

She could not be thankful enough that she had yielded to the impulse which drew her back to St. Christopher's. Otherwise—but she crushed that thought before it existed.

She glanced at the poor, bare room and at the bowed man who sat at a table by the window. Gray hairs were plentifully sprinkled among the brown locks; the clasped hands were emaciated; his clothes were pitifully thin and threadbare. Again that great wave of sympathy swept over her and faintly but surely the flame of love which she had believed forever dead, glowed upon its long deserted altar. She moved with light step to his side and gently passed her fingers over his hair in a caress which spoke eloquently to his breaking heart.

"Edward," she said, after some minutes, "our every thought must now be for her. We must take her—home—at once. Will you see the doctor and arrange with him?"

Orders were sent to the beautiful home, where all was made ready for the dear child. The physician and a skilled nurse did all that human care could do for her safe passing from this dreary room to the lovely one which had been Amy's. Agnes never once left her darling's side until she was quietly resting beneath her own roof. Even then it was with difficulty that she could be persuaded to give herself the food and rest she needed. Life for her has resolved itself into one agonized prayer:

"O, Father in heaven, spare us this dear child!"

Over and over and over again ceaselessly she breathed this petition. Once Edward, standing always near the bed like a silent shadow, heard her speak the words aloud, and he blessed her for the little pronoun which was all for days that told him he was remembered by her.

"Spare us this dear child!" He, too, could pray now. He dared feel sure that the loving Father who reads all hearts to their very depths had forgiven him for the sin he had been mercifully stayed from committing. It was for Edith's sake, dear, loving Edith, who, in these latter years, had known so few girlish pleasures and had been so unselfishly devoted to her father, whom misfortune seemed to have marked for its own.

He had known all too well how this illness must, in all human probability, end before many days, and he had grown bitter as he thought of the things she needed which it was out of his power to give her. But this one thing, an Easter lily for Easter Day, almost the only thing for which she had expressed a wish, he had determined that she should have. Every article of his clothing and of furniture not absolutely in use he had sold. The few dollars left from his last pittance of wages he dared not touch. From the one or two places where he had begged a lily he had been turned away. His hollow cheeks had burned crimson with shame, his bleeding heart swelled with disappointment.

"She shall have it!" he muttered fiercely. "I will steal it!"

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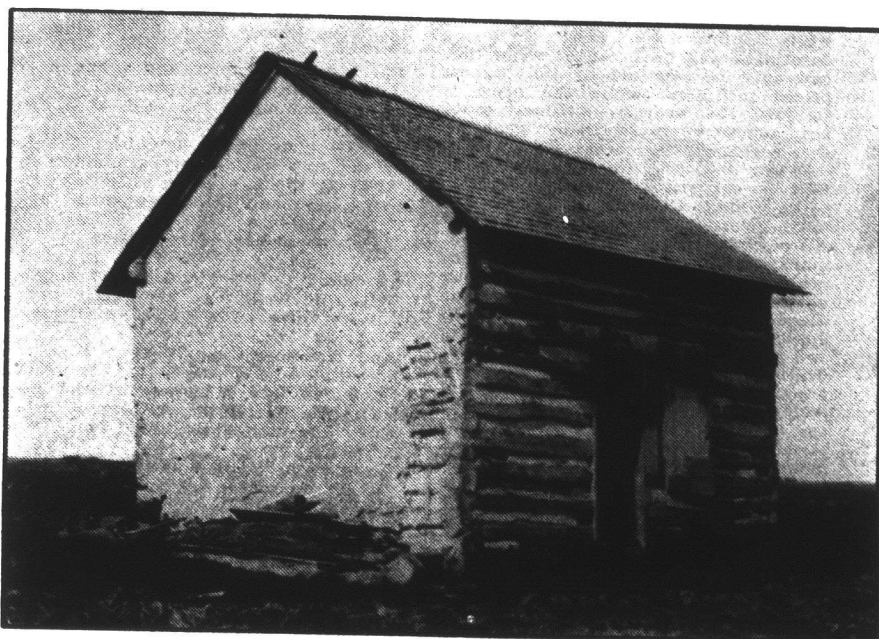
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So, setting his teeth hard and calling upon all his wits to aid him, the wretched father had crept into St. Christopher's.

He thought of all this now as a horrid dream. It was almost impossible to realize it as he stood in the dainty room, where every luxury abounded, and looked up at Amy's glad young face and down upon that of his idolized Edith. She was receiving every constant care that love and wealth could procure. How he rejoiced in this! How little he cared what became of his miserable self now that he could leave her in her



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mother's arms, secure from every earthly harm! He thought much of his mother in those long, silent hours of watching. She was far sweeter and nobler than the girl he had married or the woman he had left; as high above him as the stars at that moment shining down upon the quiet earth. A sharp spasm of pain shot through him as he thought that soon now, very soon, the time would come when he must step out from this haven of rest. He found that he could not, after all, be wholly happy in the knowledge that Edith's rescue from the hardness of life with him.

It was just at the dawn which followed this, the darkest of all his dark nights, that the doctor told them that Edith would live. For hours she had been passing through the crisis—the balance had hung perfectly poised—but at last it had turned, and a great gladness filled that home.

For a moment after she had heard the blessed tidings Agnes Seabright stood motionless, her hands tightly clasped, her face as pale as marble. The doctor looked toward her anxiously, fearing she was about to swoon. But she brushed his staying hand away and went to her husband's side.

"Come, Edward," she said gently, clasping her fingers about his cold ones, "let us thank God together."

They passed into another room. When they returned, the bright shining of a glorious Easter day had risen on their lives.

Good Rules to Follow.

1. Have a definite aim.
2. Go straight for it.
3. Master all details.
4. Always know more than you are expected to know.
5. Remember that difficulties are only made to be overcome.
6. That failures are stepping-stones to further effort.
7. Never put your hand out further than you can draw it back.
8. At times be bold; always be prudent.
9. The minority often beats the majority in the end.
10. Make good use of other men's brains.
11. Listen and answer cautiously; decide promptly.
12. Preserve by all means in your power a sound mind in a sound body.

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