Near the city of the sun, Stands a woman's lonely dwelling, Sphinxes guard the threshold-stone Carved with signs beyond my telling.

walt."

She fell bound to display hospitality after the manner of her mother, and made a meritorious but fattle effort to dust the chair with her frock in flett of apron; but by no means at her disposal could she succed in getting at more than an inch of the sent of the chair.

"I'm not big enough sir," she said ruefully, "put some other morning, when I'm big, you'll come—won't you, sir?"

"Perhaps, my dear child. Perhaps." He poited her disordered hair and sat down.

"But, indeed, when I'm big, I'll do it like mother, i know how. Bon't you come?"

"I'f I can, my child. If I can you may be sure I will." He had not been thinking of her willingness to do him the service; but he had been wondering where he should be when she was "big." "How beautiful," he thought while the child had been speaking, "are some of the spurit of charity in the little child. When she is grown up how will it bowith her? Will she be like her mother, as good and full of faith as we can expect to find here below; or will she be forward, and raise her eyes carelessly to "Father often sits like that," broke in the

"I wasn't asleep, my dear. I was only think ing."
"Then I wish father wouldn't think. It

"Then I wish harder trightens me." And it frightens me, too," thought the priest with a shielder.

After some time he said, "But, Mary, you are not all alone in the house? I su't some one stoving here?"

are not in acone in the nouse? Isn't some one staying here?"
"Oh, yes, str. John Lane. Father brought him here yesterday, and mother put him to sleep in the other room, and he can't speak, but can whistle like birds and make noises like the wind."
The tiny speaker seemed much impressed with the wonderfulness of all this, and, as she spoke, stared with her round blue eyes at the clergyman.

to each one of his neighbors without distinction.

"We'reall the same," he would say, "Where is the difference between us? I don't know out the man who seems worst, may be heter than the man who seems best; such matter, when they don't affect me, are no part of my business, but each man's own."

On the evening of that day, Ed. Martin went to sen as usual his wife had to go down to the village, and the two children were left awhile toge her. When she returned, she tothal dohn Lane sitting on a chair at the open door, and little Mary on a stool at his feet. A cloud passed over the face of the mother. The intrader had dissipated the likeness of home, and was a cold and durbidding impertimene. Her daughter ran eagerly towards her, and eaching her by the skirt cried in load, happy cheerful voice:

"Oh, mather; come, come!" dragging her in

it voice; "Oh, mother; come, come!" dragging her in Henven?"

"Father often sits like that," broke in the little maid quite freely. She had no awe of lim.

"Like what?" he asked with a start.

"Asleep with his eyes open."

"Mayee!"

"Mayee!"

The mother started back and gazed in terror awhile at him, then catelling her own child in her arms she shook her, and pressed her almost savagely in her arms to the girl, who began to wishinger at the rough treatment and tingentle looks.

"Who taught him that? Wheat villain taught this child of darkness my child's mane for a first word? Who? tell me!

"I," marmared Mary, between sobs.

"You! you! you!" The woman seemed half frantic with superstitious terrors. "How dare you, miss! How dare you, you batchild! Oh! indeforme on the day that brought him to my house, to be under the same roof whits my think. Edward Martin, if evil comes of this, how will you answer me?"

"Mayee," repeated the boy, looking up with some slight awakening of interest. Trees people were becoming less shadowy to him by this time.

At the repetition of the strauge, thin, unfa-

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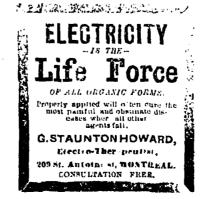
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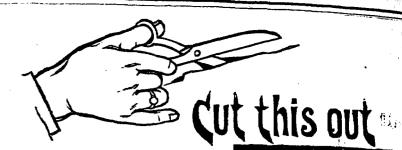
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