Vol. I.

GASTONIA, GASTON COUNTY, N. C., SATURDAY MORNING, JUNE 26th., 1880.

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BY REV. CHARLES L. THOMP ON.

Along the keys a child's band strayed, And discords filled the air ; . Even so my blundering heart, I said,

That seeks to voice its prayer, have no art to shape my speech, My thoughts, unsteady, stray Amid the countless cares that reach From dawn to darkening day.

The melody I fain would lift, Breaks up in jungled coords. Through which the voiceless longings drift, That cannot rise to words.

The mother's hands the child's surround, Knowledge and love combine, Taxt unskilled fingers may give sound

And those who hear the notes expand Along the evening's caim, Cannot divide the baby's hand From mother's circling palm.

To thoughts or hopes divine,

Oh! Love Divine, that reachest down To choose the keys for me, Amid each wild, discordant tone Discerning melody,

Lay Thou the hand of grace along My heart, and softly wreathe Amid my failures the sweet song Of hope I cannot breathe

When round me evening's shadows flow, And the lesson is all done, Only my heart and God will know His hand and mine were one.

### ONE DAY IN A SETTLER'S LIFE,

"If you had a grain of real love for in red cover would have dragged in cout inhis desorate wilderness," and Mrs. Ro and Parcy, by I softeing, and really lange

in ; after me with the bottom sections garnet the piece that her nest immediate ly began meeting as grotesque pattern of erecit to the spathling frostwork. Had you been a ganthenson. Roland you never ould have themself of doug it.

When wives get into a passion they are not to say things that they may be cafter caption. Her husband stend breathlessly sheat, his face paling. They had not been

bard and cold, "if I had not thought you dog-whinings, she was declaring, in her were willing, ay, and more than willing to fervid way, that house keeping out West risk it. I should never have brought you, and you know it. Remember, I told you it would be a rough life; yet you were eager to come."

Jane Hardy remembered very well. But the memory of her ardent protestations, her generous forgetfulness of self, only a gered her the more just now.

"How was I to know it was to be like this? There! You can go if you are going. I should like to be alone-with all this work to do "

"I am going directly," was Mr. Hardy's answer, striving for tranquillity, "Will you be good enough to put up my lunche-Bogine and Toreshor were used by Mr on? I shall not come back until night."

"O dear, yes," she replied with alacrity, bringing her face away from the window with a jerk; and proceeding to make a great clatter in the cupboard, which in this proncer cabin was a combination of pastry and chim closet.

"I fear there is but a short allowance of wood; will it last until evening?" said Mr. Hardy, dubiously looking at the woodbox he had in t replenished, and turning to brush up the bits of bark that had fallen on the neat rag-capet. His words were kind, but his tone was as chilly as an icicle.

'There is plenty; do not trouble yourself," responded his wife resentfully, her eyes bent on the bread she was buttering, In five minutes, man, dinner pail, axe,

and dog had vanished in the direction of day's work of felling timber.

dy did not. She leaned against the rule evil, necessary to her support, and respectamantel-shelf when her husband's footsteps ble to have about the home, Sooner or no longer sounded in the crisp snow; and later, he supposed, all husbands and wives looked ungiterrable and and hopeless, as awoke from their dream of love, to the if the light of her life had suddenly gone; long, dreary reality of making the best of out; logged remoracial, too as if conscious things. Nevertheless, her fierce outhurst. of having had something to do with its an on this particular morning took him by

enacted in the New World. Certain ex this "villatious" housekeeping? Had be pectations suddenly failing him, Roland not warned her freely and fully that her Hardy martulic resolved to betake himself days, if she came with him, would be any it leaned the pensive young bousekerper, to the mighty woods, clear out a settle- thing but a bed of roses? Was not life pretending to do justice to her solitary ment for himself, erect his own house, Ro- harder for him, inexpressibly harder, than lunchens.

ous. Hardy, the settler, he would be then, with his farm lands around him, his flocks and herds, his people and his comforts. But all that would have to be patiently worked on for, and the beginning must, of necessity, be weary and toilsome. Jane Deane, to whom he was engaged, decided to go out with him-his wife. He told her he had better go on first, say for a year or two; miserable than she had ever dreamed of be the young as he was

riage, de

thought it would be charming, a kind of perpetual picoic. It was true she did not bargain for the help they had taken with them, in the shape of a man and woman servant, deserting them speedily, tired with the new rough work, sick at the loneliness; and those engaged in their places (after endless trouble and long negociation) had not yet come. But she had put her shoulder bravely to the wheel in the summer weather, and made light of hardships. It was winter now, and for the first time her temper had given way.

Everything seemed to have gone wrong in the cabin that morning; and her husband's calm cheerfulness through it all had provoked her most unwarrantably. But she was not feeling well.

It is possible that many of us have such mornings-mornings when everything anianimate, and inanimate, conspires to bring to the surface the original gotilla that slumbers within the soul. These vexations mve to be beaten down promptly under one's feet, and Mrs. Hardy had stooped to qualible with hers. A dear little rose had wen disc vered frezen, though wrapped in I mel and place in the warmest corner of burrow under the floor, called, as a matter of dignity, the cellar. To be sure, be potatoes had been kindly spared : but what were gross potat es when lovely Lasarque bads drooped in death? Mourning ver them, Mrs. Ha dy forgot the milk ass, and the mark tenst indignantly boiled ver. Catching the pan from the stove, In splan of not m k tell on the front readth of her clean crisp French gingham, and another on the ear of poor David, stretched on the hearth; and the dog howlwould have laughed; but laughing was very far from her mood this morning; life in general was looking depressedly gloomy; and when Mr. Hardy came into "Jane." he answered at last, in tones this atmosphere of burnt milk and piteous was just simply villainous, and that she hated it-here she caught his provoking'y smiling eyes-yes; hated it, and him; and the place, and everything.

He met the words jokingly, and it incensed her. In her ungry spirit she said unforgivable things, and Mr. Hardy was provoked into retorting. So they jarred and jangled through breakfast. That is she

For some little time Roland Hardy had feared that a sort of suppressed discontent was taking possession of his wifewas quieter at times almost sad, and less given to laughter than in their old bright days, as he had got to calling them. He had hoped everything of her love and de

votion-hoped that he might ever remain as near and dear, as much "all the world" to her as she had ofter declared him to be And now this had come of it; this dreadful quarrel. She had spoken out her mind,

His heart was aching with her reproaches; but, generous ever, he excused her to himself as he walked along to the woods, It was asking too much of mortal woman he argued, anxious to make himself wretched, to tear her far away from home and friends, and all the comfortable delights of well-regulated New England life, and to expect her to be always glad, and buoyant, and brave, and hopeful, keeping his own soul up with the wine-like tonic of her the great forest; and the young wife was blithe spirits. No. It was the same old alone, as she had vehemently desired to beginning of the end, a mere question of be. Roland Hardy had gone forth to his time. Eventually she would become the in. different, matter-of-fact sort of woman that Most young and angry wives would have most wives appeared to be; regarding him burst into tears at this point. Jane Hare ... the lover -as a kind of mild, inevitable surprise, somewhat aroused his indignation. The story is one of those often enough Had it not been her free choice to enter on

binson Crusoe fushion; and in time, by dint it had ever been, a totally different thing of his hands' hard labor, become prosper- altogether; but he bore on perseveringly and untirinly, looking to the end in view, and making matters light for her sake.

Suppose-suppose-a flush dyed the young man's patient face as the thought occurred to him-suppose she refused to stay here, and went home to her friends.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Hardy stood on by the

at it with rose-colored spectacles, and Hurdy, her passion over, was chewing the love her any more; he could not, or he never would have said harsh things to her; and this was the end of it all !

"To call me Jane,' !" she exclaimed a loud, as if the word 'June" contained all forms of vituperation. "Nobody has been cruel enough to call me that in all my life!" -turning to the breakfast table with a bravely-conquered sob. For this young lady, who had been a pet at home, had never been called by her husband, or anybody else, by a harder name than Jenny.

Work is so good a thing ! Auerbach says it should have been the first commandment : "Thou shalt work !" Jenny was too unfamiliar with heart-torture to be conscious of how good her work was - but she could not but be aware, as the moring passed as way, that something was driving the clouds her all at once, she was sure She would gath. er up the remnant of his love, and guard and no rish it so tenderly that, like her poor Lamarque rost, it must still lift itself to the sun again, and sometime blossom into a little beauty of sweetness, and so make life endurable. She would, in so many noble and heroic ways, prove to him-but no: how could she do that ?-there was nothing noble or heroic to do, Women's lives-ordinary women's lives, like could hope to climb to the heights of his regard again. As for his old romantic love for her, his tender, chivalrous devotion, that could never come back; she wasn't worth it. And so accepting the dust of humila tion, and, like a genuine women, having no mercy on herself, she went through the household duties, thinking all the time how dear to her were husband and home, and

how she would strive to make herself endurable, please God, to them. It was a decidedly pleasant log cabin Log cabins are always pleasant when an apt enough of the world's lucre can be afford nevs built of sticks, are far more endurable ets, than in actual life, where they mean had vanished. The "spirit" has since been

A staunch roof; substantial walls, ornamental within; carpets, books, pictures, a rare clock, easy chairs: everything for comfort met the eye. The sice ing rooms above gave evidence of ingenious and taste ful powers brought to bear upon their building and furnishing. Charming expedients, graceful rustic ornamentations, pret ty and useful things that cost little, made the cabin seem very much of a cosy man sion in a small way. In the midst of an almost savage wilderness, Roland Hardy had crected his dwelling with a view rather to future exigencies than present needs; and he and his wife both possessed the gift of "making the most of things."

And it is surprising how deftly in these remote homes a woman, though she may have been gently born and reared, soons learns is accomplish the needful daily work. Where ther's a will there's a way ; and Jane Hardy had learned to take a pleasure

By noon to day the work was done, and the house was in the trimmest order. White loaves, just from the oven, were diffusing their fresh yeasty fragrance; the week's icooing hong warm and a potless across the clothes- erse. On the table smeked an exceedingly lonesome cup of tea; and over

Her thoughts were away in the snowy woodland with him, her husband; who was doubtless, about this time; eating prairiechicken and claminy bread-and butter. "He might build a fire, and give it a little roast on a stick," she pensively murmured; and then she felt how very glad she should be when night should come, and she could, in many furtive ways, confess to him how mantlepiece, horribly miserable-more very sorry she was, how deeply in need of his dear love.

It was nearly three o'clock when, mepically looking through the window in direction of the forest, she was surpristo see the dog, I avid, making for the bouse, in a wavering, uncertain way, as if be had half a mind to turn back to the busks of bitter repentance. He did not | woods. David bad more than once wearied of the monotony of wood-chopping, and come to the house an hour or two in advance of his mester; so there was nothing startling in his coming now. He scratched at the door in his usual obsequious fashion; darted to devour, when admitted, a morsel of bread and meat, but, quitting it instantaneous y, went and sat down before his mistress, with the air of having something to say, and began to whine.

(To be Continued)

#### A Pike County Ghost.

The lastest sensution in the neighborhood of Miltord, Pike County, Pennsylvania. Fitty-two years ago a man nam d yania. Fifty-two years ago a man nam.d for their courtesy. Many years ago, the John Goble was found lying in a pool of blood on the road leading from Milford to was sent to procure from Edward Everett out of her sky. Roland could not despise Dingman's Ferry. A large gash was the proof-sheets of a book which he had found in the side of his bead, and it was supposed that the old man had been murdered and robbed. He was buried immediately after the Coroner's inquest, and in a few years entirely forgotten. About three weeks ago the stage driver who carries the Philadelphia mail between Milford and the Deleware Water Gap. while passing the spot where Goble was murdered saw an object clothed in white start up from the ground and walk in the hers—had no heroic chances. She could road just in front of the horses. The drimly keep his begse in nice order, cook his ver arged his team on, but the "ghost still favorite dishes, watch over his shirt but- kept a little in advance. After trotting tons, forget the of days of ease when she his horses some distance, the driver stopped, was a listless young lady, and nover, never, and as he dismounted from the stage the never lose her temper again. It was all ghost sank into the ground and disappeared. dreadfully common place, and of no account; This was repeated two or three evenings. free will, and out of her deep love for him, and armed himself with a six-shooter. Since tance several times, but he has not shot at

it. The mail carrier's name is Seales, and party saw it at a short distance. They fired several shots at the object, and it disinpeared. A party of young ladies, accompanied by one gentleman, a day or two ago visited the place where the ghost is usually seen. About a bundred yards from the anot is an old deserted house, and one of the young ladies, who was more courahouse-keeper presides over them, and geous than the rest, started to walk around ty whether any time must cluspe before this old house in search of the "spook." ed to cover the walls with ta-teful paper, When about half way around the buildand the floor with comfortable carpets, ing she heard a group; and turning around, Those rude logs of which we read, with she saw, standing just behind her, an object their thatched roofs, clay floors, and chim- about six feet tall, clothed in white. She screamed and fainted, but before the reon canvas and in the rhymes of young pe- mainder of the party reached her the "ghost" simply rheumatism and insects. This seen twice, and on each occasion it was house was different; it was a specious, com- pursued, but it always vanished after fortable, well-furnished place; and only reaching a certain place in the woods. It called a log cabin after the custom of the is supposed by many that the ghost is a man, dressed up in a sheet to create a sensation. Others, who are more super stitious, believes it is the spirit of John Goble, searching for his murderer. What ever it is, it certainly succeeded in creating a decided sensation.

#### Perils of Housekeeping.

Have you paid the milk bill, The coal is out. The stove wants fixing.

My night-key is broken. That from door bell wire is loose and

he bell won't ring. Get some fresh meat. That cut hasn't had anything fresh for nearly two days, She won't eat cooked meat,

The poker is broken. Get some serew hooks for the cupboard. We must buy a new clothes line. The salt is out.

Mem .: Mark's last butter was bad Must buy somewhere else.

The leeman has "riz," and he leave dreadfally small pieces at that. Get some wire.

Ditto oxalic neid. Ditto bug powder.

Ditto a nutmeg grater. Ditto some nutmegs, Shall we buy a new parlor carpet? The

dd one's getting faded. Wan't a new tin stewpap. The teapot leaks,

Send for funiture man and find out how nuch he asks for re-covering the sofa.

Buy a new market basket. The old cat has four kittens, How nany shall we drown?

We suspect our hired girl of stealing the tea. That last half pound went very quick. Schnapps, the grocer, will persist in giving us coffee which has lost its flavor. Change him.

Somebody has stolen the ash-box again. Fifth in three weeks.

Get a paper of carpet tacks. Mrs. Doe borrowed our tack hammer mouth ago, and has never returned it.

Our canary bird is sick. Buy a ball of twine, Ditto six small screws.

Ditto a hatchet. The iceman forgot us to day, The coal meat and milk is spoiled.

The cat persists in carrying ber kittens ill over the house, and won't stay in the nursery soup box we fixed for her.

Get some naptha. The water pipe leaks again. Sead

Out of soap.

Out of matches.

She wants some worsted three shades d-rker than the last lot but one, and one shade lighter than the last lot,

POLITENESSIN GREAT MEN. - Politeness is always the mark of good breeding, and some of the greatest men have been noted been examining. The boy entered the vast library, lined from floor to ceiling with books, in fear and trembling. But Mr. Everett, turning from the desk where he was writing, received the boy with reassuring courtesy, bade him sit down, chatted kindly as he looked for the preof-

sheets, and asked: "Shall I put a paper around them for you?" as politely as if his visitor were the President. The boy departed in a very comfortable frame of mind. He had been raised in his own esterns by Mr. Everett's kindness, and has never forgotten the lesson it taught

### Wit and Humor.

Why is the owner of two fowls, who tills and cooks them for his dinner, like a man who pays as he goes? [Five minutes but she had embraced this lot of her own and the mail-carrier at last became alarmed for refreshments.] Because he makes both bens meet.

> 'There is nothing in settling down," said a retired merchant confidentially to his neighhe told his story in Milford, where it spread bor. "When I gave up business I settled like wildfire. Parties were organized to down and found I had a comfortable forsearch for the wandering spirit, and one tune. If I had settled up, I shouldn't have had a cent."

> > A clergyman of my acquaintance told me that he once visited a lady of his parish who had just lost her husband, in order to offer consolation, and upon her earnest inquiries as to the re-union of families in Heaven, he strongly esserted his belief in that fact, and when she asked with anxiefriends would be able to find each other in the next world, he emphatically said, "No. they will be united at once." He was thinking of the happiness of being able to ffer the relief of such faith, when she broke in upon such meditations by exclaiming sadiy, "Well, his first wife has got him then, by this time,"

"Yes," said a witness, "I remember the defendant's mother crying on the occasion refered to. She was weeping with her left eye-the only one she has-and the tears were running down her right cheek." "What," exclaimed the Judge, "how could that be?" "Please your honor," said the witness, "she was awfully cross eyed."

You must admit, doctor, said a witty ady to a celebrated doctor of divinity, with whom she was arguing the question of the "equality of the sexes,"-"you must namet that woman was created before man !" "Well, 'really, madam," said the asionished divine, "I must ask you to prove your case." "That can be easily done, sir. Wass theye the first main ?"

A little fellow of five going along the street with a dinner pail is stopped by a kind-hearted gentleman, w bo says: Where are you going, my little man?" "To school." And what de you do at school? Do you learn to read?" "No." "To write?" To count?" "No." "What do you do?' 'I wait for school to let out."

"Prisoner at the bar," said the judge to the man on trial for murder, "is there anything you wish to say before sentence is passed upon you?" "Judge," replied the prisoner solmemnly," "judge there has been sitegether too much said already. I know ail along somebody would get burt if these people didn't keep their mouths shut. It might as well be me, perhaps, as anybody else. Drive on judge, and give us as little centiment as you can get along on. I can stand banging, but I hate gush !"