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Poetry.

Woman's Rights.

BY DENNIS MCLEYS.

Hurray for the times that's comin',
Whin ladies shall vote like the men;
Och, won't the polls be a bloomin'
With fiters and crinoline thin!
Election day this, I am thinkin',
Will be the great day of the year,
When lasses and lads will be drinkin'
Together the candidates' beer.

What's the use to wrangle with Biddy
About who the livin' shall make?
An' shure, if 'twill please her Jim ruddy
To give up the lead for her side,
An' be stakin' all day at the shanty
To tend the domestic affairs,
A bollin' the half an' potatoes,
An' mendin' the rips and the tails.

Thin whin election approaches,
And the lasses are marchin' the strate,
With big bands of music an' toches,
An' Biddy is standin' the trate,
I'll be on the sidewalk lurrainin',
For me own darlin' Biddy McFlyan,
With a child in my arms, and a drawin'
A cab with another op in.

An' whin she is makin' her speeches
Before the great men of the land,
Shure thin I will lend her my toches,
An' sit by her side on the stand,
An' after she's done wid her talkin',
Och, thin how the people will cheer!
An' off to the polls be a walkin',
An' votin' for Biddy my dear.

An' whin all the votin' is over,
An' Biddy clevelegh shure thin
I'll live like a pig in the clover,
Wid her honorable Mrs. McFlyan,
The shanty I'll quickly be leavin',
An' livin' wid liligant taste,
Wid a horse an' a shay for me drivin',
An' a dappie to wait on the bastie.

It's never a lie I am speakin',
But tuck every word that I say;
It's meself, 'twould never be takin'
The rights of the ladies away,
If I lasses thinkin' it proper,
Should sholder the mortar and brick,
Bad luck to the thief that would stop her,
An' black his two eyes purty quick.

The way is for all to kappaisey,
An' give to the ladies their way;
They trippin' vote like a dappie,
No man's but blackguards may say;
An' thin shure, 'twould be sakin',
Or writin' the pick or the Spade,
An' for us the livin' be makin',
Who cares so the livin' is made.

"Every young man ought to save something."
"Do you suppose John Farmer does?"
"I think not, at the rate his wife dresses."
"But it is too hard to wear the same dress every Sunday. If I had one more I could get along very well."
"You would want another still."
"No, I shouldn't, mother."
"There is no end to it when you undertake to follow all these absurdities. When I was a girl, I had only one dress to wear to meeting, and that was calico."
"The times have changed."
"Changed for the worse. I am sure no such vanity as darning out in a different dress every Sunday ever entered a girl's head, especially girls whose fathers were not independently rich."
"Nobody thinks of wearing the same dress all the time. Only one more."
"One is enough Sarah. If you let such silly notions get into your head, you will never know when to stop. You could easily spend all your husband's salary in dress and then not keep up with the demands of the times."
"I am sure James can afford me a new silk."
"Do not think of it, child. Be prudent, careful, and contented, and when James is rich, you may be different."
Mrs. Bradley was satisfied after considerable more demonstration on the part of her mother, that she could get along without the new silk. But it was hard to give up the idea of competing with Mrs. Farmer, whose husband was no better off than hers.

CHAPTER II.

James Bradley and John Farmer were clerks in a large house in the city, and both resided in a neat little cottage in the suburbs. Their fortunes had been thus far very much the same and perhaps they might have continued the same through life, but for the different character of their wives.

Mrs. Bradley had been brought up to live within her means. A careful mother, who realized the responsibility of her position, and rightly indicated the principles of a sound economy, and trained her up to habits of prudence and thrift. And all the practical qualities she had brought with her domestic relations, when she embarked in a new sphere of life.

Mrs. Farmer, on the other hand, though her parents were no better off than Mrs. Bradley had brought her up to be a lady—to wear fine dresses and play the piano.

Her knowledge and experience of household duties were very narrow and superficial, and her husband's thousand dollars a year would hardly support them.

They were obliged, in order to dress her as her habits and wishes required, to "scrimp" in many of the real comforts of life. The provision bill was kept at the lowest possible figure.

Mrs. Farmer thought breakfasts were unhealthy in the morning, and John found it necessary to be of her opinion. Six dollars a season for ice would buy a new bonnet; hence for was the cause of a great many complaints that prevailed in the summer.

The comforts of living were sacrificed to the luxuries of dress. Breakfast at twenty-five cents a pound was unhealthy; but new bonnets at ten dollars a piece were necessary of life. Mattin chops at fifteen cents a pound caused the dyspepsia, but silk dresses at a dollar and a half a yard, were not only healthy, but indispensable.

All the salary was spent—was intended to be spent—and the only question was whether it should be put in the body or on the body. The habit of extravagance was there, and all the thrift and economy which Mrs. Farmer knew, was to save money for new dresses.

She and Mrs. Bradley were on intimate terms with each other, and as may be readily supposed, the subject of dress was frequently discussed.

A few days after the conversation of Mrs. Bradley with her mother, her neighbor was making a call. Mrs. Farmer could talk of nothing but dress. It was the study of her life—what she must hope for in the future. As usual, the conversation immediately degenerated into dress—it was all Mrs. Farmer knew.

"How do you like my new raw silk?" asked she after several adroit passes in order to introduce this matter.

"It is very pretty, indeed. You come out in a new dress almost every Sunday, Ellen," replied Mrs. Bradley.

"I wish I could."
"I wonder how many nice dresses you have in your wardrobe?"
"I have only one that is fit to wear," replied Mrs. Farmer.

"Only one?"
"That is fit to wear anywhere."
"You have at least three silks."
"All old-fashioned—made last fall—and all out of date. I tried to make John give me a large, but he wouldn't."
"I am sure if I had your dresses, I should think I were a Princess."
"Pshaw! If my husband don't give me another next week, I shan't go to church but once a month."
"If I had your dresses, Ellen, I should not think of another for a year."
"Pooh!"
"My mother thinks I dress well enough."
"Why, you have worn the same dress to meeting every Sunday for a year."
"And probably shall wear it every Sunday for the next year."
"I wouldn't if I were you."
"But James saves two or three hundred of his salary every year."

one more dress, but mother said so much against it, that I gave up the idea."
"Tied to your mother's apron-strings yet?" sneered Mrs. Farmer.

"I am too thankful to get my mother's advice to reject it."
"But get the raw silk, do! It will become your own; and then we shall have a little respite from that everlasting fawn color."
"No, I have made up my mind not to have it."
"Put the money into your stomachs, instead, and get the dyspepsia into the bargain," said Mrs. Farmer, as she took her leave.

CHAPTER III.

"The 'long run' tells the story; so let us stop forward a few years, and look into the counting room of our clerks.

James and John are still there, and occupying the same relations. For three years have been the recipients of a handsome sum of four hundred a year.

"The 1st of January is at hand. Harris & Co. are about to dissolve, and the senior who has made a princely fortune—and is a queer old fellow at that—is about to form a new co-partnership.

"Boys," says old Mr. Harris, "you have been with me a long time; I suppose you want to get ahead and become merchants."
The boys acknowledged the compliment and John Farmer winked significantly at his associates.

"But," continued the patriarchal merchant, "to get ahead in business requires certain qualities of mind and body. One must be industrious, economical, and wide awake, as well as shrewd. Driving fast horses, eating champagne suppers, and sucking milk jives, do not furnish the necessary schooling for a merchant. I won't preach, however. In one word; the 1st of January is close upon us. Those of you who can put two thousand dollars in the concern, shall draw sixtenth of the profits. That's all."

The old fellow turned on his heel, picked up his hat and left the counting room.

James Bradley was the only one of the number—four in all—who could "face the music."

The other three had perfected themselves in the art of fast driving, drinking sherry cobbler and eating good dinners; they go to see Angelina of an evening and find that profligate Wiggler there before you. Your wife hasn't saved that missing button on your shirt, and you don't discover it till the garment is on. The steak is tough. You get soaked by a sudden shower.—Your favorite volume is borrowed, and returned soiled and dog-eared. These are but a few examples of the minor evils of life, which, if recurring and unavoidable, conspire against our physical and mental peace.

The moral is obvious. Be not unduly elated and fretted by trifles, since

— they come not single spies,
But in battalions.

Treat them philosophically, and resolve to enjoy life despite them, for they are indeed the little foxes that spoil the vines.

Robert Emmet and his Love.

'Twas the evening of a lovely day the last day of the noble and ill-fated Emmet. A young lady stood at the castle gate and desired admittance into the dungeons. She was closely veiled and the keeper could not imagine who she was, nor why one of such proud bearing should be supplicant at the prison door. However he granted the boon, led her to the dungeon, opened the massive iron door, then closed it again; and the lovers were alone. He leaned against the prison wall down-cast head and his arms crossed in front of his breast. Gently she raised the veil from her face, and Emmet turned to gaze upon all that earth contained for him—the girl whose sunny brow in the days of boyhood had been his polar star—the maiden who had sometimes made him think this "world was all sunshine."

It was reduced to the last extremity—his old friend and associate, James Bradley, was now in attendance and able to assist him. Mortifying as was the thought, there was scarcely any other alternative but to apply to him for a situation.

James was shocked when he recognized him. Sherry cobbler, a thriftless wife, "one more dress," and the want of encouragement had done their work.

"Is there a vacancy in your counting room, Mr. Bradley?" asked John Farmer, in a humble tone.

"There is not, John, but I will create a place for you," replied the liberal merchant as he realized the situation of his former associate.

"Thank you," replied John, a tear starting to his eye at this unexpected kindness—the first he had experienced anywhere, not excepting his own house, for many and many a weary month.

James took him home to dine with him, and John had an opportunity to contrast his own circumstances with those of his short friend. He was sad at heart—in his shirt he was a ruined man.

He did very well for a few months in the counting-room of his friend, but his old habits soon attained the mastery over him again, and he died suddenly of a disease produced by dissipation.

"One more dress," said Mrs. Green—the good old lady who was now a cherished member of her daughter's family—"is the representative of the whole system of extravagance. 'One more dress,' as the type of a great bundle of bad habits, was the ruin of John Farmer. Don't you know it Sarah?"

"I do mother, and I cannot be too thankful."

Craberry Culture.

There are many acres of swamp or bottom lands in this State, if not in Caroline county, now utterly unproductive, which might be made as profitable in cranberry culture as any other part of our land.—The only thing needed is a proper knowledge of the culture. This knowledge is afforded in the subjoined extract from the Agricultural Report of 1873, furnished by a correspondent of the Department, in New Jersey, where the cranberry has been profitably grown for years. Farmers would find it profitable, we think, to cultivate a variety of crops, instead of confining themselves to wheat and corn. When their wheat and corn fails, they have nothing to fall back upon, but if they have a variety of crops, it is not likely that all will fail at the same time.

The best locations for the growth of the cranberry are peat or muck bottoms, with adjoining banks of pure sand for covering the plantation before the vines are set, and so situated that they may be completely flooded by living springs during the winter, as well as thoroughly drained at other seasons of the year. Many growers have a preference for cedar-swamps, and (although other bottoms are sometimes equally as good) they are considered, when favorably located, as rather the surest, though more expensive to work. They also grow well on good savanna—a mixture of peat and sand—but not so abundantly, nor do they last so long on muck bottoms. Mr. Crane, of New Jersey, says:

In preparing a plantation the surface must first be cleared of the wood, timber, or brush; then it must be turfed—that is, the surface soil and roots must be taken off with a hoe made for that purpose. The next step is to ditch it, by clearing out the main water-course and digging side drains running into it—generally in deep bottom-lands about one and a half or two rods apart, but the distance should be varied in accordance with the nature of the ground. The floods removed in turing are used for leveling up low places where needed, so that the surface may be slightly rounded between the side drains; they are also used for building the dam, which is constructed with two walls of the floats filled in with a loam made for that purpose. The next step is to ditch it, by clearing out the main water-course and digging side drains running into it—generally in deep bottom-lands about one and a half or two rods apart, but the distance should be varied in accordance with the nature of the ground. The floods removed in turing are used for leveling up low places where needed, so that the surface may be slightly rounded between the side drains; they are also used for building the dam, which is constructed with two walls of the floats filled in with a loam made for that purpose. The next step is to ditch it, by clearing out the main water-course and digging side drains running into it—generally in deep bottom-lands about one and a half or two rods apart, but the distance should be varied in accordance with the nature of the ground. The floods removed in turing are used for leveling up low places where needed, so that the surface may be slightly rounded between the side drains; they are also used for building the dam, which is constructed with two walls of the floats filled in with a loam made for that purpose.

Craberry Culture.

Number of acres of cranberry-bearing land, 4,000; number of acres cultivated, not yet in bearing, 3,000; number of acres wild, 10,000 to 12,000—crop of 1873, 125,000 bushels; average price of crop of 1873, \$2.50 to \$3.75 per bushel.

As to the value of cranberry plantations, average yield and income per acre, Mr. Crane says:

At four years of age good plantations have been said to have an average value of \$1,000 per acre, though the price varies, of course, according to the demand and the supply, location, quality, &c. Some owners have refused \$2,000 per acre for their lands, while others could not sell for the original cost.

An average of 100 bushels per acre for a plantation, though not an immense yield, is considered a very good one. Many have exceeded it, but many more have fallen below, and probably an average crop for all classes of land, in a good season, would not exceed from 50 to 75 bushels per acre. Probably the best crop on record was that of one acre of the celebrated Oxyecoon plantation of Mr. N. H. Bishop, of Manahawkin, in 1872, from which were sold 23 bushels for \$1,850 gross, though, partly a preference for cedar-swamps, and (although other bottoms are sometimes equally as good) they are considered, when favorably located, as rather the surest, though more expensive to work. They also grow well on good savanna—a mixture of peat and sand—but not so abundantly, nor do they last so long on muck bottoms. Mr. Crane, of New Jersey, says:

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One More Dress.

BY QUAKER OTTIE.

"To think of wearing the same dress to church, Sunday after Sunday!" exclaimed Mrs. Bradley, a young married lady, to Mrs. Green, her mother.

"Why not, Sarah?"

"Folks will think it is the only one I have which is fit to wear to meeting."

"It is, isn't it?"

"I know it; but I don't care about all the world knowing it."

"You would not make all the world here that which is true, would you?"

"I don't care; I mean to have a new silk dress to-day."

"But, Sarah, your husband cannot afford it."

"Yes he can; at least we can curtail our expenses in something else."

"What?"

"Well I don't know; we could make our provision bill less."

Mrs. Green shook her head.

"I don't think there is any need of our having breakfast and notion chops every morning for breakfast. We never had such things at home, you know, I would not give a straw for so much meat."

"But James depends upon it."

"I know it; yet for the sake of making me appear a little better on Sunday he would willingly dispose with it."

"Would you be willing to ask him the question?" asked Mrs. Green.

"Yes, why not?"

"You would ask him to go without his breakfast in order that you may have another silk dress?"

"Go without his breakfast, mother! I never thought of such a thing," said Mrs. Bradley, with a disturbed look.

"But you know it amounts to the same thing to him. He was brought up in the country where he had meat for breakfast, and he does not think he could make a meal without it."

"We will not say anything more about that then," replied the young wife, who I beg the reader to believe, would not willingly have deprived her husband of any real comfort. "How, do you suppose Mrs. Farmer gets so many dresses?"

"I don't know."

"She seems to come out with a new one almost every Sunday. She must have at least half a dozen silks."

"I hope her husband can afford them," replied Mrs. Green, shaking her head significantly.

"He is not any better off than James,—I have the same salary, and in the same concern."

"A thousand dollars in these hard times will not go a great way with a man who has a family to support, especially if his wife has a great many silk dresses."

"But James saves two or three hundred of his salary every year."

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Number of acres of cranberry-bearing land, 4,000; number of acres cultivated, not yet in bearing, 3,000; number of acres wild, 10,000 to 12,000—crop of 1873, 125,000 bushels; average price of crop of 1873, \$2.50 to \$3.75 per bushel.

As to the value of cranberry plantations, average yield and income per acre, Mr. Crane says:

At four years of age good plantations have been said to have an average value of \$1,000 per acre, though the price varies, of course, according to the demand and the supply, location, quality, &c. Some owners have refused \$2,000 per acre for their lands, while others could not sell for the original cost.

An average of 100 bushels per acre for a plantation, though not an immense yield, is considered a very good one. Many have exceeded it, but many more have fallen below, and probably an average crop for all classes of land, in a good season, would not exceed from 50 to 75 bushels per acre. Probably the best crop on record was that of one acre of the celebrated Oxyecoon plantation of Mr. N. H. Bishop, of Manahawkin, in 1872, from which were sold 23 bushels for \$1,850 gross, though, partly a preference for cedar-swamps, and (although other bottoms are sometimes equally as good) they are considered, when favorably located, as rather the surest, though more expensive to work. They also grow well on good savanna—a mixture of peat and sand—but not so abundantly, nor do they last so long on muck bottoms. Mr. Crane, of New Jersey, says:

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