

# St. Mary's Beacon

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## ST. MARY'S BEACON

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## The Wanderer's Return.

Father, patting, came the rain, steady, heavily. "Oh, what a dreary day it is!" said Lottie Maynard, as she looked up from her sewing, and gazed out of the window of the old farmhouse where she resided.

"Dreary enough," replied her mother in a cheerful voice, although her spirits were evidently depressed by the gloom; "but I have a good reason to be glad."

"I hope so too," said Lottie. "For you know, mother, I promised Emma Brown I would spend this evening with her, and I know she will feel so disappointed if the rain prevents me from going."

"Well, my dear, if you cannot go, you must not feel dissatisfied, but be thankful that you have a good home to shelter you from the storm without. How many poor creatures are exposed to its fury, and perhaps have no home in which to take refuge?"

"I wonder where poor Charlie is tonight?" said Lottie, sorrowfully.

"God only knows," replied the mother, drawing a deep sigh; "but I trust His sheltering arms are around him, wherever he may be. It is almost three years now since he went away."

"Oh, I remember it all so well," said Lottie. "You know, mother, he did not come down to his breakfast that morning and you sent me up to his room to see if he was sick (for he never ceased calling) and when I opened his door he was nowhere to be seen."

"He was a thoughtless, wayward boy," said the mother, tears starting into her eyes, "but he was ever kind and affectionate toward his mother, and I am afraid your father was rather too stern with him."

"Do you think he will ever come back?" said Lottie, in an earnest voice.

"Oh, how very glad we should all be to see him again, and I am sure father would rejoice at his return."

"I am always hoping and praying that he may return to be a blessing to us all yet," said Mrs. Maynard. "Often I lie awake a great part of the night, thinking about him. Sometimes I fear the cruel sea has swallowed him up, and all the fond hopes that he is yet living, and will gladden our hearts again by his presence. And oh! what a sweet thought it is! I trust this trial may be blessed to us all, for God's ways are not as our ways, you know. It looks very dark now, but light may dawn upon us, and our hearts with joy."

"He is quite a young man now," said Lottie, meditatively.

"Yes," said her mother, "and age and experience often bring wisdom."

Silence reigned for awhile, for both mother and daughter seemed inclined to think rather than talk. The big drops of rain beat upon the window-pane, and the wind whistled around the snug dwelling, making them realize the comforts by which they were surrounded. They thought of the dear one far away, and wondered whether he was shielded from the pitiless storms, and above all, whether he was safe from the many temptations which beset the pathway of the young and inexperienced when they are out in the world and unaided work, away from the benign influence of home and friends.

Suddenly Lottie exclaimed—

"Oh, mother! do look at that poor man walking in the middle of the road. He must be drenched to the skin! I wonder why he is out on such a dreary day. Where can he be going?"

"Perhaps he is on his way to some farm house to try and procure work," said her mother.

"No, sir," answered Isaac, promptly and emphatically. "Now, in truth, the policy of insurance had not been signed, for when he heard the message he judged at once that the ship was safe, and that Jacob sought to save the heavy item of premium he had agreed to pay."

"No, sir," he said; "you are not in time. It is past three o'clock. The policy is signed. I will go and get it."

He slipped out and hastily finished and signed the policy, and, having dried the ink, he brought it to the clerk, demanding in return the sum which had been agreed upon. The money was paid, and the policy was taken home to Friend Jacob, who received it very gladly.

The end we can readily imagine; and it is not difficult to judge which of the two felt the most sore over the matter.

## Home Made Superphosphates.

I place side by side two old flour barrels, in one of which I put whatever bones come to hand. In the other I put a bucketful of wood ashes from the house stoves, moisten them well and scatter a few bones on the top. The process is repeated as the bones and the ashes are produced, and at the end of the year some five or six barrels are the result. The moisture should be kept well moistened without being wet enough to allow any drainage, and in about eight months the small bones will have disappeared altogether, and the large ones will have become soft enough to be easily crushed with the shovel while mixing the compost. The result is a manure which is far too powerful to use without mixing it with at least ten times its bulk of muck, or some fertilizing earth, and which can then be applied with excellent effect, especially to turnip lands. I am of the opinion that it is almost, if not quite, as valuable as many of the purchased superphosphates and the plan is worth adopting if it is only to get rid of dangerous ashes and unsightly bones.

## The True Wife.

What do you think the beautiful word "wife" comes from? It is the great word in which the English and Latin languages condescended the French and Greek. I hope the French will some day get a word for it instead of that dreadful word femme. But what do you think it comes from? The great value of Saxon words is that they mean something. Wife means "weaver." You must either be housewife or house-mother; remember that. In the deep sense, you must either weave men's fortunes and embroider them; or lead upon and bring them to decay. Wherever a true wife comes, home is always around her. The stars may be over her head; the glow worm in the night; the glow grass may be the fire at her foot; but home is where she is; and for a noble woman it stretches far around her, better than houses ceiled with cedar or painted with vermilion, shedding a quiet light for those who else are homeless. This I believe to be the woman's true place and power.

## We "Ain't That Sort."

While General Thoms was inspecting the fortifications of Chattanooga with General Garfield, they heard some one shout: "Hello mister? You! I want to speak to you!"

General Thoms turning, found he was the "mister" so politely hailed by an East Tennessee soldier.

"Well my man," said he, "what do you want with me?"

"I want to get a furlough, mister, that's what I want," was the reply.

"Why do you want a furlough, my man?" inquired the General.

"Well, I want to go home and see my wife."

"How long is it since you saw her?"

"Ever since I enlisted; right on to three months."

"Three months?" exclaimed the commander. "Why, my good fellow, I have not seen my wife for three years!"

The Tennesseean looked incredulous, and drawled out: "Wall, you see, me and my wife ain't that sort!"

Sunday school teacher: "Who was the strongest man?" Boy: "Jonah! Because the whale couldn't hold him after he got him down."

## From the Washington Sunday Chronicle.

Fate Haters, 1850.—In the grand spectacle, first of all, play on paper, of \$500,000 added, and four years in the White House, ran free to come in November, 1850, the following nomination have already been made:

Sen. Tilden, gray riding, aged, by "Bourbon" out of "Pocket," owned by Wall Street, to be ridden by Pelton, weights Hewitt, colors gold.

Sen. Conkling, a heavy "Honesty" out of "Demagogue," by "Small-head" out of "Demagogue," owned by Pelton, to be ridden by Pelton, weights Hewitt, colors blood red.

Sen. Blair, g. h. by "War Dance" out of "Blood-shirt," she by "Hate" out of "Demagogue," owned by Capitalist, to be ridden by Frye, weights Spencer Carbine, colors black flag.

Charles F. Adams, gray gelding, aged, by "Frigidity" out of "Iceland," she by "Propriety" out of "Swallow Tail" owned by Yankee, to be ridden by ghost of Sam Bowles, weights Iceberg, colors Yale.

R. E. Hayes, gray mare, by "Mad Wells" out of "Eliza Pinkston," she by "Bargain" out of "Fraud," owned by the Radical party, colors black and Confed gray mixed.

Ben. Bristol, g. h. by "Reform" out of "Humbag," to be ridden by Bluford Wilson, weights Whiskey Ring, colors blue grass.

Sen. Grant, r. h. by "War Horse," out of the "Wilderness," she by "Butcher" out of "Luck," owned by Drexel, to be ridden by Bab, Belk, or Bad, weights corruption, colors corn (whisky) yellow.

A. G. Thurman, silver gray horse, by "Statesman" out of "Buckeye," she by "Discretion" out of "Brans," to be ridden by J. G. Thompson, colors red bandanna with white spots.

Bill Allen, g. h. aged, by "Inflation" out of "Foghorn," to be ridden by Greenhorn, colors green jacket, silver saddle.

David Davis, g. h. by "Compromise" out of "See Saw," she by "Pat" out of "Silence," owned by Nobody, ridden by Naught, weights (tooheavy already), colors undecided.

Tom Hendricks, g. h. by "Hoosier" out of "Patriot," she by "Capacity" out of "Greatness," to be ridden by North-west, colors silver, green, and gold.

Tom Ewing, g. h. by "Greenback" out of "Anti-Bank," dam'd by "Gold Bugs" out of "Patience," colors green.

Little Mac, dark horse, by "York" out of "Antietam," she by "Pluck" out of "Constitution," owned by Democrat, to be ridden by Nobody, colors Jersey blue.

## A Logical Dollar.

What constitutes a dollar? This has become a question of much importance, and the answer is readily at hand. A contemporary furnishes it: "The dollar is 37 1/2 grains of pure silver mixed with 25 1/2 grains of base metal, and then stamped and marked with certain devices; and also, the dollar is 23 31/100 grains of pure gold mixed with 9 58/100 grains of base metal, and then melted, shaped, and stamped with certain devices. Either of these is a dollar, and they are exactly equal to each other by law, and they are also by law divisible into halves, quarters, tenths, hundredths, &c. &c. That is, this dollar is divisible into 100 part called one cent, and the whole containing 100 cents; these cents being all equal, 100 in other words, \$1 is first, 100 grains of coined silver, and second, it is 25 1/2 grains of gold, each being just to the other, and each containing 100 cents equal to each other; and as a part cannot be equal to the whole, so is 91 not equal to 100. Hence, if a silver dollar be only equal to 91 cents, then is a thing not equal to itself, which cannot be."

## When a Faithful Mother Goes on a Whaling Expedition.

She never fails to get all the blubber she wants.

## Lowly Hearts.

One day three or four weeks ago a gamin who seemed to have no friends in the world was run over by a vehicle on Grant avenue and fatally injured. After he had been in the hospital for a week a boy about his own age and size, and looking as friendly and forlorn, called to ask about him and to leave an orange. He seemed much embarrassed, and would answer no questions. After that he came daily, always bringing something, if no more than an apple.

Last week, when the nurse told him that Billy had no chance to get well, the strange boy sat around longer than usual, and finally asked if he could go in. He had been invited many times before but had always refused.

Billy, pale and weak and emaciated, opened his eyes in wonder at the sight of the boy, and before the boy realized who it was, the stranger bent close to his face and sobbed:

"Billy can ye forgive a feller? We were allus fighting, and I was allus too much for ye, but I'm sorry. 'Fore ye die would ye tell me ye haven't any grudge agin me?"

The young lad, then almost in the shadow of death, reached up his thin white arms, clasped them around the other's neck, and replied:

"Don't cry, Bob—don't feel bad? I was ugly and mean, and I was heaving a stone at ye when the wagon hit me. If ye'll forgive me I'll forgive ye, and I'll pray for both of us."

Bob was half an hour late the morning Billy died. When the nurse took him to the shrouded corpse he kissed the pale face tenderly and gazed:

"Did he say anything about—about me?"

"He spoke of you just before he died—asked if you were here," replied the nurse.

"And may I go—go to the funeral?"

"You may."

And he did. He was the only mourner. His heart was the only one that ached. No tears were shed by others, and they left him sitting by the new-made grave with heart so big that he could not speak.

If, under the crust of vice and ignorance there are such springs of pure feeling and true nobility, who shall grow weary of doing good?—Free Press

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