

WHEN THE SHIP COMES HOME

(Continued from First Page.)

immense bakery where all the children's mud pies, the cabbage stalks, the orange peel, and the general refuse of a great city were being cooked in one large oven. In the Church of St. Ethelred it showed itself by an unwonted splendor of the painted glass. The colors which fell on the tombs and monuments were brighter than usual; the knight and dame who knelt opposite to each other, with hands clasped, at head and foot of their common grave, received the crimson rays upon their heads, and lost for a while the rigidity by which their sculptor had tried to represent dignity. The sunlight played upon the organ beside the altar, and fell in a cloud of color upon the patient face of poor little Charlotte Lemire, who was left there alone thinking. On the steps of the organ-loft sat, side by side, John Wybrow and Ruth Warneford. Mark that he had not spoken a word of love, nor has she thought of love, yet they sit like lovers, only not hand in hand.

The young man has been telling the girl of places which he knows, not far away, where stretch meadows covered with flowers from spring to late autumn—the golden buttercup, the meadowsweet, the wild convolvulus, and the cowslip—where there are woods, and streams, and cornfields.

"Some day, Ruth, we will go and see them. Some day, when I am my own master." He added the last words under his breath.

"Ah!" she sighed, "I have no holiday. It is wrong to be always wishing for things; but oh! John, I do sometimes long for a little change—just a few days in the country such as I used to have when I was a little girl, before—long ago. It would be something to think of in the winter evenings, you see, especially if I thought I could go again."

"Poor Ruth! I wish I could do something for you; but I cannot—yet. I am only a clerk now. Will you have a little more patience?"

"Now, you will think I am complaining. But indeed, indeed, I am not. I am very happy. I am sure I ought to be. Only now and then, when the sun is hot and the streets are close, and when young gentlemen like Mr. John Wybrow tell me of beautiful places, where rich people can wander and see sweet things, why, then you see, it is hard not to feel a little, just a little discontented. And if I am discontented, what ought poor little Charlotte to be?"

"Poor Charlotte!"

"Look at her, John. She will sit there so long as I let her. To be in the quiet church soothes her nerves. She cannot bear the noise of the other children; she is happiest here. If I were a cripple, do you think I should be so patient as that poor child?"

Ruth shook her little head with a gesture of self-reproach. What further line the conversation might have taken cannot safely be asserted, because it was then interrupted by a great tramping of feet and noise of men in the church porch.

"It is the aldermen's day," said Ruth. "Let us sit here quietly, and we shall see it all. The railings of the tomb are opened."

The doors were flung open, and there marched up the aisle a procession. First came the beadle, with the gold stick of office. He was followed by the rector, in full canonicals. After him, somewhat marring the effect by an ignoble limp, came the clerk. After the clergy followed the laity, consisting of two trustees, the school master, and a tail of six boys. A stray gentleman, not belonging to the procession, came in after the rest, and at sight of him both the spectators on the steps of the organ-loft started, and one of them, the young man, changed color.

"There is Mr. Baldwin, my benefactor," said Ruth, quietly. She did not look up, or she would have seen John Wybrow turn pale and then flush crimson.

Mr. Baldwin, leaning on a stick, seemed to be watching the ceremony at the monument. This took ten minutes or so, when the procession re-formed, and marched solemnly out of the church again.

An old woman, one of the almshouse widows, left the doors open for the stranger, who remained behind.

Mr. Baldwin, who did not appear to be in any hurry, began to look round the church, taking the monuments one by one.

"I must wait till he comes this way, and speak to him," said Ruth.

John Wybrow bit his lips, but said nothing. He stood upright, arms folded, in an attitude which might have meant defiance.

The old gentleman, adjusting his glasses, came slowly along the north wall, reading the inscriptions and looking at the tombs. Ruth watched him with a smile of amusement.

"How surprised he will be to see me here!" she whispered.

He was surprised. In his surprise he looked, when he came upon the pair, from one to the other, dropping his glasses.

"John! Ruth Warneford!" he said, "What is this? what is this?"

Ruth stepped forward with a pretty laugh. "You are in my church, Mr. Baldwin," she said. "I am organist here."

He looked more surprised than ever. Angry too.

"Explain this John," he said, without answering the girl.

Then Ruth began to feel that there was something wrong.

"There is nothing to explain, sir," said John. "This is Miss Warneford, whom you know. She is organist at St. Ethelred's. I sing here in the choir."

"So," said Mr. Baldwin, "that is all is it?"

John Wybrow hesitated for a moment. Then he stepped forward to where Ruth was standing.

"No, sir," he said; "that is not all. This young lady knows me by my name, but she does not know that I am your nephew; that fact I have never told her. She learns it now for the first time."

(To be Continued)

OUR EUROPEAN LETTER.

BERLIN, Germany, March 1879.

Prince Bismarck's career, like that of many less eminent men, has been a mixture of successes and failures, although it must be admitted that hitherto the successes have predominated. Prominent among his failures may be ranked the annexation of Alsace-Lorraine to the German Empire. If it be true that Prince Bismarck personally objected to the annexation, his prescience has been justified by the event. It is perhaps scarcely an exaggeration to say that hitherto Alsace-Lorraine has been a thorn in the side of Germany. Eight year's possession has failed to convert Alsace-Lorraine into a contented province of the German Empire, and negotiations have already commenced between Prince Bismarck and the Alsace-Lorraine Deputies for the purpose of converting the country into an autonomous German State. It is proposed that henceforth Alsace-Lorraine shall be ruled from Strasbourg by the Prince Imperial, who will appoint responsible Ministers. Alsace-Lorraine it is said, will have its own constitution, and will be represented in the Federal Council in the same way as the other allied States forming the German Empire. In this way it is hoped that Alsace-Lorraine will be reconciled to its fate, and will regain its former prosperity. I doubt, however, whether any measure short of the re-annexation of the country to France will content the Alsace-Lorrainers. Lorraine is completely French, and Alsace only slightly tinged with Germanism, and their neighbourhood to a powerful nation prospering under Republican institutions, is a very different position from that of the unfortunate inhabitants of Schleswig and Silesia. Of course as Bismarck says, Alsace-Lorraine must continue to form an integral part of the German Empire, not because of any benefit Alsace-Lorraine may experience from its connection with Germany, but because its position, as an outwork of the German Empire, is necessary. Moreover, Prince Bismarck is not a man to give up territory, annexation being his test of political vitality. According to the Prince, the nation which gives up territory instead of taking it, is a used up nation, and Germany, under Bismarck's guidance, is not likely to figure in the category of worn-out Powers. The Alsace-Lorrainers will therefore act wisely in making the best of a bad bargain, and content themselves with autonomy, which Germany seems at present disposed to grant them. It will be no inconsiderable gain to be rid of Prussian bureaucracy, and to enjoy the privilege of managing their own local affairs under a Constitution of their own. Whatever may be the success of the present negotiations, it is admitted that the present position of Alsace-Lorraine is deplorable. Population is diminishing, trade is languishing, and the discontent in the provinces was never greater than at present.

REPORT OF S. S. No. 5, MARIPOSA.

The following is the result of the Easter Examinations in S. S. No. 5, Mariposa. The pupils who obtained over 66 2/3 per cent. of the maximum number of marks come under the head of 1st Class, those who received between 50 and 66 2/3 per cent. belong to 2nd Class.

ENGLISH.—IV. AND V. DIVISIONS.

Geography—1st Class—1, P. McCrimmon; 2, D. McDougall; 3, W. Grant; 4, Alex. McCrimmon; 5, N. McCrimmon; 6, J. Grant.

2nd Class—1, Maggie Smith; 2nd, H. Grant.

Grammar and Etymology—1st Class—1, D. McDougall; 2, N. McCrimmon; 3, P. McCrimmon; 4, W. Grant; 5, Alex. McCrimmon; 2nd Class—1, John Grant; 2, Katie Smith; 3, Maggie Smith.

Composition—1st Class—1, D. McDougall; 2, J. Grant and W. Grant, equal; 4, N. McCrimmon; 2nd Class—P. McCrimmon and Alex. McCrimmon, equal.

History—1st Class—1, N. McCrimmon and D. McDougall, equal; 3, P. McCrimmon; 4, W. Grant; 2nd Class—1, J. Grant; 2, Alex. McCrimmon.

Spelling and Dictation—1st Class—1, N. McCrimmon; 2, W. Grant and D. McDougall, equal; 4, P. McCrimmon; 5, Alex. McCrimmon; 2nd Class—1, J. Grant; 2, Maggie Smith.

Literature—1st Class—1, W. Grant; 2, N. McCrimmon; 3, P. McCrimmon and J. Grant, equal; 5, Alex. McCrimmon; 6, D. McDougall; 2nd Class—1, Maggie Smith; 2, Katie Smith; 3, H. Grant.

III. DIVISION.

Reading and Spelling—1st Class—1, D. McDougall; 2, N. Smith; 3, P. Smith.

Geography—1st Class—1, P. Smith; 2, Angus McCrimmon; 3, D. McDougall; 2nd Class—1, N. Smith; 2, Katie Morgan; 3, Christy Smith.

Grammar—1st Class—1, Angus McCrimmon; 2, Peter Smith; 2nd Class—1, D. McDougall; 2, N. Smith; 3, J. Strickland.

II. DIVISION.

Reading—1, Christy D. McLeod; 2, Mary A. McLeod; 3, Christy McLean; 4, Dorcas McLeod.

I. DIVISION.

2nd Part—Reading—1, E. M. Strickland; 2, Jessie Brown and John Brown, equal.

1st Part—Reading—J. O'Neil and W. O'Neil, equal.

IV. AND V. DIVISIONS—MATHEMATICS.

Arithmetic—1st Class—1, W. Grant; 2, D. McDougall; 3, N. McCrimmon and J. Grant, equal.

Algebra—1st Class—1, Alex. McCrimmon; 2, D. McDougall; 2nd Class—1, W. Grant.

Junior Algebra—1st Class—1, P. McCrimmon; 2, Katie Smith.

Euclid—1st Class—1, John Grant; 2, D. McDougall; 2nd Class—1, Wm. Grant; 2, Alex. McCrimmon; 3, N. McCrimmon.

III. DIVISION.

Arithmetic—1st Class—1, D. McLeod; 2, P. Smith; 2nd Class—Angus McCrimmon.

II. DIVISION.

Arithmetic—1, Annie Anderson and Christy D. Smith, equal; 3, Mary A. McLeod; 4, Chas. Simpson; 5, Christy McLean.

GENERAL PROFICIENCY.

IV. and V. Divisions—D. McDougall.

III. Division—P. Smith and D. McLeod, equal.

II. Division—Christy D. Smith.

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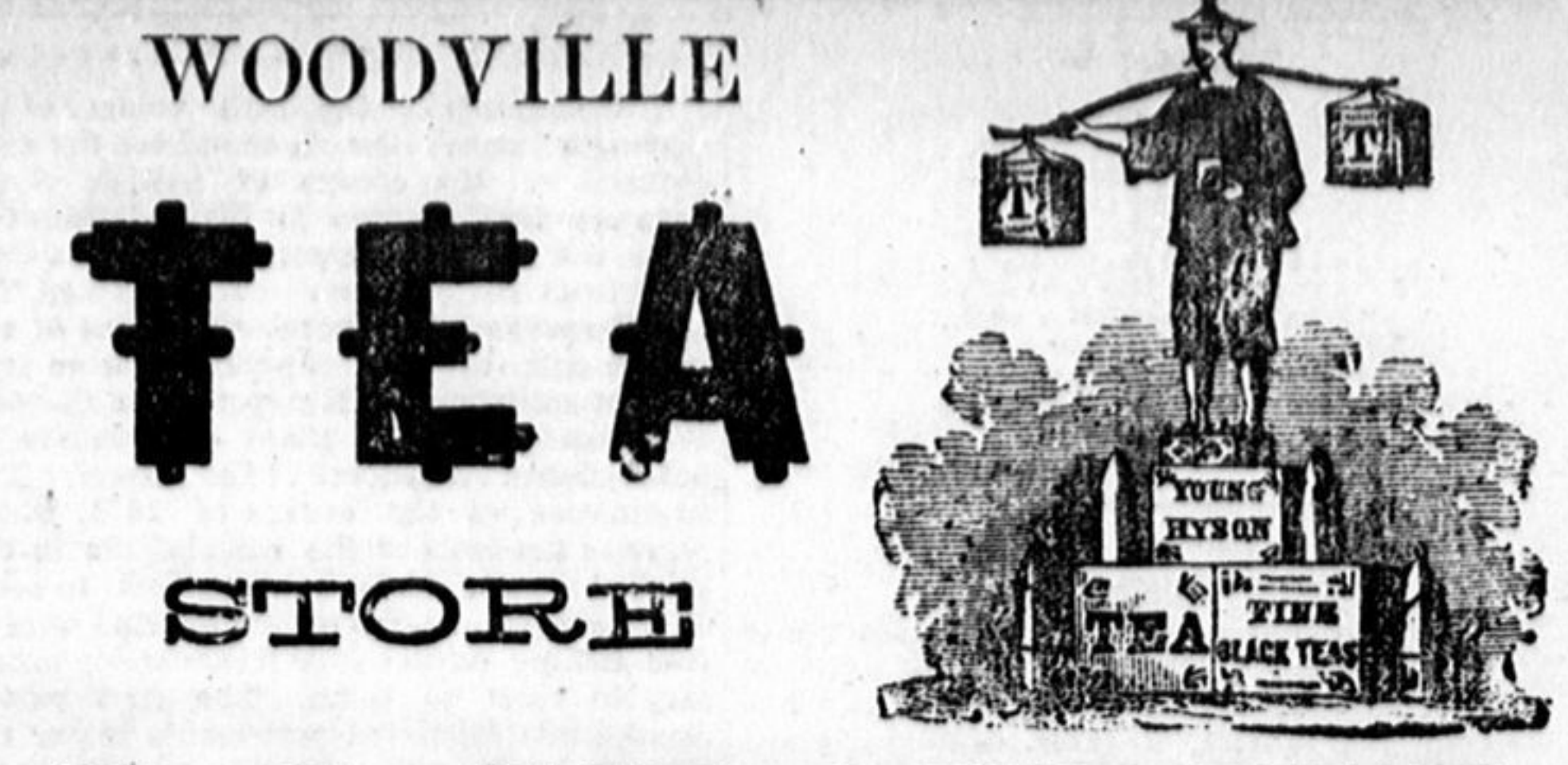
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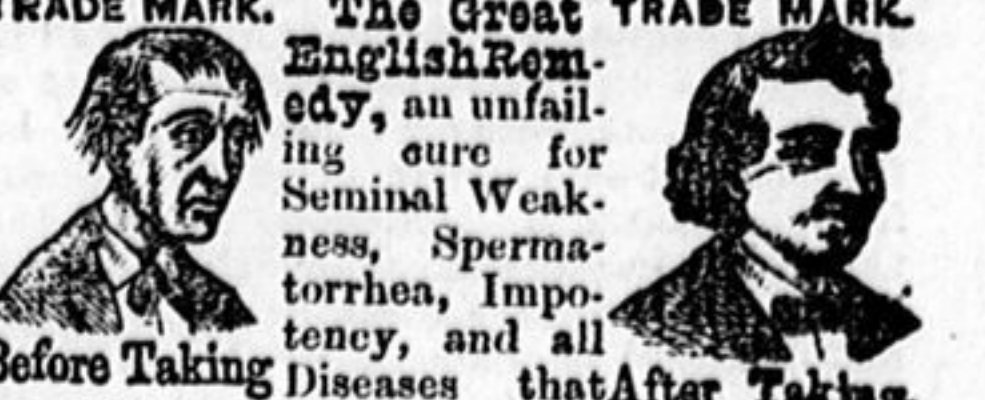
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