THE ROANOKE NEWS.

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THE ROANOKE NEWS.

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THE ROANOKE NEWS

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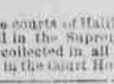

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Practices in the county of Halifax and adjoining counties, and in the Supreme court of the State. 16 1y.

IN THE BOTTOM DRAWER.

There are whips and steeds and pieces of strings
There are shoes which no little feet wear,
There are bits of ribbon and broken rings,
And tresses of golden hair.
There are little dresses folded away
Out of the light of the sunny day.

There are dainty jackets that never are worn,
There are toys and models of ships
There are books and pictures all faded and torn,
And marked by the touch of lips
Of dimpled hands that have ceased to rend,
Yet I strive to think that the best is best.

But a feeling of bitterness will rise and
Rebellious, when I try to pray,
That the reaper has shared so many flowers
And taken mine away.
And I almost wish if the Lord can know
That a mother's heart can love them so,

Then I think of the many weary ones
Who are waiting and watching to light
For the slow return of fainting feet
That have strayed from the paths of right
Who have darkened their lives by sin, and for
Whom the stones of the temple have gaiter
cut in.

They wander far in distant climes,
They perish by fire and flood,
And their hands are black with the direst crimes
That invite the wrath of God.
Yet a mother's long has sought them to rest,
She hath lifted them to shelter upon her
breast.

And then I think of my sleeping boys
My babes that never grew old,
And know they are waiting and watching for me
In the city with the streets of gold.
Safe, safe from the cares of the weary years,
From sorrow, and sin and war,
And I thank my God with fainting fears,
For the things in the bottom drawer.

WHY I DIDN'T MARRY.

You see I was nineteen years old before I thought of such a thing as marrying. I was too bashful by half. I never used to kiss a girl at huskings or quilting frolics without feeling as if some one was pouring hot water down my back; and once, when a neighbor's daughter stayed at our house till nine in the evening (I believe she did it on purpose, too) and my father insisted that I should go home with her, I went out into the barn and cried an hour before I could make up my mind to go in and ask her the actual question.

The girls used to laugh at me sometimes, but after all they seemed very willing to help me along; and so, when my nineteenth birthday came, I looked it over in the glass, and says I:

'Josiah, it's no use; you're darned good-looking, and you might have any girl you wanted. You ought to go courting. Suppose you begin to-night?'

From that moment the idea got into my head and there it stayed.

I dressed up and went to church, just as I always did, but I couldn't attend to the minister, nor the sermon. I sat mighty uneasy, and father watched me out of the corner of his eye, though he never said a word. He knew plagny well what I was thinking of, for had been there himself!

Deacon Billings' pew was right in front of ours, and he had just the prettiest girl for a daughter that ever wore a bonnet. I watched her all the time that day, and concluded I liked the way she managed things pretty well. So, after supper, thinks I:

'I'll go over to the old deacon's and see how they're getting along.'

Father saw me sprucing up, but he didn't say anything, only gave me a wonderful cunning look.

When I got to the deacon's, they were all out in the kitchen but Rachel, and she was in the square room, and so after I had talked a spell with the old lady, she asked me in there and left me an hour. Ma'ma Billings knew what was what, I can tell you.

Rachel she was sitting up by the window, singing 'Old Hundred.' She didn't look very good-natured; but when I came in she brightened up wonderfully, and began to talk about the sermon, and the minister, and everything else that you can think of.

My gracious! How a woman's tongue can go when it gets started! If Rachel's didn't ache that night I shall lose my guess.

The old deacon brought in some apples and butternuts, and a pitcher of cider, and then told Rachel to cover up the fire when she went to bed.

The old man always was a sleepy-headed kind of a thing, and in a minute ten minutes afterwards I heard him snoring away as if he was on a wager.

Rachel's two little brothers went up stairs to bed, and one of them pulled out right by the square room door.

'Josh Jenkins is a courting our Rachel! Josh Jenkins is a courting our Rachel!'

His mother came along, and boxed his ears, and he changed his tune pretty quick.

I looked at Rachel. Her face was red as a mahogany table, and her mouth kept a quirking, as if she wanted to laugh and darsn't. I swow! she looked pretty enough to eat!

We got pretty sociable by this time, and so I hitched my chair up alongside hers. She didn't say anything but looked down on the floor and began to play with a string of gold beads she wore on her neck.

'Let me tie them,' says I, slipping my arm over her shoulder.

'They ain't untied, and you mustn't hug me,' says she.

'Oh, pshaw!' says I, getting a little nearer; 'that isn't anything. You see I can't talk to you without, rest my arm on something.'

She laughed as if she would die.

'You're a queer fellow,' says she; 'but if you will put your arm there, I can't help it; only you mustn't hug me, nor kiss me.'

I hadn't been look ng ahead quite so far as that; but seeing she spoke about it, I thought I might as well try it. So I got up a little closer, and just as she looked up to speak I kissed her.

She dodged away after a while all over, and boxed my ears; but she didn't strike very hard, and after a little while I tried it again.

That time she took it pretty quietly, and after that I didn't stop to count the kisses. I was making up for lost time, and worked pretty steady. I can tell you. I've had some pretty good times since then, but none of them ever came up to that evening with Rachel Billings. It makes my heart beat to think of it even now.

Rachel got up at last and leaned over my chair to get an apple. Somehow or other her foot slipped and she came very near falling over. I caught her in my arms; and after I once had her there I didn't care about letting her go.

Creation! what a feeling that was! I felt just as I did the day when I took hold of an eel Sam Jones had in a tub—an electric eel I believe he called it. They keep it so as to have the fun of seeing it give people shocks.

Well, as I was saying, Rachel was in my arms, and I fancied I was pretty near Paradise. I thought what a nice thing it would be if I could have the right to have her there always.

There was a chap that was almost always hanging around Rachel. His name was Thomas Wilder. He and I never had anything to say to each other; but I hated him now, just because he had been with her so much. So I thought how nice it would be to cut him out. I was nineteen and my father had nobody but me to leave his property to; and Rachel was a first-rate housekeeper, and would most likely be willing to wait a year or two for me. Even if I hadn't a red cent, and no way to get one, I should have done the same thing she was so confounded pretty.

'Rachel,' says I, 'I've been hunting after a wife for six months, and I haven't seen any one I liked half as well as you. I came to see you to-night on purpose to ask you if you would marry me.'

That was a tremendous story, for I'd never thought of such a thing till she fell into my arms; but I had read somewhere that 'All is fair in love and war,' and so I thought it wouldn't do any harm to ask her up a little.

My gracious! how she colored up the minute I spoke! She got up and looked straight at me for a spell and then said:

'Bless me, Mr. Jenkins! I thought you knew all the time that I was engaged to Tom Wilder. Where have you been all your life? Why, I'm going to be married next Sunday and should have been this, only Tom has cut his foot with an axe and can't walk!

'I hope to goodness he'll be a cripple all his life!' says I.

The next thing I knew, I was coming through our garden gate.

'Father hadn't gone to bed; I believe he knew I should come home with a flea in my ear. When I came in he observed:

'Josiah, when you want to visit old folks another Sunday night, just come to me, and I'll tell you a better place than Deacon Billings.'

I turned right around, just as mad as fire.

'Guess there is, father. I won't be laughed at by everybody. I've made a fool of myself; but if I ever get caught in such a scrape again you may take my head for a foot-ball—see if I don't!'

I kept my word. I heard where there was as many as twenty women; but always, when I pass their bonnets and shawls in the entry, I turn my head right the other way, and—keep it there!

Rachel Billings married me!

Making Home Attractive.

MRS. HIGGINBOTTOM EXPERIMENTS TO REGAIN HER HUSBAND.

From the New York Times.

Mr. Higginbottom deeply bewailed his fondness for rum and concert saloons, and he compared to all unprejudiced men to resemble that he was really blameless. "If my home was only made attractive to me, gentlemen," he was in the habit of saying to the members of a leading temperance society who particularly called on him to unbosom to them, "I would gladly spend all my evenings at home, but as it is I am literally driven to seek comfort elsewhere, though I am a man naturally fitted to enjoy the pleasures of home life." So struck were several temperance men with the force of Mr. Higginbottom's remarks that not long afterwards called on his wife and begged her to make an effort to save her unhappy husband by making his home attractive.

Mrs. Higginbottom consented to make the experiment and accordingly, visited her husband's favorite concert saloon under the protection of a designer and a detective sleuth. When she had learned what were the attractions which most powerfully appealed to Mr. Higginbottom's mind she proceeded to reproduce them as far as practicable in her own house. She had the parlor carpet taken up and the bare floor nicely sprinkled with water and the shutters closed. She removed the pictures from the walls and hung in their places cheap and gaudy chromos representing impossible young women in undesirable costumes. Two dirty wooden tables and a supply of wooden chairs from the kitchen completed the furniture of the room and it began to assume a really attractive appearance.

Before the hour of her husband's return from his business, Mrs. Higginbottom hired a man to play on an accordion and another to induce a victim, besides these professionals she asked of good moderate appearance and conduct, and a notorious burglar, kindly furnished on the occasion by the police department, presented. These were in the kitchen two fresh girls, who were decidedly ugly, but who were, as she afterwards said, moral girls. These too she had instructed in matters of serving beer and smoking and drinking in general that would appear to a stranger to be improper. Having thus arranged things she awaited her husband in the parlor and seated herself in the rocking chair, where he, the moment he came, was accustomed to find the comfort that had been wrought in his front parlor.

After dinner Mr. Higginbottom left the door and returned at that hour which generally found him lying in a stupor on the floor. His wife, with a smile, invited him to come in the parlor, for she had really discovered how to make it more attractive to him. So saying, she showed him into the parlor and had him seated alone of the dirty tables. The fiddler and the accordion player immediately struck up the drunkards favorite tune from Mrs. Higginbottom, began to swear and swagger, and the burglar slidd up to Mr. Higginbottom and offered him a drink. The fiddler two fresh girls brought in beer and seated themselves on Mr. Higginbottom's knee, they coaxed him to "have" and asked him to "open a bottle of wine," and Mrs. Higginbottom, apologizing for the fact that they were undeniably frisky girls, as and her husband, the proprietor, she was confident that she should soon by earnest hard work make home attractive to a man who liked to spend many pleasant evenings with him and would learn not whiskey punch with him without further leave.

Mr. Higginbottom was at first completely dazed, and for a few moments he recovered his reason. He ordered the girls to go into the kitchen and stay there, and he placed the drunkards out of the front door and ordered the musicians and the burglar to follow them. Then he informed his wife that he was an object of the very largest size, and that if she would restore the parlor to its former condition he would stay at home and make no further complaint of its want of attractiveness.

How to Answer His Enemies.—He did not have the right kind of face to inspire confidence, and his clothes looked as if they had served a third term, at least.

"Are you the fellow who makes fun of people in the News?"

The newspaper man owned up he was what or thereabouts.

"Well, I come to warn you. They are layin' for you with clubs. They are bad."

"Not to hurt, I reckon."

"Yes, they are, but don't be afraid, I'm your friend. I can stave my first through a man and walk off with him on my arm, just like as he was an empty market basket."

"Oh, get out."

"I'm not joking. I'm your friend, and I am down on your enemies. Look here. Can't you lend a fellow a quarter—temporarily, only, of course?"

"Now, you look here. Didn't you just now say you were my friend?"

"S-I am."

"You don't talk like it, but I'll take you at your word.

"Just count on me.

"You say you want to help me, and you want to hurt my enemies.

"That's about the size of it.

"Then you go and borrow a quarter of them and loan it to me.

Adjourned—Galveston News.

"No Fooling."

A Detroit lawyer had a call to go into the country a few miles to attend a case on trial before a country Squire, and, while jogging leisurely along in his buggy, he saw a man come running across the fields at the top of his speed. Directly behind him, and armed with a stout stick, was a woman, and it was a nip-and-tuck race to the house. The man reached it first, however, and, as he dropped on the highway side, he call out to the lawyer:

'Stranger, for Heaven's sake give me a lift down the road for half a mile!'

'What's the trouble here?' asked the lawyer.

'Wife and I have had another falling out!' was the reply, as the man rolled down a steep bank to the buggy.

The woman at this moment reached the fence, and, as she was climbing over, the lawyer inquired of the husband:

'Are you fooling or in earnest?'

'If you think I'm fooling just wait a second!' gasped the woman, as she plunged down the bank, rolled over and over in the road, and rose up with a big stone in each hand.

'Scat!' yelled the husband, as he circled around the horse, but the lawyer wasn't quick enough. One of the stones hit him in the back and the other grazed his ear and hit the horse, and five or six more were coming as he struck a tree and toppled off, the husband hanging to the vehicle and running behind. When a safe distance away the lawyer halted and looked back. The woman stood in the middle of the road shaking both fists at him, and the husband wiped the beads of perspiration off his cheeks and chin, and said:

'Stranger, Hannah and me never have any backing. When she's good-natured I get one shirt a week and two meals a day. When she's mad one of us has got to fight out, and I wish next time you come this way you'd tell me if there is anybody in Detroit who can make me a pair of wings.'

A Farmer's Offset.

A third man who had been employed on a farm in this county for several months entered suit against his employer the other day for balance of wages, amounting, as he claimed, to $32. The suit was on trial in Justice Kelly's court, and it looked at first as if the plaintiff had a clear case. He gave dates and figures in a convincing sort of way, and seemed a very honest young man. When the farmer took the stand he said:

"I claim an offset for that $32. No man need sue me for what I honestly owe."

"What is your offset?" asked the lawyer.

"Sir, I am a believer."

"In what?"

"Why, in the bible."

"What has that to do with your owing him $32?"

"It has a heap to do with it. I had six hands in my employ, and we were rushing things when I hired this man. He hadn't been with us two days when they stopped the reaper in the middle of the afternoon to dispute about Daniel and the lion's den, and in three days we had a regular knock down over the whale swallowing Jonah. The man who run the mower got to arguing about Samson and drove over a stump and damaged the machine in the tune of $18, and the very next day my boy broke his leg while attempting a leap to hear and see how Which was started over the Children of Israel going through the Red Sea. It wasn't a week before my wife said she didn't believe Elijah was fed by the ravens, and hung me if I didn't find my self growing weak on Noah and the flood. That's my offset, sir, and if he was worth anything, I'd sue him for a thousand dollars besides."

The court reserved his decision for twenty-four hours.—Detroit Free Press.

Good Humor.

Good humor is reckoned a most valuable and to happy home life. An equally good and useful quality is a sense of humor, or the capacity to have a little fun going with the humdrum cares and works of life. We all know how it brightens up things generally to have a lively, witty companion who sees the ridiculous points of things, and can turn any annoyance into an occasion for laughter. It does a great deal better, to laugh over some domestic mishaps than fretting and scolding about them. Many a home and lives are dull because there are almost no laughs can deeply buried with the cares and responsibilities of life to let sunshine in bright and cheerful as a merrily sung. In some cases indeed, good humor, the element of a witty, humorous friend is the mainstay of a family. While it is always agreeable to have persons about us who can sing, play or tell funny stories, it is commendable, seeing what a long road a little fun is, to make an effort to make some at home. It is well to turn an important question sometimes and regard it from a humorous point instead of being terribly in earnest.

"Wife, what is the reason I never can find a clean shirt?" exclaimed a good, but rather impatient husband after looking all through the wrong drawer. His wife looked at him steadily for a moment, half inclined to be provoked, then, with a comical look, she said, "I never guess conundrums. I give it up." Then he laughed, and they both laughed, and she went and got his shirt, and he felt ashamed of himself and kissed her, and then she felt happy, and so what might have been the occasion for hard words and ruffled feelings became just the contrary, all through the vein of humor that cropped out to the surface. Some people have a peculiar faculty for giving a humorous turn to things when they are reproved. It does just as well oftentimes to laugh themselves out of a scold them all. Laughter is better than tears. Let us have a little more of it at home.

The Merriest Being in the World.—It is hard for a young mother, who has not yet overcome the wayward tendencies of her youthful nature, to realize the influence she exerts over her little ones. She is constantly surrounded by critical censors, who copy her morals and manners. As the mother, so are her sons and daughters. It is rarely of children is blessed with an intelligent mother, who is delicate and refined in her manners, and does not consider it necessary to be one woman in a drawing room and an entirely different person in every-day life, but who is a true mother, and always a cheerful, charming woman, you will invariably see her habits of speech and perfect manners repeated in her children. Great, rough men noisy men and busy boys will always tone down their voices and step lightly and try to be more mannerly when she stops to give them a kind word or a pleasant smile. For a true mother will never fail to say or do all the pleasant things that she can that will in any way help or lift up and cheer those whose lives are shaded with care and toil. The mother of to-day rules the world to-morrow.

The Rev. John Brown, of Haddington, was in the habit of proposing on festive occasions a certain young lady as his toast. Having abandoned the practice, he was asked for a reason. 'Because,' said he, 'I have toasted her for sixteen years, without being able to make her brown, and I've resolved to toast her no longer.'

DEPENDENCE OF HEALTH UPON CIRCULATION.—Perfect health depends upon perfect circulation. Every living thing that has the latter has the former. Put your hand under your dress upon your body. Now place it upon your arm. If you find the body over ninety degrees and your arm under sixty degrees, you have lost the equilibrium. The head has too much blood, producing headache, or the chest too much, producing cough, rapid breathing, pain in the side, or palpitation of the heart, or the stomach too much, producing indigestion. Any or all of these difficulties are temporarily relieved by immersion of the hands or feet in hot water, and permanently relieved by such dress and exercise of the extremities as will make the derivation permanent.

MARRYING FOR MONEY.—There never was a time when heiresses were in so great a demand, or when worldly mammas smiled more approvingly on the attentions of prosperous young men to their daughters. This fact has been very plainly shown at all the watering places this summer. In truth, the demand is so active and so manifest that what supply there is grows shy, and wealth is tending to ally itself with wealth, both to strengthen its position and to escape merely mercenary importunities. Where there is money on both sides, it is felt that matrimony is safer, and perhaps it is. Young men who are on the hunt for heiresses do not deserve to be encouraged, and young women who put a money price on their affections may well be left among the unsold goods.

As the happy couple were leaving the church, the husband said to the partner of his wedded life: 'Marriage must seem a dreadful thing to you. Why, you were all of a tremble, and one could hardly hear you say, 'I will.'' "I will have more courage and say it louder the next time," said the blushing bride.

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In pursuance of a decree of the Superior Court of Halifax county, September Term 1879, the undersigned as Commissioners appointed by said court, will sell, for division amongst legatees, on Monday the 1st day of November 1880 at the Court house door in the town of Halifax, that valuable tract of land in Halifax county, lately owned and occupied by the late Capt. Rice B. Pierce.

This land is situated four miles from the town of Halifax, and five miles from Weldon, is highly improved, and is well adapted to the growth of all crops raised in this section, it contains between six and seven hundred acres, and is considered one of the best cotton farms in the county, it is also well timbered and well watered. There is upon it a commodious dwelling two offices and all necessary out houses for farm purposes, good orchards, good water the neighborhood healthy and the people intelligent and refined.

This land will be divided in parcels to suit purchasers, and a map showing location and boundaries will be exhibited on the day of sale. Dr. A. B. Pierce, and Mr. George C. Pierce, who live near, and Capt. A. B. Lynch who resides upon the plantation, will show the land to any person who desires to see it, and any other information desired can be had by addressing the commissioners at Halifax or Weldon.

Terms of the sale will be twenty-five per cent, of the purchase money in cash, the balance in three equal installments payable in six, twelve and eighteen months, for the deferred payments the purchaser will be required to give bonds well secured bearing eight per cent. interest from day of sale, and the title will be retained until all the purchase money is paid.

W. H. DAY,
J. M. GRIZZARD, } Commissioners
Halifax, N. C., Sept. 30-5-w.

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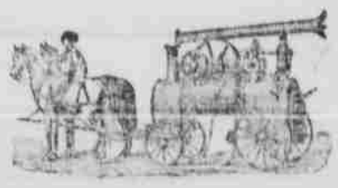

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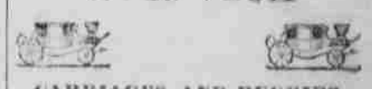

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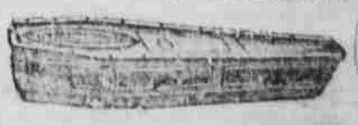

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