

MARY RAE'S WELL.

A Scotch Legend.

Within a mile of Bothwell Church, by an old thorn-tree, there is, (or rather was) until the coal pits drew its limpid waters into their voracious jaws, a well called "Mary Rae's Well," of which the following legend is told:

Mary Rae was of gentle birth, the daughter of an officer in the Scottish army, who lost his life at an early date in the struggle which ensued at Bothwell Bridge. On her father's death, Mary continued to live in her father's cottage near London Hill, her only companion Jean Black, her faithful servant, and friend. She, as well as her mistress, longed to be married to one of the men fighting for the freedom of the Scottish Church, and the community of interest made the girls more like sisters than like mistresses and maid.

At the three weeks before the Battle of Bothwell Bridge the two young men, Ralph Earsnshaw, the gallant young captain, and Andrew Hastic, his faithful servant, came to the cottage on the moors to pay farewell to their sweethearts before the great Battle of Drumclog, which was to be fought on the morrow. Ralph and Mary had quietly said farewell, with feelings almost too deep for words, when they found the other pair loudly discussing their adieux, whilst Jean told Andrew that he must return the following night with news of his master, or she would never speak to him again.

"A'right, Jean," cried the soldier. "I'm leavin' myself, I'll be here the mornin', an' if I'm dead, I'll send somebody to tell ye if Captain Earsnshaw is a'right."

"Thanks, Hastic," cried Mary, over-hearing his speech; "you will make my master do for life if you-morrow you bring me news of your master."

On the following afternoon, as the girls were nervously listening to the sounds of battle on the other side o' the hill, Mary's quick ear caught the sound of footsteps, and they rushed out in time to see a horseman riding towards them, who trotted in his saddle and fell to the ground. Mary ran to his assistance, followed by Jean, who cried, "He's an enemy; Diana gang near him."

"Friend or foe he is in need," said his mistress, as she raised his head and endeavoured to restore him to consciousness. Together they then carried him to the bed where they had prepared for their own wanderings, and ministered to his wants with food and wine. When his wound was bound up and his faintness overcome, the young officers told them how their friends were victorious, while he and his army were fugitives up and down the land.

"And bid for you timely aid," he added, "I would now be lying dead on the hills, for my wound was sufficient to cause my death had it not been quickly treated."

Though Mary had agreed with his sentiments as to the seriousness of his injuries, still it was pleasant to be thus rewarded for a kindly action towards an enemy.

Some hours later, she and Jean, thinking they ought to be able to see someone on their own side who had come from the field of battle, walked a little way towards the road. On their return they found that Hastic had entered unperceived in their absence, and that their patient had risen, saddled his horse, and taken his departure.

"How did you leave Captain Earsnshaw?" were Jean's first words to her lover, "and how glad the bat-

"Captain Earsnshaw had received a slight scratch," he replied, "and was unable to get off duty, but will be with you on the morrow. The Covenanters have won the battle, and the English are fleeing far and wide."

Thus reassured, Mary retired to meditate on the mercy which had preserved her lover's life, and on the ingratitude of the young Englishman, who had made use of her absence to return to his regiment without even as much as thanking her for her trouble. Having told Jean to give Andrew the stranger's bed if he could take a few hours' rest, she sought her couch, there to dream of her absent lover.

Earsnshaw's welcome return on the following day there is no need to speak, nor of the three weeks which passed in comparative quiet. Often Ralph and Mary spoke with sorrow of the disputes which divided the Covenanter officers of the petty jealousies and disagreements which alone prevented their marching on to Glasgow and victory; but they were young and full of hope and trust in God, and not unwilling east down because of these troubles.

At last there came a day when Earsnshaw and Hastic must come to London Hill no more, for the Covenanters had been surprised whilst carelessly voting in Hamilton, and a great battle must be fought. Mary could stand the suspense no longer, and determined to follow her lover, whilst Jean remained ready to supply the young men's wants should they seek shelter at the cottage. It was a long tramp to where the army lay, 16 miles from Mary's home. On the night of the 27th June she slept at Blantyre, and was awakened on the following morning by the noise of battle. To reach the rear of the Scottish army was impossible, numbered as it was with our followers and the scum of the earth who had collected to see what they could pick up.

She determined to try the other side, where the English had passed, unencumbered by baggage or followers. Finding a kindly fisherman, who rowed her across the Clyde, she kept to the outskirts of the village of Bothwell till she reached a rising ground near the church, there to wait for Boston?

Minard's Liniment Cures Diphtheria.

Dates: Rus o-Jap News.

War (peace) is inevitable.

The Russians (Japanese) will surely be successful.

China can be depended upon to be neutral (take part).

The powers will (not) intervene.

Japan (Russia) has the larger fleet.

Russia (Japan) has the larger army.

The Mikado (Czar) has backed down.

The Czar is (not) completely in the hands of the war party.

The Japs (Russians) are about to occupy Korea.

To yellow (slav) peril menaces the peace of the world.

Take your choice, dear reader. John Smith always aims to please.

What He Wanted.

"A tall bride is the best looking,

"Well," replied the titled Englishman, who had caught on to a little American slang, "so far as I am personally concerned I certainly am not looking for one who is short."

John's Opinion.

John Dickinson, M. P. P. South Wentworth: "There is no doubt about it that the best place to see the opening of the Legislature is in the army lay, 16 miles from Mary's home. On the night of the 27th June she slept at Blantyre, and was awakened on the following morning by the noise of battle. To reach the rear of the Scottish army was impossible, numbered as it was with our followers and the scum of the earth who had collected to see what they could pick up.

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