## WASHINGTON!

### Proceedings of the XLV Congress

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, March 26.—Christiancy, from the committee on judiciary, reported back the bill to repeal the bankrupt law without recommendation, and it was placed on the calendar. The House joint resolution to prescribe the time for the payment of the tax on distilled spirits passed as it came from the House. After the morning hour the Senate resumed consideration of the Pacific railroad sinking fund bill. Merrimon, Thurman and Matthews made speeches. Cameron of Wisconsin, called up the petition of D. T. Corbin, claiming a seat as Senator from South Carolina, and moved that it be referred to the committee on elections; so ordered. Davis of West Virginia, submitted a preamble and resolution, quoting from the report submitted to Congress by the Secretary of the Treasury in 1871, to the effect that $25,703,943 was due to the Government from collectors of internal revenue not in office, and directing the Secretary to report to the Senate what amount of portion of this sum has since that time been paid to the government; what amount has been settled by compromise, and what steps have been taken to collect the balance; ordered printed and laid on the table.

Windom then called up the consular and diplomatic appropriation bill, and said he was prepared to go on with it to-day, but at the request of Senator Hamlin, chairman of the committee on Foreign Relations, he had concluded to let it go over until to-morrow. After a short executive session, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.

Atkins, from the committee on appropriations, reported the legislative appropriation bill. Wood, from the ways and means committee, reported the tariff bill—referred to the committee of the whole. Cox reported the Senate bill to constitute a commission to consider and report a plan for providing enlarged accommodations for the library of Congress—passed. The tariff bill was made a special order for Thursday, April 4th. Springer called up the Dean-Field Massachusetts case, and Walsh, of Maryland, made the most notable speech against the majority. Pending the debate the House adjourned.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Wednesday, March 27.—Kernan offered a bill pensioning Indians who in the war of 1812 acted as scouts or soldiers—referred. The Vice President appointed Eustis, Saunders and Conover as a committee on the part of the Senate to meet the remains of Hon. John E. Leonard upon their arrival at New York, and to accompany them to the place of interment. A resolution paying Ray and McMillan $1000 each, for expenses in contesting the seat in the Senate for the unexpired term of Kellogg, from Louisiana, ending March, 1873, was agreed to. Conkling introduced a bill appropriating half a million dollars for the improvement of the Harlem river. The Senate resumed consideration of the Pacific Railroad sinking fund bill, and Hill of Georgia, spoke in opposition to many features of the bill reported by the judiciary committee, but said he did not wish to be understood as favoring the passage of the bill reported by the committee on railroads. Thurman defended the bill reported by the judiciary committee. After some further discussion, Baily took the floor to speak on the sinking fund bill. It was then laid over. Windom called up the House bill making appropriations for the consular and diplomatic service of the government for the year ending June 30, 1879, and explained its provisions and amendments reported by the committee on appropriations, which were agreed to. The bill was read a third time and passed. Windom submitted an amendment to the bill which provides for the organization of the Mississippi River Improvement Commission and to extend the jurisdiction of the Commission to the Falls of St. Anthony, and authorize them to make an examination and survey of the headwaters of the Mississippi with a view to constructing reservoirs for regulating the supply of water during dry weather—referred. Adjourned.

HOUSE.

Davis, of North Carolina, introduced a bill for the use and occupation of certain buildings by the United States troops—referred. Felton, from the committee on commerce, reported back the bill to prevent the introduction of contagious diseases in the United States. After debate the bill was amended and passed. The House resumed consideration of the Massachusetts contested election case of Dean against Field, and after debate a vote was taken upon the minority resolution declaring Field entitled to a seat—resulted, yeas, 120; nays 119. The speaker on announcing the vote cast his vote in the negative, thus tying the vote and defeating the resolution. Without coming to a vote on the majority resolution, the House adjourned.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, March 28.—Terry, from the committee on postoffices, reported with amendment the House bill to regulate the advertising of mail lettings—placed on the calendar. Teller from the committee on railroads, reported with amendments the Senate bill to incorporate the National Pacific Railroad and Telegraph Company, the object being to construct and operate a railroad and telegraph line from Cheyenne to Fort Laramie, thence to Deadwood, and from Fort Laramie to Fort Fetterman, from thence in a northerly or northwesterly direction to Yellowstone river near the mouth of Big Horn river, thence to Helena, Montana, and from thence to the Pacific ocean. Paddock called up the Senate bill amending the act to provide for the sale of the Otoe and Missouri and Sac and Fox reservation in Kansas and Nebraska—passed. Eaton introduced a bill to allow an American registry to foreign built vessels—referred. A number of bills granting pensions were passed, including a pension of $50 a month to Gen. James Shields. Consideration was resumed of the Pacific Railroad sinking fund bill. Bailey spoke in favor of the bill reported by the committee on judiciary. Lamar submitted a resolution looking to the preservation of water fronts at Vicksburg—agreed to. Teller, from the railroad committee, reported amendments to the Senate bill to authorize a narrow guage railroad from Bismarck to the Black Hills—placed on the calendar.

HOUSE.

Consideration was resumed of the Massachusetts contested election case, the question being upon the resolution of a majority of the committee on elections declaring Dean entitled to the seat. The resolution was adopted—yeas, 124; nays, 123. Dean was then sworn in. The House refused by a vote of 123 to 107, to adopt Harrison's motion to consider the reports of the civil service committe on Doorkeeper Polk. Foster reported back the appropriation bill for miscellaneous expenses of the House, and the Senate amendments thereto were concurred in. Bills were introduced by Rice to establish a board of Pacific Railroad Commissioners. Willis offered a resolution directing the judiciary committee to ascertain all facts relating to contracts made with the Union Pacific on the 22d and 23d of April, 1873, and whether they were legal—referred. The District of Columbia bill was discussed, after which the House adjourned.

HOUSE.

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, March 29.—Singleton, from the committee on appropriations reported a bill appropriating $30,000 for deficiencies in the miscellaneous fund of the House—referred. Eden, chairman of the committee on war claims, reported back the bill appropriating $420,000 for the payment of claims, and reported that it was allowed by the commissioner of claims—passed. Stephens introduced a bill to promote the general use of the metric system—referred. The House went into committee of the whole on the private calendar. The first bill was one appropriating $1,500 to pay Bartholomew county, Indiana, Agricultural Society for the use and occupation of the fair grounds for military purposes, from September, 1863, to June, 1865. After some debate the committee struck the enacting clause of the bill out. The committee rose and the action was ratified by the House. Adjourned.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Monday, April 1.—Mitchell, from the committee on railroads, reported a bill to extend for eight years the time for completing the Northern Pacific railroad; placed on the calendar. Christiancy, from the committee on revision of the laws, reported a resolution to provide for a new edition of the Revised Statutes, and for a perfected index of the first volume; agreed to. A bill to regulate the advertising of mail lettings, and for other purposes, was taken up and after the adoption of sundry amendments, passed. After the morning hour Beck took the floor in advocacy of the judiciary committee's Pacific railroad funding bill. Christiancy also spoke at length. The bill was laid aside, and on motion, the Coke bill, amending section 1661, title 16 of the Revised Statutes, relative to the issue of arms to the militia of the several States, was taken up. Coke made some remarks. Pending consideration the Senate went into executive session, and soon after adjourned.

HOUSE.

Bills were introduced and referred as follows: By Stephens, for the financial relief of the country and to facilitate the return of specie payments without injuriously affecting the commercial interests of the people. By Bright, to prevent the reduction of national currency by fraudulently withdrawing legal tender notes from circulation. By Williams of Michigan, granting jurisdiction to the Court of Claims upon claims of officers and soldiers during the late war. By White of Pennsylvania, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution requiring the presentation of all claims, agreeably to the provisions of law, within six years; providing that when rejected by Congress or a department they shall not again be presented until after six years. Singleton, from the appropriations committee, reported a bill providing for the deficiency in the appropriations for public printing and binding for the present fiscal year. Hartzel introduced a joint resolution providing an amendment to the constitution forbidding the assumption or payment of claims for losses growing out of the destruction of property within the limits of a State engaged in the rebellion; referred. Durham reported back from the committee on appropriations the bill providing for temporary clerks in the Treasury department, and deterring trespassers on public lands, recommending that no money appropriated by the bill shall be used to collect any charges for wood or timber cut on the public lands of Territories, for the use of actual settlers, and not exported from the territories. Cummings moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill providing that all pensions on account of death or wounds received, or disease contracted in the service during the late war, which have been granted, or may hereafter be granted, shall commence from the date of the death or discharge; defeated—yeas 145, nays 76, not two-thirds in the affirmative. An evening session was held for debate only, and the House adjourned.

---

### About Patents.

As there is much feeling and discussion upon the subject of patent rights among the people, we copy the following article and an "open letter" written by one who should be competent to give correct information upon the subject:

It is time Congress should do something to relieve the embarrassments and troubles of the people relative to patent rights. As at present, the Commissioner of Patents, instead of protecting the rights and interests of patentees, apparently does all he can to injure the very patents which he grants. Having all the models and specifications for the patents granted, he should not grant one patent after another for the same thing. The patent of the government should be a protection to the patentee of all his rights, and any one should feel safe in purchasing from any one holding a patent. But on the contrary, the practice is to issue a patent to any one who applies if he have money enough to pay the enormous fees.

Congress should either make the patent granted final and conclusive evidence of ownership of such rights, or it should protect the innocent purchaser of patents granted by the authority of the agent of the government. Governments should be for the protection of the people and not to lay traps and dig pitfalls for their destruction. The holder of any patent goes out among the people and exhibiting the broad seal of the government, attesting his right to deal in such property, induces the people to buy as the only safe party from whom such things can be obtained. Following close after comes the attorney of another party who claims he had a prior patent on such traps, and is ready to commence suit if a fee of double the size of the first purchase price is not paid. To save a law suit the money is paid. Then there is no security but that a third may come along who has a still prior patent, as the government has scores of clerks issuing one patent over another on the same thing.

If the government cannot cease swindling the people in this way, let Congress protect the innocent parties in purchasing, and let the original patentees fight it out. But require the Commissioner when he issues a patent to inform the patentee exactly how many patents have already been granted on the same thing, so that no patentee can claim innocence of the swindle. Congress might withdraw its attention faom the feuds and fights of Presidential aspirants, for half an hour at least, to consider the serious wants of the people. And at this time, there is no one thing so harrassing as the conflicts in patents, and the consequent swindling of the farmers of the country.

—Iowa State Register.

AN OPEN LETTER.

IOWA PATENT OFFICE,
DES MOINES, IOWA, Feb. 26, 1878.

HON. C. F. CLARKSON, Agricultural Editor of the "Iowa State Register:"

DEAR SIR—Believing that your articles are widely accepted as gospel upon the subjects treated, and that your intention is to benefit as well as advise your readers, and that you will be prompt to retract whenever you discover that you have inadvertantly given mistaken views and made incorrect statements, or that you will cheerfully open your columns for free discussion, in order that truth may combat error, I respectfully submit the following review of your article on "Patents," as given in the Weekly Register of Feb. 25, 1878. I will consider your propositions and assertions in the order they occur in said article.

I. "It is time Congress should do something to relieve the embarrassments and troubles of the people relative to patent rights."

This proposition in itself is not objectionable. If Congress can do anything to remove the ignorance and prejudice that the people manifest in regard to patent rights; if Congress can improve our laws to more clearly define the relative rights of the public and the patentees in regard to patented inventions; if Congress can instruct our state courts to be more harmonious in deciding causes in which patent rights are involved so that the decision made in one state will not be reversed in the next; and if Congress can devise means to check the one-man power now in vogue through which invalid claims are too frequently allowed, and patents issued contrary to the letter and spirit of our patent law, it undoubtedly should be done.

II. "The Commissioner of Patents instead of protecting the rights and interests of patentees apparently does all he can to injure the very patents which he grants."

Appearances are often deceitful. All who will carefully investigate the appearances in this case will find that the serious charge based thereon is unwarranted, and that no argument is required to defend the Commissioner.

III. "He should not grant one patent after another for the same thing."

The granting of more than one patent for the same invention rarely occurs. It is the exception and not the rule—an occasional error that should be prevented.

IV. "The practice is to issue a patent any one who applies if he have money enough to pay the enormous fees."

The official records refute this assertion. In 1877 thirteen thousand six hundred and nineteen patents were issued, and nearly half as many applications were rejected—6,689 rejected. The law and the practice contemplates granting patents only for inventions and discoveries that are new and useful, and only to the FIRST original inventors. Hence our system of official investigation and judicial decision upon applications for patents, and their rejection in such great numbers. In my experience as a Solicitor, I have generally found the objections raised and references given by the Examiners as a basis of rejection, of great advantage in determining inventor's rights by distinguishing their improvements from prior inventions. In addition to the 6,689 applications rejected in 1877, it is undoubtedly a fact that half of the 13,619 patents issued during the same year were withheld until the claims were properly defined and restricted to distinguish them from prior patents. If therefore occasionally, erroneously, or fraudulently perchance, "one patent over another on the same thing" is issued, is it not unjust to indulge in wholesale condemnation of our patent system and our officials.

Patents for the same class of articles, but not for identical inventions, are numerous. Barbed fence wire is a good illustration. The original patent showing the combination of a barb and a fence wire, if granted to the FIRST original inventor of that combination, is a pioneer patent, granted to the pioneer of a valuable industry that has been appreciated by the farmers. If the inventor did through mistake or inadvertence fail to obtain a generic or pioneer claim for his combination of the barb and the fence wire in his original patent and has subsequently and legally, and I think justly, got his patent reissued and the scope enlarged so as to make all subsequent improvements subordinate and tributary to his claims, no person should com
not forestall others from making and patenting improvements in barbed fence wire. Hence the numerous patents for articles of the same class and the variety of patented barbed fence wire in the market. If the broad, generic, pioneer claims of the original patents, as reissued, cannot be maintained, (and they cannot be if it is proven beyond doubt that barbs were used on fence wire prior to the date of the first patent issued therefor,) why then each individual patent will be independent from the original pioneer claims, and the one that is for the simplest and best barbed fence wire should be the most valuable. If the inventions of two or more persons are combined to produce the perfection sought, there may be two or more patents, and the rights of each inventor and patentee that contributed to the production of that perfection should be respected. Unfortunately the individual rights pointed out in such patents for improvements in an art and manufacture are often ignored and infringed, and hence the litigations that are so much decried and made the pretext for assaulting the patent law and its administrators.

The title to a good quarter section of land may be divided, subdivided, and fractional parts owned by individuals, and parts by joint owners. The title to a valuable patented product or machine may be vested in different inventors, patentees, and assignees. If the land owners are fighting about their metes and bounds and titles, and the patent owners about their claims, the safest way in both instances will be to stand off and let them fight it out. There is no need of entering such fights, and when a man voluntarily takes part he should not complain when he gets hurt. Therefore do not purchase or use patented property, of which the title is in dispute, unless you can cheerfully abide the results of the contest required to gain a good title.

V. "Congress should either make the patent granted final and conclusive evidence of ownership of such rights, or it should protect the innocent purchaser.'

Authority to issue patents for inventions is vested solely in the Commissioner of Patents. And the law directs him how, for what, and to whom he shall issue patents. And every patent issued as directed by our statutes will define the rights of the holder thereof as clearly as a patent or deed for a piece of land will define the boundaries of the piece of land thereby conveyed. The metes and bounds in a land title are synonymous with the claims in a patent for an invention, and each defines the scope of the property held thereby. Unfortunately the people do not so understand the matter, and hence the frauds practiced upon the "innocent purchasers." When a farmer purchases land he does not usually rely upon what the seller says in regard to the boundaries or the title. As a prudent man, if he is not a practical surveyor and conveyancer, he employs experts in whom he has confidence to show the boundaries and an abstract of title. But in purchasing a patent right or patented machinery, he "goes it blind," and hence the loud cries of distress from "innocent purchasers."

If a farmer goes to the office of the STATE GRANGE to purchase patented barbed fence wire and finds the quality and the price satisfactory, he should before purchasing see that the seller can give a good title. And if the seller is not an infringer, and violating the law by dealing in pirated inventions, he will or should unhesitatingly give a warrantee title for the goods he sells. If he has a license to sell the patented fence wire he can show it. If he has not he should procure it. If, however, for the sake of underselling legitimate dealers he will encourage piracy, and obtain his wares from manufacturers who are infringers and then sell such contraband goods to his "innocent patrons," it is easy to see how litigation about patents will be continued and the prejudice against patents augmented.

If a farmer buys a horse from a thief and the owner comes along and claims his property, the "innocent purchaser" may howl, but he must surrender the horse or pay for him again. If he buys a patented product upon which the inventor's royalty has not been paid and the patentee comes along to collect his just dues, he must run the risk of being mobbed, and Congress will be importuned to abolish the Patent law and punish the inventor for endeavoring to maintain his rights.

I respectfully submit that the foregoing is not an overdrawn picture, and that every generous hearted searcher for truth who does not wish to discourage invention and the progress of science and art in our land, should carefully look at the subject as thus briefly presented by a maker of patents, before joing in the clamor that has a tendency to undermine the best Patent system known in the civilized world, the fruits of which have added so much to our national prosperity and fame.

THOMAS G. ORWIG.

---

### Short Hair once a Badge of Slavery.

Be this as it may, however, the widely prevalent custom of taking the hair of the slain, either with or without a part of the skin, has nearly everywhere resulted in the association between short hair and slavery. This association existed among both Greeks and Romans: "The slaves had their hair cut short as a mark of servitude." We find it thus throughout America. "Socially the slave is despised, his hair is cut short," says Bancroft of the Nootkas. "The privilege of wearing long hair was rigorously denied" to Carib slaves and captives, says Edwards. The slavery that punished criminality was similarly marked. In Nicaragua "a thief had his hair cut off, and became a slave to the person that had been robbed till he was satisfied." And this badge of slavery was otherwise inflicted as a punishment. By the Central Americans a suspected adulterer "was stripped and his hair was cut (a great disgrace)." One ancient Mexican penalty "was to have the hair cut at some public place." And during medieval times in Europe cutting of the hair was enacted as a punishment. Of course there follows a correlative distinction: long hair becomes honorable. If among the Chibchas "the greatest affront that could be put upon a man or a woman was to have their hair cropped;" the assimilation to slaves in appearance was the obvious reason, the honorableness of long hair being an implication. "The Itzaex Indians," says Fancourt, "wore their hair as long as it would grow; indeed, it is a most difficult thing to bring the Indians to cut their hair." Long hair is a mark of distinction among the Tongans, and none are permitted to wear it but the principal people. Similarly with the New Caledonians and various others of the uncivilized, and similarly with semi-civilized Orientals, "the Ottoman princes have their beard shaved off, to show that they are dependent on the favor of the reigning Emperor." By the Greeks, "in manhood, * * the hair was worn longer," and "a certain political significancy was attached to the hair." In Northern Europe, too, "among the Franks, * * the serfs wore the hair less long and less carefully dressed than freemen," and the freemen less long than the nobles: "The long hair of the Frank kings is sacred. * * It is for them a mark and honorable prerogative of the royal race." Clothair and Childebert, wishing to divide their brother's kingdom, consulted respecting their nephews, "whether to cut off their hair so as to reduce them to the rank of subjects, or to kill them." I may add the extreme case of the Japanese mikado: "Neither his hair, beard, nor nails are ever [avowedly] cut, that his sacred person may not be mutilated," such cutting as occurs being done while he is supposed to sleep.—*Popular Science Monthly.*

---

### That New Silver Dollar.

The new silver dollar makes our inwards yearn the more for the dollar of the grandfathers. This dollar commits an outrage on the American eagle that is enough to make the bones of the fathers rattle in their narrow cells. The statement has been published that an artist from England was imported to engrave this coin. Thus an enemy hath converted our national bird into a goose. This will explain the base design which is patent on the face of the coin.

This is not merely a matter of taste, but of physical possibilities. No eagle could fly with his wings in that posture. No eagle could place his wings in that posture. If caught stealing, and nailed by the tips of the wings to a barn door, he might be thrown into something near this shape. The tail is still more an impossibility. It hangs down far below, as the long train of a woman's dress might, if she were suspended by the neck. It curves in like a dog's tail when cowed, only, instead of curving between his legs, it curves around under his feet, making a platform or forum for him to stand on.

No eagle, or other creature like this, did ever exist. The nature of the deed and the fact that it was done by a Britisher, a minion from the country of gold bugs, gives us a right to suspect the motives of the designer to be base. We suspect that he is one of those who call this a false dollar, and therefore that he has designedly put on a false eagle.

As great an outrage has been perpetrated on the head on the other side of the coin. Here is a massive face, especially heavy in chin and neck, but without any back part to the head. Remove the impossible posterior cap, and the form of the head above a base line drawn across the neck from the chin would be pyramidal. The head has no character, no force, no humanity, no fidelity. Away with it, and give us back the dollar of our grandfathers.—*Cincinnati Gazette.*

---

Throw back your shoulders was what Aaron Burr wrote to his daughter Theodosia, "Your habit of stooping, and bringing your shoulders forward upon your breast not only disfigures you, but is alarming on account of your health. The continuance of this vile habit will certainly produce a consumption; then farewell papa, farewell pleasure, farewell life! This is no exageration, no fiction to excite your apprehension. But, setting aside this distressing consideration, I am astonished that you have no more pride in your appearance. You will certainly stint your growth and disfigure your person."

---

### A GENTLE WORD IS NEVER LOST.

A gentle word is never lost,
Oh, never then refuse one;
It cheers the heart when tempest tossed
And lulls the cares that bruise one;
It scatters sunshine o'er our way
And turns our thorns to roses;
It changes weary night to day,
And hope and love discloses.

A gentle word is never lost—
The fallen brother need it;
How easy and how small the cost;
With peace and comfort speed it;
Then drive the shadow from thy cheek,
A smile can well replace it,
Our voice is music when we speak
With gentle words to grace it.

---

### KATE'S PRINCE.

There, now, you're banging that door again, Miss Jenny; I declare to goodness you children would worry the patience out of a saint."

"Oh, never mind, Sally," I said, panting, after a race to get into the house first—a race I had won, for Lil and Cissy were yards behind.

"Never mind, indeed!" cried Sally, "and there's your fine cousin down to-day from London. I wonder what she will say when she sees you racing about the meadow like so many wild colts, and your arms all brown and scratched, and the hooks off your dress. I never see such children, never."

"But you like us, Sally," I said, getting hold of her rough, fat, red arm, and laying my cheek against it.

"I don't, I declare I don't," she cried impetuously; and to show her dislike she threw her arms round me, and squeezed my nose nearly flat against the piece of hard wood she used to wear inside her dress.

Sally was our housemaid, parlor-maid, and nurse-maid all in one; and it used to seem to me that she spent all her leisure time in quarreling with the cook and snubbing us; but for all that, one of my principal recollections during the fever I had so long was waking at all times to see Sally's red face watching by my bedside, and I knew she did all cook's work for six weeks as well as her own, when poor cook had such a sad accident and cut her hand.

We three—Lil, Cissy and I—had a long discussion about Cousin Kate and her visit, and we all felt what dreadful little ragamuffins we should seem to her, for I am afraid we had been running wild, though papa only used to laugh at it and would come into the school room when mamma was busy with us over our lessons, whenever it was a fine morning, and cry: "Now then, girls, the sun shines and the birds are calling. Out with you! Learn lessons when it rains."

I knew afterwards why this was. Papa has a horrible nervous dread of our growing up weak, and sickly, for his was a delicate family, and I had heard that our cousins were often very ill.

"I can guess why Cousin Kate's coming to stay with us," said Lil.

"I know why she's coming," I said.

"It's because she's ill," shouted Lil, for fear I should show my knowledge first.

"Sally will take her new, warm milk with an egg in it before she gets out of bed in the morning," said Cissy, solemnly; "that will soon make her well."

"She shall have all the eggs Speckle lays," said Lil, "and Jenny will take her every morning to the old garden-seat under the trees. She's sure to get well there."

And so we did, for Cousin Kate came that afternoon—a tall, pale girl, with a sad, weary look in her face, as she gazed wistfully from one to the other.

We three girls stood back quite in awe of the well-dressed, fashionable-looking body, who was so different from what we had expected, while mamma went up to welcome her, and took her in her arms in a tender, affectionate way, saying: "My dear child, we are so glad to see you."

Cousin Kate threw her arms round mamma's neck and burst into a fit of sobbing, hiding her face from our sight. We did not see any more of Cousin Kate that day, but our young interest was deeply excited, and somehow, perhaps fostered by dark hints dropped by Sally, who was a blighted flower, having been crossed in a love affair with the horse-keeper of a neighboring farm! we girls got to thinking of our cousin's illness as a kind of mystery connected in some way, how we did not know, with the heart.

Our awe of the sweet gentle cousin fell off the very next day, when we took possession of her, and led her round our dear old country home, with its wilderness of an orchard, great garden shrubberies and pleasant meadow.

Her coming seemed to mark an epoch in our young lives, for, seeing how weak and delicate she was, we used to vie one with the other in being quiet and gentle, waiting upon her in the most unnecessary way, like slaves, and always ready to rush off most willing messengers to forestall any little wants the expressed.

This came natural to us; but on my part it was increased by a few words which I heard pass between papa and mamma, mamma saying that she did not think that poor Kate would ever grow strong again, but slowly wither away. I gave a great gulp as I heard these words, and then burst out sobbing violently.

"You here, Jenny!" said mamma. "Well, my dear, as you have heard what we said, it must be your secret, too. Never let your poor cousin know what we think, and never behave to her as if you thought she could not recover."

"I promised readily, and at fourteen the possession of that secret seemed to make me more womanly than my sisters, as I redoubled my tenderness to the suffering girl.

The invalid was nineteen—a great age in my estimation—and I used to look up to her with veneration, gazing in her soft, sweet face and wistful eyes, wondering why she was so ill, and what was the great sorrow that had come upon her like a bight upon one of the roses round our porch.

Cousin Kate came to us in the spring, and the months flew by till it was the height of summer; and many and many a night had I turned my face to the wall, so that Lil should not know, and cried silently till my pillow was wet. For I knew so well that Kate was weaker than when she came; a walk across the lawn to the old garden-seat in the shade being as much now as she could bear.

"Cousin Kate," I said one day when we were alone, Lil and Cissy having rushed off to get some flowers, "couldn't any doctor make you well?"

She looked at me with a wild, strange gaze which almost startled me before she replied, and then in a way which made my heart beat, she sobbed out:

"Only one—only one!" and then as if to herself, in a low whisper, she added, "and before he can come I shall be dead—dead!"

She did not know I heard her last words, and I sat chilled and frightened, gazing at her till my sisters came back, when, as we frequently did, we sat down about her; Lil got upon the seat, Cissy sat upon the grass with her head against one of Kate's hands which hung listlessly from the corner where she leaned, and I threw myself on the grass at her feet, so as to look up in her gentle face which had now become calm with its old, weary look.

"Cousin Kate," said Lil, "tell us another story."

"No, no," I said, "don't ask, she isn't so well to-day."

"Yes," she said, quietly, raising her head and looking at me, "I am better to-day."

"Tell us one then, cried Cissy, eagerly, "one you've never told us before."

There was silence then for a few minutes, and as I gazed up in Kate's face I saw her eyes close and a sort of spasm twitch her lips; but the next minute she was quite calm, and then, with the leaves whispering round us and the twittering of birds coming now and again from the distance, she said in a low, sweet, musical voice:

"Once upon a time in the days of long ago, when people were very, very happy on this earth, there lived a prince who was young, and handsome, and true. Nearly every one loved him, he was so manly and yet so gentle."

"And he loved a beautiful princess," put in Cissy.

I saw the spasm cross Cousin Kate's face again, but it was calm again directly after, and she went on.

"No, dear," she said, "he did not love a beautiful princess, but a poor, simple girl, who loved him, too, with all her heart, and they were so, so happy. When the flowers blossomed they seemed to blossom only for them, and the birds sang their sweetest songs for them in the sunshine."

"Yes, and they were married, and lived happy ever after,' cried Cissy. "Go on."

There was once more that piteous look upon Cousin Kate's face, seen only by me; but it passed off, and she went on.

"No, Cissy, they were not, for the poor, handsome young prince had enemies—cruel, bitter enemies—who slandered him and said that he had made false keys, and opened the treasure chest of a great man, and stolen away his gold and precious stones."

"Oh," whispered Cissy, now deeply interested.

"And," continued Kate, "they took the poor prince, and there was a great trial, and though he [illegible] he was innocent, the wicked [illegible] who slandered him and bore false [illegible] against him prevailed; and the [illegible] judge said that he was to be cast in[illegible] prison, and wear heavy chains, and be kept there for 21 long years."

"Oh!" cried Lil.

"Yes," said Cissy, "I know, and it was then that the brave young girl who loved him, went and unlocked the prison gates, struck off his chains, and he was free."

"No—no!" cried cousin Kate, and her voice altered terribly, so that I was alarmed, though I could do nothing but gaze up in the wild face before me, for now a change came over it. "No," she cried, "the poor girl could do nothing but sit and weep, and feel her broken heart beat—beat—beat, in its own prison while wearing itself out till—till has died, and—Oh, Frank! Frank! what have we ever done that we should suffer this?"

I leaped up to throw my arms around her, while my sisters shrank away in alarm; for Cousin Kate turned from us with a bitter wail, buried her face in her hands, and threw herself half over the arm of the old garden seat, sobbing in a wild, hysterical way, such as I had never seen.

"Kate, dear Cousin Kate," I sobbed; but even as I spoke there was a hasty step on the gravel, the bushes were torn aside, and the shadow of a tall man was cast over us.

"Kate—darling!" he cried, catching her in his arms, as I was thrust rudely aside. "I am innocent and free."

She did not hear him, for she gave a faint gasp and sank back insensible.

We three girls were almost stunned; but we saw the tall, thin, pale-looking stranger hastily lift poor Kate from the seat, and literally run with her to the house, while we followed more slowly. As we reached the porch we met p[illegible] running out, and in a very short t[illegible] he returned with a doctor. But this [illegible]tor was the wrong one; the right [illegible] had come to us at the garden seat, [illegible] it was his words that brought our [illegible] Cousin Kate back to life, and i[illegible] course of a few months to health.

For Frank Roberts was reinstat[illegible] the government office from which [illegible] fell—in a higher post, one which [illegible] him the confidence of the higher [illegible]cials; while the man through w[illegible] treachery poor Frank had suffer[illegible] year and a half before, died confe[illegible] that he had been the guilty p[illegible] alone.

Oh! those happy days when the r[illegible] were coming back day by day [illegible] Cousin Kate's cheek, and when Fra[illegible] who was down at the old place e[illegible] Saturday to stay till Monday, use[illegible] be sent to play and romp with us [illegible] I can hardly believe that thirty y[illegible] have glided by since then, but so it [illegible] and even to this day we call dear [illegible] gray-whiskered Frank, "Kate's Prince."—*Cassell's.*

---

A Californian was once taking a fif[illegible]teen cent dinner at the Miner's Restau[illegible]rant in San Francisco, when he called loudly to the waiter, "Do you consider this good beef?" "Certainly; the cattle came all the way from Texas. If they hadn't been good beef, they couldn't have stood the trip."