

POETRY.

THINK ERE YOU SPEAK.

BY R. J. STORLE. Think ere you speak, for a word lightly spoken, On waikens a pang that has shimmered for years...

RINGING THE CURFEW.

Frank Fairleigh, George Lawless and Freddy Coleman had been enjoying themselves in the evening, like old companions...

As we proceeded through the town, Lawless, despite our endeavors to restrain him, chose to vent his superabundant spirits by performing sundry feats at the expense of the public...

Haloo! cried Lawless; who's that old picture of ugliness? Look what a pace the beggar's cutting along!

That's the sexton and bell-ringer, returned Coleman; they keep up the old custom at Hillingford of ringing the curfew bell at day-break...

What jolly fun, said Lawless; come on, and let's see how the old cock does it; and, suiting the action to the word, off he started in pursuit.

We'd better follow him, said I; depend upon it he'll be getting into some mischief or other.

After running a short distance down the street, we found Lawless standing under a small arched door-way leading into a curious battlemented tower...

All right! cried Lawless; the old scare-crow run in here like a lamp-lighter as soon as he saw me bowing after him...

Don't be alarmed, old boy! observed Lawless, patting the sexton (who looked frightened out of his wits at our intrusion) so forcibly on the back as to set him coughing violently...

This gentleman, said Coleman, who, y' the cunning twinkle of his eye, was evidently becoming possessed by the spirit of mischief...

Thus adjured, the old man, who appeared completely bewildered by all that was going on, mechanically took hold of a rope, and began slowly and at stated intervals tolling one of the bells.

Where are your assistants, my dear fellow? enquired Coleman, after a short pause. The only answer was a stare of vacant surprise...

Wrong! replied Lawless, moving the cigar from his mouth, and puffing a cloud of smoke into the sexton's face...

but that was't exactly what I was going to say.

Suppose we show him the proper way to do it, Mr. President; suggested Freddy, catching hold of the rope one of the bells. Off she goes! cried Lawless, seizing another.

Gentlemen! good gentlemen! don't ring the bells, pray; implored the old man; you'll raise the whole town—they are never rung in that way without there is a fire or flood or the riot act read, or something of that dreadful nature the matter.

But his expostulations were vain. Lawless had already begun ringing his bell in a manner which threatened to stun us all...

Now, then, you wretched old beggar!—shouted Lawless; don't stand there winking and blinking like an owl; pull away like bricks, or I'll break your neck for you; go to work, I say!

Very soon a distant shout was heard; then the noise of people running; and lastly the sound of several persons hastily approaching the bell-tower.

We are in for a scrimmage now, I expect, said Lawless, leisurely turning up his sleeves. Not a bit of it, replied Freddy; only leave it to me, and you'll see.

Aye, aye, sir, replied Lawless, shaking his fist significantly at the sexton.

At this moment a short fat man, with a very red face, appeared attired in a night-cap, and great coat, carrying the rest of his wardrobe under his arm...

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reached the fire engine, upon which he seated himself with a bound, shouting as he did so, Forward, forward! do you want the place to be burnt to the ground?

Amazement bound us as in a spell for a few moments; and Lawless had thus vanquished, but we were thinking of our own escape, and were drawing off from the crowd for the purpose, when the cock-hatted individual previously mentioned made his way up to us, exclaiming as he did so—Here, you young gentlemen, just stop a bit!

That's all very fine; but I must trouble you to come along o'me; my wussuph wants to speak to yer, replied the beadle, seizing Coleman by the coat collar.

This is a pleasure his 'wussuph' must contrive to postpone till he has caught his wussuph, for as my limited acquaintance with him will allow me to judge, the encoirer appears to have been perfectly successful.

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"SMALL STORES."—1852-'53.

NAVY DEPARTMENT. Bureau of Provisions and Clothing, March 27, '53. FROPOSALS, sealed and endorsed "Proposals for small stores," will be received at this Bureau...

Brushes, scrubbing Brushes, shoe Brushes, clothes Buttons, navy, vest Buttons, navy, coat Buttons, dead-eye Blacking, boxes of Beeswax Combs, coarse Combs, fine Cotton, spoons of Grass, for hats Jackknives

Mustard and pepper will be required at New York only, and in the raw state. All the articles must be of good quality, equal to those of those generally used in the service...

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Blonds, Illusions, and Embroidered Laces for Caps. Embroidered Laces for Shawls, Mantillas, and Veils. Honion, Mechlin, Valenciennes, and Brussels Laces.

English and Wove Thread, Smyrna, Lisle Thread, French and American Artificial Flowers. French and American Artificial Flowers. French and American Artificial Flowers.

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REMOVAL. JAMES LITCHFORD would respectfully inform his customers and friends, that he has removed his Store to his Old Stand on Wilmington Street...

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on the 15th day of May next, the following tracts of Land lying and being in the County of Halifax, or so much thereof as will satisfy the taxes due thereon and unpaid for the year 1850, to wit:

Monroe Poir's land, 550 acres, adjoining the lands of Mrs. Martha Pope & others, listed by Wm. H. P. per taxes due \$ 88

WESTERN HOTEL. THIS HOTEL, short distance West of the Capitol Square, is opened for the accommodation of the Travelling Community, and the Proprietor would be much pleased to board gentlemen by the week month or year.

CARRIAGE MAKING. THE Subscriber would respectfully inform the Public, that he still continues to carry on the above business in all its branches...

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A LITTLE BETTER YET

THE Subscriber has just received from North a supply of the best quality of carded hair which will enable him to manufacture a superior quality of Hair Mattresses.

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