

And she threw her arms around his neck and covered his face with kisses.

"Nellie, darling, wait a little, and you shall have the old Tom back again."

"Oh, Tom! I've got him now, bless him! bless him! my own Tom! my husband! my darling!"

And then Tom Darcy realized the full power and blessing of a woman's love.

It was a banquet of the gods, was that supper—of the household gods all restored—with the bright angels of peace and love and joy spreading their wings over the board.

On the following Monday morning Tom Darcy assumed his place at the head of the great machine shop, and those who thoroughly knew him had no fear of his going back into the slough of joylessness.

A few days later Tom met Peter Tindar on the street.

"Eh, Tom, old boy, what's up?"

"I am up, right side up."

"Yes, I see; but I hope you haven't forsaken us, Tom!"

"I have forsaken only the evil you have in store, Peter. The fact is, I concluded that my wife and little ones had fed on husks long enough, and if there was a good kernel left in my heart, or in my manhood, they should have it."

"Ah, you heard what I said to my wife that night?"

"Yes, Peter; and I shall be grateful to you for it as long as I live. My remembrance of you will always be relieved by that tinge of warmth and brightness."—From *"The West Shore."*

SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

THE EUROPEAN POWERS are ill at ease, and war may soon break out between Russia and Austria, about Turkey. Even France and Germany mutter threats against one another in secret, and sometimes in public.

BELGIUM AND FRANCE are in trouble with strikes and bloody riots. Indeed these are the epidemic of the day through the wide world. In America, Trades' Unions' strikes are rife far and near among miners, foundrymen, carmen, railwaymen, etc., etc., to the great hurt of trade, and the danger of famine in some towns.

IN IRELAND the Catholics are eager for Parnell's and Gladstone's policy, but the opposition to Home Rule among all sections of Protestantism in Ireland continues with unabated vigor. A Dublin despatch states:—"A deputation of Presbyterians presented to the Earl of Aberdeen, the Lord-Lieutenant, an address of wel-

come on behalf of the General Assembly. The address assures the Government of the unwavering loyalty of the Assembly, and insists that the maintenance of the union in its fullest integrity is essential to the peace of Ireland. It declares that half a million Irish Presbyterians will oppose to the utmost any attempt to sever the union. Lord Aberdeen replied briefly, saying he hoped that at no distant date an era of peace would be inaugurated in Ireland." In this connection the opinion of the historian Froude, who has recently been invited to visit Belfast and deliver a lecture on the present state of Ireland, is worth quoting:—"The present state of things is the inevitable consequence of all that has gone before. It will end as the 1641 business ended, or the 1700, or the 1798. The anarchy will grow till it becomes intolerable. 'John Bull' will then put on his boots, and will do as he did before. What may happen in the interval I do not pretend to guess. You in Ulster I hope to see holding your own ground. *Stand steady whatever comes*. The real England is asleep just now. She will wake before long, and will then know what to do."

IN the British House of Commons, Healy, Nationalist, opposed a grant of £1,200 for medals for the Volunteers who took part in the campaign against Louis Riel. He said if Canada chose to go to war with Riel she ought to pay for the medals. W. H. Smith and Lord Randolph Churchill denounced Healy, and praised the Volunteers. Mr. Gladstone urged that the rejection of the proposed grant might possibly create a bad feeling in Canada. The sum for the medals was agreed to by 209 to 63.

Mr. Charles Cameron, member for the College division of Glasgow, a Radical, introduced a motion for the disestablishment and disendowment of the Church of Scotland. Mr. Gladstone declined to interfere with the Scotch Church question. Scotchmen, he said, were eminently able to decide the question for themselves. Mr. Cameron's motion was rejected by 237 to 125.

THE IRISH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH resumes its friendly relations with the Church of Scotland, after 42 years of estrangement.

THE SCOTCH ESTABLISHED CHURCH has 1,306 parishes, 160 non-parochial churches, and 121 preaching stations, making 1,587 in all. 879 parishes receive from "teinds" £300,000; 232 parishes from the National Exchequer, £17,040; 41 parishes from local funds, £23,501; 342 parishes have been endowed by the Church itself since 1845, so as to receive a total of £42,500. There are 555,622 communicants. The Foreign Mission Committee received last year £19,182; Home Mission Scheme, £9,612;