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Poetry.

"THEY SAY."

"They say!" Ah! weli; suppose they do, But can they prove this story true? Suspicious may arise from naught But malice envy, want of thought; Why count yourself among the 'they.' Who whisper what they dare not say?

They say" but why the tale rchearse, And help to make the matter worse? No good can possibly accrue From telling what may be untrue; And is it not a nobler plan To speak of all; the best you can

They say!' well if it should be so, Why need you teal the tale of woe? Will it the bitter wrong redress, Or make the pang of sorrow less? Will it the erring one restore Henceforth to 'go and siu no more?

They say!' Oh! pause and look within. See how thy heart inclines to sin; Watch, lest in dark temptation's hour Thou, too, should sink beneath its power, Pity the frail; weep o'er their fall, But speak of good, or not all.

Natchex Democrat

THE BROKENENGAGEMENT. OR CIBCUMSTANCES ARE CAANGE. ABLE AND NOT HEARTS.

[From the Sunny South.]

'Mother, I am losing hope, I have worked and waited, and waited and of my labor. There is no justice in the present course of things. If I were a man, it would not be so. Men always find a door open for them; but women have to make the door and then fight every step of the way as they enter.'

'Why, Laura my child, what new cause is there for complaint, that you are so bitter this evening? Has the world changed since Arthur Mansfield went away, and asked you to wait until he had made his fortune?" said Mrs. Westbrook, as she turned and looked inquiringly at her daugh-

'Yes, mother, the world has chang-

it in its true light; and to see him as he is, I knew he was not rich, mother; and I made no complaint when shrined in old-time mysticism and he said he would go away and work until he could give me the place in society that I ought to have. I was not unhappy, because I trusted him; and I knew that he had ability to waited forever, if he had only been one of the 'literati," without having its durability.' true to me. But read this, mother, aimed at that distinction. In fact, she flung a letter in her mother's lap, classified by what she may have acas if the very sight of it was torture; then turned away with a defiant, resolute look, while her mother read:

"Dear Laura: 'I have just reached California, after almost a two months voyage. And in this two months, I have been thinking-soberly thinking. Two thousand miles are now between us. It may be a long time before I return with the fortune for which I came in search, It seems I deal in American and Italian almost cruel that I thought of binding you with a promise, to be kept perhaps for years, before I can return to you. Forgive me my darling if now I seem indeed cruel, for it is not without a pang that I write the

'Laura, I ought not fetter you, so I give you back your freedom, to do with it as you will. And if you can find another that you can give the place that I had hoped would be my own; do it: and God be with you. But when I succeed, as I will, sooner or later, I will return; and if I find you waiting, I shall lay my heart again at your feet.

'Yours

ARTHUR MANSFIELD. Mrs. Westbrook tolded the letter carefully, and looked at her daughter. 'Laura, my dear, I know you think this cruel. But after all, it may be best.'

I agree with you, mother, that it is best; for he never could have loved me, or ease ne would not have thought of giving me back my freedom. It would have been time enough when asked for it, The idea that he will presume to come back and offer me his heart again! He may keep it; and I will make my own way in the world, even if I do have to fight for me, or else he would not have thought

back now and see him make it for me. I will do it; and then we will see who has the fortune. But I shall never lay it, or my heart at his feet; trust me for that. I despise him and alman'ant.

Mrs. Westbrook smiled, for this daughter of hers, was not one with whom one could mingle tears; for if she shed them herself, she did it when no pitying eyes were near. Pity! she did not want that. She wanted to go out into world and defy itwrench from it an acknowledegment of her capability.

So her mother only said: 'Act as you please in this matter, my daughter; only be careful that yeu do nothing rashly.'

'I shall not be hasty, mother; but I have resolved, and shall live up to it. The future shall be to me ideas, not men. I believe there is but one thing worth living for in all the ly seek society for the thoughts I tongue?" find; these found, I can afford to let men drop.'

'Don't be cynical, my dear; worthy thoughts do not originate in vile hearts. Therefore, be careful that worked; and I do not se the fruits in casting humanity aside, you do not cast away the kernel from which true happiness will spring. Life is men, who did the sharpening?" only in sympathy, and union of heart and heart.

But Laura, though her cheeks had lost all their warm, rich color, shook her head, and curled her lip.

'After this, the brilliant society pet society, it was that of men and wos man who, as she said, could teach her something. She sought knowledge with a diligence that was feverish enthusiasm at first; but after awhile she felt that 'all was vanity.' There were ed; or rather I'm beginning to see few grand new ideas to be learned many that seemed so were traced back and back, until they were enmythology. Thoughts but revolved on wheels of time; and men were but the spokes that carried them.

> The years slipped away, and brought quired of knowledge.

Once, when she attended a select party, given by a friend tor the purpose of gathering together all the wise and learned of the city, she looked over the motley group of men and women, and remarked to the gentleman who stood near her.

'And we are the 'literati,' the wine and strength of the city of New York! How many of us do you suppose have had an original thought in our lives; we who profess to do the thinking for the people!'

"More than you imagine, perhaps. The world is so vast a ball, and the lenting she may appear--and she people circle so busily around it, that upon a man and saying he was born have judged you too severely.' She thought."

But Igo back a little, and you will than the woman. They do what she always find that the man whom the could never do with all her beauty turns it over and paints it anew, and overwhelms the beholder. then says to the credulous world: age hath wrought?"

call it God-given, if you will, but he

it stop by step, rather than to stand demn women for their want of reas, repassing throng. While he stood oning; you follow out your own way there not appearing to wish the of grinding and sitting your wheat attention of any one, many questions and you bring us only flour at last. But we women, what do we do? We our eyes-call it intuition if you will, then we only ask, from whence came, this is the age of wisdom!-- and to have quite the manner of therefore we infer that no man ever did.

'A truce! Miss Westbrooks. I not convinced.'

'That is even a greater concession knowing the character of my most noble enemy.'

'Thank you. It is sweeter to be called a noble enemy by some persons than a blessed companion by others. But why will you eyer consider men as your enemies? Is there nothing in them that would soften the word? world, that is, the grand interchange | Will you tell me why it is that we of thought. Henceforth, I shall on- always find the sharp edge of your

'People generally find the weapons they have whetted, sharper than those that they left to themselves. And it men find, at last, that it only takes about six thousand years of this same whetting, to give women an edge that will not bear pressing too closely, is there a better way to do than to ask

'Vauquished again my inconquerable! But I am a true Crusader, and never give up the hope of planting my feet upon holy ground. And there is first one thing that gives me a last hope,' as he spoke he drew her into a recess, that shielded them from isolated herself from social circles, the eyes of others, and this as being dressed plainly, and spent all hor a last resort, I venture upon doubttime in study. When she sought any fully. You must know that I have respected you for years; that I have looked upon you with more than common interest. I have often tried to tell you my whole heart, but you have just as often baffled me. But now I must and will, tell you that I love you; that I want you for my wife. Can I have my answer?"

'You can have it just as any other man would get it! I do not want to marry. I want nothing from men, excepting their respect; and that I claim as my right. A man can out had gone away from her so long before live his love and sympathy,-I do a moment all the old resentment not want them. He weighs them. and counts the loss in time or money. her much of knowledge of men and Take back your love and give it to rise in the world. I could have things. She was what people termed some woman, who will not question

'Keep it my queen? It is circumand you will see for yourself." And she had a decided aversion to being stances, not nearts, that are changeable, he raised her hand to his lips, are wise who do not have to be and was gone.

Laura Westbrook stood where he had left her, and a flood of memories rushed over her. It was not thus that she had answere I the man eight years before. Then her heart was young and fresh, and it bounded at the tone or caress of him, who had won it. She had told herself over and over again, that she hated him, the man who had once won her deep est love, and then been so cool and practical o thrust her freedom in her tace. But her heart was strangely softened tosnight:-love, no matter from whence it comes, always softens a woman, however cold and unremurmured scarcely above her breath: one hardly feels like laying his hand 'Oh! Arthur, perhaps, after all, I here. In fact, it is difficult to trace a leaned her head upon her arm, and man's birthplace by the likeness he this woman who had covered her bears to a past generation; and heart and dried her tears during all much more difficult to trace a these long years of self imposed isolation, and rankling bitterness, actu 'Perhaps it is difficult to trace a ally wept. A woman's tears somethought just in one set form of words. times wield a power more magical people think is the most original, is sweetness, and persuasion. And the always one who deals in old forgot- woman, who so rarely sheds tears ten lore, who takes what he finds and when she does weep, startles and

A man who had been near, yet Behold what the head of this thinking unobserved, because of pyramids of hot-house plants and shrubbery 'It may be that man has a germ of between, looked at her as she bowed thought to begin with-you may her head as if he would shield her from herself and all the world besides. still has the capacity and will, to en- Then he hesitated, What if she had large upon what he finds, to put a changed? He turned pale at the

were asked concerning him.

'Who is that gentleman?' inquired take the flour and examine it; we Mr Wilson of his friend the host. 'I know that it was made of wheat, mean that fine proportioned man because we accept the evidence of standing on the opposite side of the room; the one who seems too much absorbed in his own thoughts to care the wheat? We know that no man for any one clse just now. Who is he? now living can make one grain-and Is he a foreigner? He does not seem genuine born New Yorker.'

'Oh, that man! Why that is my cousin, Mansfield who is just from must claim to be vanquished, though | California; and is said to be one of the richest men of the State. He has been away from here eight than I would have expected, after years; and just returned a day or two ago. By the way, people used to say that that le had a kind of fancy for that brilliant and cynical Miss Westbrook. But, from what people say of her I doubt if his chances are not rather slim, now, She makes no effort to attract the opposite sex and seems really too cold-hearted and proud to love, or to be loved.'

At this instant Mr. Mansfield disappeared; and the conversation dropped. Why had he disappeared so suddenly? The truth was, he saw that this strange immobillity was attracting notice; and he was determined that the lady over whom he stood guard, should not be the object of obtrusive attentions. He began to feel a little restless at the awkwardness of his position; but just then Miss Westbrook got up and moved away to the further end of the conservatory.

Was it presumption? Perhaps it was; but he followed her. When he came to her, she was bending over and pretending to examine the petals of a rich exotic plant, Her eyes sparkled, and her cheeks were lighted with a peculiar softened, glow.

She was looking at this flower with the eye of connossicur, but it was evident that it was only with the eye that she examined it, for the thoughts all the others separately, and the seemed to be deeper. But as she held it in her hand, suddenly a hand reached out and clasped hers and a voice repeated, 'It is circumstances not hearts that are changeable.' With. a haughty start she looked up. Whose eyes were those bent on her. Could it be that this was the man who came back and her eyes flashed with wounded pride and defiance. At last she said. 'Excuse me sir! It appears to have taken you a long contradict you and tell you that hearts are changeable, and they told of It.'

Which means that you have no welcome for me that I may go back I came and not carry with me the woman whom I had hoped all along might still be true to me.

'Exactly. You are wiser than I thought! You gave me back my freedom did you not? What reason had you to hope that I would remember you after so many years?'

'Nothing only my own love which did not change. Shall I go?

'You may go.' He released her hand and walked slowly away. Miss Westbrook did did not bow her head and ween. this time she only stood still and thought. Ah! 'the thoughts of youth are long, long, thoughts.'

She looked straight ahead of her, away off into the future. She pulled the flower to pieces that she held in her hand and then she whispered to herself. 'Yes, I did love him' I do leve him. But I have sent him away from me forever.'

'It is cicumstances, not hearts that are changable, and you will not send me away from you now!' said Mr. Mansfield, who had returned unnoticed, and now imprisoned both hands and the woman too, And she did not.

A school inspector, in talking to the infant class, used the word 'abridgement,' and immediately explained that as some of them might not know the meaning of the word, he would say that it was a synonym of the word 'epitome.'

CONDUCT IN CASE OF FIRE.

The following directions for conduct in case of fire, are issued by the British Royal Society for the Protect tion of Life from Fire; and as they are equally applicable to fires in this country, we give them for the benefit of our readers:

Every householder should make each person in his house acquainted with the best means of escape, whether the fire breaks out at the top or at the bottom.

'Inm ites at the first alarm should endeavor ca'mly to reflect what means of escape there are in the house. If in bed at the time, wrap themselves in a blanket or bedside carpet; open neither windows nor doors more than necessary ; shut every door after them. This is most important to observo.]

In the midst of smoke it is comparatively clear toward the ground; consequently progress through smoke can be made on the hands and knees. A silk handkershief worsted stocking. or other flannel substance, wetted and drawn over the face, permits free breathing and excludes to a great extent the smoke from the lungs. A wet sponge is alike effica-

'In the event of being unable to escape either by the street door or the roof, the persons in danger should immediately make their way to the tront room window, taking care to close the door after them, and these who have charge of the household should ascertain that every individual is there assembled,

'Persons thus circumstanced are entreated not to precipitate theme selves from the window, while there remains the least possibility of assistance, and even in the last extrems ity a plain rope is invaluable, or recourse may be had to joining sheets or blankets together, fastening one end to the bedpest or other furniture. This will enable one person to lower last may let himself down with comparatively little risk. Select a window over the doorway rather than over the area.

'Do not give vent to the fire by breaking the house unnecessarily from without, or if an inmate by opening the doors or windows. Make a point of shutting every door after you as you go through the house. For this purpose doors encloss ing the staircase are very useful.

'Upon discovering yourself on fire, reflect that your greatest danger time to find this out. Suppose I arises from draft to flames and from their rising upward. Threw yours elf on the the flame-if possible on the rug or loose drugget, which drag underyou. The table cover, a man's coat, anything of the kind at hand, will serve your purpose. Scream for assistance. ring the bell, but do not run out of the room or remain in an upright po-

'Persons especially exposed to the risk of their dresses taking fire should adopt the precaution of having all linen and cotton washed in a solution of chloride of zinc, alum or tungstate of sods.'

AN INDIAN TRADITION.

Among the Seminole Indiana there is a singular tradition regarding the white man's origin and superiority. They say that when the Great Spirit made the earth, he also made three men, all of whom were of fair complexion; and that after making them he led them to the inargin of a small lake and bade them leap therein. One immediately obeyed, and came out of the water purer than before he bathed; the second did not leap until the water became slightly muddy, and when he bathed he came up copper-scolored; the third did not leap copper-scolored; is a singular tradition regarding the copper-colored; the third did not leap until the water became black with mud, and came out with its own color. Then the Great Spirit laid before them three packages of bark, and bade them choose, and out of pity for his misfortune of color, he gave the black man his first choice. He took hold of each of the packages and having felt them, choose the heav and having felt them, chose the heaviest; the copper colored one then chose the second heaviest, leaving the white man the lightest. When the packages were opened the first was found to contain spades, hoes. and all the implements of labor; the second enwrapped hunting, fishing and warlike apparature; the third gave the wnite man pens, ink and paper—the engines of the mind—the moral mental improvement—the social link of humanity—the foundation of the