'I don't know as I've anything to give, said Farmer Foxglove, looking dubiously around the kitchen. 'Philena, she don't believe in giving much, unless it's through the "Church Benevolent Guide." And Seraphina isn't

The Widow Waterman gave a little sniff of mingled deprecation and humil-

'Times is very bad with me, Mr. Foxglove,' said she. 'I hain't had no work since August, and there ain't nothin' to eat in the house.'

'You don't tell me!' said the farmer, who was the softest-hearted of men. Here, give me your basket! Philena'll say I'm an old fool; but I don't care.' 'There's them as has entertained angels unawares,' whined the widow

and held out her talon-like fingers to the hearth. Anything less akin to the angelic I'm sure it don't matter to me.' tribe than Mrs. Waterman could

a gauzy rag of a shawl pulled across pail when a tall figure approached.

But Mr. Foxglove, honest man, saw only her poverty and destitution. With a trepidation not unlike the of the head. 'Or, if you do, please sensation of a school-boy who robs an call me Miss Foxglove! orchard for the first time, he went into the buttery and helped himself to half a cold roast fowl, a loaf of rye-bread, a goodly wedge of yellow butter out of a covered stone jar, and three-quartars of a juicy apple-pie. 'It'll keep her for twenty-four hours

at least,' he thought. And then he opened Mrs. Foxglove's handful of the fragrant dried leaves, which he wrapped up in a brown paper and put beside the other viands.

'I dunno what Philena will say,' he thought; 'but there! I ain't made of stunnor yet of cast iron and steel filin's. And I can't stand by and see a fellow. creetus starve, no matter how shiftless and good-for-nothin' she is.'

And, chancing to notice how thin and inadequate the poor old woman's bly thanking you all the same, I'd shawl was, he recklessly took down an old bombazine cloak, originally a bright brown, but now faded in as many streaks as a zebra's hide, which had hung from time immemorial in the back entry.

Mrs. Waterman went off rejoicing. And when the first glow of satisfaction had faded out of Farmer Foxglove's soul, a dreadful fear took possession of him.

'What will Philena think?' said he.

of Heathen in jubilant spirits.

wanted to walk home with Scraphina. Just as if our gal was goin' to keep company with a feller like that, as hasn't got a penny in the world, and And the roast chicken was very good, works at the saw-mill for a crown a day! Not if I know it.'

'Certainly not,' said the farmer in a conciliatory tone. head, and said nothing 'La, me!' said probability of being invited to sit down, Mrs. Foxglove from the kitchen. What has come to things? Here's the cold self once more to the mysterious silence chicken and the apple-pie gone!' And

the cover off the butter-jar, too!' 'Y-yes,' said the farmer, coughing, I-I got sort of hungry, so I thought I'd jest take a smack.'

'Couldn't you have waited until supper-time?' said Mrs. Foxglove severely. Her husband was silent. Was it not just possible, he thought, that the recording angel might balance that ready falsehood against his recent act of charity, so that his soul should be none the gainer by the compound transaction? It was so hard always to tell

what was right. 'I was calculating on that chicken for we shall have to put up with cold boiled pork and mustard. But I don't suppose Nehemiah, you'll want to eat

'Ne' of course not,' said the poor man, who was voraciously hungry. 'Where's the bombazine cloak, pa? said Seraphina, after the somewhat frugal supper, as she took down the milking pail. 'It's raining a little and the cows haven't come home from pasture yet.'

'I'll go after them, Phiny,' said the farmer, starting up with alacrity.' 'With your rheumatism? No, indeed, said Seraphina. 'What can have become of the cloak? I'm sure I left it

here this morning.' 'If I had a pair of eyes, I'd use them,' said Mrs. Foxglove, coming to the rescue and viewing the row of empty pegs with an eagle glance. 'Well I theless he went home rejoicing. declare! Nehemiah,' turning to her husband, 'that comes of leaving you to keep house. You must have gone off and left the door open, and some tramp

has got in and robbed us.' 'I did just step out to the wood-pile for some more logs,' said the farmer, thankful for the avenue of escape that was open to him. 'But I wasn't gone

'That's it,' said Mrs. Foxglove, with a tone of conviction; 'That's it! I do wonder at you, Nehemiah. Any fouryear-old child would have known better. I shall count all my silver spoons at

The farmer wriggled uneasily in his cushioned rocking-chair. 'I wish old Mrs. Waterman had been on the North Shore for style and price in Jerico, before she came here!' he said to himself. 'I wish Philena would stay at home and look after things her-

self. It will be the last time I ever get caught in that trap! Meanwhile pretty Serephina, singing softly to herself, folded an old striped shawl around her taper shoulders, and went out to the pastures after the

truant company of cows. Old Tulip's bell was jingling among the silver-stemmed birches on the bleak hill; they were already on the homeward path, but Serephina loitered un-

minute at the toot-bridge that spanned a brawling brook. All was still and dusk; a certain frosty sweetness was in the autumn air, and the only visible person was a woman farther down the brook, who

was dipping out water. Suddenly there was another stepstrong, swift-and full of purposegrinding down the brittle branches and dead leaves in his progress. Serephina's eyes brightened; a vivid

color rose into her cheeks. 'There he comes, now !' she murmured. 'There comes George!'

To her surprise and dismay, however, the cavalier did not come up the hill, but stayed his steps beside the other woman below.

'He is throwing his arms around her neck' thought indignant Seraphina. Waterman, as she sidled into the room; 'He is—he is actually kissing her! Are the fire of good pine logs which was crackling and sputtering cheerfully on the hearth.

men absolutely without truth and faithfulness in this age of the world?

But I don't care! Why should I care?

No more meditation, pausing for the scarcely be imagined as she sat there with bedraggled gown, bonnet bent in a one-sided fashion over her eyes, and She was just carrying in the foaming

> 'Serephina?' 'Pray don't trouble yourself to speak to me, sir,' said Seraphina, with a toss

> And Seraphina vanished through the kitchen door. 'What's the matter, Phiny?' said her mother, noticing the girl's quick move-

ments and heightened color.

'Nothing, ma,' said Seraphina. It; was getting towards nine o'clock, and Mr. Foxglove had already indulged And then he opened Mrs. Foxglove's in one or two surreptitious naps, as his especial tin tea-caddy, and filched a wife read the newspaper aloud in monotonous accents, and Seraphina darned stockings, when there came knock at the door.

Mrs. Foxglove opened it. There stood the Widow Waterman, with her limp bonnet and inevitable sniff. 'I hope I'm not intruding,' said Mrs. Waterman, 'but here's the brown bombazine clock, Mr. Foxglove, and, humrather not wear it.'

'Eh?' said Mr. Foxglove in amaze-

'It was very kind of you to give it to me,' went on Mrs. Waterman, to the utter and total discomfiture of the poor farmer, 'but there's some things as dud, he thought. And it'll keep the human flesh and blood can't bear, and cold out! And if Philena makes a fuss, I'll give her a new blanket shawl!' to have Deacon Pullaby's son asking if he could not see me home when I came out of the store, and Mr. Ferdinand Pluff saying was I to be at the dance at Melinda Edward's on Tuesday night, and might he call for me at eight o'clock-well, its rather upsetting But the worst of it all was when I went 'I guess, upon the whole, that I won't say nothin' about it.'

to get a little water at the brook—for my hogshead dropped all to pieces Presently Mrs. Foxglove and Sera- that last hot weather we had in Sep phina came home from the weekly meeting of the Society for the Helpers of Heathen in inhibitant animals. George Paterson was there, said Mrs. Foxglove. 'He said he came after his aunt, but it was my belief that he wanted to said he came after all,' with a meaning glance at Seraphina Foxglove. please to take it back, I'll try and get along with my old shawl a spell longer.

sir,' with a courtesy in the direction of the luckless farmer, 'and that applepie couldn't be beat.' There was a moment's direful silence, But Scraphina only hung down her and then Mrs. Waterman, seeing n

> 'Well, I declare!' said Mrs. Foxglove 'Ma, don't scold pa!' said Scraphin halfway between laughing and crying. The farmer feebly rubbed his hands 'I think I'll go to bed,' said he.

And he went. While Seraphina running out to the well for a pitcher of water, the last thing before shutting the house for the night, had nearly stumbled against poor George Pater

'Goodness me! what are you doing here?' said Seraphina. 'I can't go home and sleep, Seraphina, while you are angry with me,' supper,' said Mrs. Foxglove. 'Now said the poor young fellow, who was very desperately in love. 'What have I done to deserve your coldness?'

Even in the starlight he could see Seraphina's eyes sparkle. 'Nothing,' she answered. 'Exceptexcept that you can't blame me for being jealous when I see you hugging and kissing the Widow Waterman!' 'It was the cloak, Seraphina—the brown cloak, that misled me,' pleaded

George. 'I thought of course it was 'Oh, its all very well to talk!' said And she began to wind up the

chain with great energy. And Mrs. Foxglove thought that Seraphina had never before been so long in bringing a pitcher of water. To George Paterson, however, the moments seemed winged, but never-Seraphina had forgiven him.

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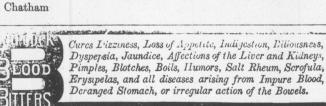
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