

HOME, SWEET HOME.

The Author, Himself an Outcast—The Story of His Love for Miss Harden.

T. Larry Gantt.

Some one said the sweetest word in the English language is "Home." The sweetest song that ever emanated from an American pen is "Home Sweet Home." This simple melody has been translated into every civilized tongue, and has thrilled the hearts of untold millions. It appeals to and touches and softens the heart of all human kind. The millionaire in his gilded palace, the peasant in his cottage, the shivering, the starving wretch in his garret and even the homeless outcast as he aimlessly wanders through the streets of some great city or tramps the highways of his country. There is a peculiar pathos in this song that stirs anew a better feeling in the breast of man, and touches even the most callous and wretched heart.

And yet, John Howard Payne, the author of "Home Sweet Home" was himself an outcast and wandered upon the face of the earth and had never known or experienced the comfort and pleasures of a home. His early days were spent in a nomadic existence, and in his later years he wandered from one great European capital to another, often without a penny to buy food or a place to lay his head.

It is stated that often, while John Howard Payne was a homeless wanderer at night through the streets of London, he would hear floating from some brilliantly illuminated mansion the sweet and touching strains of his own "Home, Sweet Home." But little did the dazzling beauty sitting at the piano know that the author of her song was at that moment a wanderer by her door, and like unto the Savior of mankind without a place to lay his head.

After leading for many years a wayward and homeless life the admirer of this gifted poet secured him an appointment as consul at Tangiers in Algiers. Here in this distant land far removed from kindred and friends, John Howard Payne passed away, and died as he had lived, without a home.

Recently while on a visit to Athens the seat of education, wealth and refinement for the great state of Georgia in driving down Prince Ave. I passed a little one-story weather-beaten cottage, nestling in a grove of ornamental trees, and presenting a queer contrast with the magnificent modern residences surrounding it. In this little home there lived and died a withered and aged maiden lady, Miss Mary Harden. Miss Harden descended from one of the leading and most distinguished families of Georgia. Her father, Gen. Harden being an antebellum minister to France. Miss Mary Harden was one of the most brilliant and intellectual ladies of her day—a linguist—and having accompanied her father to France, acted as the secretary and interpreter.

While in her teens, and the zenith of her beauty Miss Mary Harden met John Howard Payne who was at that time a young man engaged in helping remove the Cherokee Indians from Georgia. It was a case of love at first sight and the young couple became devotedly attached to each other, and which affection endured as long as life lasted. But the vagrant life led by young Payne presented an insurmountable obstacle to the consummation of their happiness.

John Howard Payne often visited his sweetheart in her Athens home, and Rob Roy, an old negro servant who waited on the guest and tended

his horse, died only about two years ago.

It was during this happy period that John Howard Payne wrote his immortal song, "Home Sweet Home," and which will endure and be sung by unborn millions so long as there is a home.

Miss Mary Harden died some eight or ten years ago, leaving all of her property and belongings to her devoted friend and kinswoman, Miss Effie Jackson, of Athens, Georgia.

In the trunk of the deceased was discovered a package of loving letters among them the original manuscript of "Home, Sweet Home" with erasures and interlineations, just as the old melody was first penned.

A few days since I met a relative of Miss Jackson—and he told me she sacredly preserved this memento of her kinswoman's first and only love, and refused to part with it, although large sums had been offered for this valuable relic and which certainly ought to be held beyond price.

While residing in Athens I have often seen Miss Mary Harden, but at that time she was long passed the meridian of life, and there was nothing either romantic or attractive about her. She always wore an old black dress, rendered sleek with usage. But little did the stranger know that there beat within the breast of this old maid a heart as true, loving and devoted as ever animated a human bosom and that she was the first and only love of one of the most gifted and sweetest poets and writers of the Sunny South.

A Prisoner in Her Own House.

Mrs. W. H. Layna, of 1001 Agnes Ave., Kansas City, Mo., has for several years been troubled with severe hoarseness and at times a hard cough, which she says, "Would keep me in doors for days. I was prescribed for by physicians with no noticeable results. A friend gave me part of a bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy with instructions to closely follow the directions and I wish to state that after the first day I could notice a decided change for the better, and at this time after using it for two weeks, have no hesitation in saying I realize that I am entirely cured." This remedy is for sale by Smith Drug Co., Newberry, Prosperity Drug Co., Prosperity.

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J. GUY DANIELS.

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We have them from 15c. to \$3.00 pair, worth one-half more than we ask.

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