice sweet-tempered young married woman may be seen now a days walking to the end of the piazza about ten times in fifteen minutes looking up the street for her husband, but he dont come hardly ever according to time. Folks dident do that way in my days, and my sort of folks dont do it yet. Mrs. Arp dont have to look up the road for me. No sir, I'm on hand before she wants me. I am. This shows the good effect of early training, and so I am obliged to advise the young women to break in their husbands as soon as possible. You can manage a colt mighty easy with care and kindness, but it is almost impossible to reform a balky horse.

Then there are the tricks of the lawyers that would fill a book and are too tedious to mention, and the tricks of the doctors and the politicians, and the patent medicine men. The editors help them last fellers out and divide profits. They dont certify to the lies but they keep them spread out before the people and scare them mighty nigh to death with their awful pictures of snakes and horrible things. Well, it is a wonder that anybody has got anything, for it looks like most everybody is trying to get what everybody has got and they take the nighest cut to do it.

BILL ARP.

—He who stops to pick a flaw in others' knittin work drops many stitches in his own.

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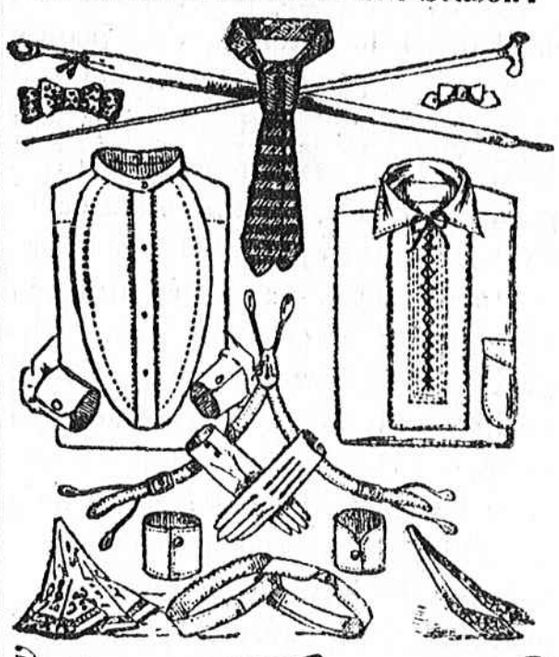

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