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BY MARCUS WARD, ILLUMINATOR TO THE QUEEN.

SECOND

SERIES.

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POCAHONTAS: A Tale of Old Virginie.

POCAHONTAS: A TALE OF OLD VIRGINIE.

TOLD IN VERSE BY FRANCIS DAVIS.

I. Come hither, thou, our winged steed, And fit thee for a flight, We mean to blow our oaten reed On Yankee land to-night. To march with royal rhyming foot, Where Raleigh learned, they say, To whiff the weed and raise the root We prize so high to-day ! Where all for her, his Virgin Queen, The lands he called and claimed .--Poor Raleigh !- how he closed his scene, Needs hardly here be named ! He had his day, for good or ill, Whereof remains, we know, For good or ill, a reinnant still-Eh, pipe of mine 1-heigh-ho ! HI. Enough !- from him and his we pass, Premising, by the way, We're in the land where he, I guess, Had been as safe to stay ! And from what's "ole Virginie," now, We pluck the veiling years, Till young Virginia's savage brow With all its scars appears ! IV. And Jamestown Fort, and Captain Smith, Arise upon our view, Where English lads, of pluck and pith, At times look rather blue 1 For cold and want, and petty feuds, And Indian treacherie, Cut up with bloody interludes, That infant colonie. Till, like some streak of tinted light, That sheds a soothing sheen, Where all is drear, or almost night, An Indian maid is seen ! Young Pocahontas, she whose name Like sunlight sheets our song-I wot, along the aisles of Fame That name hath journey'd long!

VI. A princess she, the fav'rite child Of mighty Powhattan; Oh, ne'er, where flowers were bright as wild, Was brighter seen by man! But, Powhattan i-ah, well | we know, From many a scraggy tree, A pleasant bough, at times may grow And blossom fair to see !-VII. Old Pow had ways, if one must tell, "Good Templars" wont admire : In sooth, such streams he loved too well As largely smacked of fire | Some other weaknesses he showed-We call them such !--- in fine, He loved a row; and, when he could, On some fat friend to dine ! VIII. In sooth, his love for human ham, And morsels in that way. Was such, or half we say 's but sham, As, sometimes, stept astray-And yet, as oft regained its feet, By logic which implied, That friendship never tastes so sweet, As when the friend is fried !--IX. Which learned view still suits a few, In fifty forms to-day! But, Jamestown Fort we've here anew, Let's view it on our way ! A rugged spot, this, sure enough, And colonized, we see, With smoother some, and some as rough As soldiers well can be. Brave feilows, though !- that Sergeant A hero without guile, [Swaggs, Though "not a man of boasts or brags I" Doth swear-right Flanders' style 1 "Our Captain's on a visit gone !" Quoth he, "And, by-Pshaw! If bring he not old Powhattan, A pris'ner, beak and claw,

XI. "Here's Swaggs, to squelch the varmint Whatever hour ye will !--breed, Ye know one, Swaggs 1 Not ye, indeed-His courage or his skill ! Why, see, my mates! by all-well, no! You're right ! I shall not swear ! But when in Holland-tally-ho !--Ha! Swaggs was KNOWN out there 1" Well, valour is a gift, no doubt, And easy to be borne ; But if we wait to hear this out, Our patience might be worn. So, we the Indian village seek, Where, lo1 in his wig-wam, The grand old chief, serene and sleek, Hath dreams of human ham ! XIII. Beside him sits his friend, a WHITE, 'Tis Captain Smith, we know : And Pocahontas, young and bright, There glideth to and fro ! Without, and red as rising day, An Indian youth appears, Who, by the way, in love, they say, Is over head and ears. XIV. A fearful way, 'twould seem, to die; But taste, of course, is all ! I think, with Smith, we still should try To give this Love the wall 1 For oft gives he, with foul intent, As to this youth we've seen, Such sight as sees-if not askant-What poets mean by "green !" XV. He seeth Smith, and, right or wrong, His eye this green assumes, Poor Smith | for you it wont be long, His Prairie Flower blooms ! He knows the tastes of Powhattan, Of Pocahontas, too,-

He knows himself not quite the man To suit the maiden's view;

XVL And so he contemplates a roast Of what, however good As living man, when done as toast, Should still be doubtful food. So, Powhattan he whistles on-"I'll tell you what," said he, "I think we should link on the pan-The fire's not bad, I see! XVIL "For me, in fact, the thing is this---I feel I need a snack ; And think I see one, not amiss, Along that white man's neck !" "Oh, happy thought !" said Powhattan Be scorned, the recreant day, When Powhattan shall, as a man, Say 'No I' unto his 'Tay I'" XVIII. So, straightway, on his braves he calls, And, closing half an eye, "I think, if nicely done, in smalls, Yon friend of ours should fry !" His braves a most approving nod Upon their chief bestow, And soon poor Smith, along the sod Lies, waiting for the blow. XIX. And now, the clubs and tomahawks Hang o'er the poor white man, While, arms a-kimbo, stands or stalks, Beside them, Powhattan. The moment comes-the club is swung Is just about to fall, When Pocahontas-oh, that tongue ! That bound-that maid-that all I XX. She flees, she shrieks, and shrieking fle And o'er the victim bends ; And, shielding him, upon her knees, Her arm the maid extends. "With Pocahontas, as thou wilt, Be done 1" she stemly said ; "But here is blood shall not be spilt-This white man's heart is red /"

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POCAHONTAS: A TALE OF OLD VIRGINIE-Continued.

TOLD IN VERSE BY FRANCIS DAVIS.

XXL Poor girl ! and could it be she loved This haughty English knight? If so, what then i hath he been proved More lovely, in God's sight'i A knight was he !--- an English knight ! God bless the mark-'tis grand ! But who was SHE? In her own light, A PRINCESS of the land ! XXII. Away, away, with "if" and "and," We hold that man is man, Nor more, nor less, howe'er he stand, With knight or Powhattan ! And so, old Pow-who loved his child, Besides a friend, to grill, With appetite a little wild-Was somewhat human still. XXIII. 'Away 1" said he, "we grant his life To your misguided voice ; You yet may be a white man's wife-To, maybe, rue your choice !" Thus sentimental Pow had grown ; For us, we're not of mind, In sentimental chat, alone, To waste our honest wind I XXIV. So, turn to Jamestown Fort, I pray-We can't forget our friends ! Though on our way, I grieve to say, Are awkward odds and ends. For instance, Smith set free, we find, Has wrought the Reds despair: They'll storm the Fort ! Well, never mind, One Sergeant Swaggs is there ! XXV. We know he'll meet them, one for ten, At least, he swore he would ; And surely we, as trustful men, Believe whate'er we should I A noble night for war or spree !

The moon is out, and lo ! A silver punch-bowl might she be, For aught our neighbours know-

XXVI. She shines so bright-so silvery white, He sniffs a something in the wind-While stars of richest sheen, Like golden goblets, left and right, O'er one to fear so bravely blind, Complete the jovial scene ! Less bright beneath, the Council sits, And still he straineth with those eyes, But wheels the bottle, free,-Mong chiefs and braves, while rolls, by fits, Ye'd think his hair had tried to rise, Some huge-voiced melodie ! XXVII. And though the chiefs had dressed in haste, A sound there steals along the gale-Each brain its worth made clear, And not alone its worth, but taste, I did not think this Swaggs so pale, By aptly-regal gear ! And if some tastes dissentious be, Ah, well, at night, these northern airs Our scullery bear the braid : It aped to them our armourie, But Courage kills a thousand cares-On their most recent raid !-XXVIII. Howe'er they're there, in royal state, In vain-in vain 1 he's down like lead, As, witness their attire : Their very helms-like one, of late-The man-he surely is not dead 1 Have been baptized with fire ! One brow from 'neath a saucepan beams, Whose handle brooks it well : If it but act the horn it seems, Queer news it yet may tell ! XXIX. Another wears what horns he may ; But royal Powhattan-A broth-pot, grandly stuffed with hay, Reveals the kingly man ! Well, what are they-or what are we-As shaped by time and tide ? Oh, could we see through wall or tree, There might be less to chide ! XXX. For trees, as well as walls, have ears ; And every evil yow, Perhaps, some Pocahontas hears, As doth that maiden now ! But strangers we to King and Court, "Twere best to move our legs; And, now behold, we're at the Fort,

And here's our noble Swaggs !

Behold, a red-skinned face there nears The Fort, or outer wall-'Tis Pocahontas' self appears-A maiden, after all 1 XXXIV. Brave Swaggs he saw, and bravely thought The Indians were around, And how they might be better fought, He'd gather from the ground. Well, poets, some, I've heard them say, Their jingles string in bed : And may not Swaggs, as braze as they, For study plank his head \$ XXXV. I know not did he e'er explain What form of fight he planned ; But if he did my craven brain Could hardly understand. I only know, had I been Swaggs, And dreams of danger there. I'd, likely, too, have used my legs, But-scarce so high in air !

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XXXII.

Ah, well, he's well prepared ;

Whene'er the branches shake,

The sound of sudden feet-

When first our fate to meet !

His feet are in the air ;

Are bleaching things, we know,

Now, Swaggs !- Ho-ho ! Ho-ho !

Whatever dropped him there 1

XXXIII.

Our pity may be spared !

To keep itself awake !

XXXVL Howe'er, 'tis Pocahontas stands, And soon her tale is told : She telleth of the angry bands About to storm the hold ; But Smith was not to be outdone By Indian craft or guile-The tale through many a stave might run-Alternate tear and smile ! XXXVIL But many staves, like many books, Are weariness of brain ; So, many moons have crossed the brooks, Yet Jamestown doth remain. Yea, more, one eve, it looked as bright As any English scene-For Pocahontas, to a WHITE, That morning wed had been ! XXXVIII. And many a reeking pipe and dram Went round both maid and man, With never a sigh for human ham From crump, old Powhattan ! From early morn till late at night, They frisked it, heel and toe-The bride, to Sergeant Swaggs' delight, Still timing with her bow. XXXIX. But Smith's not there-some English bow'r For him some white rose bore ; Though well he knew our prairie flow'r Had loved him in her core ! And lo I in London when they met, In long, long after years, How oft her paling bloom was wet, With true soul's chastest tears 1 For though our tale, from Fancy's wing, Some rinted down displays, . The beauteous Indian maid we sing, Once charmed the London gaze 1 "La Belle Sauvage !" there found she rest, Oh, softly sleep may she ! And, radiant as the golden west, Be flower'd her memorie !