

most natural—indeed, the only thing in life left for her—would appear to one simply monstrous, and to the other the baldest folly.

She loved her parents sincerely, for, with all her faults, she had never been cold-hearted; and, while she proposed to be resolute, it was with the deepest anxiety and regret that she foresaw the inevitable conflict awaiting.

But when she could think of nothing that could be said which would soften the blow, or make her course appear right or reasonable, as they would look at it, a circumstance occurred which led, as she then believed, to the solution of the problem.

After driving between two and three hours, they reached West Point in safety, and, as they were passing along by the officers' quarters, Lottie recognized a young lady who was one of her most intimate city friends, and who, she soon learned, was making a visit in the country, like herself. Lottie told Bel and Addie to go on to the dancing-hall, while she called on her friend, saying, "I will soon join you."

The relations between Lottie and her friend were quite confidential, and the latter soon bubbled over with her secret. She was engaged to a cadet, who would graduate the following June.

"But he is away down toward the end of his class, and so, of course, will have to go out upon the Plains," she said, with a little sigh.

"What will you do then?" asked Lottie, quickly, a bright thought striking her. "You surely will not exchange your elegant city home for barracks in some remote fort, where you may be scalped any night?"

"I surely will," said the vivacious young lady, "and if you ever become half as much in love as I am, it won't seem a bit strange."

"But what do your parents say to all this?"

"Oh, well, of course they would much prefer that I should marry and settle in New York. But then, you know, mother always had a great admiration for the army, and it's quite the thing, in fashionable life, to marry into the army and navy—why, bless you, Lottie, nearly all the ladies on the post have seen the roughest times imaginable on the frontier, and they come from as good families, and very many of them have left as good homes as mine."

"But how are you going to live on a lieutenant's pay? I have known you to spend more than that on your own dress in a single year."

"What are dresses compared with Lieutenant Ransom? I can learn to economize as well as the rest of them. You can't have everything, Lottie. You know what an officer's rank is. It gives him the *entre* with the best society of the land, and often opens the way for the most brilliant career. These things reconcile father and mother to it, but I look at the man himself. He's just splendid! Come, we'll go over to the hall, and I will introduce you and let you dance with him once—only once, you incorrigible flirt, or you will steal him away from me after all. By the way, who was that handsome man who drove? I fear you bewitched him coming over the mountain, from the way his eyes followed you."

"How does he compare with your Lieutenant Ransom?" asked Lottie.

"No one can compare with him. But why do you ask? Is there anything serious?"

"Will you think so when I tell you that he enters, next summer, on the life of a home-missionary on the western frontier?"

"Oh, how dismal!" exclaimed the young lady. "No, indeed! no danger of your giving him serious thoughts. But you ought not to flirt with such a man, Lottie."

"I do not intend to, nor with any one else, any more. But why do you say 'How dismal?' Your lieutenant will have as rough a frontier life as Mr. Hemstead, and, surely, the calling of the ministry is second to none."

"Well, it seems very different. Nobody thinks much of a home-missionary. Why, Lottie, none of our set ever married a home-missionary, while several have married into the army and navy. So, for heaven's sake, don't let your head become turned by one who looks forward to such a forlorn life. But here we are, and I will make you envious in a moment."

"Miss Marsden," said Hemstead stepping forward as they were entering, "I do not like to hasten you, but there is every appearance of a storm, and the wind is rising. I wish you could induce Addie to leave soon. I will go to the Trophy room for a little while, and then will drive around."

"You may rest assured I will do my best," said Lottie. "I am ready to start now."

"Beware of that man," said her friend; "his eyes tell the same story that I see in Lieutenant Ransom's."

"You have become a little lady of one idea," said Lottie, laughing and blushing, "and all the world is in love, in your estimation."

When Hemstead drove to the door, the snow flakes were beginning to fly, and the wind had increased in force. But Bel was not ready and Addie could not be persuaded to leave at all, nor would she hear of their leaving till the hours set apart for dancing were over. Even then she permitted her cadet friends to detain her several minutes longer.

As the others were, in a certain sense, her guests, they did not like to urge her departure beyond a certain point. Thus it happened that the early December twilight was coming on, and the air full of wildly-flying snow, as the last words were said, and the horses dashed off for the mountains.

But the storm increased in violence every moment, and the air was so filled with flakes that they could not see twenty feet. What caused Hemstead's uneasiness was the fact that the sheltered road that led from the Point along the southern base of the mountains for a long distance before coming to any great ascent, was already somewhat clogged with drifts. Above, on the mountain's crest, he heard a sound as if the north wind were blowing strongly.

He grew very anxious, and finally said, as they reached the point where the road began to rise rapidly, that he thought the attempt to cross that night involved considerable risk. But Addie would not hear of their returning. Her

mother would go wild about them, and would never let her come again.

"It has not snowed very much yet, and if we wait till to-morrow it may be very deep."

"The drifts are what I fear," said Hemstead.

"There were no bad drifts this afternoon," said Addie, "and surely they cannot be deep yet."

Since the following day was Sunday, and New Year's also, it was agreed that they should push on, as returning would involve much that was disagreeable to the party, and create great alarm at Mrs. Marchmont's.

"It will just result in their sending after us, this dreadful night," said Addie. "I don't see why it must storm just when one most wishes it wouldn't."

"We ought to have started sooner," said Bel. "I knew the delay was very wrong, but we were having such a good time."

(Concluded in our next.)

#### CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN GREAT BRITAIN.

On the 1st of January, 1876, there were in England 926 registered co-operative societies; 237 in Scotland, and five only in Ireland; the English societies numbering 420,000 members with a capital stock or fund amounting to \$26,100,000; the Scotch with 59,000 members and a capital of \$2,108,000. In the course of this same year the number of English societies was increased by sixty-four new ones, of which fourteen only were producing societies, the others being distributive. We see that the number of the latter is largely in preponderance, and it would be no exaggeration to claim four-fifths of the total of co-operative societies as distributive societies. They come into collision with far fewer difficulties than other societies, and when they avoid that rock on which so many have been wrecked—furnishing goods on credit they are almost certain of success. The oldest and most famous of these is the "Pioneer" of Rochdale which, established in 1843 by some flannel-weavers of this little town who furnished altogether only the very modest sum of \$140, owned twenty years later a capital of \$215,000 and did an annual business of \$750,000. The distributive society of Gloucester, established in 1860, did not set out in a fashion any more brilliant. At the beginning it had only twenty members, with a capital stock of about \$100; but in 1877 the number of its members had increased to 2,019, and its capital amounted to more than \$95,200, without including their three warehouses, valued at \$55,400.

#### A MYSTERY EXPLAINED.

Parlour scene: Mrs. Brown, who has spent the summer among the White Mountains in search of health, and who seems to have searched the whole mountain side without being able to find a pair of blooming cheeks or an inch of healthful skin: Mrs. White, who had remained at home because her husband could not afford to go, but whose fresh complexion and bright eyes seem to have caught their bloom and brightness from mountain breezes.

Mrs. B.—Dear me, Mrs. White, how well you are looking! If you will not think me impertinent, let me ask how you can keep so healthy in this dreadful city? I have been to the White Mountains, go there every summer, in fact, and I can't keep off the doctor's list at that.

Mrs. W. (smiling)—I'll tell you the whole secret, Mrs. Brown. You remember how poorly I was last spring, some days even being confined to my bed. Dr. told Mr. White to send me to the mountains, but I knew he couldn't afford it, and I tried Dr. Pierce's Favourite Prescription. Its effects were so marvellous that I also tried his Golden Medical Discovery, to cleanse my system. In my opinion, one bottle of the Prescription and the Discovery is better than six weeks of the White Mountains for a sick woman. I have only been out of the city a week during the whole summer; then my husband and I went to Buffalo and stopped at Dr. Pierce's Invalids' and Tourists' Hotel. The baths and mechanical apparatus for treating patients were alone worth going to see. Besides, our accommodations were better than we had at Long Branch last year, and the drives and scenery are superb. Let me advise you to use Dr. Pierce's Favourite Prescription, and try the Invalids' and Tourists' Hotel next summer instead of the White Mountains.

#### LADIES' SHOES.

Among the multiplicity of articles in the British Museum are some well preserved examples of Egyptian sandals made of palm leaves. In one of these, slices of palm leaves overlapping each other form the sole; these being bound securely together by a double band of twisted leaves round the edge. As a pad to the feet these sandals must have been exceedingly pleasant and grateful in a hot climate. Ladies of rank in Egypt paid then, as now, great attention to the beauty of their sandals. In western Asia, slippers left at the door of an apartment signify that the master or mistress, whoever may be therein, is engaged, and no one thinks of intruding, not even a husband, though the apartment be his wife's. A writer, speaking of the termagants of Renares, says: "If domestic or other business calls off one of the combatants before the affair is settled, she coolly thrusts her shoe beneath her basket, and leaves both upon the spot, to signify that she is not satisfied." In this way she indicates that she keeps possession of the ground and argument during her unavoidable absence. A blow from a slipper was more dreaded by Mussulmans than a stroke from a poisoned dagger. The latter might bring death, it is true, but the former brought dishonour. Some of the earliest and most distinctive examples of adorning pretty feet are found in Jewish records. Thus in Solomon's Song (vii. 2), the bride is thus addressed: "How beautiful are thy feet with shoes (sandals), O prince's daughter!" In the case of Judith, of the Apocrypha, although her personal attractions, the splendour of her attire and other ornaments may have attracted the attentions of the fierce Holofernes, the Assyrian general, it was her sandals that chiefly charmed him.—*Public Opinion.*

#### BRITISH AND FOREIGN ITEMS.

JAPAN has now a population of 34,338,404.

DR. DOLLINGER, the learned leader of the Old Catholics, has not gone back to Rome.

SINCE missionaries reduced the Hawaiian language to writing, 107 works have been published in it.

MOUNT ETNA is having a fearful eruption on two of its sides, thirty new craters being opened. Vesuvius is also in eruption.

THE Eames Iron works, at Titusville, Pa., are heated with petroleum, and those interested are carefully watching the experiment.

THE Turkish government have appointed Rev. Dr. Barnum, a missionary of the American Board at Harpoot, a member of the Board of Education for that pashalic.

IN the Stone library at Babylon, Mr. Rassam has discovered an octagonal cylinder on whose sides is engraved a history of Sennacherib's campaign against King Hezekiah.

THE Bulgarian Assembly received with derision a motion to introduce a clause into their new Constitution prohibiting religious proselytism, and not a single member voted for it.

THE Franklin Reformatory Home, in Philadelphia, in its seven years' history, has received 1,014 inebriates, of whom 439 have been permanently cured of their intemperate habits, and 142 benefited and hopefully reformed.

THE "Missionary Herald" says that only two graduates of Theological Seminaries this season enter the work of the American Board, and that their ordained missionaries are nine less now than were enrolled five years ago.

OF the 120,000 inhabitants of the Fiji Islands, where cannibalism and heathen cruelty and wickedness prevailed, over 102,000 are regular attendants at Wesleyan chapels, and many of the remainder are members of other Christian churches.

A STATISTICIAN declares that an ounce of bread wasted daily in each household in England and Wales is equal to 25,000,000 quartern loaves, or enough to feast annually 10,000 people, and that an ounce of meat thus wasted is equal to 300,000 sheep.

BERLIN is agitated by a police order that all dance houses shall be closed at midnight. This would not seem very oppressive to decent people, but the word comes that hundreds will be ruined by enforcing it, though nothing is said of the thousands who would be ruined by not enforcing it.

THE "Tribune" says that the oldest house in America is at Dedham, Mass., having been built in 1636 by Jonathan Fairbanks, who came from Yorkshire, Eng., and settled in Massachusetts bay in 1630. The mansion is in good preservation and has never passed out of possession of the family.

A MISSIONARY of the Church Missionary Society from West Africa stated at their anniversary that 25 years ago it was calculated that in the preceding 35 years 500,000 of the natives had lost their lives in the slave wars, and that 300 towns had been swept away. Since then probably 80,000 or 100,000 have perished in the same way.

AT the recent anniversary of the British and Foreign Bible Society, the Bishop of Gloucester referred to the labour required for the translation of the Bible, and said that though portions of the Scriptures had been translated into 200 tongues, only 56 had the whole Bible, so that the missionaries had still an arduous and a holy work before them.

AT the beginning of this century the Turkish government allowed only 300 Jews to live within the city of Jerusalem. Within the last ten years all restrictions have been removed, and now there are over 13,000 inhabiting their ancient capital. They have bought up the old houses and built a large number of new, and have established schools and hospitals.

THE statistics of the Free Church of Italy, as given in the eighth annual report, are as follows, viz.: Twelve ordained ministers, 13 evangelists, 37 elders, 65 deacons, 14 deaconesses, 1,635 communicants, 183 catechumens, 588 Sabbath-school children, 1,206 pupils in night-schools, 21 teachers in the day-schools, 1,465 regular hearers of the Gospel, 1,694 occasional hearers, 33 churches, and 30 out-stations occasionally visited. The contributions of the Church last year amounted to \$1,748.

BISHOP COLEMAN has lately given expression in very strong language to his sense of the injustice of the British invasion of Zululand. He states that the Zulus had "always been friendly" towards the British, and that the latter have blundered into unwarrantable hostilities with them. "England is likely to look back on the inglorious and irritating Afghan and Zulu wars with indignation and contempt for our rulers at home and representatives abroad, who have led us into these needless and costly frays."

THE "cooked food" question in famine relief amongst the people of all castes in India is a very vexed one. The Government Report on the relief in Oude says: "Brahmins of one family will not eat food cooked by Brahmins of another. Thakooris will not eat food cooked by a Brahmin at all, unless they know that he is a man of good family and of good moral character. I do not think that any of the respectable classes would eat food cooked by a Brahmin of notoriously bad livelihood. Some castes, the Gwalbans Ahirs for instance, will not touch food cooked by a Brahmin, and Gararias throw away food cooked by themselves if a Brahmin has come into contact with it. Most of these difficulties might be overcome in the case of a relief kitchen kept open by a wealthy Hindu. The character at least of the cook can be depended upon, and that the food has been prepared with a proper regard to the ordinances of religion. This can never be the case with a Government kitchen." The pioneer says that a government agent sent out a Chappie to bring in a colony of people known to be starving in a village, who said they would rather die than lose their caste, and a week later two of them crawled in saying the rest had died.