The People's Vindicator.

THE WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE IS THE SUPREME LAW.

A DEMOCRATIC NEWSPAPER, ESTABLISHED 1874.

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J. H. COSGROVE, Editor.

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"THE DAYS OF PERICLES."

A Love Legend of Ancient Greece.

BY "CIGARETTE."

CHAPTER XIV.

AN EMBARRASSING ADVENTURE.

For the first few days of ARMETA's residence in Athens, she was contented to remain within doors. Her fathers death still fresh in her memory, weighed heavily on her youthful spirits. As she had never before been in the renowned Grecian metropolis, nor had lived in such elegance and luxury, most of her time was occupied in examining and rambling amongst her novel surroundings. She sauntered among the exquisite statues, plants and fountains that embellished the beautiful gardens, and finally having satisfied her curiosity with those objects of her admiration, she begged dame MARJURYX to accompany her through those magnificent vistas, whose sides were studded with architectured gems—the glory of the far famed city.

Her every desire was gratified by the indulgent sorceress; and now every successive evening found the two females traversing the splendid avenues of the city of Minerva. As they proceeded down the streets the sorceress seemed to delight in narrating the history and legends connected with every object of curiosity.

They wandered first to the Hill of Mars on whose rocky eminence sat the Areopagus, the highest court of Athenian Judicature; another evening found them strolling in the broad enclosure of the Pnyx, whose large semicircular area was exclusively used for public assemblages; on another the rustic ARMETA wrapped in wonder, stood amidst the sculptured Gods and Heroes of the Acropolis. The Agora or market place, the beautiful temples of Theseus, Hercules, and the Gods of the winds, the Gymnasium, the Stoæ or Porticoes, the handsome garden and grove of Academia the immense theatre of Bacchus, respectively contributed to an evenings instruction and entertainment and were all objects of the maidens enthusiastic admiration!

One evening during their peregrinations they met with a very serious adventure, which caused the greatest alarm to the motherly MARJURYX. They had proceeded down the streets some distance from their home. ARMETA closely veiled, was clad in the deep mourning. She wore no ornaments save the beautiful Cicada clasp that NIREUS had given her, and which served to pin her shadowy veil to her elegant coiffure. The sombre hued apparel strongly relieved the glittering jewel which sparkled with marvellous brilliancy on the maiden's head.

Surrounded as she was by wealthy women, who, as they paraded the streets decked themselves with a profusion of jewels, the rustic maiden could not resist the temptation of improving her toilette by wearing this handsome gem.

"There can be no harm" thought she "in breaking my promise under these circumstances—NIREUS I am sure will forgive me, besides why should he have given me the clasp if I am not to wear it? Could he have foreseen this visit to Athens, he willingly would have released me from my promise."

Love of decoration is woman's frailty! Alas for poor ARMETA, she was not an exception to the rule, and thus the diamond locust was pinned to her jetty hair.

"This evening," said MARJURYX, "we will pass through the *gate of Dipylum* and visit the outer Ceramicus. There will I show thee, the many handsome mausoleums of brave Athenians who falling in battle, were buried at the public expense," and the subject suggested one of those interesting tales with which her memory was well stored, and she immediately began its pleasing recital.

They had proceeded some distance from the palace of PHALARIS and unnoticed, three young men in martial accoutrements had been following in their footsteps for some time. Just as they reached the arched portals of a large stone wall, one of the three youths suddenly leaped before the unsuspicious ARMETA, and grasping her throat rudely tore from her silken hair the golden locust! The maiden had been so completely absorbed in the gentle tale of MARJURYX, that startled with the violent onslaught she uttered shrieks of fright and clung for protection to the robes of the Sorceress.

The witch was astounded by this strange unwarranted conduct, and placing her matronly arms about the timid maiden she angrily exclaimed: "Fiends what mean ye?"

"Great!" said one of the young men deaf to the soothsayers speech, "Quickly place these two females within the gates."

The portals were opened and the three men immediately thrust the women through, and, in a manner not exactly consistent with the delicacy due their sex.

The eyes of the magical dame flashed fire! she was burning with rage! and to add to her confusion, the ponderous gates were closed and barred to prevent further egress.

The enchantress was dumbfounded!

Without a word the two ladies were led through the beautiful pertenes to an edifice of royal dimensions. MARJURYX followed in silence, but her blood boiled with the indignities heaped upon herself and her future daughter. ARMETA with fear, wept and trembled.

On reaching the balcony of the palatial dwelling they were ushered in a spacious chamber with beautifully frescoed walls and luxurious in its appointments. The witch and ARMETA seated themselves, the latter still weeping, the former with her rigid features patiently awaiting the climax of this strange adventure.

GYAS and the youth who had forcibly taken possession of the clasp, remained with the ladies, the third young man had disappeared.

"Ladies," said the rude youth, holding up the Cicada to the gaze of the two females, "my rudeness may seem strange to ye! my abruptness unpalled for—but I will give such reasons for my offence, that I think when thou hast heard my tale thou my-tery all be cleared, and ye will kindly forgive me."

There was something so fascinating in his gentleness of tone, that the rage of the sorceress was quite disarmed, and she listened to him with great attention.

"My name," said he, "is LEONTES, I am ORBANDER's nephew, this is his mansion, and these are his fair domains. This gem which I have so unmannerdly seized from this young woman's brow, was once mine own. It has an eventful history. It was given me by a fond father as he lay as the threshold of death! He received it as a memorial of friendship and regard from the bravest of the Athenians—the hero of Salamis! 'Take this little trinket' said the noble Themistocles to my beloved father 'as a token of the unselfish and generous devotion which thou hast ever shown me. It was given me by the matronly queen of the Molossians, graceful Phthia!' I prized it above everything coming as it did from royal hands through my dying father. In a moment of generous impulse I gave the precious gem unto my affectionate Aunt, the wife of my uncle ORBANDER, and mother of the fair ICYLLIA. The unfortunate ICYLLIA wore this clasp in her hair the fatal evening of her disappearance, and now its discovery is the first clue we have found by which we can track the absent maiden. Canst thou wonder at my rudeness? Wilt thou not forgive me now? And canst thou not tell me, young woman, from whence and under what circumstances thou hast obtained possession of this valuable jewel?"

MARJURYX saw the necessity of acting with coolness and discretion. Her keen perception scented the danger to which they were subjected. The secret of ICYLLIA's abduction by her master was on the point of being discovered. She was determined to avert the danger by exercising all of the ingenuity and dissimulation at her command. She evinced no embarrassment at the youth's disclosure though her mind was sorely perplexed with the mystery as to how ARMETA procured the Cicada.

From her seat, with dignity rising, she replied,

"Rudesby! there is no excuse for thy conduct. Thou hast acted the part of a coward! Coarsely hast thou laid hands upon an unprotected girl—thy gallantry stands impeached. We will not answer thee from whence this clasp was obtained, for thou art undeserving the notice of women. Thy incivility is a disgrace to Athenian manhood! Where I was born, bred and reared! women are held in such lofty estimation by our noble braves, that none dare even threaten, much less lay the weight of finger upon their delicate and honored forms. Disgraceful boy! pattern after that chivalric Messenian, the brave Aristomenes, how our weaker sex should be respected and loved! For shame, ignoble youth!" and the lineaments of her face contracted into such an expression of scorn, that LEONTES ashamed, dared not reply, and still remained standing at the door of the apartment guarding its entrance, with face abashed.

A long interval of silence succeeded the speech of MARJURYX, broken now and then by a sob from ARMETA.

A large party of men, some of whom were evidently distinguished personages, now entered the chamber.

The sorceress felt that she would now be called upon to exercise all of her skill and ingenuity—she lowered her veil in order to avoid being recognized.

"These are the ladies, my lord," said GYAS, who ushered in the party.

The individual thus addressed, an old man, advanced from the party and with great deference thus spoke:

"Good momen, narrate to me the manner in which ye came in possession of this clasp. I am sure it will reveal to a bereaved father the fate of his beautiful and unfortunate child perhaps lead to her discovery! Have ye heard of the fair ICYLLIA? the maiden whose sad disappearance not long since, cast such a gloom over our city—this clasp gentle ladies was hers!"

"How know ye," quickly demanded the hag, "that this Cicada is the same one owned by the maiden? Can there not be two clasps somewhat resembling each other? Is there but one, single, solitary clasp like this on the whole universe?"

"My lord," said a venerable old man emerging from the party, whom MARJURYX recognized as the unhappy ORBANDER, "I will convince thee that this is my daughters identical clasp—the one given us by brave LEONTES here, and worn by her the evening we sallied forth from the Piræus. The breast of the cicada is a locket, touch a spring upon its back and open flies the lid! Within this diamonded enclosure was placed a small ringlet of hair. ICYLLIA's mother clipped a lock of her own beautiful hair, a few days before she breathed her last, placed it in this locket and gave it our only child as a remembrance. Now my lord, touch the little golden emerald upon the insects back—the locket will open and the contents will confirm my words!

The brilliant gem was handed the chieftain. ORBANDER showed him the spring—it was pressed and the locusts breast flew open, disclosing the chestnut curl encased in its golden bed!

MARJURYX was filled with astonishment, fear and anxiety—but excepting the pallor of her lips her hardened features remained unchanged. Ignorant as to how ARMETA obtained possession of the clasp, she felt that her master's crime was on the verge of discovery. She was resolved, with all the ability she could muster, to battle for him to the bitter end.

ARMETA was an interested witness of what was transpiring she had now become composed. Uninformed as to ICYLLIA's history and ignorant that she was the beautiful CELIA, who with her brother PHAON had sought refuge beneath her father's roof, she listened to the strange developements connected with the cicada, with the greatest attention. She became interested in the unknown ICYLLIA's discovery and believed that she could assist in this object by truthfully revealing the manner in which she became owner of the clasp. Not for an instant suspecting NIREUS of guilt, or the remotest connection with the affair, the ingenious maiden now came forward to the surprise of MARJURYX and said:

"My lord, most willingly will I tell thee how I came in possession of the jewel. I was betrothed to a youth called NIREUS. He promised me that when he came to Athens, we were then living on the island of Salamis, he would present me with a rich gift as a souvenire of his own true love—when he returned as he promised he gave me this golden cicada and he told me he had purchased it in Athens.

"Where can we find this NIREUS?" asked the leader of the party.

"He lives on the island of Salamis," replied MARJURYX, whose cunning brain immediately detected the golden opportunity leading to escape from their present dilemma.

"Where and with whom?" demanded her questioner.

"In the mansion of the noble PHALARIS," she responded.

"PHALARIS!" echoed the crowd in astonishment.

At a signal from the speaker the party withdrew to a corner of the apartment, and there, in a low tone held a consultation. MARJURYX could not hear their whisperings, but when their deliberations were ended their leader said in louder tone, "Have courage, noble ORBANDER, for I will wager my fortune that the rich blossom of thy old age will be returned to thee, blooming uninjured and as fresh as when first she was plucked from the parental stock and the slave who so basely consummated this inglorious infamy shall feel the potency of Athenian wrath and justice. Agathon, Leontes and Gyas, spare not men nor means to probe this matter through. On the morrow start at dawn, and as rapidly as possible bring before us this NIREUS—that he may unfold the manner in which he obtained possession of the cicada—be quick about it! tomorrow start at dawn!

The party of men now bowed to the two females and retired. LEONTES in a most courteous and respectful manner led the ladies to the gates and bade them adieu—begging them to forget and overlook his former rudeness which now having been fully explained, he hoped they would admit was pardonable and justifiable.

It was night when the two females made their exit from the garden porch. With hasty steps they bent their way through the dark streets to the palace of PHALARIS. Neither spoke a word. ARMETA was struck with remorse for having disobeyed her lover's injunction which now flashed across her memory and with a heavy heart followed the aged dame. MARJURYX filled with apprehensions as to the result of this evening's adventure was in the humor to daily words with her rustic companion, besides—the two dark figures who followed the retreating females through the gloomy streets did not escape the notice of the lynx-eyed witch and contributed to her further embarrassment. She could not evade them, and therefore tried not to excite any additional fears in the breast of ARMETA by betraying her own anxiety and disconcertion.

Reaching home they entered the mansion and ARMETA was made to retire.

MARJURYX immediately went in search of her master. She found him alone in his chamber, indolently reposing on a couch.

"Bestir thyself," exclaimed the witch as she entered and as soon as she felt, "the hounds are on thy trail."

"What moment then?" asked the man excitedly.

MARJURYX without omitting one iota of all that had occurred during that evening. PHALARIS listened attentively to her recital, and when she had finished he arose and opening his chamber door blew a whistle.

"I am overjoyed Mother MARJURYX," said he, "that thou hast given me timely notice of my conspirator's intentions. In one hour my trusty fine, the swiftest that plows these mighty waters will be under sail—and I will reach my mansion, during the hired underlings of the princely ORBANDER will have started NIREUS will be apprised of their approach and the queasty ICYLLIA this idol whom Lee fondly worships will be removed to a safer temple."

In answer to his call, a slave made his appearance at the entrance of his chamber.

"LEARCHUS," said PHALARIS, "I wish to leave Athens in one hour."

"The Brigantine is ready my lord," answered the slave.

"Art thou sure?"

"I am my lord."

"Be thou in readiness to depart with me—get thee hence."

The slave bowed and withdrew.

"Where wilt thou remove ICYLLIA?" asked MARJURYX.

"To this very palace," answered PHALARIS. "The fifteen days allotted her for reflection will have passed and if she should refuse to be——

"Stay!" said MARJURYX, "I have read the stars aright! ICYLLIA on thy return will consent to be thy bride!

"Thanks gentle mother for thy hopeful prophecy, "and ORBANDER's gold shall also be mine?

"Ay PHALARIS," responded the hag, "and ORBANDER'S GOLD."

The man threw himself on his couch. "Ha! ha! ha! he laughed, superannuated ORBANDER! thou pampered voluptuary! Mammon was thy God! and all the wealth which thou hast so carefully hoarded up these many years shall be mine—all mine! We have tricked him good mother—tricked THEMISTOCLES—tricked LEONTES, ay tricked all Athens! ha! ha! ha!

And he laughed the laugh of exultation.

"Like the sorrowful MINOPE," said MARJURYX, "let him now withdraw his dimmed light from this weary world, that thou his successor! his daughter's husband may enjoy all of his exuberance, his luxury and glory!"

"Ha! mother thou echoest the promptings of my ambitious heart!" He placed his pottoon on his shoulders and his tablets on his thighs, his gorget, cuirass and buckler respectively adjusted on his neck, breast and arms and buckling on his sword he hastily left the apartment leaving the sorceress in the lonely chamber.

One hour after and his vessel dashed through the spurges of the Straits of Salamis.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

The following is our latest phase of the Spofford-Kellogg case:

Washington, March 22.—Hill, of Georgia, from the committee on privileges and elections, submitted the majority report on the Kellogg-Spofford contested election case, declaring Spofford entitled to the seat in the Senate now occupied by Kellogg, and Hoar, from the same committee, presented a minority report signed by himself, Cameron, Wise and Logan. Hoar read his report, whereupon Hill proceeded to read the majority report, which was very long. It charges Kellogg with fraud and corrupt practice, and includes long extracts from evidence taken before.

The minority report says nothing has changed since Kellogg was declared entitled to a seat in 1877, except a party majority in the Senate. To eject him by mere party superiority would be a political crime to be classed with the recent attempt to steal the government of Maine and to the overthrow of Southern State governments. It characterizes the evidence against Kellogg as utterly untrustworthy. The majority report finds that Kellogg used his power and influence as Governor to manipulate the returns and to exclude eclected Democratic members of the Legislature, thus securing the majority which elected him. The Senate's former investigating committee of the case was conducted unfairly towards Spofford, no evidence at all being taken. It also charges bribery and corruption by Kellogg of witnesses on present investigation. Extensive extracts from the evidence taken are included in the report. Hill moved that the resolutions, reports and evidence be printed. This being a debatable motion Hoar expressed doubt saying when printed the evidence would be seen to utterly refute the majority report. Hill remarked that the other side seemed anxious to precipitate debate before evidence was before the Senate. He was ready to wait until the whole truth was published. After further debate Kellogg took the floor and declared positively that no reasonable evidence could be found to sustain the charges against him. He said the Senator from Georgia (Hill) had before the investigation began declared publicly and privately that he would drive Kellogg from the Senate. The principal part in the prosecution had been taken by Hill, who introduced the case and badgered Kellogg with the avidity and zeal of a sleuth hound and animated by personal malignity. He charged Hill had cut out several pages of testimony favorable to him and closed with the asserting that he was willing to compare his moral and political character and courage with that of Hill. The motion to print was adopted.

Wm. Pitt shows more grit than he ever did in Louisiana, judging from the above. He is bound to go.

Taking Advantage of Leap Year.

[Detroit Free Press.]

A) Detroiter, who was out in the country the other day to look after some poultry, got back in a muddy hole, stuck in deep mire, and a strong horse. He went out, took a trail of the descendants, making to my the whole out, shouldering a stopping point. The horse, overcome by the thunder and dandelia, stood by the hens chicks heave on the rail, and she is in of nothing but of your mud boots.

Their wanted efforts released the athlete and she Detroiter, overcome thanks and asked her to go to dinner. She hesitated, looked down the road, the rain and hailstones came, and then she said:

"Mister, I'm distant relation to Mrs. Partington, and I know all about heartbreak, but this is leap year!"

"Yes, I know, but for Heaven's sake don't ask me to marry you!" he replied as he saw the drift.

"Why not, are you married?"

"No, but—but—don't ask me!"

"Is it that you don't like the looks of me?"

"Yes, but—don't—don't ask me!"

"Stranger, it's leap year, and I am going to propose. Will you have me or no?"

"I—I'm already married!" he faltered.

"Honest Injun?"

"Yes."

"Well, that settles me and I won't ride. I'll take a cut across the lots over to old Spooner's. He's got married a fool nephew, and I reckon he will jump at leap year! I'm going! Good-bye, sir—no harm done!"

The Greenback party is numerically large in point of numbers, but it can manage to hold more conventions than all the other parties in the field. It has already nominated two national conventions, to nominate candidates for the Presidency, one to be held at St. Louis, Mo., and the other at Chicago, Ill., and it is thought that a third one will be called before the season for political conventions is over.

A Louisiana lady was watching a hen which was seen to carefully dig a hole after the egg was laid, place the egg in it and then cover it with dirt. This work completed, the hen, who had not given a cackle during the whole time it was in progress, stalked off of the chicken house and announced the lay. The owner of the hen thinks she can not be beaten, and that her performance is unsurpassed.

One of the reasons why money is so abundant in this country seems to be the large investments being quietly made in the United States by wealthy Europeans, alright, if the politicians of war on the European continent. It is said that large sums have been sent here by prominently connected with public affairs, which would seem to indicate that danger looms in the immediate future.—(N. O. Bulletin.)