THE OPEN DRAW-BRIDGE;
OR,
The Terrible Lesson of a Night.

BY BELL BLOSSOM.

'There's no use in talking about it any more, George!' said Lydia Hawken, her voice taking a strange pathos as she spoke. 'If you don't give up this encroaching habit of yours, I must give *you* up!'

George Levison stood silent a moment. He was a tall, handsome fellow, with laughing hazel eyes, a luxurious brown beard and a forehead bronzed by frequent exposure to sun and air.

But as Lydia spoke, an ominous shadow passed over his face.

'You are very ready to give me up!' he said, in a tone of pique.

'George!'

'I thought you loved me!'

'So I did—so I do! Oh, George, how can you speak so? But—I may as well tell you all—my father will never allow me to marry a habitual drinker.'

'That's all nonsense, Lydia.'

'No, it is not nonsense. Just stop and think, George. Where is all this leading you to? What is to be the end of it?'

She laid her hand pleadingly on the young man's arm as she spoke.

But he drew it coldly away; evidently he was in no humor for counsel or advice.

'Of course,' said he, 'if you want to be released from your troth—,

'Have I said so, George?'

'Not in so many words, but it amounts to the same thing. And I am not a man to hold any woman to her promise against her will.'

And so George Levison walked coolly off.

Lydia Hawkes stood still, looking after him, a mist of tears before her eyes, a tumultuous throbbing at her heart.

'What shall I do?' she asked herself—'oh what shall I do?'

'Well, child,' old Mr. Hawkes asked his daughter, when, an hour or so later, she came slowly up to the back door, garlanded with hop-vines and ivy, where the old gentleman sat smoking his evening pipe, 'what did he say?'

'He wouldn't yield, papa.'

Hawkes looked pityingly at his daughter.

'My darling!' said he, 'its hard on you, isn't it? But don't give up. If a man loves liquor better that he loves his promised wife—'

A slight spasm swept across Lydia's fair face.

'Don't papa!' she cried out quickly, as if smething had stung her, and then she went into the house.

Meanwhile, George Levison, walking with his hands behind his back, strode along the road, his eyes fixed on the grass and pebbles under foot, his brow contracted into a frown.

'By Jove!' he muttered to himself, 'it's getting a little two much. No man likes to be treated as if he were a child in leading-strings; and I for one won't stand it! Why, if I were a confirmed drunkard, she could'nt treat me worse.'

'Hello, Levison!' called out a loud cherry voice as he passed a knot of little houses, just out of the village, arn't you going to stop and take a social glass to-night? The fellows are all here.'

'Not to-night,' said Levison, absently.

The man laughed and shrugged his shoulders.

'I thought so,' said he.

'Thought what?'

'That you would back down to-night. Miss Hawkes has been reading you a Caudle lecture in advance, has she?'

Levison turned abruptly around.

'No woman does that to me!' said he. 'No, I've no objection to just one glass. But I haven't a great deal of time to spare to-night. Graves goes off the draw at seven, and it's a little past six already.'

'Oh there's time enough and plenty!' said the man with cherry voice; 'and they will all be glad to see you at the Half-Way House.'

So, George Levison, unstable as water, weak as the drifting sand, allowed himself with Lydia Hawkes' plaintive warning yet ringing in his ears, to be lured into the open door of the little tavern, which stood always ready, like a mammoth spider-web, to entrap the weak and unwary. And it was on the stroke of seven as he issued forth again, with not a very steady step and gait, toward the railroad draw-bridge, where he kept watch and ward from seven at night until seven in the morning.

Herman Graves, the other employee, stood in the door as he advanced.

'Late again!' said he, impatiently. 'Now, Levison, look here—'

'It shan't happen again—I give you my word it shan't!' said Levison, a little huskily. 'I was unavoidably detained to-night.'

Graves glanced sharply at him.

'Have you been drinking?' he demanded.

'Drinking? No!' briefly retorted Levison. 'Do they pay you anything extry for asking questions, eh? Come clear out!'

He laughed good-humoredly as he took the other by the shoulders and turned him out in the purple dusk of night.

'We're going to have a shower, I guess,' added he, looking out upon the lurid clouds which were piled up in the west. 'Well, it will cool the air.'

He lighted the lamp, and sat down to his newspaper, glancing first up at the clock, directly opposite.

Only seven! The boat for which it was his business to open the draw would not be along for some ten minutes yet. Plenty of time!

But George Levison had drank more than he was accustomed to, and the printed lines of the paper swam before his uncertain eyesight, as he tried to fix his attention on them.

'Pshaw! how poor the light is!'

And then throwing down the paper, sank into a sort of stupor, from which he was only aroused by voices shouting at him; and by some dim effort of comprehension he began to understand that the boat was coming down the river, a brilliant mass of moving lights!

How he contrived to open the bridge he never knew; but he did. And standing by, he watched the majestic craft glide through—a thing of life and beauty, all instinct with the freight of humanity that she bore. They shouted something at him from the pilot house—he did not what.

'Aye, aye!' he called out. 'All right!'

And then he reeled back again into the drawhouse.

'Just five minutes,' he said to himself. 'There is a drop of brandy there somewhere. And all the strength is going out of me somehow. Just for a minute, and then I'll come back and draw the bridge around all right.'

He felt vaguely in the table-drawer and on the shelves; but flat flask was not there.

'Confound it,' he muttered, 'I thought—I thought—'

And then he sank heavily down into a chair, his face on his folded arms, while a fatal drowsiness crept over him like the poppied draught of Lethe.

'The express train is'nt due until nearly nine,' he thought. 'There's time—oh there's plenty of time!'

* * * * * * *

Morning! The flush of rosy gold along the east—the birds singing in the thickets that skirted the river—and George Levison started from his drunken doze, with a vague sensation that something was wrong. Morning! and the draw-bridge that he was to have closed at eight!

It came on him like a blow.

He dare not look out of the window, lest in the valley below he should see the shattered cars, the bloody debris of human life!

He dropped his head on his hands with a shuddering groan. Murder, a thou-and fold, and all through him!

'George.'

The rustle of a woman's dress—the soft fragrance of violets that Lydia Hawkes always carried about with her—and he felt the gentle warm touch of her hand on his wrist.

'The—the drawbridge!' he gasped, wildly staring in her face.

'It's all right, George,' she said softly, 'Don't be afraid. Father attended to it while you were asleep.'

'How came he here?' he asked, his face still pale as marble.

'Mr. Graves came down to our house. He told father he thought you had been drinking. He said you weren't fit to leave alone, so we came down—father and I—and we had just time to close the draw before the train came thundering down. Oh, George, if we had been ten minutes later—'

Her voice died away in a choking sob.

'Lydia' said George, speaking in short, disconnected jerks, 'you are my guardian angel! Will you forgive me, dear? And please God, I'll never touch another drop of drink so long as I live?'

And he kept his word—the terrible lesson was not thrown away.

Caldwell Superior Court.

Court adjourned Friday evening both State and Civil dockets being pretty well cleared by that time. A member of the Lenoir bar informs us that more business has been transacted during the term of the court than at any previous term since the war. It is the policy of Judge McCoy, wherever practicable, to bring the litigating parties together and attempt to compromise their causes in a manner satisfactory to both parties. It was the success of such a policy which has cleared the Civil dockets of old and complicated cases which had been pending for years, involving the litigants in great expense, and causing numerous family feuds. One distressing feature of the court was the operation of the new law allowing criminals to testif in their own behalf. In consequence of the license which this law gives to thieves and villians of all kinds to perjure themselves, the able Solicitor of this district finds it very difficult to convict even those whose guilt is almost undobted. Blackstone in his able commentaries on law lays down the principle that when ever legislators pass laws in conflict with the leading principles of the old common law whose wisdom has been established by the experience of ages it invariably happens that the evil intended to be remedied is more than counterbalanced by some unexpected wrong which the change in the law permits. This principle is fully illustrated in the workings of the new law of evidence which while giving the accused an opportunity to throw light upon points that might otherwise be only matter of conjecture offers a premium on perjury and allows so many of the guilty to escape unpunished as to render it a curse to society. We hope to see it repealed.—Lenoir *Topic.*

A Revolutianary Giant.

Peter Francisco, a giant of the Revolution who dealt destruction with a sword five feet long, is thus described by acorrespondent of a Virginia journal:

My father, recently deceased at the advanced age of 90, well remembered him, having frequently seen him in his native county place of Rockingham, and relates many anecdotes of his stirring and perilous adventures and hair-breadth escapes as he heard the recital fall from the lips of the giant himself.

He described him as six feet one inch in height, his weight 290 pounds, his complexion dark and swarthy, features bold and manly, and his hands and fee uncommonly large, his thumb being as large as an ordinary man's wrist.

Such was his personal strength that he could easily shoulder a cannon weighing 1,100 pounds, and had seen him hold a man in his right hand, pass over the floor and dance his head against the ceiling with as much ease as if he had been a doll-baby. The man's weight was 194 pounds.

Possessing the patriotic enthusiasm of the times, he entered the American Revolutionary army at the age of 16.

He was present at the storming of Stony Point, and was the first soldier, after Maj. Gibbon, who entered the fortress, on which occasion he received a bayonet wound in the thigh.

He was at Brandywine, Monmouth and other battles at the North, and was transferred to the South under Gen. Green, where he was engaged in the actions of the Cowpens, Camden, Guilford Court House, etc.

He was so brave and possessed such confidence in his prowess that he was positively fearless. He used a sword with a blade five feet long, which he could wield as though it were a feather, and every swordsman who came within reach of him paid the forfeit of his life.

PEARSON.

A MONUMENT TO HIS MEMORY.

From the News & Observer.

At Oakwood yesterday the monument to the late distinguished Chief Justice Richmond M. Pearson was unveiled in the presence of a distinguished audience. The monument which rears its shapely form is the result of the efforts of the "Pearson Memorial Association," to manifest their esteem for their teacher and pay a tribute to his greatness and ability. The association was formed in 1879 by students of the late Chief Justice, resident in Raleigh. The following were the officers: President, Hon. W. P. Bynum; Secretary, R. T. Gray, Esq.; Treasurer, A. W. Haywood, Esq. Subsequently Judge Bynum resigned, and Col. Thomas C. Fuller was elected president. The cost of the monument was $2,800, and this sum was raised by the association among its members, aided by other lawyers.

Of the thirty-eight young men who have betaken themselves to the law, a number will, as usual, drop out; but they will find their legal studies no detriment, no matter what business pursuits they may hereafter engage in. The study of the ground work of the law ought to be a part of liberal education, and it will benefit all who may devote a year or two to it, in imparting a clearer idea of the rights and duties of citizenship, and its burdens and obligations. Every young man ought to make himself familiar with the principles of government, and ascertion for himself the general distinction between legal right and legal wrong, and the fundamental government of the institutions of his country.—*News & Observer.*

A Lawyer Goes to Jail.

WESTMINISTER, MD., June 6.—A little scene transpired in the circuit court to-day which has caused great excitement in the village. While ex-Judge William P. Maulsby, one of the oldest and most highly respected lawyers at the bar of Maryland, was cross-examining a witness in court Judge Hayden took exceptions to the manner of cross-examination, and made an order of court in the premises which Mr. Maulsby disregarded. Thereupon Judge Hayden imposed a fine of $10 on Mr. Maulsby for contempt of court, and to stand committed until paid. Maulsby refused to pay, and was taken to jail.

Drunkeness turns a man out of himself and leaves a beast in his room.

Alonzo wants to know 'if it hurts a man to be called a liar.' No, Alonzo, no. It is more apt to hurt the other man.—*Hawkeye.*

A prominent writer of rhetoric says: "A new word learned and correctly used is an acquirement to be proud of." The usufruct of his biaplasm lies in the differentiation thereof.

A man passing a Jamaica grave yard, seeing the sexton digging a grave, inquired: 'Who's dead?' Sexton—'Roscoe Conkling.' Man—'What complaint?' Sexton (without looking up)—'No complant; everybody satisfied.'—*Hartford Times.*

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A. B. ANDREWS, Presd't.

June 2d, 1881. 34:4t

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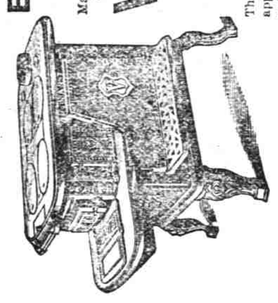

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Date, May 15, 1880.	No. 47, Daily.	No. 45, Daily.	No. 6, Daily ex. Sunday.
Leave Charlotte	3 50 a.m	4 10 p.m.	.....
" Salisbury	6 43 "	5 54 "	.....
" Selma Point	7 31 "	7 07 "	.....
Arrive at Greensboro	8 10 "	7 37 "	.....
Leave Greensboro	8 20 "	.....	9 00 p m
Arrive at Gulsboro	10 28 "	.....	11 22 "
" Durham	11 02 "	.....	11 47 a m
" Raleigh	12 20 p m	.....	3 00 "
Leave "	3 30 "	6 00 a.m	.....
Arrive at Goldsboro	6 00 "	10 00 "	.....

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TRAINS GOING WEST.

Date, May 15, 1880.	No. 48 Daily.	No. 46, Daily.	No 5, Daily ex. Sunday
Leave Greensboro	10 10 a.m.	6 34 a.m.	.....
Arrive at Raleigh	12 25 p.m.	10 45 "	.....
Leave "	3 40 "	.....	7 00 a m.
Arrive at Durham	4 52 "	.....	9 19 "
" Hillsboro	5 20	.....	11 07
" Greensboro	7 50	.....	2 45 p. m.
Leave "	8 20	6 56 a.m	.....
Arrive High Point	8 55	7 30 "	.....
" Salisbury	10 16	9 15	.....
" Charlotte	12 27 p.m	11 17	.....

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SALE OF LAND!

The undersigned, having been appointed by the Superior Court of Rowan county, Commissioner to sell the land owned by J. C. Looper, G. R. Looper, and Rachel Pou, as tenants in common, will, on the 20th day of May, 1881, —it being the 1st day of Rowan Superior Court—offer at public sale at the Court House in Salisbury, the following described tract of land, to wit: Seventy acres, more or less, lying on the waters of Coddle Creek, adjoining the lands of James Woodside and others.

Terms, one third cash, one-third in six months, and one third in twelve months from day of sale. A. MURPHY, Commissioner.

April 25, 1881. 28:4m.