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LETTER FROM THE MOUNTAINS.

BY NEESE AND MAGGIE.

Will you be surprised to hear from me in a letter? If you are, I believe you will also be pleased. I am owing you both a letter, and you will give me long and kind replies? I find it so hard to realize that my former pets are grown young ladies, and that my former hearts are still as true as when they were first loved. I wish you were with me now, for the pleasant faces are so familiar, and the voices so sweet. When some changes so many things, what a blessing it is that we do not change hearts, and that there are some who do not change. This mountain life is beautiful in summer, but in winter I would infinitely prefer to be "down the country." Think of being housed up nine weeks by snow, the roads so steep and slippery that horseback riding could not even travel on horseback, and when you did, it was the peril of your life, and you would not go. But how these things are so fearfully and gracefully: you laugh at the idea of danger. Do girls, when to ride well, it is an accomplishment and a necessary one.

If only I had Miss Fisher's talent at describing scenery! I rarely see her descriptions of the mountain scenery in our own North Carolina, in the "Summer Idyl," and the "Land of the Sky," are among, if not the most perfect of the kind. I have never seen her. I have been much in the region, and I have seen her pictures are daguerotypes as vividly in my mind, as tho' I had seen them with my own eyes. How proud I am of her, as a Southern woman, still more as a North Carolina woman, and a resident in the place where her youth too was spent. There is not a shadow of the bombast and pedantry which so sadly mars the writings of some other talented, and even Southern ladies writers. A true Southern woman she is already famous.

A perfect woman nobly planned, to warn, to comfort, to command, with something of an angel's grace,—adding the smile upon her face.

Speaking of scenery, my descriptions are so plain, I am reminded of a letter I received not long since from a charming young lady, friend, and neighbor, who had just returned from being in various other places, during her sojourn of several weeks. She says, "I have so often made use of all the adjectives I know, expressing extent, magnitude and beauty, that to use them any more seems to me to be to use 'nothing.'" She remarks, "During my stay in North, it was only at West Point I saw any thing in the manners of the men that reminded me of all our Southern gentlemen. When we had occasion to speak to one of them, he had a way of attending to what we said, and to answer in the same manner. It may have been a rule of the Institution, but it may have been, I hope it was, the innate gentleness in the man. Whatever it was, it was pleasant and refreshing to a stranger, and I have not yet decided whether to remain in Virginia in the summer, or to return to the old North State. I have had some flattering compliments offered me to remain. But then I have seen some queer specimens of people originally from our State. 'Gentlemen' of whom, in spite of my Democratic ways, I could not feel very proud.

How much I could tell you of my journey, to and fro, if we could meet. One thing I can tell you, and that is, that I have seen a man who makes her mark for good or ill on all who see her, as being either a true lady, or a true upstart. Loud talking, being conspicuous in any way, is in bad taste, to say the least of it. I have seen a lady who has done this in every where else. Some lovely girls seem to be almost no other fault, but a constant and almost unconscious selfishness. It is not all their fault either, those of us who love them, who most desire to see them perfect without any fault in the end in every way. I think the little queen deems it as her due: from lovers, friends, and even that most loving, faithful and forbearing of all human hearts, the self-sacrificing mother. All dear ones: the day will come when my heart will ache with pain that time can never entirely heal, that you did not little to lighten her daily, hourly, burdens, borne so cheerfully, but yet bowing her sooner to old age and weakness.

But my paper and envelope are full. "Our Father's love" is the only thing I can say, and all. My love to you and make you blessings.

Your loving friend,

Write to me at Chatham Hill, Va.

THE COST OF A TRAIN.

At the time when the first open court of law was established in Russia, a lady dressed with the utmost elegance, was walking on the Moscow promenade, leaning upon her husband's arm, and letting the long train of her rich dress sweep the dust and dirt of the street.

A young officer, coming hastily from a side street, was so careless as to catch one of his spurs in the lady's train, and in an instant a great piece was torn out of the costly but frail material of the dress.

"I beg a thousand pardons, madame," said the officer, with a polite bow, and then was about passing on, when he was detained by the lady's husband.

"You have insulted my wife?"

"Nothing was further from my intention, sir. Your wife's long dress is to blame for the accident, which I sincerely regret, and I beg you once more to receive my apologies for any carelessness on my part." Thereupon he attempted to hasten on.

"You shall not escape so," said the lady, with her head thrown back in a spirited way. "To-day is the first time I have worn this dress, and it cost two hundred rubles, which you must make good."

"My dear madame, I beg you not to detain me. I am obliged to go on duty at once. As to the two hundred rubles—I really can not help the length of your dress, yet I beg your pardon for not having been more cautious."

"You shall not stir, sir. That you are obliged to go on duty is nothing to us. My wife is right; the dress must be made good."

The officer's face grew pale.

"You force me to break through the rules of the service, and I shall receive punishment."

"Pay the two hundred rubles and you are free."

The quickly changing color in the young man's face, betrayed how inwardly disturbed he was; but stepping close up to them both, he said, with apparent self-command:

"You will renounce your claim when I tell you that I am a—poor man, who has nothing to live on but his officer's pay, and the amount of that pay hardly reaches the sum of two hundred rubles in a whole year. I can, therefore, make no amends for the misfortune, except by again begging your pardon."

"Oh! anybody could say all that; but we'll see if it's true; we'll find out if you have nothing but your pay. I declare myself not satisfied with your excuses, and I demand my money," persisted the lady, in the hard voice of a thoroughly unfeeling woman.

"That is true—you are right," the husband added, dutifully supporting her. "By good luck we have the open court now just in session. Go with us before the Judge and he will decide the matter."

All further protestation on the officer's part that he was poor, that he was expected on duty, and so forth, did not help matters. Out of respect for his uniform, and to avoid an open scene, he had to go with them to the court room where the gallery was densely packed with a crowd of people.

After waiting some time, the lady had leave to make her complaint.

"What have you to answer to this complaint?" said the Judge, turning to the officer, who seemed embarrassed and half in despair.

"On the whole, very little. As the lateness of the hour, and being required on duty, compelled me to hurry, I did not notice the lady's train, which was dragging on the ground. I caught one of my spurs in it, and had the misfortune to tear the dress. Madame would not receive my excuses, but perhaps now she might find herself more disposed to forgiveness, when I again declare, so help me God, that I committed this awkward blunder without any mischievous intention, and I earnestly beg that she will pardon me."

A murmur ran through the gallery, evidently from the people taking sides with the defendant, and against long trains, in general and the lady in particular.

The Judge called to order, and asked:

"Are you satisfied with the defendant's explanation?"

"Not at all satisfied. I demand two hundred rubles in payment for my torn dress."

"Defendant, will you pay this sum?"

"I would have paid it long before this had I been in a position to do so. Unfortunately I am poor. My pay as an officer is all I have to live on."

"You hear, complainant, that the defendant is not able to pay the sum you demand of him. Do you still wish the complaint to stand?"

An unbroken stillness reigned throughout the hall, and the young officer's breath could be heard coming hard.

"I wish it to stand. The law shall give me my rights."

There ran through the rows of people a murmur of indignation that sounded like a rushing of water.

"Consider, complainant, the consequences of your demand. The defendant can be punished only through being deprived of his personal liberty, and by that you could obtain no satisfaction, while to the defendant it might prove the greatest injury to his rank and position as an officer, and especially as he is an officer who is poor and dependent upon his pay. Do

POLITICAL.

WASHINGTON I.

Gov. Stearns Testifying on the Use of Troops in Florida.

Still Deciphering Oregon Dispatches.

HOUSE COMMITTEES ON THE LITTLFIELD DEVELOPMENTS.

DISCUSSING THE SILVER BILL.

LOUISIANA FOR HAYES.

EIGHT BEATS SEVEN.

THE COMMISSION DECIDED THE CASE BY A STRICT PARTY VOTE.

Eight Propositions to Test the Sense of the Commission as to the Admissibility of Evidence, are Decided by the Same Vote.

THE SITUATION.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 16.

Gov. Stearns is testifying before Woods' committee, about the use and abuse of troops in Florida.

The committee on privileges and electors are still deciphering the Oregon dispatches.

The committee on privileges and powers have no session.

The House Louisiana committee are still on the Littlefield developments.

Nothing until half past four this afternoon can be known.

Louisiana Democrats here suspect that Weldon is Mrs. Pinkston in male attire.

SENATE.—Mr. Logan, of Illinois, moved to take up the senate bill for the issue of silver coin, and to make the silver dollars a legal tender, being the bill introduced by him in August last.

Mr. Morrill, of Vermont, opposed the motion on account of the absence of the chairman of the committee on finance, Mr. Sherman, and said there had also been a kind of understanding that the bill should not be considered until after the report of the silver commission should be made.

During the discussion, Mr. Boggs, a member of silver commission, said the report of that commission had been completed, and would have been submitted to the senate, had there not been a difficulty in having it printed. He hoped it would be printed and submitted to the senate in a few days.

After much discussion, Logan moved to make the bill the special order for Monday next at 1 o'clock, p. m. Agreed to without a division.

Honore, colored, secretary of the state of Louisiana, arrived yesterday, with certain papers, under a subpoena from the senate committee on privileges and elections. It is supposed that they are papers which the House Louisiana committee called for, and for refusing to deliver which, the returning board is in distress.

MIDNIGHT.

THE COMMISSION.

The commission by a vote of 8 to 7 decided that no evidence can be received in the Louisiana case, except the electoral certificates.

Numerous propositions were made to take various kinds of evidence, but all were rejected by a vote of 8 to 7.

Commissioner Payne moved to allow counsel one hour's time, but counsel declined, and the commission resumed its secret session, with a view of reaching the final decision to-night.

The following are the resolutions acted upon the commission:

Mr. Hoar submitted the following:

ORDERED, That the evidence be not received.

Mr. Abbott offered the following as a substitute:

Resolved, That evidence be received, to show that so much of the act of Louisiana, establishing the returning board for that State is unconstitutional, and the acts of the said returning board are void.

YEAS—Messrs. Abbott, Bayard, Clifford, Field, Hunter, Payne and Thurman—7.

NAYS—Messrs. Bradley, Edmunds, Frelinghuysen, Garfield, Hoar, Miller, Morton and Strong—8.

Mr. Abbott offered another substitute, as follows:

Resolved, That the evidence will be received, to show that the returning board of Louisiana, at the time of canvassing and compiling the vote of that State, at the last election in that State, was not legally constituted under the law, establishing it, in this: that it was composed of four persons of one political party, instead of five persons of different parties.

Rejected by the same vote.

Mr. Abbott then offered another substitute:

Resolved, That the commission will receive testimony on the subject of the alleged objection to the specification of counsel for the objectors to certificates 1 and 3.

Rejected by the same vote.

FLORIDA CASE.

Florida case, I say, "Take the Presidency and welcome." We seem to have on it such terms. The man who shall consent to receive that exalted office under such a decision and the members of the Commission who shall give that decision upon such principles will write themselves down in history as deeply disgraced that the hand of resurrection can never reach them to restore them again to the respect of mankind. And the party which accepts victory by such means will find its cup of fancied triumph contains only the bitterness and poison of ultimate ruin and eternal dishonor.

Sir, this crisis will always be distinguished by some extraordinary features. The first is unparalleled villainy of the conspiracy that brought the country into difficulty; the next is the sublime spirit of moderation, conservatism, and magnanimity by which a peaceable way was devised to get the country out of the difficulty; and I did trust that this spirit would be respected and further illustrated by the commission itself showing that it could meet this issue on the high patriotic basis of equity and impartiality. I trust that they will yet do it. I have not yet lost hope in the success which our good cause deserves; nor have I yet withdrawn all faith in the commissioners. Under the great responsibility which rests upon them and with the eyes of the world and of posterity looking at them, I shall not believe until it is done that they will finally decide this case upon the narrow and technical grounds upon which they seem as yet to be standing.

I hope the voice of this House to-day, especially pronouncing its non-concurrence in their judgment on the Florida case, may be heard and received by them as an earnest call to the Commission for the sake of liberty and country to rise to the grandeur of the occasion and decide the Presidency so that the conscience of the country and mankind will be satisfied with the decision. To do this they must look at everything which history will look at in making up its final verdict on this case and on the actors in this great crisis. Let them inquire into the facts. Let them search for truth as for hid treasure. Let them expose fraud, and annual every result founded on fraud. Thus only can they satisfy public opinion, preserve the good name of our institutions, and give genuine contentment to the country.

OPENING PARLIAMENT.

[By Cable to the N. Y. Herald.]

LONDON, Feb. 10.—This great world of London felt an unusual thrill of expectancy through its million hearted bosom last Thursday morning, the day set down for the opening of Parliament. When the sovereign of these realms delegates the task of opening Parliament to him of the woodsack, London waits without excitement for the papers to get out their extras containing "the Queen's Speech," and there is the end of it. But "the Queen will open Parliament in person"—that changes everything. The American feeling to see a famous personage is a feeling entirely different to the Englishman's desire to see the parade of royalty by their well-beloved Queen as the central figure. It calls up the stately traditions of centuries, and in the presence of the fact that a Queen and Empress is about to open the session something of the majestic pageants of olden times from Norman William through Plantagenets, Tudors, Stuarts and Hanoverians floats fascinatingly before the eyes of the Englishman, while the Englishwoman, be she peevish or sewing girl, delights her heart with a picture of the pomp of robes and coronets, silks, jewels and cloth of gold, over which the romance of the past things a mellowing splendor.

From early morning the people, old and young of both sexes, gathered in swarms, such as only London can turn out, in the vicinity of Westminster and Charing Cross and along the Mall in the Park, the route Her Majesty would take from Buckingham Palace to the House of Lords. Meantime the gorgeous Chamber of the Lords, warm and rich in color as it always is with the softened light pouring in through the stained glass windows, the groined and fretted roof, the sculptured barons of the Magna Charta frowning solemnly from their niches, the great frescoes of Machise, Horsely and Dyce at either end of the Chamber, was taking on new and more brilliant tones. By a quarter to one o'clock the chamber was filled, the peevish and their friends covering the benches until the floor of the house looking from the galleries resembled a parterre of the richest laced flowers that horticulturists ever gathered into a single bed, the ladies all being in full dress costumes. An hour before the ceremony for which all was waiting the diplomatic department was filled with Ambassadors in brilliant costumes, their breasts starred with decorations.

Among the early arrivals were Lord Houghton and the Duke of Westminster, in their peevish robes of scarlet, trimmed with ermine; Deputy Lord Great Chamberlain, Lord Aveland, gorgeous in velvet, embroidered with gold; the Duke of Richmond, Lord President of the Privy Council, in military uniform, as aide-de-camp of the Queen; the Duchess of Sutherland, in creamy white satin, elaborately trimmed with antique lace and miniver fur. But they came pouring in so fast and in a stream so brilliant that the eye could scarcely identify one celebrity or queenly beauty before another swept past. The latest to arrive was the Countess of Dudley, considered the handsomest peeress in Great Britain—a tall, stately and fair creature of some thirty summers, with auburn hair, delicate features and violet eyes. She wore a robe of violet velvet trimmed with Chantilly lace and

THE OLD KING.

An old gray king lived long ago; Slow beat his heart, bent was his form. He chose a maiden for his bride Fresh as a rose at morn.

A page moved in their palace halls, With golden hair, of blitheesome mein; He bore her trailing silken robes; He worshipped the fair queen.

And dost thou know this little song? So sweet, so sad, it is to hear, Both queen and page to death were doomed When life had grown—too dear!

HEINRICH HEINE.

The widow of Gen. Braxton Bragg filed an inventory of his estate a short time since in Galveston. It footed up \$1,000,000.

MOORESVILLE IREDELL COUNTY.

Mooreville is about equi-distance from Concord, Salisbury, Charlotte and Statesville, and about twenty miles to the northeast of these points. The country for miles around is a rich cotton country. Wheat and corn and other grains are raised in great abundance. The community is second to none in the State for intelligence and morality and there is no better farming done anywhere. It is not supposed that these people would sell their produce from twenty to twenty-five miles to market when such excellent facilities existed for establishing a thriving village at Mooreville. And a village has sprung up there, not a mushroom growth, but founded on a solid and lasting basis. There are about forty families there and as many dwelling houses. The citizens are substantial farmers from the adjacent country. There are five general stores and two grocery stores, besides steam cotton gins. Mooreville has already shipped this season over 1,000 bales of cotton. But the future of Mooreville is the fine classical school of Messrs. Lutzer and Fronts. It now numbers eighty-five scholars and the number is constantly increasing. This school is one of the chief causes of the prosperity of Mooreville. Building will begin lively in the spring. Acre lots are from \$100 to \$150 and lumber from \$90 to \$150 delivered.—Concord Sun.

In a thriving town in Michigan, a year or two ago, when the country was full of agents, and almost everybody was agent for something or other, a certain child of that town, being blessed by the advent of a baby-brother, was very inquisitive as to where the little stranger came from. On being informed that the doctor had brought him from a brown-study for a few moments, and then, with the intelligent look of one who had solved a very difficult matter, asked,—

"Baby, pa, is he the agent for them?"

OPINION OF A NORTH CAROLINA CONGRESSMAN ON THE SITUATION.

The Hon. W. M. Robbins, Representative of the Seventh Congressional District in speaking of the action of the Commission now in session and its rulings, says: "Florida is counted for Hayes. The Commission decided on technicalities purely, and never touched the merits, and by a party vote of 8 to 7. It is shameful. I have not myself entirely given up all hope. It is so steep to steal 19 votes. Most of our folks are of opinion they will brazen it out and put in Hayes. I will fully believe such grand villainy possible when it is ended.

An unknown philosopher says: 'Good-nature and contentment are far more valuable accomplishments than music and dancing; the young should cultivate them, as treasures to be enjoyed when age comes in.'

THE WIDOW OF GEN. BRAXTON BRAGG.

The widow of Gen. Braxton Bragg filed an inventory of his estate a short time since in Galveston. It footed up \$1,000,000.