THE STUMP-SPEAKER.

With voice all husky and worn,
With tonsils swollen and sore,
The crator stands on a sawed-off stump
And politics doth outpour.
Talk, talk, talk,
In weather both wet and dry;
And still, for the matter of dollars and cents,
He lifteth his voice on high.

Talk, Talk, talk,
While his audience yells and cheers;
And talk, talk, talk,
Till his words ring in their ears'
It's O! to be slavery,
Along with the terrible Turk,
When an orator wasts his time and breath
By such exhausting work!

Talk, talk, talk,
Till each head begins to swim!
Talk, talk, talk,
Till the fire'king lamps grow dim!
Slade, and tariff, and trade,
Trade, and tariff, and slade,
Till the weary listners fall asleep
And dream of their candidate.

Oh, men with active brains!
Oh, men with minds intense!
It's hard when you're lasting to,
And not the soundest sense.
Talk, talk, talk,
Till the hand begins to play
Yarning at once, by a single stroke,
Cheap fun as well as pay.

Oh, but to hear this talk
Of the deeds of gallant men,
Or the wisdom and sparkling words
Of the workers of the pen!
But to talk, talk, talk,
Till the fire campaign is over,
And then to talk for just a berth,
He'll only talk the more.

—N. Y. JOURNAL.

THE BABY'S PRAYER.

She knelt with her sweet hands folded:
Her fair little head bowed low.
While dreamy shade clapped at the window
And the air was thick with snow.
Without, earth smiled with winter;
Within, hearts drank with mirth;
And up through the leaden silence
Rose softly the baby prayer:

Bless all whom I love, dear Father,
And help me be good," she said.
Then, with a smile as solemn as fairies,
She lifte it the shining head.
Did she catch on the frozen maple
Some faint echo of Easter morn?
Or the breath of the woodland blossoms,
The Glorious of the snow-white thorn?

The beautiful trees," she whispered,
"Where the birds used to sing;
They are tired of the cold, cold winter,
Oh, help them to grow in spring.
And the flowers that I loved in gather,
Lord, bring them again to May;
The dear little violets, sweeping
Down deep to the ground today."

Ah, earth may be chill with snow flakes,
And hearts may be cold with care,
But wastes of a frozen indifference
Are bridged by the baby's prayer
And lips that were dumb with sorrow
In jubilant joy may sing
For when earth's wrapped in winter
In the heart of the flood 'tis spring.

THE RULES OF HEALTH.

Listen to each simple rule,
As to comfort and to diet;
You must keep entirely cool
Though the cholera can riot.

Eat the best of all things good,
Never eat that which is rotten;
Hurts you, unless understood
You avoid too many keen.

Too many eat not as fed ful,
Those who say you make it talk gut more;
But a prudent man won't wish
To watch cucumber with a spoon.

Flesh and fowl are yours to eat,
Every dish a toothe me center,
But the chopped pork are meat
That you should not try in summer.

You may make, too, but take care
Your cakes are sweet as manna;
White the sugar is in the pan,
Only use the pure Havana.

Keep yourself from worries free:
If you're hasty, you must gain 'em;
Thin your earth, you see,
You'll preserve the corpus sanum.

—LONDON PUNCH.

HER BROTHER.

"Newell, do you know that splendid woman?" enthusiastically exclaimed a dashing college man, who shone as one of the club "lions," at Mrs De Gray's soiree.

Miss Newell looked about him with an indolent glance and replied:

"Well as the room is full of splendid women whom I have the honor—"

"Yes, but those which one means," impatiently interrupted the first speaker. "The queen of them all, of course; that fabulous creature in the mauve crepe, with her yellow lillies in her hair. I was myself. Yes, that's Miss Burkhardt."

"Miss Burkhardt?"

"Yes, General Burkhardt's daughter. He was killed in the Mexican war, you know. Left all his wealth to his wife, and she died and left it to her daughter almost ever since. Miss Burkhardt is the richest heiress in the state. Don't see why she hasn't married. She is twenty-three, and has had offers enough."

"Will you present me to her?"

"Of course, you've got to go through with a great passion for her. Every body does; it is the regular thing. And the sooner you leave it over the better. She won't have you."

"Why?"

"Don't know, but she won't. She told me that she never would marry. Wouldn't tell me why. Supposed to her," said Milo coolly.

"Men do, as a general thing. But they all get the same answer. She never will marry."

"Upon my word, you take a delight to take your disappointment very hard!" laughed his companion.

"Oh, I covered long ago. It's no use pining over what one can't help," said Newell, philosophically. "If there was any hope I'd have persevered; but it would be useless. I'd advise you to avoid her, if it would do any good; but you would go on all the same."

He knew his voice was at last, for they were approaching the large group, of whom Miss Burkhardt was the center of attention. She was standing with her hand resting on the back of a chair. Truly she was a splendid woman. A very queen she looked surrounded by her subjects. Her features were not beautiful in the least, but her form was regal in its stately grace. Her heavy, black hair was magnificent, and her great, dusky eyes, glowing with a sort of repressed light, like smouldering fire, possessed a strange weird attraction, a species of magnetism, altogether indefinable, but irresistably fascinating.

Yet the unbounded admiration which she evidently received she would scarcely hai "Ily be owing solely to her wonderful ey s. There was some curious, indefinite u formation about her—this dusky haired, pa nyally woman. Among the many men a who had laid their hearts at Dianora Burk hardt's feet, very few could have said what it was in her that so enslaved them.

"Miss Burkhardt, a, llo me now to introduce a friend o you?" asked Newell, making his way.

"What friend?" asked Miss Burkhardt, carelessly.

"Otto Delevan, the artist, w ho has just returned from Italy," was Newell's answer.

Miss Burkhardt grew deathly pal e, and grasped the sofa, as if to steady herself.

"What is the matter? Are you ill, Miss Burkhardt," cried Milo, astonished at her strange emotion.

"Yes; a sudden indisposition," faltered she, "I will go out in the air a moment, and then I trust I shall be pleased to receive your friend. Will you give me your arm, Mr. Brown?" to a middle aged brother of Mrs. De Gray.

Mr. Brown was, of course, "delighted," and Miss Burkhardt walked away with a step sufficiently firm and steady for an "indisposed woman."

Presently she returned, looking her usual calm self, and, with a bow and word of thanks to her companion, turned to Milo Newell, saying quietly:

"Now, Mr. Newell, I shall be happy to know your friend," and the introductory ceremony was performed.

Otto Delevan was profoundly deferential. Miss Burkhardt, quietly courteous. She was used to being introduced to distinguished men, and it was not to be expected that she would be as much impressed as some young debutante by the popular young artist, whose growing fame had long preceded him to his native land which, for five years he had been absent. A great favorite was Otto Delevan. He was about twenty-eight—a handsome young man and very handsome, in the fair saffron style. More than one young girl among that gay throng would have given a fortune to have Miss Burkhardt's power that she might bring him to her feet. "You are just from Italy, I hear, Mr. Delevan," said Miss Burkhardt, by way of conversation.

"I arrived two days ago," he answered.

"Have you been long away?"

"Five years," said Otto. "It is good to be back in my own country again."

"Yes," said Miss Burkhardt, absently, "and it is four years since—"

She stopped abruptly and began, with fingers that trembled, to adjust the flowers in her bouquet.

"Since when?" he questioned.

"Since I met you," Dianora said, in a hasty way, and changed the subject.

Otto stayed beside her through the evening, escorted her to her dressing room, attended her to her carriage, and went home to his bachelor lodgings as hopelessly in love as it is possible for a passionate, enthusiastic nature to be. He was to be. Milo Newell's caution was not forgotten, but unheeded.

"I will marry that woman within a year or die!" he said deliberately, after a half hour's reflection, and in the interest of this resolve he felt the meaning of the words.

Two weeks passed. People began to remark, suddenly, that some bitterly-sarcastic remarks, which some bitterly-sarcastic remarks, which some bitterly-sarcastic remarks, which