

The Richland Beacon.

"Libertas et Natale Solum."

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IMPERFECTION.

She sat, half shaded from the glare
Of common light—a creature rare
And finished with perfection;
From dark-crowded board to slender foot,
I looked—no mortal e'er could put
Disparities in his inspection.

The angel face that men had praised
I closer scanned, with tormented mind,
My study not concealing;
She bore it with the proudest ease,
She felt no confidence to please,
Such beauty fine revealing.

I wondered if an inner grace
Matched all this loveliness of face,
And used my mental eye-glass;
Its searching crystal only saw
A mind so free from rust or flaw
That—I laid down my spy-glass.

I grew to love her, day by day;
She knew it, liked it—woman's way—
Was pleased with the newcomer;
She saw another slave arose
His heart for her serene control,
And liked me—for a summer.

I was a fool; I sought her heart;
The calm face did not feign or start,
Surprise to seem to cover;
She really had not meant to teach,
Me to become her lover.

I smiled to think that I have learned
(With longnets critically turned)
So little worth discerning;
For now I see, without my glass,
One great defect—well, let it pass;
No heart. Was she worth learning?

FOR LIFE AND LOVE.

It was in the spring time of the year, and had rained almost incessantly for two weeks. Harriet Gelder resided with her aunt, Miss Hannah Linwood, in Thornway, a village about eight miles from a Northern town where Florian Courtland held a good situation in a bank, and Florian grew impatient for fair weather and a chance to visit his peculiar beloved. There was little immediate prospect of a cessation of the rain, and one Sunday morning the ardent lover resolved to set the weather at defiance, and accordingly he sent out for his horse, and prepared for his stormy ride. He came down from his room arrayed in a water proof coat, thick boots and coarse gloves, a glazed hat covering his curling, golden hair, and a riding-whip in his hand. The parlor door stood partly open, and as he was passing it on his way through the hall, Mrs. Maurice, the lady with whom he lodged, came out.

"Dear me, Mr. Courtland," she exclaimed, with a glance of surprise at his rough weather dress, "it is impossible that you are going out in this rain!"

"The rain will do me no harm; you see I am prepared for it," answered Florian, smilingly.

"But it is so unpleasant," urged the lady. "Where in the world can you wish to go in such weather?" she added, curiosity getting the better of politeness.

"To Thornway," replied Florian, bustling slightly.

"What's that, Mr. Courtland?" called out Maurice, who was reading his morning paper in the parlor.

"He says he is going to Thornway; actually to Thornway, on such a day as this!" said Mrs. Maurice responding for Florian.

"Mr. Courtland, you are crazy!" said the gentlemen, joining his wife at the door. "The roads are in a horrible condition, and will be worse by night. Come, listen to reason, and stay at home."

But Florian refused to listen to reason, and took himself off in spite of warning or entreaty. On any other errand it would have been an exceedingly dispiriting ride, and if he had been bound for any other destination he would have turned back; but the thought of meeting Harriet spurred him forward. The way grew worse with every mile; his horse plodded slowly through the mud, stumbling now and then in some of the many ruts and pitfalls; the rain poured steadily down, beating into his face and running in streams from his cap; and he was very thankful when at last he came within the vicinity of Linwood, as the estate of Harriet's aunt was named.

He had taken a seldom-used by-road to shorten the distance to Linwood, where the road was divided by a small stream, which bounded one side of the estate, and was crossed by a ford. But now the long rains had swollen the waters to a flood, and the stream lashed into foam and tumbled into billows by its own locality, and rushed onward at a rate that made the thought of fording it a wild insanity. With a mental anathema against his own stupidity in not thinking of this, Courtland turned to retrace his way to the main road, two miles back, where the little river was spanned by a bridge. Opposite him, across the stream, he could see the gray walls of Linwood, and in his anxiety to be within them the two miles seemed like twenty.

But the bridge was reached at last and crossed. Florian had noticed, as he approached the bridge, that the land at a little distance below it, which was low and flat, was completely flooded, the river overflowing here, having submerged it to a wide extent. A point or knoll of land, close upon the river's bank, remained dry, forming a little island in the midst of the whirling, muddy flood; and upon this island stood a small wooden house, which, as Florian perceived with concern, was evidently occupied, for a thin blue wreath of smoke was ascending from the chimney. If there were people in that dwelling, their position was most perilous, as the water was rising fast and threatened soon to cover the land and sweep away the house.

Florian turned aside from the highway and rode down to the edge of the flooded island; as he approached the water's edge, he saw a female form appear at the window of that threatened

dwelling, and a handkerchief was waved imploringly toward him.

Unhesitatingly he rode into the water, which for some distance was not over his horse's back but it soon drew deeper, forcing the animal to swim. Florian urged him forward, and, drawing near the house, the door was thrown open, and he cried out in affrighted surprise, for there stood Miss Linwood and Harriet Gelder!

"Harriet!" cried Florian, "for heaven's sake, how came you here?"

"We came to see a sick woman," replied Harriet, with prompt coolness, "and the water rose before we—"

"It is rising now, and fast," he interrupted, excitedly, "and there is no time to waste. My horse will carry two; which of you shall I take first?"

"The sick woman first," said Harriet quietly.

Flirt, coquette, as she was called, and not without cause, yet the element of heroism was in her nature. She was as calm and cool now as she had ever been in her life, while her aunt stood trembling with excitement. Florian trembled, too, as he looked at the feeble old woman, whom Miss Linwood was assisting from her chair to the door, and whom he had not noticed until Harriet called his attention to her. He trembled with the appalling fear that there would not be time to go and return twice, before the swiftly rising waters should have torn the frail structure from its foundations; for there was already an inch of water upon the floor. But he only cast one glance at Harriet's calm face, and stooped to lift the sick woman up before him. Without a word he turned his horse toward the shore, and the good beast, with its double burden, struggled back through the flood.

Harriet and her aunt waited, shivering as they watched the water growing deeper and deeper upon the floor, and heard the waves wash with an ever louder sound against the frail four walls that stood between them and death. They saw Florian reach the shore, place the sick woman upon the ground, throw off the heaviest of his clothing, and turn his now unwilling steed toward the house again.

They were standing knee-deep in water when he once more approached the already shaking building. He did not speak a word, but looked silently from Harriet to her aunt, his white face growing whiter yet as Harriet said, in steady tones, "Aunt Hannah first."

"Harriet—" commenced Miss Linwood.

"Go, Aunt Hannah!"

"Harriet, I won't!"

"You must!" said Harriet firmly.

"Harriet, Harriet! For pity sake—"

"You are delaying her, Miss Hannah," exclaimed Florian, hoarsely. "Come, she will not yield, if she dies!"

With a groan, Miss Linwood gave up, and he lifted her upon his horse. The turbulent waters washed into the room and Harriet staggered and clung to the wall for support. Florian's face was ghastly, as he bent forward and placed his hand upon her shoulder, whispering in a choked voice, "Kiss me Harriet."

She put her arms around his neck and kissed him—a long, passionate kiss, which was their first, and might be their last.

He strained her to him, saying, "Harriet, do you love me?"

"Yes, Florian."

She then leaned against the wall again, as he went, and hid her face, trying to shut out the sight of those yellow waters, creeping up the side of the room, higher and higher with every wave that roled in through the door.

As Florian reached the shore a carriage was approaching in the distance, rocked from side to side, with the furious speed to which the driver was lashing the horses.

"It is the carriage from Linwood," said Miss Hannah; "we have been afraid of a freshet, and they have taken alarm and come back to look for us."

Florian did not hear her; he was urging his exhausted horse into the flood again. The poor beast trembled and hesitated; but Florian spurred him fiercely on, smiling him with his clenched fist, and shouting at him in his frantic excitement. He was half mad with agony as he looked across the turbid waters to the half-submerged house and saw that they had risen above the top of its roof, and Harriet had climbed up through the loft to the roof, where she clung in momentary peril of death.

When the hurrying carriage reached the spot, and Miss Linwood's coachman leaped to the ground, Florian was half-way back to Harriet. Mistress and man stood with pallid faces and hearts that beat with silent watching the beautiful girl, as she clung to the frail support, and the young man, with his white face, and his golden hair blowing back, as he dashed madly through the flood to her rescue.

While they watched, a great billow came rolling in from the river, roaring fearfully, and tossing its yellow water, as it dashed upon Harriet's refuge. Miss Linwood screamed, and her servant uttered a hoarse cry, for where the house had been was a whirling wreck of boards and timbers, and Florian's horse was struggling, riderless, toward the shore!

But another moment and they saw that Harriet yet clung to the floating roof, and Florian was beside her upon it. Seizing a long board, as the water whirled it within his reach, he guided the frail raft with it toward the shore. As he neared the land, the coachman from Linwood sprang into the water and came to his assistance; and in a few moments they were all standing upon the land, a wet, dripping, but profoundly thankful party.

They proceeded, as fast as the carriage could carry them, to Linwood, where they all found plenty of employment for the remainder of the day in getting rid of the effects of their perilous adventure—so far as they could do so.

It transpired that the sick woman had not received any injury; Miss Hannah had caught a slight cold; Harriet had caught a severe one, and Florian had caught—Harriet.

A Winner Who Lost.

A correspondent writing from Pottsville, N. C., to the Cincinnati Enquirer, under recent date, says: A novel wedding occurred here to-day. It seems that Moses John Miller and Alexander Bibb, two well-to-do young farmers, were in love with the same lady, Leona Lloyd, a beautiful girl of this place. She was not able to decide as to which she liked best. Sunday morning Bibb walked home from church with her and left under the impression that she said she would marry him. Last night lover No. 2—Miller—went to see her and understood her to say she would marry him.

Both men this morning went to the Court-house to get out a marriage license, and there met each one armed with the necessary documents, and each left with a license to marry Miss Lloyd. They met at the Court-house door, and finally after some talk they agreed that the first man who reached the lady's house should marry her. The residence of Colonel Lloyd, the lady's father, was one mile distant, and both men started on the race for the bride. Bibb so left the main road and darted into the woods, expecting to make a short cut and reach the house before his rival, but Miller kept the road, and got in on the home stretch eight minutes before his rival. Both men were in sight of each other going up the lane to the house, and Bibb's efforts to overtake his rival were almost superhuman.

When they reached the house Bibb from sheer exhaustion fainted in the porch, falling almost at the feet of his lady-love. When the matter was stated to her, she said that she had come to the conclusion that she liked Mr. Bibb the best, and therefore she would marry him. Her sympathies were won over by seeing him faint. She said that she believed both loved her, but that he who fainted at the danger of losing a bride must love her more than he who is cool and unconcerned in the midst of it all. The affair causes intense excitement in this small place. To-night Rev. Aaron Jasper, the well known Baptist minister, married Bibb and Miss Lloyd.

The Petroleum Fields of Russia.

The owners of American petroleum deposits will before long have to encounter a considerable amount of opposition in view of the discoveries of this valuable oil on the continent, and especially in Hanover and Russia. The beds in the latter country are comparatively boundless extending for a distance of 1,500 miles along the Caucasus range, from the Caspian to the Black Sea. At the present time, however, there are but two districts in this large area where any systematic efforts are being made to obtain the petroleum, one in the valley of the Kuban River which flows into the Black Sea, where two wells have been sunk by a French company under the superintendence of an American manager; this company has a refinery at Tama. The other and most productive district is near Baku on the Caspian Sea. Many wells have been sunk here to the depth of 300 feet, having a daily yield of 28,000 barrels of crude petroleum. An extraordinary amount of sand flows out with the oil, and is heaped up near the orifice of the wells in banks at least 30 feet high. Large refineries exist at Baku, though the refined oil at present introduced there is not as good as American oil.—Dornbusch's Evening List, London.

Earthquakes and Gravitation.

The Eureka (Nev.) Leader relates a miner's experiences, showing that earthquake shocks are not felt very far below the surface of the ground. This miner said that on the occasion of the last shake at Secret Canon he was at work in a mine on Prospect Mountain, and, although the tremor was plainly felt by his partners on the surface, he, at the depth of eighty feet, noticed nothing unusual. He also said that through an experience of fifteen years underground, he had observed one very peculiar fact—that between the hours of twelve and two o'clock at night, if there was a loose stone or bit of earth in the mine it was sure to fall. Said he: "About this time it seems that everything begins to stir, and immediately after twelve although the mine has been as still as the tomb before, you will hear little particles of rock and earth come tumbling down, and if there is a caving piece of ground in the mine it is sure to give away."

Stamped.

"Sally Jones, have you done that sum I set you?"

"No, thir, I can't do it."

"Can't do it? I'm ashamed of you! Why, at your age I could do any sum that was set me. I hate that word 'can't,' for there is no sum that can't be done, I tell you."

"I think, thir, that I know a thum you can't thir out."

"Ha! Well, Sally, let's hear it."

"It is thith, thir: If one apple cauthed the ruin of the whole human race, how many thutch will it take to make a barrel of thider, thir?"

"Miss Sally Jones you may return to your parsing lesson."

"Yeth, thir."

SOUTHERN NEWS.

FROGS are shipped North from Bedford, Tenn.

THE new court-house at Corsicana, Tex., will cost \$40,000.

THE culture of peanuts is becoming more general in Virginia.

THE proceeds of the Frog opera in New Orleans amounted to \$1,250.

TEXAS 5 per cent. bonds are quoted at 102 and are scarce in the market.

ONLY one hotel in Jacksonville, Fla., will remain open during the summer.

UNMUZZLED dogs on the streets of Memphis are shot down without mercy.

NEARLY 2,000 workmen are employed upon new buildings going up in Atlanta.

THE summer uniform of the police of Richmond, Va., includes white gloves.

IT is estimated that the present rice crop in Louisiana will be double that of last year.

A COTTON compress, costing \$40,000, will be erected at Brenham, Texas, this summer.

FISK University, at Nashville, has been presented with a bull weighing 2,000 pounds.

DURING this year 400,000 bushels of corn have been shipped to Europe from Richmond, Va.

VIRGINIA is set down for \$326,000 in the Congressional River and Harbor Appropriation Bill.

A GOOD quality of white porcelain clay has been discovered in Forsyth County, N. C.

A GRAND agricultural and mechanical fair is to be held at San Antonio, Tex., next fall.

MRS. SALLIE GRAY, of Meridian, Miss., is 117 years old and still engages in letter-writing.

IN Henry County, Ga., a whole drove of hogs, while lying in a heap, were killed by lightning.

LONG staple seed cotton is so scarce in East Florida, but one-third the usual crop will be planted.

NEW ORLEANS has shipped to France and Italy within a year 2,400,000 gallons of cotton seed oil.

AN evening paper has been established at Lynchburg, Va., making three dailies now published there.

THE Hon. John N. Hudson, State Senator from America, Ga., has been sent to lunatic asylum.

THERE is a lady postmaster at Elon, Amherst County, Virginia. Her last predecessor was also a lady.

THE Legislative Council of Memphis has passed an ordinance abolishing all hanging signs from over the sidewalks.

A COLORED barber at Macon, Ga., was stabbed to death with an umbrella while engaged in a quarrel with another man.

A CONFEDERATE Memorial Association is to be organized at Memphis to care for the heroic dead in Elmwood Cemetery.

THE average yield of the oats crop in the vicinity of Austin, Texas, this year is from eighty to one hundred bushels per acre.

J. F. WEST, who killed a negro some time ago at Barnesville, Ga., has been refused bail and is now in jail at Griffin.

A FARMER in Montgomery County, Tenn., drove the bugs from his tobacco-plant beds by treating them to a dose of rotten egg.

THE water in Wolf River, so long detested by Memphians, has been officially pronounced the "third best water in the United States."

THE planters of Alabama and Northern Mississippi are more engrossed than ever in the cotton crop, and are neglecting everything else for it.

THE President of the Mississippi State Agricultural College, at Starkville, receives an annual salary of \$2,500, and the professors \$2,000 each.

OVER \$400,000 has been raised in the North for the construction of the new Sibley mills in Augusta, Ga., and the remaining \$200,000 is promised.

THE cotton mills at Carrollton, Miss., have been bought by one King, a Georgia manufacturer, who will add 200 operative to the working force.

THE credit of the State of Mississippi is at par. Her warrants are equal to currency and are paid on demand. Her bonds command a premium in the market.

THERE is not a single liquor saloon in any town on the line of East Tennessee and Georgia railroad, between Chattanooga and Knoxville, a distance of 112 miles.

LOCAL option has proven a success in Jasper County, Texas. Not a case of drunkenness has been seen on the

streets of the town of Jasper during the present year.

THE people of Charleston, S. C., have subscribed about \$500 for the relief of the families of the two negroes who died from foul air in cleaning out one of the fire wells in that city.

THE sculptor Clark Mills claims to be something of a horseman, and to be prepared to defend his bronze horse against all adverse criticisms by judges of horses in Tennessee.

A BRICK the size of an ordinary cigar box, made of the counterfeit nickel collected in the street-car cash-boxes, is one of the curiosities which adorns the new street-car office in Memphis.

THE Sunday liquor law is being rigidly enforced in Columbia, S. C. One man was fined \$10 for delivering on Sunday morning a bottle of liquor that he had sold the evening before.

NEW ORLEANS has a cork manufactory employing fifteen men and turning out 2,500 dozen corks per day, which does not even supply the local demand. The establishment is soon to be enlarged.

Two South Carolinians, who have been at law four years for the possession of a bull, are still at it. The costs exceed \$1,000, exclusive of counsel fees, and the bull is dead. It has been stuffed, and is to be produced in court.

MRS. ROGERS and one of her daughters, of Buncombe, N. C., made by their own labor, during last season, from two and a half acres of land, \$684 worth of tobacco. This amount was realized after paying a rent of one-third of the crop.

THE man at Luray, Va., who has kissed nobody during his entire manhood has conscientious scruples in the matter. He became convinced in his youth that kissing was wicked because Christ was betrayed by a kiss.

AT a business meeting held last Sunday in the First African Baptist Church of Richmond, Va., attended by 2,500 people, the confusion being so great that the Mayor sent a large detachment of police into the building to preserve order.

CLARK MILLS, the sculptor, is seventy years old. Until his fortieth year he was a plasterer, and never had any idea of becoming a sculptor. At the time he undertook his first equestrian statue of Jackson, he had never seen the General nor an equestrian statue.

IT is stated that a Mr. Willis, now living in Bradford County, Ga., is 106 years old. He is able to walk to town, some six miles, and also able to support himself by his own labor. He has 135 descendants in Georgia and thirty-two in Florida.

IN Middle Tennessee a drunkard fled to the woods while wild with delirium tremens, dug a grave and was found in it dead. His wife was rendered frantic by the sight, and prayed that she might die, too, when she was struck by lightning and killed.

RICHMOND has a University Club, composed of graduates of that institution, who are trying to aid in the raising of funds to make available the fine telescope, said to be the best in America, presented to their Alma Mater by Mr. McCormick, of Chicago.

THE last grand jury of Telfair County, Ga., recommended that their next Representative and Senator use their influence securing the passage of a bill by the Legislature fixing the liquor license in that county at \$5,000 a year.

THE Young Men's Library Association of Atlanta, Ga., received from all sources during the year ended, \$6,312.77. The increase in the number of volumes during the year was 1,035. Miss Emma Abbott is a paid-up life member of the association.

FANNIE HUNTER and Macha Thompson, colored, who were convicted of burglary and sentenced to the penitentiary for life at Anderson, S. C., in the fall of 1878, have been pardoned by the Governor upon the recommendation of the Judge and a numerously-signed petition.

MISS SARAH MARTIN, a Cherokee girl, wrote a letter to the Evangelist, E. L. Moody. The letter was shown to a wealthy friend of Mr. Moody, who was so well pleased with it that he placed \$1,000 at the disposal of Mr. Moody for the continuation of Miss Martin's education.

THE Jolly murder is still the absorbing topic of interest at Decatur, Ga. The general opinion is that section is that Weaver was also concerned in the murder of Victoria Norris, and it is probable that he will be indicted by the next grand jury.

THE St. Lawrence Presbytery, in connection with the Southern Presbyterian Church of Texas, has passed resolutions condemning the use of tobacco by ministers, and directing the

Committee on Education not to recommend any candidate for help in his education who uses it.

AT Newbern, N. C., J. L. Rhee planted a crop of peas on the 1st of February and finished gathering the product on the 20th of April. He then cut the vines from forty-five acres, and stored them for forage, and on the evening of April 30 had the ground planted in cotton.

THE principal plank in the platform of the Rev. Jefferson Washington, colored, independent candidate for Congress in the Fifth Georgia District, is thus stated by him: "I am opposed to having our children gobbled up by these medicated students, and I'm bound to stop it."

AT Argenta, Ark., an immense cottonseed oil mill is to be erected immediately by Memphis and Little Rock capitalists. They will also erect a powerful cotton compress, the press costing \$30,000, and having a pressure of twenty-five hundred tons to the inch—capable of reducing a bale of cotton to six and a half inches.

A GENTLEMAN passing a colored school at Toccoa, Ga., saw a number of little chaps playing in the bushes—as if they were hunting for some one, using sticks for guns, when he casually asked them what they were doing, and received the reply: "We is playin' rev'nue men hunting for licker."

THE evangelists Moody and Sankey passed through Indian Territory last week, and while at Muskogee in the Creek nation, Mr. Moody arranged to receive ten Indian girls from that nation, for whom he will provide free education at the Young Ladies' Seminary established by him at Northfield, Mass.

THE colored Republicans of Mississippi demand that Blanche K. Bruce, now a United States Senator from that State, shall have the second place on the Grant ticket. Bruce is a colored man of limited education, a native of Virginia, and a Mississippi planter since the war. His term of service as Senator will expire next March.

A NEWSPAPER in Georgia says that if the farmers of that State would devote less of their energies to the raising of cotton and give more attention to the cultivation of sugar-cane, rice, arrowroot, the tea plant, wine-growing, and the production of early fruits, vegetables and melons for the Northern market, they would be much more independent and happy.

A FORCE of men stationed by the United States Bureau of Internal Revenue in Fanni, Union, Towns and Rabun Counties, Ga., to break up the illicit distilleries in those counties and to bring the offenders to trial, is being paid \$5,000 a month. These men look upon their occupation as a "fat job," and will hardly apply for a discharge until the appropriation runs out.

AT the office of the Commissioner of Immigration for Florida, were received on Saturday two letters which were somewhat unique as to the requests contained in them. One was from a Greek firm in London, which wanted a cargo of orange-wood sticks, and the other from a gentleman in Kentucky who wished a water monkey forwarded to him.

THE season for elopements has begun in Virginia. In that State such events are much more likely to occur during the cheap excursions in summer to Washington City and the North. Indeed, Washington is regarded as a sort of national Gretna Green. In many of these cases no cruel parents interpose any objections to the match, but the hypothetical elopement was adopted with a view of economy. It saved a wedding outfit and entertainments that usually follow marriages.

THE Richmond (Va.) State attributes the failure of foreign immigrants to settle in the South to the presence of the negro as an important element of the population of that section. On the other hand the Richmond Whig says: "Prejudice against the negro is indigenous only to the soil they inhabit, and it is especially noticeable that the immigrant class of foreigners when they first come among us know little or nothing of such distinctions until they have imbibed it from association with ourselves."

IT is likely that a Congressional Committee will be appointed to visit North Georgia and North Carolina this summer to make a thorough investigation of the charges that have recently been made in regard to the lawless, rebellious, cut-throat "moonshine" population said to exist in that section.

THESE charges are now believed by the Commissioners of Internal Revenue to be false to a great extent, and to be slanders upon a people that are in the main peaceable and law-abiding.