THE DAILY BULLETIN.

NORA'S CONFESSION.

How long had Lewis Courtney known Nora Bellairs? Only since the commencement of last season, but before it was over he had sworn to himself that if not she, then no other woman should be his wife. She left town, however, before he had mustered courage to lay at her feet his heart and fortune, but they met again soon after and then he resolved that he would know his fate.

Day by day, by all the signs a man can show, he wooed her with all those little attentions that mean so much, but Nora either would or could not understand them. Did she not, really, though? He almost thought at times that there was a tender light in her eyes when he spoke, a softer tone in the voice with which she answered him, than was compatible with absolute indifference; and one evening, after a long day's run with the hounds, he determined that he would know before he slept what fate was to be his.

He could not speak before others, of course, but when he entered the drawing-room after dinner, he made his way straight to where Nora sat, a little out of the glare of the lights, looking like some sweet, serious spirit, in her unspotted white robes, and laid a dainty offering of hothouse plants reverently on her dress.

And, with just a glance, Nora suddenly sprung up from her chair, and tossed the flowers through the window.

Mrs. Hexton, who was the spirited beauty's godmother, looked on in indignant surprise.

"Why, Nora?"

While Lewis Courtney, white with pain, even to his very forehead, waited one second, then—

"Will you please explain, Miss Bellairs?"

And then, Nora, who had lingered at the window a second, turned back to them again, cold, calm, perfectly self-possessed.

"It was nothing—much. A caterpillar was among them—I detest crawling things."

No apology, no regret, no thanks. And Lewis Courtney bowed and left the drawing-room, with feelings more easily imagined than described, to find a refuge in Mrs. Hexton's boudoir, to which he had free *entree* at all times, and threw himself down on her lounge, after turning down the lamp.

Then, because the hated sounds of laughter and merriment from below persisted in occasionally coming to him, he dragged a large rug over him—over his head and ears, and succeeded in shutting out the outside noises, while the inward commotion seemed more than ever agonizing.

Until now he had not known how passionately he loved Nora. He had known he had loved her—loved her beyond any doubt, with all his heart and soul, but until that rebuff, until she had shown him, so cruelly, so needlessly, that he was more than dissatisfied to her, he had not fully realised all it meant—that there was no hope for him.

How long he had been there he could not have told, when he heard a light footfall, and somebody who was already heralded by a dainty suggestion of the fragrance of wood-violet, somebody who went over to the lounge and knelt down beside it, and laid her cheek on the rug that so completely concealed him, and threw one arm across the pillow.

Somebody who said very beseechingly, very charmingly: "Godmother!"

And, of course in an instant this treacherous hypocritical fellow, of course you will think he was all that and more, understood the very natural mistake proud Nora had made, and, although his first headlong impulse was to immediately inform her of her error and announce his own identity, there came a second, still stronger, more headlong determination that, since Destiny had evidently taken this affair in hand, Destiny might carry it on, and he would just—lie still and say nothing.

"Godmother, dear, I know perfectly well why you came off up here by yourself—you are vexed with me because I treated Mr. Courtney so."

No answer.

"Are you so very angry dear?" Nora went on, in such sweetly coaxing tones as he never had heard in his life. "I know it is just because I threw those flowers out of the window, but—but—godmother—if you only will forgive me, and please speak to me, I'll tell you—I—am—so—sorry I did it."

But godmother still did not answer the pretty penitent. Indeed the wretch under the rug was going through the strangest experience that ever yet had befallen him.

"I think you are too severe, godmother," she went on, with little delicious breaks in her voice, very suggestive of coming tears, accompanied by affectionate, coaxing little pats on the shoulder, "for indeed, and indeed, I did it on such a half-terrified and ridiculous impulse. But, I am sorry."

Still no answer—only this guilty fellow under the rug wondered why she couldn't hear the violent auricular and ventricular commotion beneath the gay Persian stripes, and then the sweet breath floated nearer his face, the sweet lips almost touch his cheeks.

"I know I deserve it," and then great sobs came, and he felt her form tremble as it leaned against him, "but, I can't say any more, can I? Yes—I can—you'll forgive me if I confess I love him, godmother. I do, I do, I do, and—see here—I went and picked up his dear flowers after he went, and I'll never give them up again. I do love him, dear; and because you have so often spoken to me about him, there isn't anything unwomanly in my confessing it to you, is there? Godmother, you must answer me; don't be cruel any longer, dear. Godmother you hurt me by not speaking. Why—why——"

And then, as she tenderly, wistfully reached out her hand to touch Mrs. Hexton's face, it came in contact with a beard.

She sprang to her feet with a thrilling scream of horror, just as Mrs. Hexton came into the room, herself alarmed at the shriek of fear.

"Nora! What is the matter—what is the matter, child?"

For Nora was clinging to her like a frightened baby to its mother.

"There's a man—a burglar—on the lounge."

And Mrs. Hexton suddenly turned up the lamp and revealed Lewis Courtney standing beside them.

"It was I, Miss Hexton—Nora."

And despite the thrillingly-passionful intonation of her name, by which he never had called her, the one look she dared take at his face, Nora suddenly felt a scorching hot tide surge over her, then an icy cold wave, then, she knew she was fainting, for the very first time in her life.

And, Lewis said a word or so to Mrs. Hexton, in that moment or two of Nora's pale unconsciousness, that sent her smiling out of her room.

And when Nora's lovely eyes opened, they saw Lewis Courtney's face near her as she lay on the lounge.

"You are better," he said, so gently that it thrilled every fibre of her being. "Nora, my darling, tell me I was not dreaming when I heard you say you loved me. Darling, is it true, do you love me?"

His tones grew husky with emotion as he patiently waited while, for one second, she collected herself.

"I love you, Nora, better than life itself. I want you—will you give yourself to me? Will you come to me, and tell me once again those sweet words—'I love you, I do, I do, I do?'"

And she struggled up off the lounge, and laid her head on his breast, while he wrapped his eager arms about her—his own at last.

"I do," she said, scarcely above a whisper, but Lewis Courtney knew that his highest happiness had come to him.

New York's Plymouth Rock.

New York Tribune.

How many New York men know what Castle Garden is? An intelligent emigrant, half an hour after arrival, could tell a native New Yorker all about it, to the latter's wonder and instruction.

Castle Garden is the cradle of the Empire State, the Plymouth Rock to the great West. There stood the little Dutch fort from 1623 onward. While the Pilgrim Fathers at Plymouth were picking blackberries the third Winter, the Dutch were shoveling up this fort. There were Vanderbilt, Schuyler, Jay, Livingston, Bayard, Schenck, or people of similar noses, beginning the city of New York just 258 years ago. They were talking about the recent execution of John of Barneveldt and wondering where Grotius had escaped to.

Next the United States, not of Holland but of America, seventy-four years ago, leased the ground by the Dutch fort and erected a "battery," but it was too weak a work to mount a great cannon, so the city took it back in 1822. The round stone battery was roofed over and turned into a theater garden, called, for the military architecture, "Castle Garden." There, with the pulse of faith and fancy, you can hear Jenny Lind singing, Fancy Ellsler dancing, and the infant opera training the chorus. In 1855, but a quarter of a century ago, it became the emigrant's garden, the protoplasmic battery of Europe directed upon us; and there in many a single year 200,000 people, a great, vital, producing army, have put foot ashore and looked around in a sovereign way, satisfied that the conscription officer was distanced, and proudly exclaimed: "Well, little Maccaroni, fot ticket do you vote?"

Prelonged Vitality in Grafts.

D. B. Wier writes to the *Prairie Farmer* that he had kept scions of the pear in sawdust from early winter through the whole of the following year, and to the next June, fresh and in good condition, and when inserted as grafts they grew, and trees are now bearing from them. The reason of their being kept so long was that they were overlooked. Mr. W. quotes the remark of Van Mons that grafts received by him after being three years in the mails had been inserted and grew. It might possibly be of value to know how long they could be kept fresh, buried many feet under ground.

Seth Green reaffirms that an acre of water can be made to produce as much food as an acre of land.

Japan Railroads.

The railroads of Japan present a somewhat beggarly account, according to the most recent data. The line from Tokio to Yokohama, 18 miles in length, was completed early in 1872, and has not since been extended. Subsequently, a railway from Hiogo to Osaka, some 22 miles long, and about 230 miles south of Tokio, was built and afterward extended to Kioto—a further extension of this line being made, still later, to Otsu, on the south bank of Lake Biwa. These are said to comprise all the railways in Japan, the length being about 60 miles. Another line has, however, been commenced from Tokio to Mayebashi, more than 60 miles long; this railway, the construction of which offers but few difficulties, will be of great commercial importance. A railway is projected in the northern island, and the southern system is to be extended from Kioto to Lake Biwa, and up to the center of the island.—*New York Sun.*

Crossing the Continent.

New York Mail.

How many of the 60,000 people who will cross the Atlantic this summer for a vacation in Europe have ever crossed our own continent? Some one who is able to do it should set the fashion of going beyond the Rocky Mountains for pleasure. It ought to be considered an unfashionable, as well as an unsensible, thing for a person to take a pleasure trip abroad without having visited the natural wonders of our own country. A party of 190 excursionists left Boston recently for a trip to the Pacific coast, and that fact suggests a way to make crossing the continent a less formidable undertaking to tourists than it has formerly been. Parties could be formed, not as large as that from Boston, but large enough to fill one or two palace cars, and the coaches should be chartered to take the company wherever they wish to go. In this way the discomforts of travel would be reduced to a minimum, and the tourists could dine and sleep in a homelike fashion throughout the whole trip, without leaving their train except when to visit some places of interest within the region through which the railway over which they travel runs. It ought to become a fashionable and a common thing for parties of from twenty to fifty to charter cars to take them across the continent to view its wonders.

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Mr. Bessemer's Obligations to America.

Sir Henry Bessemer was recently presented with the honorary freedom of the London Cutler's Company, before whom he delivered an address. At the close the master who made the presentation, to show how widely the influence of his statements might extend, mentioned that an application for a report of the proceedings had just been received, to be sent to Ohio. Mr. Bessemer in reply, said: "That such a note as has been alluded to should be received from our friends across the water I am not surprised at, for there is no nation under the sun, after our own country, who so anxiously look for the improvements of the age. (Hear, hear). In America my invention has been most cordially taken up and accepted by the contractors, and utilized by all the great railways. (Cheers.) I have received from America a token of regard, as, indeed, I have from this and other countries, but I have received one specially from America, which I should like to acknowledge while I have the opportunity. There has been a peculiarity in the mode of rewarding my services in America which is worthy of a people like the Americans. They have no crosses, no orders, no titles to bestow, but they have have done me the great honor to name a new and rising city by my name. (Cheers.) Those who travel through Illinois by the railway will find by the roadside the station of "Bessemer" close to a large and prosperous town which, as I have said, they have done me the honor to name after me. (Cheers.) Long after I have gone, long after my life ceases in other respects, it will be asked why was this town so called? And the answer will revive a memory of myself. (Loud cheers). While I so fully acknowledge my indebtedness to our American cousins, I do not forget what I owe to my own countrymen, and especially to the kindness of those around me. (Loud cheers)."

THE water inspector of the district government, Mr. D. P. Barton, residing at the Washington House, Washington, D. C., was so crippled with rheumatism, so he says, that he could scarcely walk; the pains would sometimes attack him on the street, compelling him to stop still until they had left. He tried St. Jacobs Oil and was soon perfectly cured and able to walk as long and as far as any man.

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J. B. SIMPSON'S MEDICINE CO.,
Nos. 104 and 106 Main St., Buffalo, N. Y.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTOR'S.

OFFICE OF CITY CLERK, CAIRO, ILL., May 26th, 1881—Proposals will be received at my office up to and including June 7, for the filling and grading of R. R. Street between Second and Fourteenth streets. The work will be divided into sections as follows:

Section 1—Between Second and Fourth streets.
Section 2—Between Fourth and Sixth streets.
Section 3—Between Sixth and Eighth streets.
Section 4—Between Eighth and Tenth streets.
Section 5—Between Tenth and Twelfth streets.
Section 6—Between Twelfth and Fourteenth sts.

Bids will be received for a part or the whole of said work. For further particulars as to said filling apply to the mayor or myself. The council reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

D. J. FOLEY, City Clerk.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.

OFFICE OF CITY CLERK, CAIRO, ILL., May 26th, 1881—Sealed proposals will be received at this office directed to the City Council of the city of Cairo, until time of meeting of the city council, Tuesday evening, June 7th, for furnishing the material and doing the work, or doing the work necessary for the construction and reconstruction of the following sidewalks, viz: To be constructed of wood—on the easterly side of Commercial avenue from Fourth to second streets. To be reconstructed of wood—the sidewalk now abutting lot 16, in block 23, on Sixth street in the city of Cairo; as provided by ordinance No. 62, approved April 12th, 1881, which is now on file in this office and subject to examination at any time. The right to reject any and all bids is reserved by the city.

D. J. FOLEY, City Clerk,