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Henderson, N. C., Dec. 11, 1868.

MY OLD CHUM, TOM ATHERTON.

I must preface with a statement that this is no story. It claims no merit as a literary product from the overwrought Why, idolatry the most complete, the imagination of a half starved litterateur. It is simply an old man's recital of an incident, the like of which is transpiring the worship that I offered up to this in our midst daily. The only merit it claims—the only merit it possesses—is its truth.

After an abscence of twenty-five years, I had returned to New Orleans on this, the 27th day of June, A. D. 186-, and was comfortably seated, cross-legged, opposite my friend Tom Atherton, in the no such thought came to me then. "Restaurant de Moreau," on Canal me she was as guileless, as gentle, as street. We had partaken of the goodly pure as the white-robed angels of innocheer furnished by the quiet and urbane cence; and yet this woman, gifted by Rogers, and were now silently enjoying nature with beauty and intellect, bearing the luxury of a fragrant " El Sol," and in every lineament of her face the semsipping occasionally our steaming "cafe blance of truth, whispering to me in

Tom Atherton and myself had been schoolmates, neighbours, and chums .-We had quarrelled and fought for and against each other times innumerable .-We had played truant together, and together we had committed all the mischiefs there, and trampled them under her and extravagancies that boys seem bound dainty feet with as little remorse as she to commit. In our growing manbood would have crushed a leaf. Oh! it was this feeling of companionship had ripen- a goodly deed. ed into the more sober but more lasting feeling of friendship, in the purest sense of the word. Tom Atherton had been youth he had been handsome, generous Of an innocent love, and set a blister there. and the gayest of the gay, scorning always a mean action, and shunning, as he dismissal; I would not if I could. would a viper, every species of deceit - was bravely done, no stammering, grandmother with whom he had lived,) she would have given her milliner.—
and was thus early thrown upon the char- I listened as one in a trance to the

my father removed with his family to to me, knocking its way to the brain life, who in the time to come can know New York city, and I accompanied him, that had shut out all else. She that had no happiness, in whose future there is no capstone that fell and crushed his life though the voice of the officiator was very are mothers in the land destitute, whose leaving my friend Tom in a flourishing been my Lizzie, was mine no more - single ray of light, sits night and day by business, and about to be united to one Henceforth and forever she was dead to the bedside of her "golden husband," of Orleans' fairest daughters. We part- me! ed with the usual promises of lasting "I cannot tell you what I suffered, friendship, correspondence, and so on, though it is through no fear of being it ceases with his life, which must end in but after one or two letters received from him he suddenly became silent, and I heard from him no more, except through come to men's hearts, that shun exposthe medium of an occasional New Or- ure even to the nearest and dearest: leans acquaintance, and then only in a and-

general an unsatisfactory manner. One thing I learned to a certaintyhe was not married. But why, or wherefore his engagement had been broken off,

1 could not discover. Looking at him as he sat quietly est grief that ever fell to lot of man. smoking, but apparently unconscious | "Well, she was wedded soon after to of all external things, I had leisure to her "golden calf," and, mockery o note the marvellous change that a few mockeries, insult upon injury, I was inyears had marked upon his appearance. vited to be present at the sale. I went; We were of nearly the same age, but as the invitation was her triumph, the acwe sat thus together, an observer would ceptance was mine. A greater was still wold men. His hair hung upon his throng that had met to do her homage. were drawn about the mouth, and and for this reason I attended and harshness which was entirely made her Mrs. Marmaduke Glenn, and

foreign to his nature, while the lustre the parasitical crowd had thronged aof his piercing gray eyes told that this bout her to offer their meaningless couby time alone.

forehead swelled to such an extent that laden hand within my own, and having covered himself, however, and said trem-

grave that dares mention that name to stooping. I whispered: " From my soul me with impunity. I can realize the I despise you!" As I released her hand motive that prompted the question, and and turned from her, she shuddered, but for the sake of those brighter days long said not a word. Another morsel of trisince fled, by the memory of our friend- umph was mine. ship in youth, I will tell you all you seek to know. But not here. Come to my room, and this friendly curiosity once satisfied, never recall the subject excitement of speculation, heedless where while you live.'

utes we reached his residence, and after gambled in commerce to a fearful extent. seeing me seated he leaned upon the but here fortune, as if to make amends back of an arm chair and commenced for former failures, crowned my ventures immediately as follows:

youth, and you knew also of the leve be- me profits almost fabulous, until within a tween us, and the glorious realization few years I counted my gold by hunthat our young hearts dreamed of My dreds of thousands. But what availed friend Van, it was only a dream, a fond, it? She for whom I could have striven, foolish, miserable, but still a bright and and at whose feet I should have gloried glorious dream. The wakening from to lay this treasure, had sold berself, it was to me worse, infinitely worse than heart, body and soul, for a paltrier sum death; to ber, nothing. I caunot tell than this. you how I loved her, how she, and she All letters on business, to be addressed to alone became the one object that I worshipped with an almost sacrliceous adoration. Were I to attempt to detail my feelings towards her, you would call me a rhapsodized fool. And so I was. Heavens and earth! (he cried, pacing the floor violently.) what devil was it that cozened me thus at hood-man blind? most hideous that this broad earth has ever known, was pure and tame beside

> 'I had no hope, ambition, no thought by day or night, sleeping or waking, but had its source in her! If she had bid me commit the direct deed that ever blackened human annals. I believe should have done it, ay, and gloried in it, if but she had smiled upon me. But honicd accents soft words of love; this woman, I say, good, gentle, pure and truthful as I thought her-deceived me! robbed me in one short moment of Faith. Hope and Charity-plucked from out my bosom every hope she had implanted

"She had been moved with "traitorous gifts," and for this paltry, earthly

beloved by all who knew him. In his "Plucked off the rose from the fair forehead

"I cannot now recall her words While in his sixteenth year he had lost shrinking, no hesitation; the words came his only surviving relative, (an aged from her in the slow measured tones that

ity of a proverbially uncharitable world sounds that came from her lips .- I was care, carrying in her heart the misery of When I reached my twentieth year stupefied—deadened. One truth come remorse for a broken faith and misspent

> called unmanly, that I shun the recital. There are sufferings and sorrows that dure so long as God shall vouchsafe to among many, but he was a man, a hus- tion of which excessive bowings, light-

"There where we have garnered upon our Where either we must live or have

to meet with deceit there-is the bitterave credited him with a seniority of at to come. Smothering the fires that raged east fifteen years His face was wrin- within me, I arrayed myself with scrued to a degree seldom seen, except in pulous care and mingled with the gay

hole countenance indicated an aus- "The words had been uttered that

metamorphosis had not been wrought gratulations. I waited patiently until this silly palaver had ended, then step- like some watch dog from the infernal, Determined to learn something of this ping from the shadow of the curtain hunting for one absent. Signs creaked miraculous change, and suspecting the where I had been standing, I traced my as they swung, and rich mon on the steps towards her. Almost all within street hurried by with fur wrapped cars cause, I said suddenly steps towards her. Almost all within the room had known of our engagement, has become of your old flame, Lizzie and as I advanced towards the newly made bride the crowd gave way upon At the mention of her name he start- each side and afforded me a clear passage ed suddenly, clutching in his fist the ta- while they listened eagerly for what I ble, while the veins in his temples and might say. I took the dainty, jewel-I thought they would burst. He re- by an almost superhuman effort, mastered myself, I said, in measured, decisive and audible accents : " May you meet all the "You are the only man this side the happiness you so richly deserve." Then,

"Let me hurry to a conclusion: "Maddened to an extent almost beyond conception, I sought relief in the it carried me, if only it would crush out Alter walking in silence a few min- the one miserable thought within me. I with success. Every rashly calculated "You knew Lizzie Cutter in her speculation, every wild scheme, returned

> "Meanwhile her lord and master, silly, shallow brained animal, had wearied of his bargain, and then came the

> He held her, when his passion had spent its novel force, A something better than his dog, a little dearer than his horse,"

home, and gradually the nights come to be passed as the days-in bar rooms and gambling hells He gamed and drank heavily, often remaining from home sev-eral days, until carried there in a state now, we are home with him, and God carved figure of the Infant Saviour. The truth and power shall be subordinate to

ionship, and, for her sin, denied by heard. Tear off the coat-kiss the priests and choristers. The proceedings we may not now be able fully to appre-Heaven the blessing of children, rushed lips-kiss them again and again; lift commenced with the imposing procession. ciate." into the giddy round of pleasure and your head and look into that face, upon during which and throughout the entire fashion, and for a few years reigned as | that wound-press back the hair from | service | incense was freely scattered

gold so idly squandered by him and her, that needs pity, for hers is the heart that incense, bowings, &c., were upon the President. A move is on foot to create must sometime have an end, and the end now drinks in sorrow as never before. came full soon. Piece by piece his property was sold, until at last the house they Never mind thanks-never mind who we heard throughout the service, both with- of which his widow can receive a pension. lived in followed suit, and of this, as of are-simply a man who came to aid, not in and without the building; but at the Certain interested parties are appealing all the others, I became the purchaser. to gratify curiosity. Now came her trial. Her summer friends, the gay, fashionable and wealthy, dropped off one by one like autumn leaves, and left her solitary and alone.

"Her husband became more dissipated, exacting and cruel, and I have heard that he beat her.

"Having kept up a show of acquaintanceship with me, he now turned it to advantage, and came to me to borrow money. Aye! the man whose lucre had been weighed in the balances against my heart came to me again and again for money to live on. Oh! it was a luxury of revenge to know that the hand once scorned by this woman was the only one now stretched forth to aid her in her distress. Thus have I done for months, and this has been my triumph.

"Now come the end "To-day a woman poorly clad, pale, wan and haggard from dissipation and whose lamp of life flickers in the socket. Her task of conjugal duty is almost done,

her existence. "What my misery has been and must be, you may judge from the wreck that

stands before you "Oh, if I were a God, and had a their marks. But now he has gone. world to make, I'd make no woman !"

Truth is the basis of all virtue. No character can be deemed honorable. even respectable, in which truth does not form, or is not supposed to form a part. tears. Thus necessary to the good repute of the Fold and put away his clothes. world, it is equally essential to ensure us back that plate-leave back the kuife, our own respect, and protect, our own fork and spoon-no more set his chair to happiness. It is strange that the definithe table, for he has gone home where Grant's staff, is to marry a daughter of tion of a quality so eminently valuable there are no Saturday nights terrible as Montgomery Blair. ulders in long, gray locks, hard I knew that I should not be expected, should be generally loose and vague; this is to the mourners. Then, weeping and, that while all men so energetically one, live with his memory. Life is an announce their veneration for truth, so enigma. Death is the reality

HOME ON A SHUTTER.

It was a very cold Saturday nightonly a few days ago. The wind howled street hurried by with fur wrapped ears and well gloved hands.

Aft the week gone but this. An hour more labor and we will close the business desk, and finish the week with a Saturday night article. First, we must make a call six blocks away.

Five o'clock and thirty minutes by the Chatham and up Centre

From a cross street they come, four poor Michael O'Brien. men, stout, rough-clad, hard-palmed, honest-hearted men, with regular step

some window. And on it is a man dead. better ones. They have wives, and little that tend to the development of nation He sleeps and he sleeps well! Over his deserving as all are who labor. They face is thrown a well worn coat he used to wear. It does not keep him warm, but it keeps the wind from driving the men; the ones who live in tenement hair into a horrid wound over his temple, from which blood and brains ooze slowly, as if sorry to leave their home. " Who is he?"

"How, and where?" "Ho was working with us, sir, down on Pearl street, on a new building, when | those who pass them by with a sucer from a cap-stone gave way, sir, and took poor Michael in its fall; and never a word spoke he since. And we are takin' him home to his wife and children, and it's a RITUALISTIC TROUBLES IN ENGsorry night they'll have of it, for they loved him so.

a workingman's home on another street. by a respectable auditory; the building the devotees of true science will re-unite "He began by spending his days from slowly, for the stairway is very narrow. holly, and flowers, many large crosses of our national life. How glorious may

sorrow we bring. Steady, men-on that side table was the usual light burning, latitudes shall be joined with the grace pity those who mourn. Words are of no usual display of embroidered dresses, love, and where all alike shall rejoice in "His lady, deprived of his compan- use here. Even curses would not be etc., was exhibited by the officiating the oblivion of a great national sorrow, the brow you have so often kissed. Stand about. In fact, notwithstanding the re-"This could not, however, last. The back, men-stand back. She is the one cent decision of the privy council, lights. thing for the widow of the martyred

Down stairs and into the street.

and wailing behind us. Her voice, and pity them. *

The table was ready to spread. The room was being put in order against his oming, but not in this way. The work of the week nearly ended-waiting for him and his smile, his greeting, his coming with his earnings, a little present for each of the little ones, and a warm, rich, honest love-kiss for the one who is now leagues away in the terrible valley, heart-broken and in agony.

All the week he had toiled, as we learned, early and late. A strong, bonshe bears or the sorrow she knows.

a few hours; but her misery must en- to steal them. He was but one man of the Holy Communion, in the celebrathan many a man of wealth. Hour after rated about 1 o'clock; but owing to a hour he worked. Stone after stone he detachment of police that were stationed I left him shortly after, and as I went helped haul up. His mark was left on without, the crowd offered no personal vidown the stairs caught myself quoting: many a spot where men of labor leave olence to them as they disperse

No band will follow him to the gravehouses, of wine, of women, of nothing, Friend of Temperance, will follow him home, but loving hearts will mourn for bim, for he deserves

many are perpetually violating her laws. meet here-we become acquainted, and last week.

then the one most loving goes to make a home over there.

Think of his kind words-his good nets. Think of the good he did while he lived; forget the hasty words, the unkind ones, if ever he spoke them.—
And you who have to-night the forms of room for but a single extract in our presloved ones in your homes waiting for the not have death with you to-night, may "We believe you not have it for years to come. Welcome the tired ones as they come from

Out in the cold. How the air dances word. Make home pleasant, and call to to soil and climate; but we feel that its in to warm by our body as we walk along its sacred reach the loved ones. Let growth depends more upon the expostthose who labor make their home happy, ness with which it seeks the fostering great clock up there over the City Hall, and their home ones happy, and, when hand of our great national government later than we thought, so we hurry across our work be done here, may all who are than upon any application that can now

houses. If the rich would treat those who labor better, the world would be the gainer, and, therefore, do we ask those and heartbroken ones, who are always with us, and oftener more deserving than Monday morn till Saturday night .-"BRICK" POMEROY.

LAND.

Good night, friends-we will go now suppressed sounds of discontent were handed, reconstruction office, by means commencement of the offertory sentences to Congress and the people in the name a man at last cried out, "It is perfect of Christianity, liberality, and obligations bosh ; I say perfect rubbish." Immedi- to the President and his widow for help. the voice of two little ones now father- ately some of the vergers, with their oak- The whole thing is mere bosh. Mrs. less, and face to face with death. God on staves, rushed to the pew in which he | Lincoln has a fortune exceeding one bunwas sitting, the priests looked aghast, dred thousand dollars. She is now and the choristers and the congregation abroad, spending her time and money seemed terror-stricken as the gentleman enjoying herself, and unable to expend to expel bim, "I expected this; I am by continuing the same course of rocknot afraid to repeat my words; it is all less extravagance which marked her enperfect rubbish; leave me alone; I will reer at the White House There are go away without help." The vergers Presidents' wives in the United States when he again said, "It is perfect rub- dy-like, more deserving of sympathy bish; I came here to worship God ac- than the widow of ABRAHAM LINCOLN England, not of the Church of Rome!- present, but to those who propose to est, healthy man. Working to better Purchas." The last words he uttered bestow it where it is not needed, we come his home and make his loved ones happy. while crossing the church and nearing with a protest. There are tens of thou earnest vergers rather pushed him into are as deserving of support as is the or

The Square and Compass which no long line of carriages filled with been suspended for several weeks, will men chatting of horses, of bonds, of be resumed sgain, at an early day, says a wise and sagacious man, with an eye

> A Western editor say, "The march of civilization is onward-onward-like the slow but intrepid trend of a juckass towards a peck of oats."

> It is reported that Gen Comstock,

Robert Van Camp, of Belpre, Ohio We was horribly gored to death by a bull

THE FUTURE OF THE SOUTH. Lippincott's Magazine for the month of February contains, among many artient issue : "The Future of the South."

"We believe that the South has a great future before it in the development of its vast resources of mineral wealth. the shop. Give them a kiss and a kind aided by its favorable location in regar deserving live in memory loved, as was be made of abstract theories of State Rights and local self government, We Who of the rich ever think of the believe that its true reconstruction in all poor? Who of them will remember material respects is to be sought in a and sad faces. Four workingmen, to us and sad faces. Four workingmen, to us ones who toil? They have hearts and that a natural union will be formed be-Four men carrying a shutter from loves as have the rich, and quite often tween the two in all the great enterprises One hand under his head as if he slept. ones, and aims, and desires. They are wealth and commercial greatness, despite make the city and finish nature. Yet aptitudes. But last of all, we believe few there are who care for the working- that her richest treasure, her creative powers of mind and imagination, will yet advanced intellect of the North, in the common work of thinking and writing who are favored by fortune and unjust for the benefit of our own country and of "Michael O'Brien, sir. He was just laws, when they go home to give a mankind. Political parties may heaitste thought to the poor ones, the weeping to align themselves upon the basis of a common destiny; capital may shrink from free and liberal investment in new and needy fields; churches may not be willing to give the right hand of fellowship across the bloody lines traced by civil war; but literary men, the students of universal nature and the explorers of the illimitable fields of thought, will meet On Christmas Eve a midnight celebra- on their distant voyages, and feel a And with the four went another to | tion was held at St. James', Brighton, | grateful pride in hailing each other as lend a hand to those in need Went to England. The church was partly filled the citizens of a common country, and Into the door, up two flights, slowly- itself profusely decorated with laurels, the severed filaments that weave the web being formed by the same. The altar become that state of American society " Open the door wider, for it is all was decorated with flowers, and on a in which the energy and seal of bigber

HELP FOR MRS. LINCOLN.

It is now proposed to do a little some

proceeded to say, when efforts were made | the income from her investments, except. again attempted to take hold of him, who have less money, who are more facording to the tenets of the Church of Against her we have nothing to say at This is all mockery and rubbish, Mr. take money from the public treasury and His hands were hard, but he was good the altar. On reaching the first (inner) sands of wiver, or of widows, whose hu -He was unused to sharp tricks, to specu-lations, to legalized robbing; he was simply a workingman, and his loss is not the outer lobby, and thence into the sho exhibited herself in such a light by felt Not felt! God above us! The street. The service was then resumed, auctioneering her old clothes. There was a million times lighter than the loss tremulous, and sidelong glances were ta- sons died on battle-fields or in hospiken by those in the choir at every mur- tals-died not so much to save the coun-He was but a laborer. He toiled all muring sound from without. Many per- try as to enrich the cotton stealers, day. He earned of dollars but few, but sons immediately left the building-some plunder-gatherers, and incompetent genhe earned them, and that is better than ten or a dozen only remaining to partake erals, who have no idea of economy, and no desire to hold office except for personal emoluments. There are thousan band, a father. He lived in no palace, nings, and incensings were most freely of objects deserving charity in the United but he had a happier home to go to nights indulged in. The congregation sepa- States. Let these objects be cared for

> Says a writer in the Hearth and Home. blessed be the man who first invented shade-trees for village streets! He must have been one who loved his fellow-men. for the beautiful. What a relief they afford pedestrians in the pursuit of business or pleasure! They enhance the market value of the lands aside which they are planted. They relieve the dull monotomy of a formal row of buildings. Whether one considers their form or color, or the endless play of light and shade among their branches, they are pleasant to look upon. They promote the public health, and are not wanting even in moral influence.