

# Saint Mary's Beacon

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## ST. MARY'S BEACON

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### [From the Alliance for January.]

#### HAL'S MISTAKE.

There were three of us, only, from Hilltop, a little quaint, irregular village, nestled high among the mountains—Hal Brainerd, John Hazard, and I, Harrison Grey, at your service. We moved together, and that morning as we drank our champagne we talked matters over with no sense of restraint. The regiment, which had been in camp for a month, was to march the next day.

He started as if the bullet had already found him. Whether you believe it or not, we three had passed together over the side of the mountain, and we had shared each other's rations and blankets in many a stress of danger and fatigue; but the name of Thyra Harrington had never passed our lips since that day in camp at Brattleboro'. Hal was always content. He was the sort of man who held you at arm's length, if he pleased; and any subject he chose to ignore was a sealed book. He had not chosen to talk of her, and so Jack and I had been silent. But that night the spirit moved me too strongly—and I spoke.

It is just the one to whom the soldier like Thyra. He is all that is noble in poetry, music, and everything, and such a soft about. He can be as cold as a steel rod, and as warm as a blanket. He is all that is noble in poetry, music, and everything, and such a soft about. He can be as cold as a steel rod, and as warm as a blanket. He is all that is noble in poetry, music, and everything, and such a soft about. He can be as cold as a steel rod, and as warm as a blanket.

Months passed. I had been discharged from the service, for it seemed impossible that I should ever be strong enough to do the field duty. Thyra, a sparkling, brilliant girl, who had been with me at Hilltop, was now in the city, and I had been discharged from the service, for it seemed impossible that I should ever be strong enough to do the field duty. Thyra, a sparkling, brilliant girl, who had been with me at Hilltop, was now in the city, and I had been discharged from the service, for it seemed impossible that I should ever be strong enough to do the field duty.

#### MR. GLADSTONE ON STRAUSS.

At the distribution of the Liverpool College prizes, on the 21st ultimo, Mr. Gladstone made an eloquent address to the students on the spirit of sceptical speculation which is abroad. Referring to the recent work by Strauss on "The Old Testament and the New," Mr. Gladstone said: "In his introduction he frankly raises the question whether, considering the progress which culture has now made, there is any longer a necessity to maintain religious worship in any form whatever."

Errors of Quinine.—The physiological action of quinine has lately been the subject of detailed experiment by Biver, who found it to have extraordinary power in arresting the process of fermentation and putrefaction, and to be a powerful poison for low organisms, or in other words, for all moving bodies consisting of protoplasm. It appears to kill fungi and bacteria, which accompany fermentation and putrefaction, and puts a stop to these processes. It arrests the motion of white blood corpuscles, and thus prevents them from making their exit from the blood vessels.

#### WARM FEET, AND HOW TO KEEP THEM SO.

To go with cold feet is to undermine the constitution, and this half the women and the girls are doing. They have a habit of cold feet, think home-woven stockings are not very fashionable. Once, no country girl was reckoned fit to be married until she had knitted her pillowcase full of stockings, but it is not so now. I do not regret that less hand-knitting is done now than formerly, but I hope we shall not give up warm woolen stockings for winter use until we can replace them with something better. Marino, or the common "boughten" white wool stockings, are rather thin, but some of us supplement them with an additional pair of cotton stockings, wearing the cotton or the woolen pair next the feet, as individuals prefer. Cold feet are often caused, at least in part, by too tight elastic, or bands at the tops of the stockings, or by tight shoes, or shoes tight in the ankles. These interfere with the circulation of the blood, and there cannot be a comfortable degree of warmth without a good circulation and aeration of the blood. My last lesson in this matter came from baby's experience last September. Suddenly she contracted a habit of having cold feet, and when I warmed them the skin seemed hard and inactive, suggesting the need of a bath, when a bath did not seem necessary except for the feet. At length it occurred to me that her "ankle-ties" had been too loose, and just before we came home from our visit a young lady cousin had set the buttons back further, to make the straps tighter on her feet. Her feet had been too tight around the slipper-straps had been too tight around her feet, especially after I put on woolen stockings. I changed the buttons again, and her feet no longer got cold, except in consequence of the actual rigors of the climate. Some well-informed persons object to Congress gaiters, the elastic ones are usually so firm and close about the ankle. Only very loose gaiters are allowable, and these may not be necessary when the stockings are woolen under-drawers. Gaiters buttoning to both waste and stockings are most sensible for women as well as children.

Jack is right, I said. It must be Hal. He dropped his gun, and caught our hands impulsively. "God bless you boys," he cried. "You make me feel like a selfish brute. But it seems to me this morning that I would permit my soul's salvation for the chance of going to Hilltop."

There was a stern compression of his lips, a metallic hardness to his voice. "Yet Hal Brainerd's nature was brave, tender, and womanly. I probed him with questions as a surgeon probes a wound. "And you," I asked, "have you made a mistake too?"

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