

POETRY.

LINES, Respectfully inscribed to the Great Women of Our Age and Country.

BY OLIVER PARKER BALDERSHAW, B. P.

Illustrious women, wondrous females great! Eloquent Lucy, Reverend Antoinette! Tell us, O, tell us, (if indeed you know!)

MISCELLANY.

THE GAME AT CARDS.

The darkies are mine, said the gamster, striking his fist upon the table; 'show 'em up, and let us see what they look like.'

The young planter, who had lost, sent one of the boat servants below for John and Helen.

'Come, Danton; hurry up the niggers.— They must move quicker than this when I send for 'em or they'll never know what hurt 'em.'

The young planter's aristocratic face flushed crimson at this rude and brutal exclamation, but he made no reply.

He was about to send another servant for John and Helen, when his purpose was stayed by the appearance of Mrs. Danton.

Her husband had been gaming, and she had been weeping ever since the boat left Cincinnati; and we are now far down the Mississippi.

No wonder, then, that she was pale and wan, and that her eyes looked as though they had been nearly wept away;

she was made exquisitely lovely nevertheless. Although many years have passed since that evening, I can see the sorrow-stricken young wife now, as she glided up to the table and looked her husband in the face.

He could not bear up under her gaze. He had lost all their money, and in a fit of desperation had also staked and lost the two slaves.

Laying her little hand on his arm she said: 'Is it true, Charles, that you have lost John and Helen?'

Her husband made no reply; he could not even look up.

The passengers were now fast gathering round and the scene was growing painful.

My father (who had come north to fetch me from school, and was taking the longest possible way home) was holding me by the hand, and I knew by the tightening of his grasp, that he was becoming much excited.

As Danton did not seem inclined to answer his wife's question, the gamster roughly said:

'Yes, ma'am, John and Helen are mine; and I want to see 'em quick!'

Danton sprang to his feet, and stooping across the table, hissed in the teeth of the gamster:

'William! don't you presume to speak to my wife again!'

The look with which this menace was accompanied was perfectly blasting, and made the swarthy and pitted face of the gamster fairly turn white.

How inconsistent is man! That accomplished and high-born husband could deliberately jeopardize the property and corrode the happiness of his wife, hour after hour, day after day, and year after year, but he could not bear that the man whom he had chosen for a companion should even so much as speak to her.

'Yes, Mary; John and Helen are lost,' he said at last, as he let the gamster from under his gaze, 'they are lost, and it can't be helped now; so don't let us have a scene about it.'

'I shall not let them go,' said Mary firmly, 'and I shall have a scene about it; I did not say a word about the money; but now that you have played them away— Oh, Charlie, and she leaned her head on her husband's breast.

'Ah! here they come!' said the gamster, as John and Helen approached.

'O, Missus, don't go and lead me wid dat man,' shrieked Helen; 'I shall die, or jump oberboard. O, don't lead your own true Helen, who sabel your life when you fell in de bay!'

'I shan't not leave you, Helen. Do not be alarmed!'

'Bress de Lord for dat,' interrupted Helen; 'I knows we're safe now; kase you allers does jes' what you say you will.'

I think it's about time this nonsense was stopped, said the gamster, rising from the table.—You acknowledge, Danton, that these negroes are my property; consequently they are mine, and I've a right to do what I please with them; no bill of sale is necessary between two gentlemen.

And now, you niggers, just come along with me, and don't make a fuss, or I'll have you flogged and put in irons!

The scene now became extremely exciting. John drew Ellen to his side, and clenched his teeth and fists, while their young mistress stood close in front, as if with her feeble arm, she would protect them from the clutches of the gamster.

I was wild with excitement, and begged my father either to buy the slaves or shoot the gamster.—I did not care which. A bloody fight seemed inevitable; when a young Englishman, who had been very quiet during the whole trip, elbowed his way to the table, asked the gamster at what sum he valued his slaves.

'Two thousand dollars,' said he; 'do you want to buy?'

'I have only a thousand dollars,' the young man answered. 'I will give you that for them.'

'No, sir, I'll stake 'em against a thousand dollars, and play you a game of poker for the pile.'

'I don't understand the game,' said the New Englander.

'What game do you play?'

'I have played a few games at all fours, but I never gambled for a cent in my life.'

'Well, I'll play you a game at all-fours then, if you like, and stake the niggers against your thousand dollars.'

'To the surprise of every one present, the young man accepted the challenge, called for a new pack of cards, staked his thousand dollars, and the game commenced—the gamster having the first deal.

As the company drew more closely round the table, it seemed as though a watchmaker's shop were in our midst, so distinctly we heard the tick of the watches.

The first hand the New Englander made three to the gamster's one, at which a buzz of pleasure ran round the group.

The second hand the gamster three to his opponent nothing; the third hand they each made two, which left the New Englander two to go, while the gamster had but one to make, and it was his turn to beg.

This was a great advantage, and every body seemed to give up the thousand dollars as lost.

The New Englander dealt the cards with a steady hand, however, and turned up the jack of hearts, which placed him even with his antagonist, but when he raised his cards I saw that he had not a single trump in his hand, and his adversary was hesitating whether to 'stand' or 'beg; if the former, the game was his to a certainty; if the latter, there would be another chance for the slaves.

After drumming on the back of his cards for a short time, he looked at the New Englander to see if it could determine by his manner what it was best to do, but the Young Bunker Hill met his gaze without flinching, and there they sat for a long time gazing into each other's eyes.

'Ears the cards,' said the gamster at last. 'I could have hugged him for his mistake.'

Bunker Hill again dealt, and the queen of spades was turned. Every heart stood still as the cards were for the last time lifted.

'They are mine!' shouted the New Englander; 'or rather, they are yours, madam,' said he, in a milder tone, to Mrs. Danton, as she threw down the ace of spades.

The beautiful and impetuous Southern threw her arms around the winner's neck, and three deatening cheers (in which even the slaveholder joined) told the satisfaction of the audience.

Many years after I met the New Englander in Mississippi, and claimed his acquaintance on the score of having been one of the most enthusiastic partisans on the night of his well remembered triumph.

He had prospered in business and become rich. He was making his annual pilgrimage to the family hearthstone—a stone which has more potent charms for good than that at which kneel Mahomedan devotees in the city of their prophet. He said he had never touched a card since that memorable game; that the thousand dollars that he then risked was the sum total of his savings for many toilsome years; but that he staked it, and played the game with a perfect conviction of success.

Danton had sought him out, and kept up the acquaintance ever since; and Mrs. Danton could now travel the world over with her husband without fear, for he had forsworn gaming from that never-to-be-forgotten night.

A FATHER MURDERED BY HIS SON.

furniture demolished, and many persons seriously injured. Six arrests have been made.

MURDER AND ATTEMPTED SUICIDE. On Wednesday last, Joseph Brown, residing at Lesboro', (Long Island) Me., cut his wife's throat so that she died.

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