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CALED CLARK,
Ben Franklin Printing House,
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[We cheerfully and gratefully give place to the following poetical invention, from the fair feathered Songstress of New Richmond, to those other delightful warblers of her vicinity, whose song she has so sweetly and positively charmed.]
For the Times.

THE OLD CEDAR TREE.

I
They're left the old Cedar,—those merry bright birds,
They have passed, like the echo of light-spoken words;
The sprigs are untouch, the soft nests are all bare,
And a lone, solemn look, does the old Cedar wear.
No more do their wings, with their glorious sheen,
Press like rubies and gems on the Cedar's dark green;
When the King of the Winds sang his winter refrain,
They chimed in the chorus, that last farcical strain.

II
They're left the old Cedar that sheltered their young,
Where their first flights were taken, and first lays were sung;
Their songs are all hushed, like the mangle of love,
When the dark clouds of grief veil the brightness above.
They have vanished away, as our summer friends
Who in winds of adversity tattle life's end;
When they find like the smiles from the brow we adore,
When doubt enters in, where faith rested before.

III
They have left the old Cedar, as children who stray,
From the sheltering breast, where their tiny heads lay;
They're winging their way to some gay summer bowers,
Where they'll feel not the night of the storm's howling roars.

IV
But lo! from the North, 'mid the fleet and the hail,
With quick, dandling wing, on the breast of the gale,
Comes a band of brown birds, and with merry "tra-ree-ers,"
Seem to ask for a home in the old Cedar tree.
Their songs are not sweet as the warblers of old,
That gushed from those bosoms of crimson and gold,
Yet their hearts, though all wrapped in a coat of dull gray,
Spreads their cheerful round, in their own simple way.

V
Oh! thus, when we mortal grow weary and sad,
With nothing to make the heart merry or glad,
When the times have been cherished full blown on the ear,
And the green leaves of love, have grown yellow and rare,
May some kind spirit then—though the storm-cloud is dark,
And the arrows of fate pierce our souls as they mark,
Come to rest in our bosoms, though humble they be,
Like the brown birds that chirp in the old Cedar tree.

NEW RICHMOND, JANUARY, 1852. ESTABLISHED.

From the Tokens of Friendship.
**LIFE BEHIND THE COUNTER;
OR, THE DRAPER'S ASSISTANT.**
BY MISS CAMILLA TOWERMAN.

"We do too little for each other's pain,
We do too much relax the social chain,
Which binds us to each other!"—L. R. L.

CHAPTER I.
"Send away the tea things, Mr. M., it is past seven o'clock; Herbert must have dropped in somewhere, I am sure," was the exclamation of Mr. Markham on a certain winter evening, as, crossing his slippers feet before the fire, he returned a large silver watch to its stand on the mantel-piece, and drew from his pocket the evening paper.
"Aunt," whispered a gentle voice on the other side of the room, "may I ask Jenny to save the tea-pot, in case Herbert should not have had either dinner or tea? I know he is gone about a situation; he took down the particulars of two or three advertisements this morning."
"You know, Alice, the servants—?" Here, however, Mrs. Markham's speech was cut short by a ring of the bell, so we can only surmise what the remainder would have been. Herbert had returned, and before he is introduced to the reader, let me say a few words about his uncle and aunt, the present host and hostess of himself and sister.
Mr. Markham was what is called one of the most "respectable" men in the city, and that emphatic word comprehends a world of propertied. He was in the grocery line of business—his shop situated in one of those narrow, crooked streets, the tall houses of which, it is said, (if not swept away to make healthy openings and modern improvements,) may still outlast the buildings of to-day. In that house had he begun business; and in that house Mr. John, his only son, married and taken into partnership long ago, now resided; his "respectable" parent having of late years preferred the luxuries of a morning and

evening ride in his one-horse chaise to and from his suburban residence. It is not worth while to say on which side of London this was chosen, for the suburbs have a strong family likeness, differing only as much as rich and poor relations may do. They all have their Minerva Terraces and Belle Vue Cottages, and now-a-days Albert Roads and Victoria Squares. They all, too, have their little great people, from the reigning beauty, whose Sunday attire sets the fashions of the place, to perchance some county magistrate or *ci-deant* lord mayor, who is looked on as a second Solon, providentially sent to enlighten the world. Trifling as such weaknesses seem, at which we are all inclined to smile, grave mischief arises from them; for almost all our social evils arise from a want of that extended sympathy, which, stretching over the barriers of class, should communicate good—like light—without being impoverished, nay, multiplying it rather, as by reflecting mirrors. Now the system of *chips*, whether they be of the witty or wealthy, or of the little-great people of a suburban neighborhood, strikes at the root of all this. It hedges a little party round with a thick stone wall, impervious to mortal sight, while the melancholy part of the affair is that the poor deluded prisoners think their dungeon is the world. Mr. Markham's world consisted of the people with whom he transacted business in the day, (he always dined with his son in town,) and the two or three neighbors they visited; but as they all belonged to the same *gens*, I do not think he ever knocked out a cube of his wall, through which to take a peep beyond. His only daughter, an elderly young lady of about thirty, and his wife, completed the home circle, to which his orphan nephew and niece had lately been introduced.

The father of Herbert and Alice had been a very different character from his elder brother. He had been a music master in a provincial town, and though early left a widower, had brought up his children in much respectability. But so precarious did he know such a means of existence as his own to be, that it had long been the wish of his heart to establish Herbert in trade. Of his brother he knew little else than that he was a prosperous man; and when he found that an illness of some standing had assumed a dangerous turn, it was a very natural thing to leave his children to the guardianship of his only relative, and two hundred pounds, the savings of a life, to his care till they should be of age. Mr. Markham considered that of the only sensible wish "poor Charles" had ever expressed was that Herbert should be a tradesman; it met his cordial approbation; but as for advancing any of the two hundred pounds for apprenticing him, he should do nothing of the kind. The youth was nearly seventeen; led him get a situation which would "lead to something." Alice, who was three years her brother's senior, was equally desirous of independence; and perhaps the fondest hope of both their hearts was that they should not be separated. Yet they both knew that there were few situations in which this would be the case; therefore was Alice proportionally grateful when she heard from Herbert, on that eventful evening, the cause which had detained him so late. He had found employment for himself and sister as assistants in an extensive drapery establishment; nothing remaining to be settled except Alice seeing the parties, and the necessary reference to their uncle being made.

What a benevolent dispensation of Providence it is, that youth soaring aloft on the wings of hope and expectation, and looking at life as it will look through its own brightly colored imagination, should find in its own untried spirit the strongest weapon of defence against the world with which it must wrestle! How else could the suffering youth of this great metropolis, not counted by tens and by hundreds, but by tens of thousands, live through their fearful course of slavery, in numbers sufficient to make at last their deep-toned cry audible. Alas! alas! we take no account of the myriads who have sunk after their term of suffering into the crowded sepulchres or the dense city. And yet how great a thing is every human heart, with its little world of hopes and fears, its warm affections, its trusting faith, its bright imaginings! And how desolate, indeed—desolate as the last survivor of a world's wreck—must that one be who hath not some dear ones to mourn and rejoice with him. So desolate, that I would fain believe the earth counts them by units; and least of all do I believe they would be found among the struggling and oppressed, for such have warm sympathies. But this is a mass of misery, past, irrevocable, though good for us sometimes to think on; there is another picture yet more painful, because more present to our sight, and more disastrous in its results. The myriads who do not die, but pursue a lingering life by the sacrifice of health for its remainder; or worse still, the myriads whose minds are warped by

evil training, and then in their weaker years are corrupted by overpowering temptations—who are themselves made self by cruel oppression, and whose tempers are irritated (catching the infection of plate glass, each of which was as a moderate sized dining table, formed the shop windows, ran a row of figures, intimating that five hundred had been taken in, namely, from 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100, 105, 110, 115, 120, 125, 130, 135, 140, 145, 150, 155, 160, 165, 170, 175, 180, 185, 190, 195, 200, 205, 210, 215, 220, 225, 230, 235, 240, 245, 250, 255, 260, 265, 270, 275, 280, 285, 290, 295, 300, 305, 310, 315, 320, 325, 330, 335, 340, 345, 350, 355, 360, 365, 370, 375, 380, 385, 390, 395, 400, 405, 410, 415, 420, 425, 430, 435, 440, 445, 450, 455, 460, 465, 470, 475, 480, 485, 490, 495, 500, 505, 510, 515, 520, 525, 530, 535, 540, 545, 550, 555, 560, 565, 570, 575, 580, 585, 590, 595, 600, 605, 610, 615, 620, 625, 630, 635, 640, 645, 650, 655, 660, 665, 670, 675, 680, 685, 690, 695, 700, 705, 710, 715, 720, 725, 730, 735, 740, 745, 750, 755, 760, 765, 770, 775, 780, 785, 790, 795, 800, 805, 810, 815, 820, 825, 830, 835, 840, 845, 850, 855, 860, 865, 870, 875, 880, 885, 890, 895, 900, 905, 910, 915, 920, 925, 930, 935, 940, 945, 950, 955, 960, 965, 970, 975, 980, 985, 990, 995, 1000.

The establishment of Messrs. Somers Haveall & Co. was situated in one of the principal thoroughfares of London. From small beginnings it had grown to an "immense concern," over the square of plate glass, each of which was as a moderate sized dining table, formed the shop windows, ran a row of figures, intimating that five hundred had been taken in, namely, from 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100, 105, 110, 115, 120, 125, 130, 135, 140, 145, 150, 155, 160, 165, 170, 175, 180, 185, 190, 195, 200, 205, 210, 215, 220, 225, 230, 235, 240, 245, 250, 255, 260, 265, 270, 275, 280, 285, 290, 295, 300, 305, 310, 315, 320, 325, 330, 335, 340, 345, 350, 355, 360, 365, 370, 375, 380, 385, 390, 395, 400, 405, 410, 415, 420, 425, 430, 435, 440, 445, 450, 455, 460, 465, 470, 475, 480, 485, 490, 495, 500, 505, 510, 515, 520, 525, 530, 535, 540, 545, 550, 555, 560, 565, 570, 575, 580, 585, 590, 595, 600, 605, 610, 615, 620, 625, 630, 635, 640, 645, 650, 655, 660, 665, 670, 675, 680, 685, 690, 695, 700, 705, 710, 715, 720, 725, 730, 735, 740, 745, 750, 755, 760, 765, 770, 775, 780, 785, 790, 795, 800, 805, 810, 815, 820, 825, 830, 835, 840, 845, 850, 855, 860, 865, 870, 875, 880, 885, 890, 895, 900, 905, 910, 915, 920, 925, 930, 935, 940, 945, 950, 955, 960, 965, 970, 975, 980, 985, 990, 995, 1000.

It was towards the close of the May day—bright May, when the flowers are sweet, and the hawthorn is in bloom; when even the dusty lanes and garden squares put forth their perfume, and the smoke-begrimed streets, after their merriest noisings, begin to show signs of spring, that Mr. Markham, with his long straight coat, and winding ways, where the houses taken in joined one another, was redolent of anything rather than spring flowers. The atmosphere formed by that close, unpleasant character which makes the buyer of a yard of ribbon exclaim, even on a winter's day, "How pleasant to get into the fresh air again!" Walking up and down the shop, occasionally speaking in courteous phrase to a customer, and often reprimanding an assistant, was a man of about forty. It was not that his features were irregular, but that their expression, that every one would have called him an ordinary man. He walked with a shuffling gait, and it might have been observed that he wore a peculiar sort of gaiter, the better to support and conceal the bandages it was necessary to wear. For as hennep-drapers' assistants are never allowed to sit, except during the few minutes in which they snatch their meals, swollen legs and absolute disease are the quite common results of fourteen or fifteen hours' standing; and this is a low average to what is and has been!

This superintendent, or shop-walker,—hardened into a tyrant by the wrongs of his own youth,—was speaking to a lady near the door, when Alice and Herbert chanced to meet, without either of them being at the moment engaged in waiting on a customer. They were at the further end of the shop, and instinctively withdrew a few paces till they brought themselves behind a pile of goods, which shielded them from observation. To converse in business hours, even if there were nothing to do, was a forbidden pleasure; nevertheless, it was indulged in for a few moments, especially as it was evident Alice had been weeping bitterly.
"No, no, not for myself," said she, in answer to his inquiries; "it is that you should have acted their falsehoods as I have seen you do to-day."
"What have you seen me do?" replied Herbert, his face flushing, and yet in a tone of voice that implied a resolution to brave out what he had done.
"A poor trick; a lady wished some silk—it was not that what you showed her was too inferior for her taste, but it was not dear enough, in his opinion, to be good; you saw this—you feigned to fetch another piece, but you only cut that in half, and added a shilling a yard to the price."
"And suppose I had not done so, she would have left the shop without purchasing."
"Well?"
"Do you know why poor Martin was dismissed so suddenly last week?"
"I did not hear the reason exactly—impertinence they said."
"A refusal to do such things as these; and by a perversity of fortune, twice in one day, persons who spoke to him went away without buying."
"But, Herbert, wrong cannot come right," returned Alice, raising her earnest, tearful eyes to his.
Herbert put his hand affectionately

on her head, and then in their weaker years are corrupted by overpowering temptations—who are themselves made self by cruel oppression, and whose tempers are irritated (catching the infection of plate glass, each of which was as a moderate sized dining table, formed the shop windows, ran a row of figures, intimating that five hundred had been taken in, namely, from 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100, 105, 110, 115, 120, 125, 130, 135, 140, 145, 150, 155, 160, 165, 170, 175, 180, 185, 190, 195, 200, 205, 210, 215, 220, 225, 230, 235, 240, 245, 250, 255, 260, 265, 270, 275, 280, 285, 290, 295, 300, 305, 310, 315, 320, 325, 330, 335, 340, 345, 350, 355, 360, 365, 370, 375, 380, 385, 390, 395, 400, 405, 410, 415, 420, 425, 430, 435, 440, 445, 450, 455, 460, 465, 470, 475, 480, 485, 490, 495, 500, 505, 510, 515, 520, 525, 530, 535, 540, 545, 550, 555, 560, 565, 570, 575, 580, 585, 590, 595, 600, 605, 610, 615, 620, 625, 630, 635, 640, 645, 650, 655, 660, 665, 670, 675, 680, 685, 690, 695, 700, 705, 710, 715, 720, 725, 730, 735, 740, 745, 750, 755, 760, 765, 770, 775, 780, 785, 790, 795, 800, 805, 810, 815, 820, 825, 830, 835, 840, 845, 850, 855, 860, 865, 870, 875, 880, 885, 890, 895, 900, 905, 910, 915, 920, 925, 930, 935, 940, 945, 950, 955, 960, 965, 970, 975, 980, 985, 990, 995, 1000.

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