

A CASE OF NECESSITY.

By MARY E. BRADLEY. (Continued.) 'I am glad,' he murmured, 'very glad, Helen, to know that...'

'I never heard you talk so much nonsense before, Helen,' he said, almost cheerfully. 'But it does me good...'

'I went, obediently, and made myself comfortable on a couch in the library...'

'The doctor came round at sunrise, before the town was stirring, and was gratified by my report of a serene night...'

'But don't imagine that it will last long,' he said, warningly. 'This is only the beginning, you know...'

'You and Mr. Parkinson! You don't lack for modesty, do you, Jimmy?'

'So it is, Jimmy, I agree with you. How did you happen to have the honor?'

'Well, it came around in a queer kind of way, Miss Helen. Me neither, you see, had the habit of bating me...'

'It was just returned Jimmy. You're smart at a guess; ain't you, Miss Helen? Me neither had chased me, you see, till my head was turned like, I didn't jump far enough to get clear of the rocks...'

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homely face lighted up so that for the minute it looked beautiful to me; and I felt a sudden warmth of affection for Jimmy that had never occurred to me as possible before...'

'You are a good boy, I said, and gave him a beaming smile that was straightway reflected among his freckles from ear to ear...'

'The kitchen had a lonely and deserted air as I went into it; but Jimmy had lighted a fire, and opened the shutters, and I found without difficulty the materials to make breakfast...'

'But I remembered now, with a different feeling, how he had let another man woo and win the girl he loved, in order that he might support and educate Miss Prissy...'

'The doctor was bearing, indeed, of kindly messages and inquiries every day. But the fact remained that the house was shunned, as a pest-house would have been, and not a human creature would so much as pass by it...'

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'God forgive her!' I said to myself, as I took the great up-stairs. 'But I am afraid I meant 'God punish her'!

'I felt as if I watched him helpless and suffering, with the cruel disease gaining upon him hour by hour, such a tenderness for him, and such a great indignation against those who had deserted him without pity, that I was hardly just or reasonable...'

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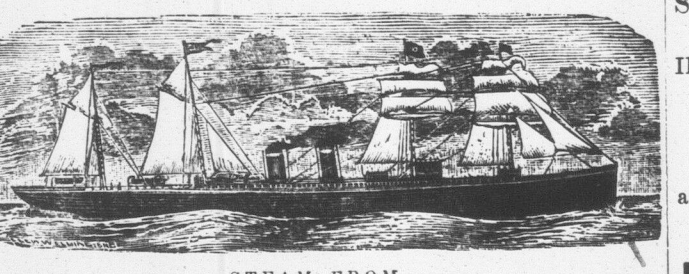
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