

Other rare paintings surrounded the room; but priceless among them all, was the young, sweet woman, with her deep, hazel eyes, her long brown curls, her somewhat mournful smile. The look in her eyes—half-joyous, half-sorrowful—was the crowning beauty in the young face; and the saddest and the sweetest of all.

She had been the old man's wife—There was something very touching in the memory. Was it a wonder his eyes were often riveted upon the lovely vision, when he sat there alone?

Despite the venerable form, slightly bent, the white seal of age upon his hair, there was something in the expression of his face, which seemed to say, he had grown old before his time. How beautiful is age! Early joys may have faded, blossoms of love withered, and young bodies died—naught left save their memories; and yet there is a lingering fragrance still. The one great hope, mightier than any earthly joy, points its golden finger up the narrow, shining pathway, upon whose summit the aged Christian stands, with white hair gleaming, dimmed eyes brightening, and faltering footsteps, that will soon step down into the dark river, to pass over to the dazzling shores beyond!

What brought the smile to the old man's lip, and wreathed his noble face in a serene beauty, as he sat there, gazing upon the picture of his young bride? Was he dreaming of the days when she was all his own,—when that fair head had rested on his bosom, that full, sweet mouth been pressed to his? Or was he thinking of her home far beyond the moon and stars, where they might meet, and together sing of the love which makes life happy in Heaven?

The soul of the gray-haired man was so lost in thought, that he heard not the light footstep which entered the half-opened doorway, and he saw not the young creature who stood by his side.

"Papa," said the timid voice, twice, before he answered.

"Why, Nellie, you startled me—I was thinking."

Drawing a low chair to his side, the girl sat down, looking up into his face very tenderly.

He laid his broad, trembling hand upon her head. "You are late to-night, my daughter."

"I was with Elsie."

"And really," he replied, "I believe Elsie has stolen half my child's heart. I suppose I will have to get Elsie to come here, to keep my flying fairy at home."

"Why, you see, papa, you get to thinking, or reading, and then I slip off, always determining to get back directly, and I'm so sorry, I stay so long. Do you miss your 'bad girl' much, papa?"

A playful smile hovered around the old man's lips, as he answered. "Well, no! I don't miss my 'bad girl.' Her absence would be preferable to her presence, but sometimes I miss my Nellie. She has her faults, yet I think she is a good girl."

A shadow passed over Nellie's face, and she asked, in a tone of earnest inquiry, "Do you really wish me to stay at home more, papa, and not to go to Elsie so much? You see she is a trouble-saver."

"I've trouble, I suppose?" Again that pleasant smile revisited the old man's face. "I've trouble, I suppose? Well, pet, go as much as you please—I like to be alone, much of my time; though God knows, part of my life is not pleasant to review."

"You are very good, papa. You were always good," whispered his child, reverently.

The old man's voice quivered, and he replied, "Not always good, though striving to be so now."

"Maybe you wasn't so good when you were young, papa; but I know you are now; and oh, I'm so glad! for it looks so terrible, to see the old, who can't live long at most, had and wicked."

—You remember, dear papa, Solomon says, 'The heavy head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness.' I often think about that, when I see your gray head, and oh, I'm so happy, to think you are good."

What implicit faith the girl had in her father! How did her young heart bow down, in intense, reverent love to him! How tenderly she arranged his white hair! How light was her foot-fall, when the gray-haired man was deeming—good and glorious thoughts, she mentally said to herself.

Since she had been, large enough, she had done the light household work with her own hands. How tenderly did the old man love her—how the light she tremors of his life—the child of his last Mary! And how much she looked like her mother's portrait—very much, even in her features.

(To be continued.)

The Secretary of the Navy has formally notified the Atlantic Telegraph Company that the steamship Niagara, will be again detailed to assist in laying down the submarine cable in the Pacific.

Chief Engineer Brewster, formerly of the Niagara, has been granted leave of absence, and will proceed to England to arrange the preliminaries for laying the cable. Our dispatch says he is to have entire charge of the work.

IMPORTANT FROM KANSAS.

Civil War Ending in Bourbon County—Eating Habits in the Lawrence Convention. St. Louis, Dec. 30.

The Democrat has Kansas address to the 24th inst., which state that a civil war is raging in Bourbon County. Several outbreaks have occurred between the Free State and Pro-slavery parties. A number of prisoners have been taken on both sides. The United States Marshal, with a force of eighty men, demanded the surrender of the Free State party. The demand was answered by a volley of musket balls.

The fire was returned, and the fight lasted an hour. The Pro-slavery men finally retreated, with the loss of one killed and two mortally wounded. The Marshal was dangerously injured. Gen. Lane had been occupied at Sugar Mound, and was determined to fight the Democrats if they attacked him. A battle was regarded as inevitable.

Exciting debates had occurred in the Lawrence Convention. The Committee on Resolutions presented three reports. The majority report disapproved of voting for State officers.

The first minority report recommended the nomination of a full state ticket. The second, signed by Redpath, recommended a participation in the election for the purpose of destroying the Leocompton Constitution, that no man shall be nominated who will not pledge himself to crush it; that the Topeka Constitution be submitted to the people and their loyalty to that instrument be made the test of loyalty to the Free State party, and that the Legislature repeal the present code of laws.

Messrs. Robinson, Phillips, Conway, Schuyler and Vaughan were in favor of voting, and the most radical revolutionary speakers were made.

LATER!
Eight Between Lane's Men and the Government Troops—Three Dragoons Killed.

[From the St. Louis Democrat.]
By passengers from Kansas, who arrived last evening, we have obtained the following intelligence:

On Friday, the 25th ult., news reached Leavenworth that an engagement had taken place between the troops under Gen. Lane, at Sugar Mound, and a company of U. S. dragoons. The officers ordered Gen. Lane to surrender himself and men to the United States authorities, which he refused to do, when the dragoons charged upon the troops and were repulsed, with a loss of three of their number.

Finding themselves too weak to dislodge Lane, the dragoons retired, and an express was dispatched to Gov. Denver for reinforcements. The Governor immediately ordered three companies of dragoons to the seat of war, and they passed through Shawnee on Saturday, the 26th. It was expected there would be blood-work.

As soon as news of the engagement was received by the people, they commenced organizing in military companies, and were hurrying forward to assist Lane. It was expected before the dragoons would arrive that Lane would be reinforced by some 2,500 men. The most intense excitement prevailed.

One of the gentlemen who passed through Lawrence, on Friday, saw Gen. Lane and Gov. Robinson in that town. They were mounted and completely armed, and appeared much excited. They were addressing the people, who surrounded them in great numbers, and urged them to maintain their rights and support their friends. The people of Lawrence were preparing to take the field. John Calhoun had fled from the Territory, and reported himself as going to Springfield, Illinois.

On the day of the election, no polls were open in Bourbon county, as the Free State men refused to vote.

The Washington correspondent of the New York Times telegraphs the following:

From several private letters from reliable sources, to late dates, just received here from Kansas, I gather a number of facts of much interest.

One letter, from near the Missouri border, fully confirms the death of the notorious Geo. W. Clark, the murderer of Barber.

On the 23d inst. the difficulty at Fort Scott was still progressing. Clark was at the head of the Pro-slavery force when he was killed. Seven Pro-slavery men had fallen at last accounts, and the greatest excitement prevailed.

Another prominent man writes that Calhoun can never set up his Leocompton Government in that Territory with less than twenty thousand federal troops at his back.

Calhoun had become so greatly alarmed for his personal safety, that he had fled from his office at Leocompton and gone to Fort Leavenworth for protection.

Another correspondent states that if the Leocompton Constitution goes through Congress, there will be a bloody settling up of old scores in the Territory.

Correspondence of Cincinnati Commercial.

Letter from the Seat of Civil War, SHREWSBURY, K. T., Dec. 29 '57.

WAR IN SOUTHERN KANSAS.
EDS. COM.—Within the last two weeks the southern part of Kansas has been rung into a commotion by the fact that a civil war has broken out in the county of Bourbon, Fort Scott being the headquarters of the ruffian party.

The state of the case is this: During the difficulties last fall, the Free State men, in many cases, were driven from their claims, and this summer many have returned with the intention of gaining possession, but they find themselves opposed by Pro-slavery men, and being near the line of Missouri they find it a difficult task of getting possession of them. Again, these Free State men having been driven off in hot haste, left their cattle and hogs; since they have returned, these domestic articles are claimed by the Pro-slavery men who have jumped their claims.

In consequence of this state of things they sent a messenger to more thickly settled Free State neighborhoods for help. A party of some ten to fifteen went and commenced into the same and found it as reported; they held a consultation with the ruffian party, and gave them to understand they intended to fight matters before they returned.

The ruffians began to reinforce, and the Free State men sent for more help, so now, at this time, I think it probable that not less than six hundred men are under arms, threatening death to each other.

I have conversed with several messengers who have just arrived from the field of action. They report that the Pro-slavery party had taken some five or six Free State men, and had them confined in Fort Scott. A party of seventeen Free State men went on a trip of observation, to ascertain the condition of our friends, &c., and just as they were starting towards the Free State camp, (six miles distant) some hundred or more of the Pro-slavery party came in pursuit, and after a long run, they captured three of the Free State men, and now hold them as prisoners. Both parties were mounted. In the afternoon, about one hundred and forty of the Pro-slavery party, paid a visit to the Free State camp, Sugar Mound. They came with a white flag; a consultation took place—and both parties took a fighting position. In a short time the ruffians divided their forces with the intention of surrounding the Free State camp; orders were given for the Sharp's rifles to play upon them; those who had only common rifles, &c., were in a log house, and the Sharp's rifles, after a few rounds from the Sharp's rifles, the ruffians fled with the greatest dispatch to a more safe retreat.

The deputy U. S. Marshal, who led the ruffians, was shot in the breast—was thought to be dangerous; another man had his hand torn off, and a third, his arm shot—several horses were also shot in the conflict. The Free State men had about 70 men, and only nine of them, with Sharp's rifles, drove the enemy away. Up to this time, this is the only fighting we have heard of.

A young man, who lives in this neighborhood, shot himself in taking his gun out of the wagon—he has since died. His name is Calvin Eaton, or Cass Eaton, as he is familiarly called. Mr. Phillips, of the N. Y. Tribune, passed through here yesterday, en route for the war. He reported that the United States troops had crossed the Kansas river, and were en route to Fort Scott. A company of thirty mounted men from Prairie City passed through yesterday, for Fort Scott. This company will be a strong accession, as they have a good many Sharp's—a valuable article in our Prairie warfare. The Missourians are as frightened of them as they are of the name of "Old Brown."

Tuesday Morning, Dec. 22.
I have just conversed with a friend who came in last night. He reports that on Tuesday evening, about 11 o'clock, the Free State men discovered that the United States troops had camped about three miles from their camp. It was thought prudent to pull up stakes and change quarters. At one o'clock the same night they moved their encampment some fifteen miles. What will be done now, is unknown. The intention was to attack Fort Scott on the day following and recover those whom the ruffians have in confinement. It was not the Deputy-Marshal who was shot, but a man of the same name, a relative of his, named Little.

The Pacific Wagon Road.
WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—The War Department has received advices to the 18th October, from Lieut. Beale, in charge of the mail roads from Fort Deane to the Colorado river, in which he announces his arrival in California. The expedition has met with the most complete success, and a fine wagon road from New Mexico to California has been established. An important part of the operations has been effected by the canals, which were subjected to trials that no other animal could possibly endure; yet Lieut. Beale terminated his labors without the loss of a single camel, but they are reported, by those who saw them in Texas, to be in as good condition as when they left San Antonio.

Mr. Sumner not intending to resign—His South Carolina Correspondence.
[Correspondence of N. Y. Evening Post.]
Boston, Dec. 30.

Yesterday I had the pleasure of learning from Senator Sumner's own lips that he has no intention of resigning his seat in the Senate. There is not a man in Massachusetts, with heart and head enough to fill Mr. Sumner's place, who does not earnestly wish that he may retain it, though he could not speak another word in it. They would as soon level Bunker Hill, because that is silent. His history talks. He received letters from South Carolina, warning him that the "honor" of that chivalric State would require more of his blood if he took his seat at this session.

MURDER OF MURKINER IN INDIA.—The Newark, N. J. Mercury says: A letter was received on Monday by Rev. Dr. Murray, of Elizabeth, N. J., announcing the death of Rev. Mr. Freeman and wife, who went out to India in the missionary service some time since. They were taken prisoners by the natives, and after being kept in confinement for some days, were led out to execution, *wading ankle deep in blood*. About the seafoam where they were beheaded, blood had collected in such quantities as to submerge the severed heads of previous victims, against which they stumbled as they walked. They died, as they had lived, with true Christian bravery. Mr. Freeman was a native of South Orange, in this county, and his wife a native of the neighboring city of Elizabeth.

A NEW PRIZE GALLERY IN ENGLAND.—An English correspondent of a Pittsburg paper, in speaking of several popular preachers in England says that "a bright particular star has arisen among the Independents." A Mr. Guinness, an Independent now a student at New College, London, yet in his teens, is bidding fair to rival the renowned Mr. Spurgeon as another modern Whitefield. During his College vacation he has been preaching in Devonshire and Cornwall and has created among all classes and sects an indescribable sensation. Mr. Guinness is a native of Ireland, and a nephew of the great "Dublin porter brewer." His father was an officer in the army—his mother the widow of Capt. D'Esterre, who fell in a duel fought with the late Daniel O'Connell, some forty-five years since.

The Highland News.

HILLSBOROUGH, OHIO.

Thursday, 11:11: Jan. 7, 1858.

THE HIGHLAND WEEKLY NEWS

IS PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY MORNING,

ON THE FOLLOWING TERMS:

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"Kansas Shrieking"—Then and Now.

It is but a few brief weeks, says the Cincinnati Gazette, since the Democratic papers, all over the country, expressed the strongest aversion and contempt for what they were pleased to term "Kansas Shrieking." Every account from that quarter which did not represent affairs as going on smoothly, swimmingly, and surely, towards a final settlement, on Administration principles, was regarded as wholly fabrications and fraud, got up by Black Republicans, for party effect. The narrative of the grand Missouri foray, which controlled the first Territorial election, though definitely proved before a Commission of the popular branch of Congress, was never conceded, or at least thought of sufficient consequence to justify any complaint on the part of the real people of Kansas, and least of all, to entitle them to resist the outrageous encroachments of the bogus legislature. From that day to this, almost, the wrongs of the people, whose oppressors have had on their side all the power of the federal government, have been constantly sneered at by obsequious Administration organs. Murder, rapine, arson, and violence of every description, have awakened no sympathy in the minds of these men, whose motto has been, "The party, right or wrong!"

But there has come a change. A party rebellion has commenced. A regular stampede is going on from the Administration ranks. The policy of Mr. BUCHANAN has not varied materially from what his opponents charged that it would be, throughout the Presidential campaign. There was every reason to expect him to be a servicable instrument in the hands that now command his services. The Democratic leaders of the North, in fact, seem to have determined to sustain him in this ultra-Southern course, and to disregard or sneer at the rights of the people of Kansas, to the bitter end. What motive has induced the sudden change? We have witnessed the almost universal desertion of the Administration in the North, at this juncture, is not, perhaps, so great a "mystery" as might at first appear. But of that we do not propose to speak. The change of tone, the complete revolution, which has taken place on this subject, would certainly seem to be one of the most striking events of the day.

All through the campaign last Fall, the Columbus Statesman, for instance, was exceedingly vigilant in its attempts to make out that all the troubles in Kansas, so far as there were any, were the fault of the "factions majority." It ignored border ruffianism, and recognized as perfectly legitimate the government inaugurated by that power.—Kansas correspondents, who reported frauds or violence, were sneeringly discredited.

Now, the whole matter is reversed. The recent election in Kansas affords the Statesman occasion for shrieks as shrill and terrific as it was wont to denounce in those days, when the outrages were tenfold greater, and the frauds and wrongs a hundred times more important. Now it not only publishes Free State letters, but endorses what it used to vilify, as perfectly veracious and reliable. Here is a specimen, from the pen of a "sound National Democrat," whose "services to the Democracy of this State in the Presidential canvass which carried Mr. BUCHANAN, were conspicuous and efficient":

LEAVENWORTH CITY, Dec. 23, 1857.
EDITORS OHIO STATESMAN:—The election of last Monday was a farce.—Kansas was again invaded by a large number of Missourians, and many voted many times. At this point I was a witness of the invasion, and therefore speak what I know. I have to this time heard only the result at this point and Kinkapoo. This place, where fraudulent voting was to a degree prevented, and competent to poll 1,200 votes, but 256 were polled, of which 220 were for the "Constitution with slavery." Free State and Conservative Pro-slavery Democrats refused to vote. At Kinkapoo, 1,017 votes will be returned. This point is notorious for frauds, and cannot legally poll at any time 400 votes. It is almost unanimously Pro-slavery near Weston, Missouri, which is quite a town, and it is clearly ascertained that many voted at least a half dozen of times. I am satisfied that invasion and fraud have been permitted all along the border."

Now, this petty affair, disgraceful enough in itself, but which cannot have any practical effect, holds no comparison to the grand invasions of other days, which Democratic Administrations have winked at, whose doings they have ratified, whose "authority" they have enforced, and whose dominion Mr. BUCHANAN is now striving to make permanent, by forcing the Leocompton Constitution through Congress. And yet this "shrieking" Democrat very coolly adds: "That Congress will refuse to admit, when the facts are presented, I do not doubt." If such be the case, the character of "National Democrat" must have undergone some important change, within the last few weeks. "Now serious."

The Charleston Mercury is rabidly ferocious on DOTY. It makes against him the horrible assertion, that he now expected Kansas to be brought into the Union as a Slave State! Is it possible? It also "regrets to see that he has been treated with respect and consideration, eye constricted," and it is "sorry that he has not been treated as he deserves, at the hands of all true and earnest Southern men."

OUR NEW STORY.

According to promise we present our readers this week, with the opening chapter of the new Story, written for our paper by Mrs. MARY BEAVERS. The first chapter is very well written, and the Story will be found to increase in interest as it proceeds, and the various characters are brought upon the scene. We predict that it will add much to the literary reputation of the young and gifted author.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

In consequence of the extreme scarcity of money among farmers, arising in part from the unusual lateness of the Park season, as well as the general embarrassment in money matters, we have decided to make a slight modification of our rule in regard to Advance Payments, by extending the time to the 1st of March next, for all whose subscriptions expire on the 1st of January. We have no doubt the majority of those who have not received, would willingly have done so, but have been prevented by the cases referred to, and we hope this extension will enable them to renew by the time named. We shall therefore continue to send the paper until the 1st of March, to all who do not return the next number, and we will consider payments made by that time as in advance. Those who do not wish to continue the paper, on these terms, will please signify their wishes by sending back the next No.

Those who do not return the paper, will be considered as accepting our proposition. All papers sent by mail, and not renewed by the 1st of March, will positively be stopped at that time.

Civil War Actually Begun.
It will be seen by our latest advices from Kansas, that an engagement has actually taken place between the Territorial force, under command of Gen. LANE, and the United