THE WILSON ADVANCE.

Wilson, Friday September 15, 1882

LITERARY SELECTIONS.

THE CHOICE.

"Which shall it be, dear mother?
To which home shall I go?
The grand old castle beside the sea,
Or the little brown cot below?

"Which shall it be, dear mother?
A plain white muslin gown,
Or the richest and rarest lace and silk
To be found in Inskeytown?

"Which shall it be, dear mother?
A tiny plain gold ring,
Or wealth of gold and diamonds rare
That would ransom a captive king?"

My child, your heart must answer
The question your lips have asked.
Lest sowing in pride you sorrow,
When the harvest is overpast.

Choose with your heart, my darling;
Let pride be swept away;
Flowers are fairer than jewels.
Gather them while you may.

Often glittering diamonds
Conceal but an aching brow
And the chill hearts's bitter throbbings,
Bear record of falsehood's vow.

Truth is the brightest jewel
That womanhood can wear;
Never a silken robe can cure
A heart grown sick with care.

This world is not all sunshine,
There's many a stormy day,
And love is the sweetest shelter,
When clouds obscure the way.

So choose from your heart, my daughter
Remember this life of ours
Must have some thorns and briars
Among its fairest flowers.

But thorns, and tears, and dark news
Matter not so love is true;
While you climb keep step together,
With the higher life in view.

MABEL'S REVENGE.

"WILL," said 'Squire Dermony to his eldest son, one morning, as they were seated at the breakfast table, "some one has been in that orchard again and broken the limbs of three of my choicest Bartletts, and I want it stopped."

The 'Squire spoke very decidedly as he glanced at the Dermody heir, a handsome young man of twenty-two; for the 'Squire was very angry at this moment, because of the depredations of some unknown young miscreant among the fruit which he valued so highly.

"I've done my best, father," replied the son, "to catch them at it, but I can never find any one near the orchard. It's a mystery to me where they come from, unless it's Jim himself who does the stealing."

Jim was the hired man living in a tenement house on the place; but the 'Squire did not think he would have the termerity to steal his fruit and damage his pet trees, for he had more than once known to his sorrow what it was to offend his employer. So he gave an impatient sniff, and bade his son keep his eyes open and catch the real offender, adding that if he caught him he was going to give him a severe flogging.

"It's some of those young miscreants from town that are shooting all my squirrels, and they deserve to be hanged," said he.

Late in the afternoon of this same day, as the heir was walking near the orchard, oblivions of every thing but the beauty of the distant landscape, his attention was suddenly arrested by a crackling of the limbs near the edge of the orchard, and with a single bound he was over the fence, and directly under the tree whence the sound came.

Looking up into the branches he discovered what caused him to hesitate with surprise, and, perhaps, another sentiment. A young girl of about seventeen, black-haired, black eyes sparkling with the excitement of mischief and fear combined, sat on a large limb of the tree, grasping a smaller limb above her head, and evidently enjoying the 'Squire's choice fruit to the best of her ability. She was barefooted and bare-headed, and looked a veritable little gypsy.

But Will had been told by his father that the thief was to be summarily dealt with, and such blind obedience had the father exacted of his son that he never once thought there was any extenuating circumstances which would excuse him. The 'Squire's word to his son was his law, and sooner than disobey him he would have undergone any frightful ordeal. So, choking down the sentiment the bewitching picture had momentarily aroused in his heart, he ordered the offender to descend.

Still defiant the picturesque orchard robber slid deftly down from her perch, when her captor seized her firmly by the arm.

"My father said I was to flog a thief," said he.

"I'm not a thief, and you dare not flog me!" And the pretty face flushed with anger.

"But I caught you in the act of stealing my father's fruit, and I must punish you. What's your name, and what made you break the limb of those pear trees?"

A glance of scorn was her only reply.

"Will you answer me or not?" he continued; and then, angered by her persistent silence and looks of defiance, aided by the recollection of parental edumands, he struck her a slight blow across the shoulders.

The graceful form quivered as the switch fell; but it was with pride, not pain, since the stroke could not have hurt a fly. The black eyes flashed lightning as she wrested herself from his grrsp.

"I hate you, you mean coward" she gasped. "I'll make you repent that, as sure as you live!" And as she ran sobbing out into the road, Will felt that her prophecy had been fulfilled with the uttering.

* * * * * *

A year passed. Our young avenger of his father's stolen fruit had joined a party, one bright October morning, for a hunting expedition. They had gone to Cat Island, a large swampy island situated near the head of Hemlock Lake, which bordered the Dermody estate.

Now the day's sport was done, and they were returning home. As they neared the center of the treacherous little body of water a sudden squall arose, and, striking the sail with full force, before they had time to shift it, their boat was upset.

Two of the young men were fortunate enough to grasp the gunwale of the boat, where they clung, but the remaining three, being separated from it by the force of fall, and excellent swimmers, struck boldly for the shore, a distance of half a mile.

One, two, forms emerged from the waters of the lake and stood in safety on its shore, watching the form of the third, who seemed to be suffering from some injury received by the upsetting of the boat, and making but slow progress, being still over a quarter of a mile away. Suddenly a cry of horror broke from their lips as they saw Will throw up his hands and go down. Stripping off part of their clothing that their actions might be less impeded, they plunged again into the waters of the lake and struck out in the direction of their drowning companion.

At this moment a young girl, a wild-faced, gypsy-like maiden, rushed from a fisherman's hut near the beach, and, without any ado, plunged into the water, and commenced the race with her two male rivals for the rescue of the drowning man. Her life had been spent on the water and in its bosom, and she soon proved herself more than a match for her competitors.

She reached the spot where the young man went down just in time to see a tuft of hair floating on the surface. Seizing this firmly in her left hand, she supported the senseless body by almost superhuman exertions in one so young until the arrival of the tardy swimmers, and together they bore the drowning man ashore.

* * * * * *

Will Dermody was lying in a weak condition in his bed, recovering from a severe fever which had resulted from a recent mishap; for it was not without the greatest exertion on the part of the physicians that he was restored to consciousness and life.

His mother stood by his bedside and had just finished telling him the particulars of his rescue.

"It was Mabel Wheclock, a fisherman's daughter, who rescued you at the risk of her life; and, thinking you might wish to thank her," said Mrs. Dermody with a smile, "I have sent for her to come to the house, and she is waiting in the sitting room at this moment!"

"Oh, mother, pray do not keep me a moment from thanking this angel of the wave for saving my worthless life, for—

He stopped in surprise as the door opened and he beheld the bright gypsy face and graceful form of the girl who stole the 'Squire's fruit.

"Mabel, Mabel! Can you ever forgive me!" he began, flushing with the recollection and repentance of the episode in the orchard. As his mother stole from the room the young girl came quickly to his side, and, with a face from which all the wildness and defiance had fled, placed a soft, brown hand over his pale lips, and asked him if she did not promise to make him repent the blow he struck her.

Will kissed the little hand and retained it in his own, and glanced again with deep admiration at the pretty face of Mabel; but this time he had no command from the 'Squire which forbide the admiration.

Of course, after this, his recovery was very rapid; and a few days thereafter he might have been seen with a beautiful gypsy-faced girl wandering through his father's orchard; for he had gone to hunt for her, and demand her assistance in despoiling that choleric old gentleman of his fruit.

The 'Squire must have acquired a more forgiving disposition since we first met him, as the look which he cast on them was decidedly one of approval.

As time went on, Will and Mabel being so constantly together, dispite their different social status, discovered that thay were in love, and so very naturally he asked her to become his wife, to which she responded by a kiss and a small word of three letters; and the Dermody mansion had for its mistress in after years a beautiful young woman who had first been caught in the act of plundering its orchard.

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Dec. 9tf.

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Broiled Beefsteak	25	Half Order of Broiled Steak	25
Fry of Porksteak	25	Half Fry of Ham and Eggs	15
Fry of Ham and Eggs	25	Half Fry of Oysters	15
Fry of Oysters	25	Half Fry of Sausage	15
Fry of Sausage	25	Half Fry of Sausage and Hominy	15
Fry of Sausage and Hominy	25	Half Fry of Fish	15
Fry of Fish	25	Half Fry of Veal Chops	15
Fry of Neal Chops	25	Half Order of Broiled Mutton Chops	15
Fry of Mutton Chops	25	Half Fry of Liver	15
Fry of Liver	25	Half Fry of Tripe	15
Fry of Tripe	25	Half Stew of Oysters	15
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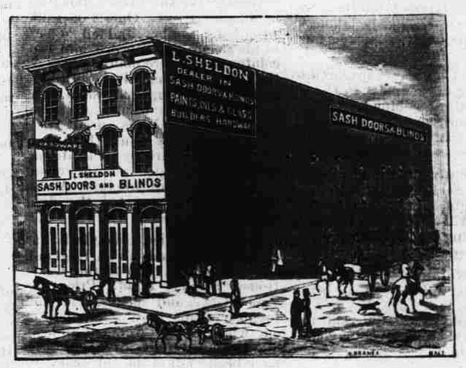

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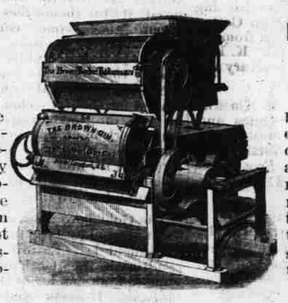

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