

MISCELLANY.

Denied the Bliss. Denied the bliss to look. Within thy loving eyes and see. As sunset, smiling in the brook. The love, dear heart, thou hast for me; To hear thy accents soft and warm. Press that dear throbbing heart to mine, And watch with rapture every charm, That speaks of Heavenly charms in thine; Ah! this! ah! this!

THE CORPSE-FISHER. BY WILLIAM COMSTOCK.

Several years have passed away, and New York has now more than doubled its size and population, since there was a man seen about the streets of the city who was known by the ominous title of the "Corpse-Finder."

He followed the business of fishing up the corpses of drowned persons, and was often observed sauntering about the wharves, patiently waiting for some person to fall into the water, that he might turn an honest penny by fishing him out after he was dead.

The relatives of the defunct would sometimes offer a considerable sum for the recovery of the body, and our hero drove a thriving business against one or two rivals, whose skill and whose apparatus for searching the bottom of the river were far inferior to his.

The corpse-finder was a man below the medium size, of a meagre, crooked person, and his natural deformities were rendered absolutely hideous by the loss of his nose during childhood. This unfortunate feature he lost when about three years of age, by falling into the fire.

Then such a scrabbling as there would be to get their apparatus arranged and sink it into the water! The little man would start at the word "dollars" as if a shot had struck him, and over went his grapples. Down they went to the bottom. Then he would draw his chain backwards and forwards, looking all the time at the other candidates for the prize as if he could bite their heads off.

If the body was there, our hero would be certain to find it. Sometimes he would hook an old rope or other rubbish that lay on the bottom, and draw it carefully to the surface; but, on discovering his mistake, he hastened to remove it from the hook, and get his instrument into the water again, with a nervous eagerness that was fairly distressing to the observer.

I sent a colored laborer for a coach, and conveyed my poor friend to his lodgings. I left him there with the assurance that the body would be found on that very afternoon. I then bade the hackman drive to the house of an acquaintance, who had recently had occasion to employ the corpse-fisher.

This strange being lived in a small red house, pleasantly situated in the midst of a little garden, not far from the spot now termed the forks of the Bowery. It stood alone. Beyond it, not more than two or three dwelling-houses were visible, and below it was a large market garden.

ting up the wharf, with an air of conscious dignity, like a man who stands at the head of his profession. Ugly as this man was, and disgusting as his trade must have appeared to every one but himself, it was reported that he had a very beautiful daughter—a girl of eighteen years—endowed with lively sensibilities, taste and talents. The wonder is not so much that he had a beautiful daughter as that he was ever able to procure a wife of any description.

It was a cool day in the latter part of October. Several cases of yellow fever had occurred a few weeks previously, and many persons had left the city. They were now returning; and among the friends whom I greeted on their arrival, was a very fine young fellow by the name of Thompson.

I paused, for I observed that my friend was very pale, and that he trembled violently. I looked at him for an explanation. "Oh! B—," said he, "this world has lost every attraction. I am fit for nothing—for no business." And he burst into tears.

"Thompson, my dear fellow!" cried I, taking his hand, "compose yourself. Surely nothing has occurred that can warrant such gloomy forebodings in one of your brilliant prospects."

I scarcely knew what to say. I had known Thompson from early boyhood. He was not a man to give way to childish grief, and his tears affected me deeply. Perhaps it was well I suffered too much to speak; for, after he had given way awhile to his pent-up flow of sorrow, he became more like his former self.

He told this sad tale in broken accents, and when it was finished, wept again as if soul and body would take their leave of each other. "If I could but see her once more—if I could but look upon her beautiful features again, though marred by death—if I could but see her laid in a Christian grave—that I might visit the spot—"

"Leave that to me, my dear friend," cried I, as the corpse-fisher came up to my recollection. "I know of one who cannot fail to find the body of the unfortunate girl. It will all be arranged according to your wishes, and you will, at least, have the melancholy pleasure of knowing where her last resting-place is."

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On entering the little abode, I was struck by the tasteful arrangement of everything I saw. The door of the common room was open, and a little door presented itself to the eye, in which neatness and elegance contrasted for the mastery. The snowy counterpane, the well-kept furniture, and a variety of little snowy articles which betray the handiwork of woman, impressed me favorably of the presiding genius of the mansion.

A man without a wife is like a fork without a knife. A quarrel without fighting is like thunder without lightning. "Who was the painter of that beautiful landscape that hangs against the wall?" said I to the owner of this snug little habitation.

"My daughter," replied he, shortly, as he dragged out his grapples from a dark closet. "She is not at home?" The man gave a surly grunt, and continued to busy himself about his preparations. "Is she out of town?" "I sent her away on 'count of fever." "You do well to be careful of her. Is she your only living relative?" This hideous creature actually shed tears as he mumbled out an affirmative.

The thought struck me: Here lives this faithful daughter with her despised and ugly parent. She is his all. She sees not his deformity. To her he is only her father. Her beautiful face glows with pleasure, when, wearied with toil and travel, he escapes from the mocking world without, and finds, in his little home, a harbor for all his griefs in the affection of his child.

A considerable crowd was gathered about the spot where the melancholy event occurred. My companion's rivals had already arrived, but as no reward had yet been offered, they had made no attempt to recover the body. They were, however, seated on the edge of the wharf, prepared to drop their hooks at a moment's notice.

Perceiving that the other men had also lowered their grapples, the corpse-fisher bade them desist, as he had been specially engaged for the job; but they heeded him not. This roused his ire to the highest pitch. "My job—now—now—see, there stands the gemman! Humph! now—now—see, there stands the gemman!"

"Well, what of that?" was the reply. "There's no sense in that." "Humph! I tell you, there stands the gentleman, but the corpse is as good to him if I catch it, as if you catch it yourself, ain't it?"

He stopped short in his utterance, for at that moment his looks clung to something at the bottom. Gradually the corpse-fisher drew up the grappell, to which some heavy body was evidently attached. At first, he seemed doubtful, but his countenance soon began to betray the glow of expectation.

The other men suspended their operations and watched for the result—the crowd drew closer to the exciting man. The white dress of a woman is already visible. The corpse-fisher turned an eye of savage scorn on his admiring rivals; and at that moment the head of a beautiful girl appeared above the water. Those marbled features were beautiful even in death: the heavy, raven locks, saturated with the brine, fell back from the clear white forehead, and the face was fully exposed to our view.

"Don't let her go again!" cried a voice in the crowd, as the grasp of the corpse-fisher relaxed, and the chain slid through his fingers. I turned angrily to the man to reprove him for his carelessness. His gaze was riveted on the corpse, and he reeled on his seat. I saw his eyes roll in his head.

It was too late. With a yell of such horror that it rang in my ears for many months afterwards, the corpse-fisher slid from the plank on which he was seated. A loud splash in the water was heard. The unhappy man and his daughter's corpse had sunk forever from our sight!

Neither of their bodies were ever recovered. The tide was running out at the time, and they were doubtless swept into the channel before they could reach the bottom. Poor Thompson was for many years an inmate of the asylum at Manhattanville. Peace to his manes! He has long since passed to "another and a better world."

Headquarters Military District of Charleston. DEPARTMENT SOUTH CAROLINA. ASSISTANT ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE. CHARLESTON, S. C., July 27, 1865. NOTICE. PERSONS desiring to publish Newspapers within the limits of this District, are hereby informed that it will first be necessary to obtain the consent of the Major-General Commanding the Department.

The New York News. DAILY and WEEKLY. THE NEW YORK WEEKLY NEWS, a great family newspaper—BENJAMIN WOOD, Proprietor—the largest, best and cheapest paper published in New York. Single copies, 5 cents; one copy one year, \$2; three copies one year, \$5.00; five copies one year, \$7.50; ten copies one year, \$12; and an extra copy to any club of ten. Twenty copies one year, \$20. The Weekly News is sent to subscribers at 1.50.

THE CHRISTIAN INDEX. BY THE FIRST OF OCTOBER, or as soon as the mails are re-established, I will renew the publication of the "CHRISTIAN INDEX" and the "CHILD'S INDEX" I have been publishing.

A GREAT WANT SUPPLIED! NEWS FROM ALL QUARTERS! THE PHOENIX. PUBLISHED Daily, Tri-Weekly and Weekly, At the Capital of South Carolina, COLUMBIA.

THE DAILY PHOENIX. ISSUED every morning except Sunday, is filled with the LATEST NEWS, (by telegraph, mails, etc.) EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE, MISCELLANY, POETRY, STORIES, etc. This is the only daily paper in the State outside of the city of Charleston.

The Tri-Weekly Phoenix, For country circulation, is published every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, and has all the reading matter of interest contained in the daily issues of the week.

WEEKLY CLEANER, A HOME COMPANION. As its name indicates, is intended as a FAMILY JOURNAL, and is published every Wednesday. It will contain Eight Pages, of Forty Columns. The cream of the News, Miscellany, Tales, etc., of the Daily and Tri-weekly will be found in its columns.

JOB WORK, Such as HANI-BILLS, CARDS, CIRCULARS, SHIN-PLASTERS, etc., executed promptly and at reasonable rates. JULIAN A. SALBY, Publisher and Proprietor.

By the Provisional Governor of the State of South Carolina.

A PROCLAMATION!

WHEREAS His Excellency President Johnson has issued his proclamation, appointing me (Benjamin F. Perry) Provisional Governor in and for the State of South Carolina, with power to prescribe such rules and regulations as may be necessary and proper for convening a Convention of the State, composed of delegates to be chosen by that portion of the people of said State who are loyal to the United States, for the purpose of altering or amending the Constitution thereof; and with authority to exercise within the limits of the State all the powers necessary and proper to enable such loyal people to restore said State to its constitutional relations to the Federal Government, and to present such a republican form of State Government as will entitle the State to the guarantee of the United States therefor, and its people to protection by the United States against invasion, insurrection and domestic violence.

Now, therefore, in obedience to the proclamation of his Excellency Andrew Johnson, President of the United States, I, BENJAMIN F. PERRY, Provisional Governor of the State of South Carolina, for the purpose of organizing a Provisional Government in South Carolina, re-forming the State constitution and restoring civil authority in said State under the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim and declare that all civil officers in South Carolina, who were in office when the Civil Government of the State was suspended, in May last, (except those arrested or under prosecution for treason,) shall, on taking the oath of allegiance prescribed in the President's Amnesty Proclamation of the 26th day of May, 1865, resume the duties of their offices and continue to discharge them under the Provisional Government till further appointments are made.

And I do further proclaim, declare and make known, that it is the duty of all loyal citizens of the State of South Carolina to promptly go forward and take the oath of allegiance to the United States. Let every magistrate or military officer of the Federal Government, who may be qualified for administering oaths; and such are hereby authorized to give certified copies thereof to all persons respectively by whom they were made. And such magistrates or officers are hereby required to transmit the originals of such oaths, at an early day as may be convenient, to the Department of State, in the city of Washington, D. C.

And I do further proclaim, declare and make known, that the Managers of Elections throughout the State of South Carolina will hold an election for members of a State Convention, at their respective precincts, on the FIRST MONDAY IN SEPTEMBER NEXT, according to the laws of South Carolina in force before the secession of the State; and that such Election District in the State shall elect as many members of the Convention as the said District contains members of the House of Representatives—the basis of representation being population and taxation. This will give one hundred and twenty-four members to the Convention—a number sufficiently large to represent every portion of the State most fully.

Every loyal citizen who has taken the Amnesty oath and not within the category classed in the President's Proclamation, will be entitled to vote, provided he was a legal voter under the Constitution as it stood prior to the secession of South Carolina. Aftaid who are within the excepted classes must take the oath and apply for a pardon, in order to enable them to vote or become members of the Convention.

The members of the Convention thus elected on the first Monday in September next, are hereby required to convene in the city of Columbia, on WEDNESDAY, the 15th day of September, 1865, for the purpose of altering and amending the present Constitution of South Carolina, or re-constituting and making a new one, which will conform to the great changes which have taken place in the State, and be more in accordance with Republican principles and equality of representation.

And I do further proclaim and make known, that the Constitution and all laws of force in South Carolina prior to the secession of the State, are hereby made of force under the Provisional Government, except wherein they may conflict with the provisions of this proclamation. And the Judges and Chancellors of the State are hereby required to exercise all the powers and perform all the duties which appertain to their respective offices, and especially in criminal cases. It will be expected of the Federal military authorities now in South Carolina, to lend their authority to the civil officers of the Provisional Government, for the purpose of enforcing the laws and preserving the peace and good order of the State.

And I do further command and enjoin all good and loyal citizens of the State to unite in enforcing the laws and bringing to justice all disorderly persons, all plunderers, robbers and marauders, all vagrants and idle persons who are wandering about without employment or any visible means of supporting themselves.

It is also expected that all former owners of freed persons will be kind to them, and not turn off the children or aged to perish; and the freed men and women are earnestly enjoined to make contracts, just and fair, for remaining with their former owner. In order to facilitate as much as possible the application for pardons under the excepted sections of the President's Amnesty Proclamation, it is stated for information that all applications must be by petition, stating the exception, and accompanied with the oath prescribed. This petition must be first approved by the Provisional Governor, and then forwarded to the President. The headquarters of the Provisional Governor will be at Greenville, where all communications to him must be addressed. The newspapers of this State will publish this proclamation till the election for members of the Convention.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal. Done at the [L. S.] town of Greenville, this 20th day of July, in the year of our Lord, 1865, and of the independence of the United States the nineteenth. B. F. PERRY. By the Provisional Governor. WILLIAM H. PERRY, Private Secretary. July 25.