

TWO METHODIST BISHOPS SELECTED.

J. B. Vincent, of Illinois, and J. N. Fitzgerald, of New Jersey, are candidates.

New York, Dec. 11.—At the session of the general Methodist conference to-day the report on the selection of a second bishop to India came up. Before the actual voting began much time was taken up in settling the question as to whether ballots counting less than the required number of names should be counted or thrown out. After much discussion it was decided to count them and the voting began in earnest.

The total number of votes cast on the first ballot was 447. The number necessary for a choice was 268. Dr. J. B. Vincent received 215 votes, the highest number cast for any one candidate. There were twenty candidates who received less than a hundred votes and over fifty who received but one vote each. On a second ballot, in which to elect bishops was extended.

A second ballot was taken and the conference then took a recess until 7 p. m., when the result of the count will be made known.

At the opening of the evening session the second ballot for bishops was announced as follows: Vincent, 283; Fitzgerald, 224; Newman, 223; Joyce, 217; Goodell, 212; Cranston, 144; Payne, 127; Bates, 116; Knott, 111. No one having received a sufficient number of votes to be chosen another ballot was ordered. While the ballot was being counted Dr. Frank Bristol, of Chicago, addressed the conference in favor of the adoption of the minority report of the itinerancy committee providing for the extension of the pastoral limits from three to five years. This report was adopted after a written discussion. The result of the third ballot was then announced, as follows: Total number of votes cast, 420; necessary to a choice, 265. John H. Vincent, Illinois, 311; J. N. Fitzgerald, New Jersey, 219; J. P. Newman, 229; J. W. Joyce, 223; D. A. Goodsell, 217; R. Cranston, 143; C. H. Payne, 145; H. A. Bates, 111; A. K. Knott, 108. Revs. Vincent and Fitzgerald were declared elected and balloting for the remainder of the bishops to be chosen was proceeded with. The fourth ballot resulted in no choice and the conference adjourned before the result of the fifth ballot was announced.

Bishop Vincent, born in Tuscaloosa, Ala., Feb. 23, 1852, was educated at the New Wesleyan institute and the Milton and Lewisburg academies, has held pastorates at McVeytown, Pa., and several places in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Illinois. He was last located at Rock River, Ill., and represents that district in the conference. He resides at Plainfield, N. J. He is one of the most learned men in the ministry, a noted authority on religious antiquities, author of various works and was with Lewis Miller founder of the Chautauqua assembly.

Bishop Fitzgerald has for twenty years been president of the New York conference. He was educated at the law office of Princeton and studied in the office of the late Secretary Frelinghuysen, but abandoned law for the pulpit. He is about forty-five years old and a very learned man.

MATTERS AT THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

Mansfield, from the committee on military affairs, reported favorably the bill to increase the appropriation for militia from \$400,000 to \$600,000.

W. L. Bancroft, of Port Huron, Mich., has been appointed general superintendent of railway mail service, vice T. E. Nash, resigned. Bancroft has accepted.

Among the bills introduced in the senate on the 21st was one by Blair to secure to the people the enjoyment of the first day of the week as a day of rest, and to permit its observance as a day of religious worship.

Among the bills reported on the 21st from the committee and placed on the senate calendar were the senate bills authorizing the construction of bridges across the Missouri river near Nebraska City, Neb., and the Mississippi river near Alton, Mo.

The department of agriculture bill passed by the house creates an executive department to be known as the department of agriculture, under the supervision and control of the secretary of agriculture, and provides for the appointment of a first assistant secretary of agriculture. It also transfers the secret service of the United States, the special office bureau, from the war department to the department of agriculture.

In response to a resolution calling for information on the subject, the secretary of the treasury sent to the house reports from Supervising Inspector General Dumont and the commissioner of navigation on the overloading of steamers on the great lakes. General Dumont reports that the last time one vessel, the Vermont, was supposed to have been lost by overloading. He stated also that there is no statute law against overloading vessels on the great lakes and that the committee was issued a set of rules which, if properly enforced, would prevent trouble in that direction.

The further consideration of the tariff bill has been postponed for ten days in order to give both parties a chance to harmonize on the proposition to take a vote upon it as it stands without considering the proposed amendments. The situation is rather peculiar. On the democratic side there is a minority who insist that the bill be passed in several weeks. On the republican side the conditions are the same. Three-fourths of the members are in favor of taking a vote upon the bill as a whole, instantly and leaving with the senate the responsibility of revising it to suit the republican policy. But there is a faction who want the chance to vote upon amendments.

A New Winning Railroad.

Chapman (Wyo.) special: The Wyoming Midland railroad company filed articles of incorporation with the secretary of Wyoming to-day. The trustees are Nelson W. B. Winter, Jacob Hitchcock, Douglas Smith and Charles F. Roberts, all of New York city. The capital stock is \$5,000,000, in 50,000 shares of \$100 each. The home office of the company will be in New York, with a branch in Lander, Wyo. The road, which will be a branch of the Northern Pacific, will be constructed from the northern boundary of Wyoming and Clark's Fork southeast to the Big Horn river near the mouth of Grey Bull river, then up the Shoshone reservation to Lander on the Big Horn river, a distance of 260 miles.

Delaware's Wheat Supply.

Duluth special: There is no store in Duluth to-day. 7,432,979 bushels of wheat and about 210,000 bushels of corn and oats. This is a decrease of 1,031,321 bushels of wheat for the week, showing a shipment of 1,230,000 bushels and 40,000 bushels of corn. The flour receipts for the week have been 700 barrels, valued at \$4,200, leaving in stock 212,070 barrels.

A FATAL DOSE OF MORPHINE.

Express Agent Sells, of Fremont, Found Dead in His Bed.

FREMONT, Neb., May 25.—[Special to the Omaha Bee.]—William R. Sells, for some time in charge of the Pacific express business at this place, was found dead in a room at the New York house at about 9:30 o'clock this morning. A paper containing morphine was found near his bed, and other evidence is conclusive of his having taken morphine with suicidal intent. He was usually a quiet man and well thought of, but of late he has for some unknown cause indulged in the use of liquor, and while in no way a defaulter has been negligent in his business. He registered at the hotel at about 11:30 last evening and retired to his room where he was found dead in bed as above stated. The deceased was about thirty years old and had friends living in Chillicothe, Mo., who have sent for his remains.

Corner Hobbitt held an inquest and the verdict returned was that the deceased had died from an over-dose of morphine, taken while ill and laboring under an attack of temporary insanity. The verdict was in accordance with the facts, though great difficulty is experienced in accounting for the despondent alleged. Some attribute it to real estate debts in Omaha upon which he had failed to make his payments, others to a hopeless and unjustifiable attachment which it is claimed Sells had formed for a married woman of the name of Brown, who it is known that he passed many hours. The same people claim that the husband at length objected to Sells' attentions and threatened to shoot him. It is also stated that Sells had stayed several nights in the hotels in the center of the city and on one of these occasions slept until four o'clock the next day. He had evidently been to the office of the express company late Wednesday evening because his assistant, C. E. Main, yesterday morning found the office key and the safe combination on the counter. This circumstance is looked upon as an evidence that Sells had committed suicide. It was shown at the inquest that he had purchased morphine both twice in town, and that an interval of three months had passed between the purchases, which would show that he was not an habitual morphine eater. Yesterday E. W. Bennett, of the Pacific office in Omaha, came here and took temporary charge of the office, and to-day the assistant, C. E. Main, was appointed agent. His father, mother and a brother reside in Chillicothe. They will be met at Omaha by another brother, George, who is agent for the same express company at Beatrice, Neb.

WHISPERS FROM THE WIRES.

The Vatican exhibition at Rome is to be closed at once on account of the ravages of rats.

Frank Woodruff & Co., iron and steel mechanics of New York, assigned without preference.

The emperor of Brazil has recovered from his pleurisy. His doctors treated him with coffee and strychnine.

Colonel A. Wilson Norris, auditor general of Pennsylvania, died at his home in Philadelphia of nervous prostration.

Twelve thousand Quakers have addressed a letter to Mr. Gladstone urging the abolition of his home rule demand.

George Thomas, a Cincinnati, O., peddler, shot and killed a woman named Maggie Wise and then suicided. Cause, jealousy.

The week's interstate drill at Nashville, Tenn., opened in a rain storm, but a grand parade was indulged in in the afternoon.

Judge Truax, of New York, granted an injunction against Adolph Moonleis restraining him from using the union label on his cigars.

The wife of Professor Gregory of Girard college dropped dead from apoplexy in the Women's Presbyterian mission in Philadelphia.

Over 5,000 persons attended the Wallace testimonial performance at the New York Metropolitan on the 21st and the receipts netted over \$2,100.

The Australians are up in arms against Chinese emigration, and monster meetings are sending protests against it to the English government.

The Maine Fourth district democrat nominated Thomas J. Stewart for congress and J. P. Bass and J. W. Madison for the St. Louis convention.

The republican committee announce the seating capacity of the Chicago convention hall for this week. It is 42,000 and a consequence tickets will be limited.

Peter J. Quinn, chief book keeper for Christian & Co., contractors, Pittsburg, Pa., has taken a vacation in Canada on account of a shortage in his books.

Dr. Schweinfurt writes that he feels certain that Stanley is all right and waiting at some half way point for Tipu Tib's reinforcements and supplies.

Adelbert Krieger, "the Bundes Uncle," and delegate from Dayton, O., to the North American Turner Branch convention, died at his apartment in Chicago.

An unknown immigrant shot himself in the Battery park, N. Y. A card on his person bore the address, "Gustave Clermont, Adler Brewery, Altoona, Pa."

Gilbert Stoddard Roosevelt, and other trustees have petitioned the New York supreme court to dissolve the American Dramatic association and distribute its funds, amounting to \$56,502.

Ravished by a Black Brute.

A Wichita, Kan., special says: About 2 o'clock this morning a negro entered the house of a widow named Sophia Stanley, in the north part of the city, and committed a criminal assault upon her. A five-year-old child was the only other occupant of the house. Mrs. Stanley was awakened by a noise at the window, only in time to see the negro jump through the gauze screen. Before she could cry for assistance he had seized her by the throat. She is a slight woman, and was unable to make much resistance. The negro's fingers gradually closed on her throat until she was unconscious. When she regained consciousness the negro had vanished. The neighborhood was alarmed and the police notified, but every effort so far has failed to find her assailant. Three negroes have been taken before her but she could not identify any of them as the man. The excitement is intense, and is accompanied by the usual talk of lynching.

Arrived at Barcelona.

Washington special: Secretary Bayard has received a letter from United States Commissioner Blinn at Barcelona. He is naming his arrival at the United States is very desirable, and that he has taken steps to have the exhibit put in place. The Spanish authorities, he adds, express great pleasure in the fact that the U. S. representative in this line of international opposition ever held in Spain.

OPENING OF THE SIOUX RESERVATION.

The Indians Will Do Nothing to Prevent the Opening of the Reservation.

CHAMBERLAIN, Dak., May 24.—Reports have been printed in a great many papers to the effect that a council of Indians had been held a week or two since on the reservation, at a point called Clear Creek, and that Sitting Bull, Standing Horse, Gaul and many others had decided not to sign the treaty, and thus prevent the opening of the great Sioux reservation. Your correspondent is in position to know that there is absolutely no truth in the report. Even if such a meeting had been held, it is not at all probable that the correspondents who sent out the stories from points on the edge of the reservation, many miles from the alleged place of meeting, would know anything about it.

Sitting Bull, Standing Horse, Big Man, White Ghost and a number of the leading men of the Sioux tribe have been interviewed within the past few days. Each one of them expressed themselves anxious to meet the officers of the government, and "do just what the Great Father asks them to do." John H. King is here, and upon being interviewed gave the same information. In addition he said:

"The reports about the Indians not signing are totally without foundation, and entirely sensational, as were those set afloat while the bill was pending. Then it was given out that the bill would never pass the house, then the senate, and then the conference committee could not agree, and finally that a veto would be passed. At all the time the facts were directly contrary to the reports."

"The Indian Rights association, the Indian department and all the machinery of the government are heartily in accord with the provisions of the bill, and I know from unquestionable authority that Sitting Bull is perfectly satisfied with the provisions. Besides, the Indian Rights people, Senator Dawes, the Indian committees of the house and senate all referred to the 'storm which had burst open' and said that he had no apologies to offer for his suicide. His suicide was the result of a scandal with which he was connected. Gaston, who is twenty-eight years of age, was engaged to be married to a young lady in Illinois. He was the graduate of an eastern college and was a thorough physician."

The Resolution of the G. A. B.—Washington special: Senator Manderson, from the committee on Indian affairs, reported back and asked to have referred to the appropriation committee a resolution of the G. A. B. of Wisconsin, asking that an appropriation be made for headstones for graves of American soldiers who died in the Indian wars. As soon as that work is finished the president will issue his proclamation, and the land will be open to settlers to make settlements, and they will have preference in filing on the tracts they may locate on when the land is surveyed and the plats filed in the land office. All talk about two years' time is erroneous. The full time given in the bill is only one year, and the extent of all that is needed. Those looking for homes on the reservation may get ready to come by September or October.

A Caucus of Republican Senators.

Washington dispatch: There was another caucus of republican senators this afternoon, occupying over two hours. It was held for the purpose of hearing statements of members of the committee on foreign relations on the subject of the fisheries treaty. The republican senators and their friends opposed the proposition so earnestly that they have succeeded in carrying their party colleagues with them, and the consideration is to be behind closed doors and will begin some time after noon.

The Chicago stock market is very quiet. The Chicago and Northern through business from New York to St. Paul.

San Francisco Special.

San Francisco special: It is generally understood here that pleadings for divorce of Mrs. Langtry, who is now playing an engagement here, are in the hands of a local firm. Her denials have little weight against evidence that she is endeavoring to acquire residence in this city as speedily as possible. When she was here last summer and declared her intention of becoming a citizen of the United States, she took a house and fitted up at great expense. She only occupied it for a couple of weeks and then went east; but she left her servants here, and they kept up the place as her home during her absence. This was necessary in order to give her legal residence during her wanderings. Fred Gebhardt arrived here last Thursday, and is the only one in the circles that will marry Mrs. Langtry as soon as she gets her release. The expected and announced appearance of Langtry's husband is taken by many as an indication that he will make a fight against the divorce.

The Dog and His Master.

Duluth (Minn.) special: The steamer Ossifrage which left this port last Saturday for Port Arthur, returned to-day, having failed to reach her destination on account of the solid ice which intervenes. She encountered twenty-one vessels firmly frozen in the ice, and took off some people and brought them to Duluth. In passing Victoria island the keeper of the light house, accompanied by three men, walked out on the ice, the animals finally reaching the Ossifrage. The keeper was out of food and had been for some days, and the dogs made a most dismal howling until they were fed. The keeper and the dog of three, however, took the first piece of meat that was given him, and making his way back to his master, laid it at his feet and then returned to the vessel and howled for more. Captain Inman supplied the keeper with enough food to last until a supply boat could reach him through the ice.

Simply Did His Duty.

Washington dispatch: Manderson, from the committee on military affairs, to-day reported adversely upon the petition of D. D. Dana, formerly provost marshal of the Third brigade Twenty-second army corps, praying allowance services performed in capturing the assassins of President Lincoln. In his report the committee stated that Dana had not done the duty of the petitioner to capture the assassins without reward or hope thereof.

Palouse City Burned Out.

Portland (Ore.) dispatch: A fire broke out at night in Palouse City, W. T., and destroyed a large portion of the business houses. Seven blocks in all were burned. The total loss will reach \$250,000; total insurance, \$75,000.

Maine Democratic Convention.

Augusta (Me.) dispatch: The democratic state convention met at 11:35 and was called to order by S. S. Brown of the state committee. A. A. Powers was chosen chairman and made a brief address.

Powers closed by a reference to the appointment of President Cleveland, and made an appeal for his continuation, saying if selected to-day he would vote for the re-election of Grover Cleveland. The speaker said in his election they went in for reform in civil service, retrenchment in public expenses and personal worth and integrity. The temporary organization was made permanent and a short recess was taken.

Appropriate resolutions were adopted on the death of the past year of W. Bradbury, Eben Pillsbury, Edmund Wilson, W. A. Cromwell, J. H. Webster, John W. Varney, James P. Reed, and G. L. Bunn, former prominent democrats. The following delegates at large to the St. Louis convention were elected: First District, Payson Tucker, of Portland; Second, Arthur Sewell, of Bath; Third, E. C. Allen, of Augusta; Fourth, James Tobin, of Bangor.

Making a Sure Thing of Suicide.

St. Joseph (Mo.) special: Dr. W. T. Gaston, first assistant at Hall's sanitarium, committed suicide at the Commercial hotel in this city by taking a heavy dose of morphine and leaving both gas jets in his room turned on. Dr. Gaston is well known in St. Joseph, and came here March 1, 1887, from Peoria, Ill., where he was superintendent of a sanitarium. He took a room at the hotel at 12 o'clock last night. His absence both at breakfast and dinner caused the clerk at 2:30 o'clock to go to his room, which was found locked. Dr. Gaston had referred to the 'storm which had burst open' and said that he had no apologies to offer for his suicide. His suicide was the result of a scandal with which he was connected. Gaston, who is twenty-eight years of age, was engaged to be married to a young lady in Illinois. He was the graduate of an eastern college and was a thorough physician.

Chicago Dispatch.

Chicago dispatch: The general managers of the western and northwestern railway lines took action to-day looking to the establishment of rates per 100 pounds on live stock arriving at Chicago on and after June 10. Commencing on that date all stock will be charged for at actual weight instead of by the car load. The Western States Passenger association met to-day to further consider the question of Iowa rates. Before the new railroad law went into effect in that state it was customary for the railroad companies to grant the railroads a discount of one cent per mile, although a higher rate was charged the general public. The association decided to carry this custom, and to have the rate discontinued on the ground that it would amount to discrimination under the Iowa law.

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THE GOLDEN RULE.

Nay, speak, no ill, a kindly word Can never leave a sting behind; And oh, to breathe each tale we've heard Is far beneath a noble mind.

Full oft a better seed is sown, By choosing thus the kinder plan; For if but little good be known, Still let us speak the best we can.

Then speak no ill, but lenient be To others' failings as your own; And let the first be the fault to see, Be not the first to make it known.

For life is but a passing day, No life may tell how brief its span; Then oh, what little time we stay! Let's speak of all the best we can.

My Brother-in-Law's First Wife.

Frona W. Colvin in Yankee Blade.

My Sister Agnes had made what I should call the great mistake of marrying a widower. Not that I had any spite against grave, good-looking Henry Mayne, yet he was not the sort of man that I could ever bring myself to "love, honor and obey," if I were a woman, even if he had never been married before. He was always wont to repeat the good qualities of his wife when he used to come to our house, before he was my brother-in-law, and I don't know but I thought, at that time, that it was very commendable in him to pay such tribute to his departed companion; but there came a day when this constant allusion to "Maggie" made me disgusted.

I have often heard my father say that it was never safe to marry a widow unless her first husband had been hung, and even then she was liable to declare that hanging was too good for number two; and to effect this remark, I will add right here, that in my humble opinion, it is never well to marry a widower unless his first wife has eloped with some other man, and even in that case, perhaps number two would get informed that the only thing lacking to cause her to do likewise was a chance.

Henry Mayne was holding a pre-emption next to our claim when we first made his acquaintance, and about all we knew of him was that he was an honest, industrious, prosperous farmer, was a widower, with one child who was staying with his married sister in Chicago, till his younger sister, Mamie, should finish her education and come to keep house for him, and bring his little girl. He informed me that Mamie had made her home partly with him and partly with the other sister since she was fifteen, at which time they had been orphaned.

We had known Mr. Mayne over a year when it came time for him to make final proof of his claim. On a pre-emption one can make proof at any time, after thirty or six months, within thirty or more months. Mr. Mayne had stayed the entire time, but now that the limit was reached he made his proof. I was never more surprised in my life than when Agnes, having followed me one morning when I went out with the herd of cattle, informed me that Henry was going farther west to take a homestead and timber-claim and she was going to be married to him and go with him. I had no objection to the man, but I set before her the difficulties of a stepmother. I consider the rearing of a child, worth anything at all, as a thankless task as anyone can undertake.

"But someone must take care of her, and I don't know but I am as capable of doing so as anyone," urged Agnes.

"I never for a moment doubted that my little sister, you will be a model step-mother. You will be, how about the child. Will she prove a model step-daughter?"

"Henry is good-natured, and he always says his first wife was a saint," replied Agnes meekly, "so I think the child ought to have a pleasant disposition. Father and mother think it will be a good match, and I am twenty-five, you know."

Well to make a long story short, they were married and went to Kansas to take a new land. I was twenty-one pretty soon after that, and I knew I intended taking claims when I should have reached my majority, they wrote me to come there.

They had been married six months when I went. Henry had been after little Becca instead of waiting till Mamie had graduated and gone as intended, and it was just as I feared, she was a little terror.

"I can't see where the child takes that evil temper from," said Henry, a few minutes after I arrived, when Becca threw herself on the floor and kicked and screamed and then held her breath until she was black in the face because I would not allow her to pound my watch with a hammer. "I am sure Agnes will bear me out in saying that I never display my temper, and as for the child's mother—well, Maggie came the nearest being an angel of any woman I ever saw. I may say, she was the very best person I ever met."

I glanced at Agnes. There was an expression on her face which caused me to believe she had heard "Maggie" praise us often, but she looked very much embarrassed when she saw how annoyed I was at hearing her husband praise another to the disparagement of herself.

"It was better than Agnes she would be sufficiently good not to need masses said for her soul," I remarked, nettled.

Henry glanced first at me and then at Agnes.

"I was not making my comparison," he said, "probably observing that I was jealous for my sister, even if she was not for herself, but she looked at me and bet your basic shkel no other woman's picture will have a place next his—request or no request. What excuse did he have the cheek to make for such a request, anyhow?"

"He said he should always love me next to his first wife, and he gave me the Bible because it was hers, and I was the only person he felt willing should have it," exclaimed Agnes, embarrassed.

"And you didn't throw it at his head?" inquired Mamie, wondering.

"Well, I must say you are a splendid saint or orphan, Mr. Harlan," she asked, turning to me.

"Both," I said, half impatiently. Agnes' submission annoyed me.

"I don't see what makes Henry so ridiculous about his first wife," Mamie said, after Agnes had quitted

bestowed a meed of praise upon the living wife occasionally, instead of constantly ranting about the virtue of her predecessor. But I never heard ten days of my stay I never heard a single compliment paid to Agnes by her husband, and if I tried to make up the deficiency myself, "Maggie was always lugged in, and her goodness extolled till I was sick and disgusted. I would have called him to order on the night of my arrival but Agnes had made me promise not to, and every day kept reminding me of my promise."

"It does not mean anything offensive. It is right enough for him to love and admire his first wife. I am sure, if I had her first wife, I would have been a pleasant reflection that, if my husband survived me, he would still admire me and remember my virtues, even if he married again," was the way she excused him.

"Stuff and nonsense! A man or woman can never be a meed of my first companion in a way to cause jealousy on the part of the second—for if you were like the majority of human beings, you'd be perfectly green with jealousy by this time. I'll venture to say, now, if you had been Mrs. Mayne's No. 1, and Henry had extolled you to 'Maggie's' surpassing her to have been Mrs. Mayne the second, to the extent he has her to you, she would have flown into a rage, and pulled every hair out of his head long ago."

When I had been with them about ten days Mamie came home from school.

"You'll find Mamie somewhat giddy," Henry remarked to Agnes as he was preparing to drive to the station to meet his sister. "She always is so in spite of Maggie's success. I don't know but Mamie would be glad to help her."

I devoutly hoped that, giddy or not she would not join in the refrain when Henry chanted the former Mrs. Mayne's praises; for, hard as she struggled against the feeling and tried hard to hide it, I saw that this sort of thing was making Agnes' life miserable. She was prepared to detest Miss Mamie, but I was agreeably disappointed in her. She was a spirited brunette, whose only tendency to giddiness—at least all I could discover—was a habit of laughing unconstrainedly and using school-girl terms to help her.

"How awfully much Becca is growing to look like you," she said to Henry one day when she had been there nearly a week.

"Do you think so? Now I think she more and more resembles her sainted mother every day," Mamie exclaimed, and Mamie looked puzzled a moment then, burst out laughing.

"Fancy the Madonna with a turn-up nose!" she exclaimed.

"I don't understand you," said Henry.

"Didn't I understand you to say she looked like the Virgin?" you said, "her sainted mother?"

"I mean her natural, not her spiritual mother."

"Well, I reckon you wouldn't try to make Mag out a saint? If you would, that would you tell Agnes she had lied, with a frankness that seemed to annoy her brother."

"Agnes is a good woman, too," he replied, gravely.

"I should think so!" exclaimed Mamie. "Why, if you had made remarks about the pancakes to Mag as you did to Agnes this morning, she would have thrown the whole plateful in your face. So would I, for that matter. I shouldn't have been surprised to hear you call her a saint, but I think you must be losing your memory if you imagine Mag as having possessed any such thing as saintliness. My goodness, how she used to rake you over the coals!" rattled on the young lady, greatly to my amusement and Henry's discomfort.

"I should think you'd miss something out of your life if Agnes is always like you," Mamie said to Agnes. Never a day went over but you and Mag had a quarrel when I was at your house during her lifetime."

"I was entirely at fault," he said with a very red, embarrassed countenance. "I have tried to be very different with Agnes."

"Well," laughed Mamie, "It does me good to hear you acknowledge that that is at fault about anything, but I can't say I entirely agree with you in this case. Now, there was that time she hit you over the head with the skillet because you insisted upon her wearing heavy shoes in wet weather. I don't really think it was her fault."

"Maggie is dead, you must remember," broke in Henry. "Would it not be well to let her rest peacefully in her grave?"

This same thought had sometimes occurred to me, during my stay there, when he had been constantly dragging her name into the conversation in the most uncalculated places.

"I know it's customary to say nothing but good of the dead," replied saucy Mamie, "but I couldn't help calling these things to mind when you intimated that Mag was of an angelic disposition."

I could have embraced Miss Mamie for these utterances. However they may have wounded her brother's feelings, they were balm to mine. I will even admit that they were impudent and irreverent, but I thought they were deserved, and they had the good effect to save me from the annoyance of hearing anything more about the "departed angel" for some days.

One morning when Henry had gone to town, I sat in the sitting-room reading Agnes' was combing Becca's hair, and Mamie was idly turning over the books and looking through them.

"What an odd creature you are!" she exclaimed, suddenly turning to Agnes. "Here, you've got Mag's picture next to Henry's in your Bible."

"That was hers. Henry gave it to me a few days after we were married with a request that I leave it just as it was," replied Agnes.

"What did he give it to you for if he wanted to keep it undisturbed? To be aggravating?" inquired Mamie, indignantly.

"If ever I saw a husband and another woman's picture will have a place next his—request or no request. What excuse did he have the cheek to make for such a request, anyhow?"

"He said he should always love me next to his first wife, and he gave me the Bible because it was hers, and I was the only person he felt willing should have it," exclaimed Agnes, embarrassed.

"And you didn't throw it at his head?" inquired Mamie, wondering.

"Well, I must say you are a splendid saint or orphan, Mr. Harlan," she asked, turning to me.

"Both," I said, half impatiently. Agnes' submission annoyed me.

"I don't see what makes Henry so ridiculous about his first wife," Mamie said, after Agnes had quitted

the room. "I can see that it hurts Agnes to have him always making out that Mag was superior to her; but she wasn't by a long way. When they were first married she did seem real good, though no one could ever convince mamma that her goodness was sincere. She always declared she was a hypocrite, but she and Henry got along all right till old Dame Fagot—not—she wasn't a long way in her appearance. I'll never forget what a spectacle she was the first time she came to see them. They were over at our house and she came there to see them. She was the hardest looking specimen of the human race I ever laid my eyes on. She wore a black wig, and her hair with white thread, a pair of shoes that certainly never had been blacked, and they were laced with wrapping-twine twisted and doubled. Her dress came to her shoe-tops in front and reached the floor behind her. But her looks were black with respect to her. She was a Jebel, let me tell you."

"Henry would have given anything to have kept us from finding out about her at home, but it was the talk of the neighborhood what a disagreeable old woman she was, and of course the black wig came out. She still held up for Mag, declaring she was not at all like the rest of her folk till one day mamma gave him her opinion, that it was possible, yet hardly probable, that a dove could be reared in a hawk's nest. You see we had heard about this sort of thing, and she so aggravating, and set Mag up to such meanness that Henry had been obliged to ask his mother-in-law to leave; she had refused to do so, he had insisted, and when he went outside to work, Mag and her mother locked the door on him, and he was obliged to wait a long time to get in, and he was obliged to stay in a house of her own. He not only had to provide for her, but for all the rest of the family who made it a point to stay either at his house or at old Mrs. Pigeonot's all the time.

"Mamma died a year before Mag was married, and she was a good deal of the time, and I must say I can't see how Henry can forget the abuse he suffered at that woman's hands. She was the poorest cook and the most slovenly housekeeper I ever saw, yet I have heard him brag of her, and give perfect praise to Agnes since I've been here. It's more than I can do to hold my tongue, it aggravates