THE WEEKLY CAUCASIAN.

VOLUME 1. LEXINGTON, LAFAYETTE COUNTY, MISSOURI, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1866. NUMBER 31.

Business Cards.

H. C. WALLACE.
ATTORNEY AT LAW, Lexington, Mo. Office on Main Street, up-stairs, over the store of H. T. Wilson. sep 12 6m

Dr. T. L. BOLTON
HAS removed his residence from near Mrs. Pomeroy's, South street, to the McFarlden place on west Gallatt st., but West Fine and Laurel. oct 10 tf

DENTISTRY.
J. F. RUSSELL will insert a full upper or lower set of teeth on Red, Pink, Brown or White Rubber, for the same price, and as CHEAP as the CHEAPEST. GAS Administered when called for apr25 ly

ROBERT AULL,
BANKER.
OLD BANKING HOUSE, Main st., Lexington, Mo. Exchange bought and sold apr25.

GARLAND J. BLEWETT,
Attorney at Law.
LEXINGTON, MISSOURI.
Office over O. Hoen's Store.

MORRIS B. LOCKE.
ATTORNEY AT LAW AND REAL ESTATE Agent, Waverly, Mo., will attend the several Courts in Lafayette, Saline and Carroll counties, and give prompt attention to Collections and Conveyancing.
References: C. Patterson, Rev. Jno. R. Bennett, Waverly; Wilson & Russell, R. C. Vaughan, H. Wallace, Lexington; A. W. Slayback, W. S. Field, St. Louis; Saml L. Sawyer, Independence; W. Rickenbaugh, St. Joseph. nov7tf

TEETH EXTRACTED WITHOUT PAIN.
I AM NOW prepared to administer the NITROUS OXIDE GAS, for the extraction of teeth without pain, and to insert artificial teeth as cheaps it can be done in the city. Office over A. J. Graham's Tin Shop, opposite the Courthouse.
may 30 ly DR. C. M. STEWART.

JOEL G. HARPER. BERNARD BRYAN.
HARPER & BRYAN.
REAL ESTATE AGENTS, No. 508 Pine Street, between Fifth and Sixth, Saint Louis, Mo. will give his personal attention to the purchase and sale of all kinds of Pine, Poplar and Walnut Lumber, Laths, Shingles, Moss, Brush, Hoops, &c. My facilities are such as to make it to the interest of my patrons, in the city and country, to purchase through me. july 25 ly

O. F. RENICK, M. D.,
PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON,
LEXINGTON, MISSOURI.
CONTINUES to practice his profession in all its departments. All professional calls will be promptly attended, night or day. Office and residence on Main street, east of the public square. may 9 ly

TILTON DAVIS,
ATTORNEY AT LAW, Lexington, Mo. Especial attention given to the collection of debts, Investigation of Land Titles, and to Criminal and Real Estate Litigation generally, in Lafayette and adjoining counties. Office at Sawyer's old stand, corner of Main and Broadway streets. july 11 6m

S. L. SAWYER. WM. CHRISMAN.
SAWYER & CHRISMAN,
Attorneys at Law,
Independence, Missouri.
WILL regularly attend the Courts in Jackson, Lafayette, Johnson and Cass counties. Mr Sawyer will spend a part of his time in Lexington, and when there, may be found at his old stand. Previous notice will be given of the time he will be in Lexington. may 26 6m

MOODY, MICHEL & CO.,
WHOLESALE Dealers in Staple and Fancy
Groceries.
No. 71 Second street, corner of Olive street,
ap2 ly ST. LOUIS.

WM. LIMRICK,
BANKER.
HAS resumed business at his old Banking House, and solicits the patronage of the public. Deposits received. Exchange bought and sold. ap25

GEO. S. RATHBUN,
ATTORNEY AT LAW, Wellington, Mo. Will practice in the courts of Lafayette and adjoining counties. Particular attention given to collections and conveyancing.
REFERENCES.—Gen. John S. Marmaduke, Col. Frank Gordon, Henderson, Ridgley & Co., St. Louis; Gen. Frank Cockrill, Col. Jas. Mason, Warrensburg; A. W. Riding, Alex. Mitchell & Co. Lexington; Col. Jno. Reid, Wellington. june 6 tf

D. H. WITT. E. M. SLOAN. J. A. THACHER
WITT, SLOAN & CO.,
GENERAL COMMISSION MERCHANTS, HEMP COTTON AND TOBACCO FACTORS, No. 111 North Second st., between Vine st. and Washington avenue, ST. LOUIS.
Prompt personal attention given to Forwarding Goods and Filling Orders for all kinds of Merchandise. ap25 ly

VIRGINIA HOTEL.
Laurel Street. : : : : : Lexington, Mo.,
H. J. COMER, Proprietor.
FIRST class hotel. Coaches run regularly to and from the house, to connect with all boats. And also, stages leave from this hotel every morning, connecting with the various railroads. Good Stables connected with the house. may 5 ly

A. W. SLAYBACK.
Attorney at Law,
No 214 North Third street, Mitchell Building, next Door to the Postoffice.
HAVING permanently located in St. Louis, and resumed the practice of law, respectfully requests the renewal of correspondence with his acquaintances throughout the country. aug 5 ly

A. W. RIDINGS. JAMES WARD
A. W. RIDINGS & CO.,
EXCHANGE AND BANKING HOUSE,
WARRENSBURG, MO.
EXCHANGE on Boston, New York, Philadelphia, St. Louis, and other cities, BOUGHT AND SOLD. COLLECTIONS MADE, and proceeds promptly reported at current rate of exchange. Gold, Uncurrent Money, and other stocks bought and sold on commission.
Union Military Bonds bought and sold. se26ly

DRESS MAKING — STAMPING — BRAIDING & EMBROIDERING.
THE UNDERSIGNED take this method to inform their friends, and the Ladies of this vicinity, that they have commenced the business of Dress-Making, Stamping, Braiding and Embroidery, and will be happy to wait on all those who may favor them with a call in the above line. Perfect satisfaction given in all cases.
House on Franklin Street, four doors west of the Market.
oct 10 3m Mrs J. B. & W. M. JORDAN.

C. P. Allen, S. W. Hyatt, W. W. Hyatt, J. M. Bonaker.
HYATT, ALLEN & CO.,
DEALERS IN
DRY GOODS and GROCERIES,
HATS AND CAPS, Boots and Shoes, Furs Skins, Hides, Queensware, Flour, Salt, Fish, &c. Lime, Hair, and Cement. Also Forwarding and Commission Merchants, No 25, near Depot, Warrensburg, Mo. Country Produce taken in exchange for goods. oct 10 ly

NOTICE.
THE COPARTNERSHIP heretofore existing between Drs. Spencer & Major, is now dissolved.
DR. MAJOR has opened an office on Main street, over G. M. Jacques' dry goods store, where he is prepared to perform all operations pertaining to Dentistry.
Teeth Inserted as Cheap as at any Office in the City.
NITROUS OXIDE GAS will be administered for Extracting Teeth Without Pain. Persons who have had their Teeth Extracted at the office of Drs. Spencer & Major, preparatory to having Teeth inserted, and paid the usual price for extracting, and wishing to have their teeth inserted at Dr Major's office, will have the amount paid for extracting, deducted from the price of the job when completed. sep 25 ly

NEW
AND ELEGANT MILLINERY!!
MRS. E. A. WHITE would respectfully announce that she is in receipt of her
Fall and Winter Millinery Goods,
selected, with care, for this market, consisting of—
BONNETS, all shapes, styles and quality,
HATS, all shapes and styles,
Flowers and Feathers,
Ribbons and Ornaments,
and all else found in a number one millinery store, to which she invites the attention of her friends and the public in general.
Her stock is so large and varied that all must be pleased and suited. Dispatch, low prices, with taste and elegance.
Bridal Outfits furnished.
E. A. WHITE,
oc3 3m Opposite Courthouse.

McGREW & CO.,
PAUL REINHARD, Clerk,
Steamboat Agents,
Commission Receiving & Forwarding Merchants AND
Dealers in Coal and Boat Stores,
WATER STREET, LEXINGTON.
OCCUPYING the Large and Commodious Brick Warehouse in front of the Steamboat Landing. Prompt and close attention will be given to any business entrusted to our care. McGREW & CO.
PAUL REINHARD, Clerk. july 4 3m

Alex. Mitchell. S. G. Wentworth Wm. Morrison.
EXCHANGE & BANKING HOUSE
OF
ALEX. MITCHELL & CO.,
LEXINGTON, MO.
EXCHANGE ON BOSTON,
NEW YORK,
PHILADELPHIA,
ST. LOUIS,
and other cities bought and sold. Collections made and proceeds promptly remitted at current rate of exchange. Gold, Uncurrent Money, and other stocks bought and sold on commission.
United States and other Stocks bought and sold on Commission, and real estate paper negotiated on favorable terms.
Union Military Bonds bought and sold. my2 ly

The Weekly Caucasian,
By JULIAN, ALLEN & Co.
S. M. JULIAN. E. ALLEN. W. G. MUSGROVE.
Office Hours, from 7 to 12, M. from 1 to 6 P. M.

TERMS:
One year, in advance, $2.50; six months, in advance, $1.25; single copies, 10c. Subscriptions discontinued at end of term unless renewed.

CASH RATES OF ADVERTISING.

	1 Sq.	2 Sq.	3 Sq.	4 Sq.	5 Sq.	¼ Col.	⅓ Col.	½ Col.	1 Col.
1 Week,	1 00	2 00	3 00	4 00	5 00	7 50	15 00	20 00	
2 "	1 50	3 00	4 50	6 00	7 50	11 00	20 00	25 00	
3 "	2 00	4 00	5 00	7 00	9 00	15 00	22 50	27 50	
1 Month,	2 50	4 50	6 00	8 00	12 00	18 00	25 00	35 00	
2 "	3 00	6 00	8 00	12 00	15 00	22 00	30 00	35 00	
3 "	5 00	7 00	10 00	14 00	18 00	26 00	35 00	40 00	
6 "	7 00	12 00	15 00	20 00	25 00	35 00	45 00	60 00	
1 Year,	10 00	15 00	20 00	25 00	30 00	40 00	50 00	100 00	

Extra Notices, $2 00, where none annual only is described, and $1 00 for each additional annual in the same notice.
Administrators' Notices, $2 50. Final Settlement Notices, $3 50.
Local Notices, 20 cents per line for first insertion, and 10 cents per line for each subsequent insertion.
Special Notices, 15 cents per line. Ten lines of solid nonpareil, (this size,) or its equivalent in space, make one square.
All advertisements for a less time than three months, must be paid in advance, unless by special arrangement otherwise.
For marriage notices, no charge. Obituary notices ten lines in length, or under, say seventy-five words, published free; over that space, $1 for each ten lines. Religious notices free.
Job Work of all kinds done in best style, on entirely new type, at lowest cash rates. Orders solicited, and promptly attended to.

Business Cards.

SAFE FOR SALE.
A MEDIUM-SIZED IRON SAFE for sale. Apply to [nov7w3] WM. MORRISON.

SOUTHERN GENERALS.
SOUTHERN WOMEN, Stonewall Jackson; Morgan and his Men; at Rodgers Packs, at
nov7w2w PIGOTT'S.

BOOTS AND SHOES AT COST.
M. G. LIEBLICH will close his stock of Boots and Shoes at and BELOW COST, in good faith. oc26tf

FOR RENT.
A DESIRABLE FARM of Sixty Acres, with Comfortable House, two miles from Pink Hill, Jackson county, will be rented from the 1st of March. For particulars apply to M. E. Boyle, or
oc26tf JOHN E. GANTT.

HOUSE AND LOT FOR SALE.
THAT DESIRABLE PROPERTY ON the corner of Franklin and Laurel Streets, is offered for sale. Lot 50 by 140 feet, with ample building space on Franklin, and a comfortable residence on Laurel street. For terms, &c., call on the subscriber, at the Carriage Shop of D. Russell & Co.
nov7w3 W. H. MENDENHALL.

FIRST-CLASS FARM FOR SALE.
I OFFER FOR SALE the farm owned by George Young, living 12 miles southeast of Lexington, near the Salt Pond road, containing about 41 acres. The farm is susceptible of division, is suitable for the growth of either stock or hemp. The improvements are fair and extensive. Abundance of water on the farm for all purposes. Thos. G. Young, residing on the farm will show it to any one wishing to purchase. EVAN YOUNG,
aug 8 tf Agent for Geo. Young.

FARM FOR SALE.
I OFFER FOR SALE my farm, lying 18 miles southeast of Lexington, and 3 miles southwest of Waverly, containing 337 acres of the best quality of land—250 acres in cultivation. The improvements consist of a one-story frame house, containing three rooms, a first-rate barn, built of oak and pine lumber, and all other out-buildings. Also an abundance of never failing water. The crops will be sold with the farm, if desired. EVAN YOUNG.
aug 8 tf

Stray Notice.
TAKEN UP by A. L. Fulton, living in Washington township, Lafayette county, Missouri, and posted before the undersigned, Justice of the Peace of Lexington township, and in Lafayette county, on the 24th day of November, 1866, a stray MULE, described as follows, to-wit: A dark bay mare Mule, two years old past, unbroke, no other marks or brands, about 13 hands high, and appraised to fifty dollars.
nov7w3 G. CLAYTON, J. P.

FOR SALE at a GREAT BARGAIN.
A FARM of One Hundred and Sixty-Six Acres, within one and a half miles of Lexington, is offered for sale. The farm is in a high state of cultivation, very conveniently divided in Meadows, Fields and Pastures. The buildings consist of a Good Brick Dwelling House, Smoke House, Carriage House, and a large Barn, with all other necessary out buildings. There are also Two Large Orchards of the finest kinds of Fruit on the place. For particulars of sale, apply to Levi Vancamp, near the premises, or to
THOS. J. PORTER, Trustee,
oc26tf Richmond, Mo.

NEW AND FINE MILLINERY.
MRS. JAMIESON is in receipt of her FALL STOCK of New and Fashionable Millinery, embracing every article found in her line, and as the season is growing late, she is offering them at reduced prices. Her stock consists in part of
Bonnets of all kinds,
Hats, all the Fashionables,
Flowers and Feathers,
Ribbons and Ornaments,
and, in short, all descriptions of Fashionable Goods in the Millinery line. She invites the public to call and examine her stock, satisfied that she will be able to please, both as to quality and price. 6tf

H. J. ARMSTRONG. G. E. BELLES.
ARMSTRONG & BELLES,
ARE now receiving a large stock of
CHINA,
Glass and Queensware,
At their old stand (two doors east of the City Hotel) which will give the LARGEST and BEST ASSORTMENT west of Saint Louis.
We solicit a continuance of the patronage so liberally bestowed upon us heretofore and shall give our best attention to the wants and interests of all our patrons. In
VARIETY AND CHEAPNESS
our stock will be unequalled by any other house, and we shall make it an object for customers to buy their goods of us. ARMSTRONG & BELLES.
apr25 tf

WM. CHRISMAN,
Under the Bourbon House, Commercial Row,
LEXINGTON, MO.,
DEALER in Fancy and Staple Dry Goods. Having just received and opened my stock of
FALL AND WINTER GOODS,
Which is Large, Varied and Couple, I am determined to sell them as cheap, or cheaper, than can be sold by any other house in the city. Having been engaged in the Dry Goods business in this city for a length of time, I flatter myself that I can suit the taste of all. Do not forget the place.
sept 19 ly WM. CHRISMAN.

W. V. CROMWELL,
Merchant Tailor,
LEXINGTON, MO.,
HAS REMOVED opposite his old stand, up stairs, over the store of O. Hoen, on Main street. Has just received his stock of
NEW FALL AND WINTER GOODS.
FINE FRENCH CLOTHS,
CASSIMERES AND DOESKINS,
VESTINGS,
TAILOR'S TRIMMINGS, &c.
He respectfully invites his old customers, and the public generally, to give him a call.
cd oc3 ap25 6m

AMOS GREEN & G. S. RATHBUN.
CLAIM AGENTS,
LEXINGTON, MO.
ARE Prepared to prosecute successfully claims under the acts of Congress of February 24th, 1864, and July 28th, 1866, providing compensation to owners of slaves enlisted in the service of the United States. Those having such claims should use prompt action in their preparation for allowance. Claims solicited from this and adjoining counties. Office over John Aull & Co.'s Store, Main Street. oct24y1

FALL OF 1866.
MILLINERY AND DRESS MAKING
MRS. CARPENTER & McGREW, at their old stand, on Main street, in Limrick's Banking house, up stairs. They are prepared to
Cut and Fit Dresses and Cut Patterns,
of the latest styles, as they receive them new monthly. Always ready.
Mrs. Carpenter is an old hand at Millinery and Dress Making.
Ladies of Lexington and vicinity will do well to look at their goods before buying elsewhere. Give us a call. oc3 3m

ELEGANT MILLINERY GOODS.
MRS. M. F. PRICE, Main street, near the Courthouse, would announce the arrival of her new and elegant MILLINERY GOODS, for the Fall Trade, consisting in part of—
BONNETS, EVERY STYLE AND SHAPE.
HATS, " " "
Turbins and Gladiators,
Head Dresses, of all Fashionable styles,
Dress Trimmings in Great Variety,
Cloak Trimmings " "
PLUMES, of all colors,
LACES AND RIBBONS,
and all articles usually found in a similar Establishment.
Dress and Cloak-Making, Stamping, Braiding, and Embroidering done at short notice.
Mrs. Price asks the attention of her friends and the public to her stock, feeling sure that it will please all. oc24 y1

BRYANT, STRATTON & CARPENTER'S
Business COLLEGE,
Cor. Fifth and Olive sts., St. Louis, Mo.
SEND FOR COLLEGE MONTHLY and Specimen of Penmanship. sep 26 ly

VIRGINIA CAPTA—April 9th, 1865.

FROM MRS. PRESTON'S "BREECHENBRUCK."

I.
Unconquered captive, close thine eye,
And draw the ashes sackcloth o'er,
And in thy speechless fate deplore
The fate that would not let thee die!

II.
The arm that wore the shield, strip bare;
The hand that held the martial coin,
And hurled the spear at many a plain,
Stretch till they clasp the shackles there!

III.
The foot that once could crush the crown
Must drag the fetters till it bled
Beneath their weight; thou dost not need
It now to tread the tyrant down.

IV.
Thou thought'st him vanquish'd, boastful trust,
His lance in twain, his sword a wreck;
But, with his heel upon thy neck,
He holds you prostrate in the dust.

V.
Bend thou beneath his will.
Let not one abject woman have place;
But with male fire, silent grave,
Maintain thy reel bearing still.

VI.
Look back through all thy storied past,
And offered in concession pride;
No tyrant foe-race ever died,
No slerner, battled to the last!

VII.
Keep, if thou wilt, with proud, sad mien,
Thy blasted hopes—thy peace undone—
Yet brave, live on, nor seek to shun
Thy fate, like Egypt's conquered queen.

VIII.
Though forced a captive's place to fill,
In triumphal train, yet there
Superbly, like Zenobia, wear
Thy chains—VIRGINIA VICTRIX STILL!

How the Radical Majority in Congress is Manufactured.

The people of Pennsylvania know something of the method by which the dominant party manages to manufacture majorities for themselves in representative bodies. The Democratic party polls nearly as many votes as its opponents, yet they do not elect one-third as many members to the Legislature. This inequality is effected by the most infamous political "gerrymandering." The same means have been employed throughout the Northern States to increase the radical majority in Congress. The Cincinnatti Enquirer has a summing up which shows that there are to-day in favor of the policy of President Johnson, as regards the restoration of the Union, these numbers:

In the South.....1,500,000 voters.
In the North.....2,000,000 "

Total.....3,500,000 "

Opposed to the President there are
In the North.....2,000,000 voters.

They are thus represented in Congress.
1,500,000 voters in the South.....None.
2,000,000 " " North.....60

3,500,000 voters have.....60 members.
2,500,000 " .....216 "

What a beautiful representative system! How thoroughly it reflects the majority of the people! Daily we hear the boast that the elections have gone against the President, and in favor of his opponents in Congress. Yes! They have gone against him in a peculiar manner. His 3,500,000 friends have 60 members; his 2,500,000 opponents have 216 members in the Federal Congress!

It is by the light of these figures that we see the victory the radicals have achieved. For every twelve or thirteen thousand of their number they are credited with a member of Congress. The anti-Jacobins, on the contrary, get a member of every 60,000 of their number. One Jacobin counts as much on the basis of representation as four Conservatives!—*Lanc. Int.*

Eighth N. Y. Congressional District.

James Brooks is re-elected to Congress (*re-elected* is the word) by over 6,000 majority. Mr. W. E. Dodge (Radical) now holds the seat, under the pretence of a contested election, and by the revolutionary action of Congress in expelling Mr. Brooks, who when that process was going on, told the Radicals in Congress he would come back, not by hundreds, as then, but by thousands of majority. This great majority is the response of the people.

The 15th District of the 18th Ward, which Mr. Dawes, of Massachusetts, the Chairman of the Committee on Elections, threw out as fraudulent in order to elect Dodge, then gave (1864) 446 votes in all, which Dodge, "proved" by one Las Casas Dean to be votes of "dead men." This District now gives—

Brooks.....551 Cannon.....61

under the severest sort of a registry, with 723 votes on it, of which only 615 could be polled, *because there was not time enough, in these short days, to get in full 100 good Democratic voters who stood ready to vote when the polls closed!*

As Mr. Wm. E. Dodge was claiming, in Congress, that the District voted for him, and that he was elected, Mr. Brooks challenged him to appear before the people, and try the contest there. This challenge Mr. Dodge declined to accept, and put Mr. Cannon in his place, to be beaten by 6,000 majority. Now, however, that it is clear, Mr. Dodge is NOT the Representative of the District, it is not only due to justice and honor, and to the principle of self-government, that he should decline to go back this winter, but it is due to his own self-respect as a merchant (once of some standing.) It cannot be claimed that there is any party necessity that makes it necessary for him to go back, because his party have two-thirds of the present House, and his absence will do no damage to anybody. As a merchant, we do not see how he can look his fellow-merchants in the face, if persisting in this fraud upon the ballot-box of the Eighth District.—*New York Express.*

Who Pays?

The newspapers recently recorded the fact that a Massachusetts manufacturing company had just declared a dividend of one hundred per cent profits, after reserving surplus to enlarge and improve their mill. Another important fact, bearing upon this point, is the announcement of a woolen manufacturer in the same State, that before the war it cost him $3 50 to make a yard of cloth which he sold for $4, and that now he sells at $8 per yard what only cost him $4 to produce. These manufacturers make goods for the millions and their enormous profits account, in partly, for the present extraordinary high prices of the fabrics used by the masses. In the face of this state of things the radicals of New England are loudly clamoring for more protection, and want a higher tariff sorely as a means of increasing their profits. The wants and necessities of the poorer classes are unheeded by these cormorants, and the actual cost of living is advanced to a standard which calls for immediate reform. How long will the people be satisfied with radical rule?—*Philadelphia Age.*

Bishop & Hilber sold 20 head of yearling steers to Hi. Roseberry, weighing 880 lbs.; also 20 head of two year old, weighing 1325 lbs., to Thos. Ford—all at seven cents.—*Kentuckian.*

SALEM WITCHCRAFT.

BY MARY KYLE DALLAS.

In the present day, any very ill-looking or deformed person has only the inconvenience or pain of his misfortune to bear. In the present day, also, old woman are respected for their age, and are accounted a worthy class of the community. People, to-day, are as likely as ever to have moles, warts or squints, but having them, are rather happier than they would have been in the seventeenth century, inasmuch as they then were in danger of being pronounced witches. To have a wart or a mole, or a squint, was, in the neighborhood of Salem at that time, to be marked by the Evil One as his property. To be an old woman was to be almost positively a witch.

This having been decided upon by all highly intelligent people, an individual who not only was unhappy enough to be an old woman, but who also had a mole on her left cheek, was peculiarly liable to suspicion, and such a person resided not far from Salem, in a little house with one room and a loft, a long, toppling chimney, and no particular window.

She was by no means an ignorant woman, and came of a respectable family, and although she had, since an early disappointment in love, been rather peculiar, and had not forgiven the part her brothers took in the affair, nor lived on the best terms with them, each had left her a small legacy which, hoarded for years, now insured her an humble independence for the remainder of her days. She had bought the queer little house, and lived in it alone, save for her companionship of a cat. Her furniture consisted of a table, two chairs, something which at that date, was a bedstead, a feather bed, a three-legged stool, a bible, a big iron pot, a frying pan, and sundry cups and platters, also a broom.

The neighborhood felt certain that, one stormy night, old Dame Wimple, accompanied by this cat, and mounted astride on this broom, rode about the village seeking whom she might injure, and that the form in flannel cap and gown, tucked up between blankets in her bed was Beelzebub, who assumed her likeness for the purpose of deceiving inquiring mortals. As yet nobody had caught Dame Wimple at her tricks, but people generally expected she would be detected soon, and Squire Garret, of the stone house on the hill, was constantly on the watch for her.

The little girls ran when Dame Wimple, in her red cloak and queer little black hood, appeared. The boys hid behind walls and hedges, and threw stones at her. Maids and matrons ducked her propitiatory courtesies, as one might to the devil, hoping, thereby, to escape his clutches; and fat, be-wigged, be-spectacled old gentlemen looked at her gravely, as who should say:

"All that slow-going, old-womanish poking over the road is assumed to deceive us, Mistress Wimple. You were, as you well know, astride a broomstick at twelve o' the clock last night, and we shall catch you soon. You can't deceive us. We are birds much too old to be caught by chaff. Much, Mistress Wimple?"

Perhaps Dame Wimple guessed something of this. Perhaps now and then, when they threw an old woman into the water, on the principle that if she were a witch she would float, and they might, with safe consciences, burn her, and if she were no witch she would drown then and there, receiving no aid from Satan, it entered her mind that it might be her turn next, but she never said anything on that subject or any other. The fact, and her seldom entering any one's door, saved her so far. But there was one threshold Dame Wimple often crossed—that of Madame Hull, who lived, with her young daughter Gertrude, on the estate left her by her husband.

She was an elderly lady, who had once been a beauty, and who, mentally, was made of wax, to be moulded to any form by one of stronger mind. Her Puritan husband had made a Puritan of her; if he had been a Mohammedan, she would have been as easily convinced of the purity of his faith, and it was lucky for her that, on the whole, she had fallen into good hands, and been kindly, though firmly, patted into an exemplary matron, an excellent housekeeper, and a regular attendant at her place of worship.

Since her widowhood she continued the old routine, and held upon every subject the precise opinion which the late Ebenezer Hull had told her that she must have.

Now Ebenezer Hull had never spoken about Dame Wimple, never having seen her, and having some peculiar doubts on the subject of witches in general. Consequently, when young Mistress Gertrude chose to take a patronizing fancy to Dame Wimple, and declared there was no harm in her, Madame Hull accepted the decree, and said of course not. So it came to pass that as the ladies sat at work in their little private room, Dame Wimple sometimes came to sit with them. In her day she had been about the world more than was the wont of woman at that period, and could tell them strange things, to which they listened curiously. Then there were stories of wooing and winning, and of adventure, which to those who never read a morning paper or a novel, were interesting beyond our conception, and she had receipts for healing, balms and poultices, and physic valuable and rare.

In return she received gifts of food, delicacies, and garments, and kindly words, which were even more valuable to her, and the three were, in a measure, friends. One other sometimes sat amongst them—a young man—fourth or fifth cousin to Mistress Gertrude, by name Joyce Colwell.

This relationship admitted him to intimacy, and he improved his opportunity by falling in love with Gertrude. He had his way to make in the world, and was but young, yet Madam Hull never thought of disapproving of the match. How could she tell what Ebenezer would have told her to do? Mistress Gertrude liked him, and Mistress Gertrude had her way, and would have it until the wedding-day crowned the lover's hopes, but for the fat, wheezing, hypocritical Squire Garret.

On Monday he rode over to Madam Hull's, and descending, requested to see that lady alone. Meeting her, he opened his business at once. The facts of the matter were that he had seen Mistress Gertrude on sundry occasions, and admired her lovely face and buxom form. He *said* that he had taken the matter of a second marriage into prayerful consideration, and had in the night been visited by a vision of the late Ebenezer, who had said, "Squire Garret, I desire thee to take my daughter to wife."

The news startled Madam Hull.

"I think Ebenezer should have told *me* also," said she, half doubtfully.

"It was in the providence of things the vision should be revealed to me rather than unto thee," said the squire.

Mrs. Hull put her kerchief to her eyes.

"It will be a sore blow unto them," said she.

"Unto whom?" asked the squire.

"Unto Gertrude and Joyce, who are pledged to each other, and do love each other well," said Madam Hull.

"The ways of the young are folly," said the squire.

"Dost thou think Ebenezer knew?" asked Madam Hull.

"Doubtless," said the squire, "for in my vision I did hear him say, Thou art better for her than the worldly youth she hath chosen."

"He *must* have known," said Madam Hull. "And thou art eight and fifty years of age, and Gertrude is but seventeen. But I could never quite understand Ebenezer."

"Thee will not disobey thy husband," said the squire.

"I have never been an ill wife," said Madam Hull, with dignity. "I will tell Gertrude of her father's will.

And she retired sobbing.

The squire, content, rode away on his gray horse.

Madam Hull rushed to Gertrude's chamber, where that damsel was plaiting a ruff for a throat too white to be so covered, and flung herself upon her bosom.

"Oh, Gertrude," she said "thy father has revealed it in a vision to Squire Garret that he is to take thee to wife. My heart bleeds for thee, poor child, and for my dear Joyce, but we must obey."

Gertrude dropped the ruff and asked particulars.

"He did ride thither on his gray mare to tell me of the vision with his own lips," said Madam Hull.

Thereupon Mistress Gertrude laughed.

"He hath had no vision," said she. "Now bethink thee, mother. It is but a falsehood. I will have no squire, but only Joyce, my true lover, and that I tell thee."

But Madam Hull, for once in her life, was obstinate.

"Thou shalt not disobey thy father, especially when he hath taken the trouble to appear in a vision," she said. "Say farewell to Joyce, and welcome Squire Garret, though it will be hard, I know."

And thereupon mother and daughter had a quarrel—their first one. In its middle entered Dame Wimple. She was a brave old woman, and sided with poor Gertrude.

"Love is love the world over," said she. "It is not to be expected that the young lady should take kindly to so old a man, with a young and handsome one belonging to her. He hath had no vision, that wicked old man, only those of Mistress Gertrude's youth and beauty."

Madam Hull wrung her hands. What could she think? What could she do?

"Let Master Joyce wed with Mistress Gertrude."

"But if the vision were true," said Madam Hull. "Oh, Dame, I should be afraid to go to Heaven, which I have heretofore hoped to win, for once I did as Ebenezer desired not, and alas! how wrath he was. No, thou must wed the squire, Gertrude," and with these words she folded her hands and sat silent.

Dame Wimple sat with them a while longer, and even concocted a soothing draught to cure the nervous headache both ladies had by this time wept themselves into, and when she departed, she turned to Madam Hull, and said solemnly:

"Lady, believe one who has seen many villains in her day. Squire Garret has but lied unto thee. He is a bad, bad man—an evil one, indeed, to try to win thee to his will by such a falsehood."

And Madam Hull wept all the more, and pulled both ways—believed Dame Wimple for an hour, and then turned back to her old faith, and believed Squire Garret.

That night Mistress Gertrude knelt to her mother.

"Thou wilt never bid me wed the squire," she plead, "knowing how I love Joyce."

And her mother answered:

"I will make thee obey thy father, if both thou and I and poor Joyce do die for it."

"Blame thyself, then, not me," said Gertrude, and went to her own chamber.

That night the wind blew, and the rain fell, and the shutters of the house flapped and creaked, and the trees without groaned.

It was a night such as we seldom see—a night those said who were alive then for witches to be abroad.

In the morning Mistress Gertrude was gone. Her bed had not been slept upon. Her window was wide open, and the rain had beaten in at it all night.

No one had heard or seen her since she left her mother with the words we have recorded.

The news flew abroad, and first at the door to hear the truth was fat Squire Garret. The mother weeping told him that her child had flown.

"Knowest thou why?" asked he.

Then knowing already and angry at the knowledge, he asked, quickly:

"Whom saw she last,?"

"Only Dame Wimple" said Madam Hull, innocently, "who made as a draught, and talked with us."

"That old witch?" said the squire.

"Nay, she is no witch," said Madam Hull.

"We will prove that," said the squire. "What said she?"

"That thy vision was all a lie," said Madam.

"Said she that?" cried the squire. "Well I know the truth, Madam Hull; that witch hath cast a spell over thy child, and borne her away in the storm last night that she might serve Satan rather than such an holy man as I. She shall confess it."

Madam Hull shrieked—partly with dread for poor Dame Wimple, partly at the suggestion. Squire Garret stalked away. That day more than a dozen witnesses were found to the fact that Dame Wimple had been seen flying through the storm with Gertrude before her upon her broomstick. To be sure they had not been positive as to witch or victim, but they knew now who they must have been. So that night a troop of wiseacres besieged Dame Wimple's cottage, and bade her come out. She came, terrified by their savage looks.

"What want you with me, gentlemen," said she.

Squire Garret answered:

"Thou art accused of having borne Mistress Gertude Hull away from her home last night in the storm. There are many worthy citizens who saw thee, so deny it not, but come quietly to await thy trial, thou evil witch."

Old Dame Wimple rung her hands. "Alack a-day," said she; "I can not ride on any horse, let alone a broomstick in mid-air; and wherefore should I fly away with a maiden who has done me no harm, were I ever so vile a witch."

"That Satan, who is thy master, alone can answer," said the squire; and they dragged the poor woman away to jail to be tried by those who were so sure of her conviction that they had already prepared the stake for her burning.

Mad. Hull wept and rung her hands. Nothing could make her believe that Dame Wimple was an evil creature. That, said the judges, was because she also had tasted the witch draught brewed for the vanished girl, and they treated her as a temporarily insane person when she knelt to them, declaring it to be her belief that Gertrude had flown of her own free will, and not because of any spell cast upon her.

They made their mockery of a trial in the court-room. Dame Wimple confessed to brewing the draught, but vowed that it was harmless. She declared that all night she had slept in her own bed. But any witch would have made such declarations. They put her to torture to wring a confession from her, and to discover the whereabouts of Mistress Gertrude; and finding this useless, conveyed her to the stake, and there proceeded to light the fire about her. Good people came to see the sight, and stood about in their sad-colored clothes and peaked hats, hoping to benefit their souls by their presence at the burning of a witch; and Squire Garret, enraged by the disappearance of Gertrude, felt glad of the chance to punish somebody. A pious elder thus addressed the victim:

"Accursed witch, dost thou now confess thy evil deeds?"

"I have nothing to confess save the sins we are all heir to," said Dame Wimple.

"Nay, thy hardihood cannot help thee now," said the man, honestly believing that he spoke to an evil creature with fiendish powers. "In mercy to thine own soul, tell us where we shall find young Mistress Gertrude."

"That I know not," said the woman, "I had no hand in her flight."

The elder groaned. The tiny flame began to play about the faggots.

"Thou hast not many moments," he said. "Again I say, in mercy to thyself, take the spell from the maiden and restore her to her home and confess thy crime and thy dealing with Satan."

Then the old woman, clasping her withered hands, said solemnly:

"I have not many moments—thou hast spoken truly; let them be spent with the God whom thou sendest me to meet before His time, for it is thou and thy fellows who are doing the devil's work, not I."

And she began to pray.

The blue flame was mixed with red blaze and dun smoke now. The heat scorched the old woman's bent head. She felt it nearer and nearer. She heard cries of triumph from some who had been warped into strange ideas of duty, and her soul shrunk within her. Suddenly a shout arose on the air—another and another; a voice cried:

"The spell is broken!"

And she looked up. In the midst of the circle stood two who had just dismounted from their hard-ridden steeds—a man and woman—Mistress Gertrude and Joyce Colwell. The youth held the girl's hand, but when he caught the eye of Dame Wimple, dropped it, and drawing his sword, dashed the faggots aside, trampled out the flames, and with a stroke or two severed the cords which bound the old woman, and stood with his arm about her protecting her from the multitude.

"Dost thou rescue a witch?" cried Squire Garret.

Joyce laughed in his face.

"Oh what was she accused?" said he. "Verily, if the news which brought us here be true, of flying away on a broomstick with good Misstress Gertrude yonder, now my dear wife—whereas it was I who rode off with her on my good horse, and no broomstick, as I think thou didst guess, thou lying villain!"

Squire Garret turned pale.

"Nay, she did not bear her away mayhap" said he; "but the potion she concocted put it in her heart to leave a godly man like me, and become the spouse of such as thou, and she deserveth burning."

Then Gertrude spoke:

"Nay," said she, "love put it in my heart, and fear of thee; and the potion did me good and no harm. This I declare o'people, and let every maiden tell me if it needed witches' spell to choose this from that."

And she pointed first to her Joyce gallant and brave, beside her, and then to Squire Garret. And there arose from under hoods and wimples a solemn, decisive "Nay, verily."

The tide was turned. Master Job, the farrier, vowed that although he had surely seen a witch, bearing a maiden upon a broomstick, yet being dark he could not see faces, and was convinced that it was not Dame Wimple and Mistress Gertrude.

Master Hiram, the butcher, was also shaken in the belief that the witches' song he had heard sung was in Dame Wimple's voice, and Mistress Peters, the haberdasher's wife, who had sworn to a notch in the broom-handle which had been brought to court, declared, rather late in the day, that as many brooms had notches like untothat."

And by common consent Dame Wimple was set free. She had been almost frightened to death, however, and was only nursed back to life by the best efforts of Madam Hull and her daughter—the former l