

A VIRTUOSO OF THE BACK YARD

TALES RECALLED BY A PERFORMANCE ON THE VIOLIN.

The Fiddler was a Household-Cook's Helper and a Man of Genius. Other Tales Told by a Gifted Pianist and a Painter. Wreck of a Family.

"The other evening," said a man who likes to philosophize, I called on a friend on business and we discussed it over our cigars and bottled beer on the little balcony at the back of his house.

"The July night was a storm with the heat left over from a sultry day. The bushes and plants in his yard and in the other yard by and the vines on the fences were scarcely stirred by the sluggish breeze.

"There were lights in many of the windows, for it was still early, and one could hear the sounds of many voices. Suddenly the strings of a violin. The sound of voices ceased. My host whispered: 'Now, we will have our evening concert.' And the concert began.

"It has been well said that the violin is the instrument that comes closest to the human voice. It has notes in it, indeed, which few human voices can surpass.

"Great performance, said you. And you told the story of the back yard, in which the performer was unseen, a voice soared like those of all the nightingales, and ever caroled to the moon contained into one.

"It sang old times and ballads, some merry, like 'Garry Owen' and 'The Ballad of Malinbeg,' some pathetic and sad, like 'Allan Water' and 'The Exile of Erin,' some full of flesh and fire, like 'Fountain' and 'The Great War of Cornwall,' the March of the Men of Harlow,' and then it seemed as if I were listening to a woman, long since dead in misery, who in her day stirred many a heart in many an American theatre, singing 'Kilbuckey.' As it might be said, 'There was a woman, and then the violin began to sing again. Now its voice took a higher flight. It seemed as if one were in an opera house, and great singers were pouring from their throats the gold of immortal melody.

"Joy, sorrow, love, hatred, triumph and despair were filled out of the darkness until, at one of the most glorious moments, the cry was taken up from house to house, in a rolling chorus.

"My host started from his reverie, and passed his hand over his eyes like a man awakening from sleep.

"He won't play any more tonight," he said, as he reached for a light for his cigar.

"Who is he?" I asked.

"I can't tell you much about him," he replied. The house owner is a boarding house. Most of the boarders are musical people.

"He lives in the kitchen, and I think that his wife is the cook and that he helps her. Anyhow, I see him often in daytime, looking rough and carrying chopping wood, and doing other rough work about the place.

"Nearly every night he plays the violin. He is quite an old man, very thin, with a gray beard. He drinks a great deal, and quarrels most of the time with his wife, who is a stout middle-aged Italian woman, with coarse black hair.

"More than that I could not learn. Presently I came away in a reflecting mood, for the fiddling genius of the backyards had brought back to me other old tales, musical and otherwise.

"There used to be in the vicinity of the Cooper Union a beer saloon in the rear of which was an apartment house, containing an excellent piano. Every evening one amateur performer or another would volunteer to entertain the patrons of the place.

"One night a shabby fellow, with long hair and beard, growing wild around his face, came into the place and having qualified by the purchase of a ticket, he made a desperate onslaught upon the free lunch. While he was thus engaged, some one began to play the piano. The proprietor, a good-natured old German,

"If you can afford to have a good piano, you should not allow people who don't know how to play to spoil it.

"Well," said the proprietor, "if you play it better, go ahead, and you shall have all the last year you can afford to give."

"Without a word the vagrant marched into the back room and seated himself at the piano, from which the previous performer had just retired. He played with the touch of a master German, pieces by Chopin and Bach, American pieces by Nevitt and Witt, fingering in his right hand, and in his left, the facility and ease of a virtuoso.

"Each number he gave was applauded. He was treated to beer until a fresh keg had to be tapped. He was drunk to the point of being carried to his bed upstairs, and the proprietor put him to bed upstairs.

"The old man had taken an interest in the vagrant, and in the morning he gave him a bath, furnished him with clean clothes, and appointed him to serve as a waiter by day and pianist by night for \$1 per diem and his board.

"He proved a great attraction and the place was nightly crowded. Everybody treated him, and every night he went to bed sober enough to do his work as a waiter, but from the time he began to finger the piano he had become a drunkard.

"This exceptional talent was a comparatively young man, not over 25. He was a German, spoke French and English fluently, and had a most excellent command of the violin. He was a very good player, and he had remained reasonably sober, he could have made money playing at other places, but he seemed to have a morbid tendency toward a life of dissipation and drinking beer.

"One evening, when he had been nearly a year in the saloon, a thin, shrewd-looking woman of about his own age, came in and made straight for the pianist. Grabbing him by the collar, she shouted:

"You drunken loafer! I've found you, have I?"

"The poor devil jumped up, gave a cry of consternation and ran out of the room. To a man who was playing a piano, it was those present kept her back to give him a start.

"The man said he was her husband. He was a graduate of the Conservatory of Dresden, and had had a good place as an instructor abroad. She had been lady's maid in a noble household, and she had followed her master when he had deserted her, and she had followed him here, but he had deserted her again, landing, at last, in the gutter.

"The men made up a purse for her, and put her out of doors without ceremony. Her husband was never seen in St. Mark's place again.

"I was one day passing a sign painter's shop in a dirty street near Washington Square, when my attention was attracted to a man who was painting a poster in a sign made to swing over a shop door. The lettering was already completed. He was putting in the centre of the sign a figure of a man on horseback, and he was doing it

THE SCHOOL QUESTION

A Catholic Priest on the Education Bill Before the British Parliament.

The Catholic priest on the Education Bill before the British Parliament. The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

THE SCHOOL QUESTION

A Catholic Priest on the Education Bill Before the British Parliament.

The Catholic priest on the Education Bill before the British Parliament. The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

THE SCHOOL QUESTION

A Catholic Priest on the Education Bill Before the British Parliament.

The Catholic priest on the Education Bill before the British Parliament. The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

THE SCHOOL QUESTION

A Catholic Priest on the Education Bill Before the British Parliament.

The Catholic priest on the Education Bill before the British Parliament. The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

THE SCHOOL QUESTION

A Catholic Priest on the Education Bill Before the British Parliament.

The Catholic priest on the Education Bill before the British Parliament. The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.

The bill is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales. It is a measure to provide for the education of the poor in England and Wales.