The Broken Flower.

A marvel of beauty and brightness was "Little A." To those accustomed to observe mysterious course of things in this world there had been many a misgiving, many a painful apprehension that the little life unfolding with so much of promise before their eyes—every day developing some newer charms, some rarer perfection—might come to a sudden end. "Too sweet for earth" was felt but not spoken, lest the harmless words should prove a dreadful prophecy, or in some indefinable way hasten their own fulfilling. It is admitted now, however, with tearful eyes and quivering lips by those who were to him little more than strangers. No one, I think, who has spent an hour of the last half year in his society but has laid away in memory something to go with him through his natural life, something to come back at unexpected times and places, producing a mingled joy and pain—joy that such rare sweetness ever existed, pain that its existence was so brief. It may have been only a little act, the repetition of a word or gesture of welcome which he had been taught, but it was done so graciously! the granting of an asked-for kiss, but you would never have guessed the pleasure was not half his own from the eager advance with upreaching face, the sweet face, the sweet lips wreathed in smiles and the soft violet eyes beaming with delight. Had he entered upon life two years ago with a mature intelligence and the one purpose to win in that short time all hearts to himself he would not have been materially different.

His loveliness of form and feature may have been—though rarely—equalled, but the beauty of his character, I am confident could not have been surpassed. There are no words with which to define it any more than to describe the aroma of a flower, the tint of its petals. Do we attempt to outline with words a bit of sublime scenery, a magnificent cloud-cluster transformed by the sun's rays into things of life and light until the imagination revels in unknown worlds? Much more the mysterious something—essence or spirit which surrounds a little child fresh from the hand of its Maker, (and like him more than any other of his created works, or than *it* will ever be in after years) defies us. Of a powerfully magnetic temperament the touch of his waxen baby hand thrilled you; something in his shiny golden hair aided the fancy that a lambent light played about it and you thought without profanation of the infant head, haloed and hallowed, which the masters have brought down to us from eighteen hundred years ago. Surely, "of such is the kingdom of heaven," and to the hearts wrung with anguish for the loss of "Little A," this thought alone has power to bring healing, comfort.

O child of promise rare!
Shall we not know thee there
By the strangely subtle charm that round thee lies?
All felt its mystic power,
As, watching hour by hour,
New beauties opened to our wondering eyes.
And when that lovely form
Bent to the furious storm
Of Death; and low the precious head was laid,
We brought the rarest blooms
Laden with rich perfumes;
"Sweets to the sweet"—a fitting tribute paid.
A fair, sweet human flower
Lent for a fleeting hour,
To cheer and bless us on our earthly way;
Then by God's kindly hand,
Transferred to that fair land,
Where blight comes not; but flowers bloom for aye

C. A. C. H.

"Lovest thou me?" said a swain to his last year's girl. "Not much, I don't!" was her emphatic reply. "Then death is my best friend, and here's to his health!" spoke up the sighing lover as he drank off a bottle filled with a mixture which he supposed to be laudanum. But when the emetic, which a shrewd druggist had given instead of laudanum, began to work, his girl just held his hat to save the carpet, and then dragged him out on the door-steps by the hair of the head. He has no longer any faith in the vaunted tenderness of women's sympathetic nature.

A writer in the London *Hornet* tells the following story of a popular dramatist: "I heard a *mot* of Mr. Byron's the other day. He was present at a dramatic recitation given by a lady who once fancied, and perhaps still fancies, herself a famous tragedienne. The recitation was dreariness itself and before it was half over the author of '*Our Boys*,' who, though he has amused the town with one piece for three long years, cannot himself stand being bored for half an hour, rose to go. As he was edging his way to the door, he stumbled over an acquaintance, who asked him if he was going. 'Yes,' said Mr Byron; 'I can't stand this any longer; I'm off' 'By Jove!' returned his friend, 'I wish I were you.' 'Why don't you imitate my example, then?' asked the dramatist. 'I can't,' answered the other; 'my mother is here; she wants to see it out, and I must wait for her.' 'Ah!' said the wit, turning in the doorway, 'this is one of those meloncholy occasions that makes a man wish he was an orphan."

One of our exchanges rejoices over the fact that our youth are so greatly enamored of the classics. The editor proves his statement true by asserting that on one occasion, when two boys were pummelling each other, a third cried out, in the language of Virgil, *Socat tu em Romeo.*

"Why is it, my son, that a foreigner with a glass eye can never vote in this country?" "Because, my respected parent, he can never be natural eyesed."

Encouragement for the Feeble.

So long as the failing embers of vitality are apable of being re-kindled into a warm and genial glow, just so long there is hope for the weak and emaciated invalid. Let him not, therefore, despond, but derive encouragement from this and from the further fact that there is a restorative most potent in renewing the dilapidated powers of a broken down system. Yes, thanks to its unexampled tonic virtues, Hostetter's Stomach Bitters is daily reviving strength in the bodies and hope in the minds of the feeble and nervous. Appetite, refreshing sleep, the acquisition of flesh and color, are blessings attendant upon the reparative processes which this priceless invigorant speedily initiates and carries to a successful conclusion. Digestion is restored, the blood fertilized and sustenance afforded to each life-sustaining organ by the Bitters, which is inoffensive even to the feminine palate, vegetable composition, and thoroughly safe. Use it, and regain vigor!

From the New York Sun of August 16th.

Geo. P. Rowell & Co. Reply to the New York Herald.

From the New York Herald of August 9th.

We make therefore, the following proposition to Rowell & Co. If they, or their friends for them, will put up $25,000, with the condition that this sum shall be paid by them to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, or to any public charity that may be agreed on, in case the sworn report of the *Herald's* circulation is shown by proper and thorough examination to be correct. The *Herald* will also put up an equal sum of $25,000, which it will agree shall be paid over to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, or to any public charity that may be agreed on, in case its sworn report of circulation is proved false. The condition being that Rowell & Co. shall choose one respectable expert, to make an examination of presses, rooms, books, papers, etc.; the *Herald* shall choose another; and these two shall select a third; and the three shall forthwith make an examination and a report, which they shall publish. This much for Rowell & Co., who we trust, to use the language of western sporting men, will now "either put up or shut up."

The last Circulation Report furnished by the New York *Herald* to the AMERICAN NEWSPAPER DIRECTORY claim an average daily circulation of 122,100. And these figures appear in an advertisement of the *Herald* for that edition, for which advertisement the *Herald* paid us our price—$50. The written claim furnished bears the name of the same W. H. Henry, Business Manager, who signs the late affidavits put forth by the *Herald*. In the edition of the DIRECTORY for which this report was furnished, we estimated the circulation of the *Herald* at an average of 65,000 copies daily.

For the purpose of putting to a test the comparative value of their claims and our estimates, we make to the New York *Herald* the five following propositions;

OUR FIRST PROPOSITION.

We will forfeit $25,000 to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, against an equal amount to be paid by the *Herald*, if the committee appointed according to the *Herald's* stipulation does not pronounce the *Herald's* circulation claim, as furnished to us, to be in excess of the facts.

OUR SECOND PROPOSITION.

We will forfeit $10,000, as above, if the committee appointed according to the *Herald's* stipulation does not pronounce the *Herald's* claim to be more than 10,000 copies in excess of the facts.

OUR THIRD PROPOSITION.

We will forfeit $5,000, as above, if the committee appointed according to the *Herald's* stipulations does not pronounce our estimate nearer the actual facts than the *Herald's* written claim.

OUR FOURTH PROPOSITION.

We will forfeit $1,000, as above, if the committee appointed as above do not pronounce that the circulation of 65,000 copies daily average as estimated by us, to be in excess of the actual circulation of the *Herald* at that time

OUR FIFTH PROPOSITION.

We will forfeit $500, as above, if the committee appointed according to the *Herald's* stipulations pronounce that the actual daily sales of the *Herald*, at that time, average as much as one-half the number claimed by Mr. W. H. Henry in the written statment furnished by him for the guidance of the editor of the AMERICAN NEWSPAPER DIRETORY.

We submit the above propositions to the *Herald*, and shall be glad to know at an early hour which one is elected to accept.

GEO. P. ROWELL & CO., 10 Spruce St.
NEW YORK, August 15th, 1878.

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