

company in town that would hazard the insurance."

"Why not?" inquired Winnifred.

"Why not? Because they thought he was too old, or his health too delicate, I suppose. But mother is looking sleepy, we had better go to bed, I think," said Frank.

Thus closed this conversation, and preparations were made for retiring. In this way passed most of the evenings at Woodbine cottage; perhaps few happier homes could be found in L—, and few lives had known less sorrow than that of Winnifred Austin. Her father dying when she was too young to feel his loss, perhaps the only grief she had ever experienced was on her friend Elna's account, and the sorrow we feel for others' woes—however much we may love and sympathize with them—is not like the crushing anguish which swallows up all else in its bitterness; the heart-breaking sorrow which is felt when death tears from us with ruthless hand those dearest to us, or when a hasty word separates us from them for years.

To Winnifred Austin it would have been impossible to realize the sorrow which poor Jessie Wyndgate now suffered,—all her bright hopes for the future shattered in one terrible moment,—he who was dearer to her than her own life, taken from her by a sudden and fearful death; or even to understand the depth of Elna Clifford's daily, hourly grief, weighing on her young spirit so heavily that she could never have borne it, had she not been sustained by a strength not her own,—by His almighty power, who sustaineth all, however heavily laden, if they put their burdens upon Him.

(To be continued.)

Original.

THE GREAT NORTH-WEST.—No. II.

BY GEO. VICTOR LE VAUX.

Towards the close of the last century, a trading depot was established by the Hudson Bay Company at the junction of the Assiniboine and Red Rivers. This depot was called Fort Garry, and is now known

as Winnipeg City, being about fifty miles south of the lake bearing that name. In 1811, the country surrounding this fort, to the extent of fifty miles, was ceded to Earl Selkirk, who induced many emigrants to settle in the immediate neighborhood, and along the fruitful banks of the rivers. In a few years the population of the embryonic colony numbered six thousand inhabitants. Twice since then its existence has been threatened by the Indians, but its hardy sons meeting the enemy, as Celt and Saxon have always done, rolled back the tide of war, and chased the red man of the West to his woods and wilds, leaving him a wiser if not a better warrior. The population of the settlement now exceeds *thirteen thousand*. Winnipeg City is beautifully situated for commercial purposes. It commands a very extensive trade with the United States, *via* the Red River, and with the Great West, *via* the Assiniboine. The united rivers from the city to the lake are capable of floating vessels of the largest tonnage. This settlement, now surrounded by a vast wilderness, and far removed from the civilized world, is nevertheless destined to become the nucleus of a new empire, which, in days to come, will exercise no small influence on the affairs of men. Fort Garry cannot fail to become a very large city. Nature seems to have intended it as a western metropolis. There is no other site in the North-West which can surpass it as a great *inland* commercial emporium. It is a very "fast city," for such an out-of-the-way place. It contains a cathedral (R. C.), an Episcopal church, a kirk, two Methodist chapels, a college, and several schools.

Lake Winnipeg is about 300 miles long, and from 5 to 60 in breadth. It communicates with Lake Superior, through the Lake of the Woods; but the intermediate stream, being very shallow and broken by rapids, is totally unfit for navigation. The Saskatchewan, the principal tributary of Lake Winnipeg, is 1,300 miles in length; the Red River, 700; and the Assiniboine, 500. This lake discharges its surplus waters into Hudson Bay, by the Nelson River. During