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THE FRANKLIN TIMES.

VOL. XXIII. LOUISBURG, N. C., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1893. NUMBER 35.

TO PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS.

The Superintendent of Public Schools of Franklin county will be in Louisburg on the second Thursday of February, April, July, September, October and December, and remain for three days, if necessary, for the purpose of examining applicants to teach in the Public Schools of this county. I will also be in Louisburg on Saturday of each week, and all public days, to attend to any business connected with my office.

J. N. HARRIS, Supt.

Professional cards.

C. M. COOKE & SON,
ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW,
LOUISBURG, N. C.
Will practice in the courts of Nash, Franklin, Granville, Warren and Wake counties, also the Supreme Court of North Carolina and the U. S. Circuit and District Courts.

DR. J. E. MALONE,
Office two doors below Thomas & Aycocke's drug store, adjoining Dr. O. L. Ellis.

DR. W. H. NICHOLSON,
PRACTICING PHYSICIAN,
LOUISBURG, N. C.

E. W. TIMBERLAKE,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,
LOUISBURG, N. C.
Office on Nash street.

F. S. SPRUILL,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,
LOUISBURG, N. C.
Will attend the courts of Franklin, Vance, Granville, Warren and Wake counties, also the Supreme Court of North Carolina. Prompt attention given to collections, &c.

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W. P. WEBB, President.

NOTICE.

North Carolina, Franklin county. } In Superior Court.

Tom Connally vs. Julia Connally } Order of Publication.

The above defendant will take notice that a summons has been issued against her in the above cause returnable to the October term of the Superior Court of Franklin county, 1893, which has been returned endorsed by the Sheriff "not to be found in my county." That said defendant will appear at said term to answer or demur to the complaint which will be filed against her or the relief demanded will be granted.

B. B. MASSENBURG, C. S. C.

Sept. 13, 1893.

THE SCARLET LETTER.

By NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE.

"Yes, I am little Pearl!" repeated the child, continuing her antics.

"Thou art not my child! Thou art no Pearl of mine!" said the mother half playfully, for it was often the case that a sportive influence came over her in the midst of her deepest suffering. "Tell me, then, what art thou and who sent thee hither."

"Tell me, mother!" said the child seriously, coming up to Hester and pressing herself close to her knees. "Do thou tell me!"

"Thy Heavenly Father sent thee!" answered Hester Prynne.

But she said it with a hesitation that did not escape the acuteness of the child. Whether moved only by her ordinary freakishness or because an evil spirit prompted her, she put up her small forefinger and touched the scarlet letter.

"He did not send me!" cried she positively. "I have no Heavenly Father!"

"Hush, Pearl, hush! Thou must not talk so!" answered the mother, suppressing a groan. "He sent us all into this world. He sent even me, thy mother. Then, much more, thee! Or if not, thou strange and elfish child, whence didst thou come?"

"Tell me! Tell me!" repeated Pearl, no longer seriously, but laughing and capering about the floor. "It is thou that must tell me!"

But Hester could not resolve the query, being herself in a dismal labyrinth of doubt. She remembered—betwixt a smile and a shudder—the talk of the neighboring townspeople who, seeking vainly elsewhere for the child's paternity, and observing some of her odd attributes, had given out that poor little Pearl was a demon offspring.

* * * Hester Prynne went one day to the mansion of Governor Bellingham with a pair of gloves, which she had fringed and embroidered to his order, and which were to be worn on some great occasion of state, for, though the chances of a popular election had caused this former ruler to descend a step or two from the highest rank, he still held an honorable and influential station among the colonial magistracy.

Another and far more important reason than the delivery of a pair of embroidered gloves impelled Hester at this time to seek an interview with a personage of so much power and activity in the affairs of the settlement. It had reached her ears that there was a design on the part of some of the leading inhabitants cherishing the more rigid order of principles in religion and government to deprive her of her child.

On the supposition that Pearl, as already hinted, was of demon origin, these good people not unreasonably argued that a Christian interest in the mother's soul required them to remove such a stumbling block from her path. If the child, on the other hand, were really capable of moral and religious growth, and possessed the elements of ultimate salvation, then surely it would enjoy all the fairer prospect of those advantages by being transferred to wiser and better guardianship than Hester Prynne's. Among those who promoted the design Governor Bellingham was said to be one of the most busy. * * *

Full of concern, therefore, but so conscious of her own right that it seemed scarcely an unequal match between the public on the one side and a lonely woman, backed by the sympathies of nature, on the other, Hester Prynne set forth from her solitary cottage. Little Pearl, of course, was her companion. She was now of an age to run lightly along by her mother's side, and constantly in motion from morn till sunset could have accomplished a much longer journey than that before her. Often, nevertheless, more from caprice than necessity, she demanded to be taken up in arms; but was soon as imperious to be set down again, and frisked onward before Hester on the grassy pathway with many a harmless trip and tumble.

We have spoken of Pearl's rich and luxuriant beauty; a beauty that shone with deep and vivid tints; a bright complexion, eyes possessing intensity both of depth and glow, and hair already of a deep, glossy brown, and which in after years would be nearly akin to black. There was fire in her and throughout her; she seemed the unpremeditated offshoot of a passionate moment. Her mother, in contriving the child's garb, had allowed the gorgeous tendencies of her imagination their full play, arraying her in a crimson velvet tunic of a peculiar cut, abundantly embroidered with fantasies and flourishes of gold thread. So much strength of coloring, which must have given a wan and pallid aspect to cheeks of a fainter bloom, was admirably adapted to Pearl's beauty, and made her the very brightest little jet of flame that ever danced upon the earth.

But it was a remarkable attribute of this garb, and, indeed, of the child's whole appearance, that it irresistibly and inevitably reminded the beholder of the token which Hester Prynne was doomed to wear upon her bosom. It was the scarlet letter in another form; the scarlet letter endowed with life! The mother herself—as if the red ignominy were so deeply scorched into her brain that all her conceptions assumed its form—had carefully wrought out the similitude; lavishing many hours of morbid ingenuity to create an analogy between the object of her affection and the emblem of her guilt and torture. But in truth Pearl was the one as well as the other, and only in consequence of that identity had Hester contrived so perfectly to represent the scarlet letter in her appearance.

As the two wayfarers came within the precincts of the town the children of the Puritans looked up from their play, or what passed for play with those sober little urchins, and spake gravely one to another:

"Behold, verily, there is the woman of the scarlet letter; and of a truth, moreover, there is the likeness of the scarlet letter running along by her side. Come, therefore, and let us fling mud at them."

But Pearl, who was a dauntless child, after frowning, stamping her foot and shaking her little hand with a variety of threatening gestures, suddenly made a rush at the knot of her enemies and put them all to flight. She resembled, in her fierce pursuit of them, an infant pestilence—the scarlet fever or some such half fledged angel of judgment—whose mission was to punish the sins of the rising generation. She screamed and shouted, too, with a terrific volume of sound, which doubtless caused the hearts of the fugitives to quake within them. The victory accomplished, Pearl returned quietly to her mother and looked up smiling into her face.

Without further adventure they reached the dwelling of Governor Bellingham. This was a large wooden house, built in a fashion of which there are specimens still extant in the streets of our older towns; now moss grown, crumbling to decay, and melancholy at heart with the many sorrowful or joyful occurrences, remembered or forgotten, that have happened and passed away within their dusky chambers. Then, however, there was the freshness of the passing year on its exterior, and the cheerfulness, gleaming forth from the sunny windows, of a human habitation into which death had never entered. * * *

They approached the door, which was of an arched form and flanked on each side by a narrow tower or projection of the edifice, in both of which were latticed windows, with wooden shutters to close over them at need. Lifting the iron hammer that hung at the portal, Hester Prynne gave a summons, which was answered by one of the governor's lond servants, a free born Englishman, but now a seven years' slave. During that term he was to be the property of his master, and as much a commodity of bargain and sale as an ox, or joint stool. The serf wore the blue coat which was the customary garb of serving men of that period and long before in the old hereditary halls of England.

"Is the worshipful Governor Bellingham within?" inquired Hester.

"Yea, forsooth," replied the lond servant, staring with wide open eyes at the scarlet letter, which being a newcomer in the colony, [illegible]

"Tell his worship a [illegible] But he bade me [illegible] him, and his [illegible] see his worship now."

"Nevertheless, I will enter," answered Hester Prynne; and the lond servant, perhaps taking from the demeanor of the air and the glittering scarlet letter in her bosom that she was a person lately with land, offered no opposition.

So the mother and little Pearl were admitted into the hall of Governor Bellingham. Well might the Puritan [illegible] of his [illegible] climate and a different [illegible] life. Governor Bellingham, [illegible] his new [illegible] of gentlemen of fair estate in the [illegible] land. He, too, was a wealthy [illegible] sturdily built, oak hunting man with the whole air of the household [illegible] medium, general characteristic, [illegible] or less directly, with all the other apartments. * * *

At about the center of the oak [illegible] that lined the hall [illegible] of mail, not like the [illegible] ted relic—but of the [illegible] for it had been manufactured by a skillful armorer in Leyden the same year in which Governor Bellingham came over to New England. There was a steel head piece, a cuirass, a robust and generous [illegible] with a pair of gauntlets and a sword hanging beneath, all, and especially the helmet and breastplate, so highly burnished as to glow with white radiance and scatter an illumination everywhere about upon the floor. This bright panoply was not meant for mere idle show but had been worn by the governor on many a stern and martial training field, and had glittered, moreover, at the head of a regiment in the Pequod war. For though bred a lawyer and accustomed to speak of Bacon, Coke, Rogers and Finch as his professional associates, the exigencies of this new country had transformed Governor Bellingham into a soldier as well as a statesman and ruler.

Little Pearl, who was as greatly pleased with the glittering armor as she had been with the glittering frontispiece of the house, spent some time looking into the polished mirror of the breastplate.

"Mother," cried she, "I see you here. Look! Look!"

Hester looked, by way of humoring the child, and she saw that, owing to the peculiar effect of this convex mirror, the scarlet letter was represented in exaggerated and gigantic proportions, so as to be greatly the most prominent feature of her appearance. In truth, she seemed absolutely hidden behind it. Pearl pointed upward also, at a similar picture in the headpiece, smiling at her mother with the elfish intelligence that was so familiar an expression on her small physiognomy. That look of naughty merriment was likewise reflected in the mirror with so much breadth and intensity of effect that it made Hester Prynne feel as if it could not be the image of her own child, but of an imp who was seeking to mold itself into Pearl's shape.

"Come along, Pearl," said she, drawing her away. "Come and look into this fair garden. It may be we shall see flowers there, more beautiful even than we find in the woods."

Pearl accordingly ran to the bow window at the farther end of the hall and looked along the vista of a garden walk carpeted with closely shaven grass and bordered with some rude and immature attempt at shrubbery. But the proprietor appeared already to have relinquished as hopeless the effort to perpetuate on this side of the Atlantic, in a hard soil and amid the close struggle for subsistence, the native English taste for ornamental gardening. Cabbages grew in plain sight, and a pumpkin vine, rooted at some distance, had run across the intervening space and deposited one of its gigantic products directly beneath the hall window, as if to warn the governor that this great lump of vegetable gold was as rich an ornament as New England earth would offer him.

There were a few rosebushes, however, and a number of apple trees, probably the descendants of those planted by the Reverend Mr. Blackstone, the first settler of the peninsula, that half mythological personage who rides through our early annals seated on the back of a bull.

Pearl, seeing the rosebushes, began to cry for a red rose and would not be pacified.

"Hush, child, hush!" said her mother earnestly. "Do not cry, dear little Pearl! I hear voices in the garden. The governor is coming, and gentlemen along with him!"

In fact, adown the vista of the garden avenue a number of persons were seen approaching toward the house. * * *

CHAPTER VI.

THE ELF CHILD AND THE MINISTER.

Governor Bellingham, in a loose gown and long cap, such as [illegible] loved to endure the mishaps within their own domestic privacy—walked forth, and appeared to be showing off his estate and expatiating on its proposed improvements. The wild, circuitous paths of an elaborate walk in his grounds, in the antiquated fashion of King James's reign, seemed to lead not a little like that of daily life. Rapt in a character, the impressive man bore his aspect [illegible] and severe [illegible] bitten with more than accustomed care was hardly keeping with the applauses of a worldly entertainment, which it was evidently his intention to surround himself. * * *

Behind the governor and Mr. Wilson came two other [illegible] Arthur Dimmesdale, whom the reader may remember as having taken a leading and rather active part in the scene of Hester Prynne's disgrace, and in whose company was Roger Chillingworth, a physician, who for some time had been settled in the town. It was understood that the [illegible] the physician was with a view to [illegible] young minister, who [illegible] severely [illegible] of late [illegible] and [illegible] the task of [illegible].

The [illegible] visit [illegible] Hall [illegible] Hester Prynne, and the [illegible] perhaps taking from the demeanor of the air and the glittering scarlet letter in her bosom that she was an alien lady with land, offered no opposition.

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Pearl betwixt laughing. But the child, unaccustomed to the solitude of humanity of any but her mother, escaped through the open window and [illegible] the upper step, looking like a well plumaged bird of rich plumage [illegible] to take flight into the upper air. Mr. Wilson, [illegible] astonished at this outbreak, [illegible] a grandfatherly sort of [illegible] and usually a very favorite with children, essayed, however, to proceed with the examination.

"Pearl," said he with gentle dignity, "thou must take heed to mother lest she [illegible] that [illegible] in thy bosom the pearl of great price. Canst thou tell me who [illegible] there?"

"Now Pearl knew well enough who made her [illegible] Hester Prynne [illegible] talk with the child [illegible] Father, [illegible] truth, [illegible] such [illegible] years [illegible] examination [illegible] large [illegible] years [illegible] two weeks.

If one of them [illegible] Washington [illegible] day, as we [illegible] Congress [illegible] two weeks.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]