

THE CASTING AWAY OF MRS. LECKS AND MRS. ALESHINE.

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We now went back to the house and ascended the main stairway, which led up to a large contral hall.

The first chamber we entered was a good-sized one, neatly fursished, containing a bedsend. Mrs. Lecks exclaimed; "This is a monitor of the contral of the c

would know about it, tramps might break in an about as they like."

"That's just what's happenin' now," said Mrs. Lecks,
"and for my part I ain't goin' to find no fault. I don't suppose
the people would have been so hard-hearied as to turn us
away from their doors, but I've seen enough of folks in this
world not to be too sure about that."

"How do you suppose," said Mrs. Aleshive, addressing me,
"that the family gets here and goes back? Do they keep a
private steamboat?"
"Of course they have a private vessel of some kind," I

private steamboat?"

"Of course they have a private vessel of some kind," I answered, "probably a yacht. It is quite certain that ordinary steamers never touch here."

"If that's the case," said Mrs. Lecks, "all we can do is to "If that's the case," said Mrs. Lecks, "all we can do is to wait here till they come, and get them to send us away in their ship. But whether they've just gone or are just a comin' back depends, I suppose, on whether they live in a freezin' or back depends, I suppose, on whether they live in a freezin' or a burnin' country; and if they don't like our bein' here when a burnin' country here when a burni

minds to, and that is that I'm never going to leave this place on a life-preserver."

"'Nor me, nuther." said Mr. Aleshine, finishing, with much complacency, her third cup of tea.

When breakfast was over, Mrs. Lecks addressed Mrs. Aleshine, who had begun to gather together the cups and the plates. "Now, Barb'ry Aleshine," said she, "don't you begin plates. "Now, Barb'ry Aleshine," said she, "don't you begin to clear off the table, nor touch a single thing to wash it up, till we've been over this house. I want to do it now, before Mr. Craig goes out to prospect around and see what else is on the island, which I suppose he'll be wantin' to do. It's come to me," speaking very gravely, "that it's no use for us to talk of the family bein' here of bein' there, till we've gone over this house. If we find that they have, as far as we know, gone away in good health and spirits, that's all well enough; but if anythin's happened in this house, I don't want to be here with what's happened—at least without knowin' it; and when we do go over the house, I want a man to go with us."

to go with us."

"If you'd talked that way last night, Mrs. Lecks," ex"If you'd talked that way last night, Mrs. Aleshine, "I'd never slept till after sun-up, claimed Mrs. Aleshine, "I'd never slept till after sun-up, claimed from your pand gone huntin' round among them frocks and petticoats to find somethin' that would fit me, with the quiet pulse I did have, Mrs. Lecks!"

To this remark Mrs. Lecks made no reply, but, rising, she led the way out of the kitchen and into the house.

The rooms on the first floor were very well furnished. There was a large parlor, and back of it a study or library, while on the other side of the hall was a dining-room, and an apartment probably used as a famliy room. Then we went up tairs, I leading the way, Mrs. Lecks following, and Mrs. Aleshine in the rear. We first entered one of the front chambers, which was quite dark, but Mrs. Lecks unfastened and threw open a shutter. Then, with a rigid countenance and determined mien, she examined every part of the room, looked into every closet, and even under the bed.

We next visited the chamber recently occupied by my two companions, which was now undergoing the process of "airiag."

"We needn't stop here," remarked Mrs. Aleshine. But Mrs. Lecks instantly replied, "Indeed we will stop; I'm goin' to look under the bed."

"Merciful me!" exclaimed Mrs. Aleshine, putting her hand on her friend's shoulder. "Supposin' you should find somethin', and we sleepin' here last night! It curdles me to think of it!"

"It's my duty," said Mrs. Lecks severely, "and I shall do

think of it!"
"It's my duty," said Mrs. Lecks severely, "and I shall do

And do it she did, rising from the task with a sigh of relief.

My room was subjected to the same scrutiny as the others;
and then we visited some smaller rooms at the extreme back
of the house, which we had not before noticed. A garret, or
loft, was reached by a steep stairway in one of these rooms,
and into its dusky gloom I ventured by myself.

"Now, don't come down, Mr. Craig," said Mrs. Lecks, "till
you're sure there's nothin'there. Of all places in the house
that cock-loft, after all, is the most likely."

I had none of the fears which seemed to actuate the two
women, but I had a very unpleasant time of it, going about
in the darkness and heat. I made myself quite sure, however,
that nothing had happened in that loft unless some one had
suffocated there, and had dried up and become the dust which
I raised at every step.

in the darkness and heat. I made myself quite sure, nowever, that nothing had happened in that loft unless some one had suffocated there, and had dried up and become the dust which I raised at every step.

"Now, then," said Mrs. Lecks, when I descended, "as there is no cellar, we'll go wash up the breakfast things; and if you want to take a walk, to see if there's any genuwine heathens or anybody else a-livin' in this island, we're not afraid to be left alone."

For the whole of the rest of the morning I wandered about the island. Nowhere did I see any sign of habitation or occupation, except at the house which had given us shelter, nor any opening through the surrounding reef, except the barred passage way through which we had come.

When I returned to the house, I found that Mrs. Lecks and Mrs. Aleshine had been hard at work all the morning. They had, so to speak, gone regularly and systematically to house-keeping, and had already divided the labors of the establishment between them. Mrs. Aleshine, who prided herself on her skill in culinary matters, was to take charge of the cooking, while Mrs. Lecks assumed the care of the various rooms and the general management of the household. This arrangement was explained to me at length; and when I remarked that all this seemed to indicate that they expected to remain here for a long time, Mrs. Lecks replied:

"Mrs. Aleshine and me has talked it over, and we've made up our minds that the right thing to do is just to go along and attend to things as if we was a-going to stay here for a month or two; and it may be even longer than that before the people come back. And I don't think they'll have anything to complain of when they find their house in apple-pie order, their windows washed, their floors clean, and not a speck of dust anywhere."

"For my part," said Mrs. Aleshine, "I don't see what they've got to find faut with, anyway. I look on this as part of the passage. To be sure we ain't movin' a bit on our way to Japan, but that's not my fault, nor yet yours, Mrs. Le

things."

And bein held, base things."

As far as I'm concerned, added Mrs. Aleshine, "if this island was movin' on to Japan, I'd a great deal rather be on it than on that ship, where, to my way of thinkin', they didn't know much more about housekeepin' that they did about

rin. "I think your plans and arrangements are very good," I . "But how about the provisions? Are there enough to

said. "But how about the provisions? Are there enough to hold out for any time?"

"There's pretty nigh a barrel of flour," said Mrs. Aleshine, "a good deal of tea and coffee and sugar, and lots of things in tins and jars. There's a kind of cellar outside where they keep things cool, and there's more than half a keg of butter down there. It's too strong to use, but I can take that butter and wash it out, and work it over, and salt it, and make it just as good butter as any we got on board the ship."

"But," said I, "you have given me nothing to do. I shall not be content to stand about idle and see you do all the work."

"There's nothin' in the house," said Mrs. Lecks, "which you need put your hand to; but, if you choose to go out into that garden, and see if there's anything can be done in it, or got out of it,—that is, if you know anything about garden work,—I'm sure we'd be very glad of any fresh vegetables we could cet."

I'm sure we'd be very glad of any fresh vegetables we could get."

I replied that I had been accustomed to garden work in an amateur way, and would be glad to do anything that was possible in that direction.

"I never seed into that garden," said Mrs. Aleshine, "but of all the foolish things that ever came under my eye, the buildin'a wall around a garden, when a pale fence would do just as well, is the foolishest."

I explained that in these countries it was the fashion to use walls instead of fences.

"If it's the fashion," said Mrs. Aleshine, "I suppose there's no use sayin' anything agin it; but if the fashion should happen to change, they'd find it a good deal easier to take down a barbed-wire fence than a stone wall.

In the afternoon we all visited the garden, which, although a good deal overgrown with luxuriant weeds, showed marks of fair cultivation. Some of the beds had been cleared out andleft to the weeds, and we found some "garden truck," as my companions called it, with which we were not familiar. But there were tomato vines loaded with fruit, plenty of beans of various kinds, and a large patch of potatoes, many of which had been dug.

of various kinds, and a large patch of peters of various kinds, and a large patch of peters had been dug.

From the lower end of the garden Mrs. Aleshine gave a shout of delight. We went to her, and found her standing before a long asparagus bed.

"Well!" she exclaimed. "If there's anything that settles it firm in my mind that these people is Christians, it's this bed of grass. I don't believe there ever was heathens that growed

grass."
I thought that was all settled when we found the bakin' powders," said Mrs. Lecks.
"But this clinches it," answered her companion. "I can't tell from a sparrowgrass bed what church they belong to, but

tell from a sparrowgrass bed what church they belong to, but they're no idolaters.

The next morning I delivered to the genial Mrs. Aleshine a large basketful of fresh vegetables, and we had a most excellent dinner. Somewhat to my surprise, the table was not set in the kitchen, but in the dining-room.

"Me and Mrs. Aleshine have made up our minds," said Mrs. Lecks, in explanation, "that it's not the proper thing for you to be eatin' in the kitchen. nor for us neither. Here's table-cloths, and good glass and china, and spoons and forks, which, although they're not solid silver, are plated good enough for anybody. Neither you nor us is servants, and a kitchen is no place for us."

"That's so!" said Mrs. Aleshine, "We paid our money for "That's so!" said Mrs. Aleshine, "We paid our money for anybody.

place for us."
"That's so!" said Mrs. Aleshine, "We paid our money for first-class passages, and it was understood that we'd have everything as good as anybody."

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

THE QUIET HOUR.

Personal Work.

All persons have their own particular work in life to do, and it must be accomplished by their own individual labor.

own individual labor.

No other helper can relieve them of the responsibility or share in the work given them. Others may encourage and sympathize, but they cannot take part in the work. What is done by each one may be much or little; the quantity does not count for as much as the spirit with which the work is entered upon and the faithful devotion to its performance. It is God's will and purpose that this personal work should be done personally, and His name is more truly glorified by everyone who does his own work in his own sphere, without asking for or expecting another to do it for him.

"The best men, doing their best,

"The best men, doing their best,
Know peradventure least of what they do:
Men usefullest in the world are simply used;
The nail that holds the wood must pierce it first,
And he alone who wields the hammer sees
The work advanced by the earliest blow."

Life's Opportunities.

"God never put one man or woman into the world without giving each something to do in it or for it—some visible, tangible work, to be left behind them when they die."

"To take up the Cross of Christ is not one great action, done once for all. It consists in the continual practice of small duties which are distasteful to

"As years form circles in the forest tree,
Each year we see,
Within us, out of sight,
Maketh a circle for eternity,
Dark or bright."

"The finest life lies oft in doing finely a multitude of unromantic things."

"If you want a field of labor You can find it anywhere

"Every man's task is his life-preserver. The conviction that his work is dear to God, and cannot be spared, defends him."

Erimæus entertained Ulysses believing him to be only a beggar, but discovered that he was his long-lost master. There will be more wonderful discoveries by and by; for many humble-minded Christians, who have taught the little ones or comforted the desolate ones, will receive the commendation of the Master: "Inasmuch as ye did it unto the least of these my brethren, ye did it unto Me."

Death in Life.

Do we ever think, as we walk about this beautiful earth which God has given us to live in, as we enjoy our health and strength which the very air itself seems to yield us, that it is death after all which gives us our greatest blessings? Yet such is the fact. Individual life in nature never yet has been continuous, but is interrupted by death; and all forms of life grow and flourish in greater luxuriance upon the death of the living beings which have preceded them. Where would be the thick green grass were it not nourished by the dark mold which has been formed year by year through the decay of just such grass as at present grows with so vigorous a life? The butterfly, which is often used as a type of immortal life, comes from the burial of the worm in its silken shroud. The air we breathe is charged with death, the death of air we breathe is charged with death, the death of millions of cells of organic nature, which die to enable some other organic form of nature to absorb again and feed upon that carbonic acid which is again and feed upon that caroonic acts which its life. The very sun is dying, gradually losing its vital heat, and in its death the warmth which it sheds is giving life to the myriads of creatures which must either have sunlight or perish.

We start from nature, from what we see on every side around us, from the beauty which is so constantly before our eyes, that, though we forget it often, we are of necessity held in its enchantment. We start from nature, from the beauty of ment. We start from nature, from the beauty, of the light that fades, of the ice that melts, of the leaves that fall, and we find beyond nature in the realm of faith that the same law holds. Death is life! We do not need to ask for the supreme ex-ample of the working of this law. Christ died for us. He, who ever liveth, died to give us life.

A Life of Service.

Thousands of men breathe, move, and live; pass off the stage of life, and are heard of no more. Why? They did not a particle of good in the world, and none are blessed by them; none could point to them as the instrument of their redemption; not a line they wrote, not a word they spoke, could be recalled, and so they perished—their light went out in darkness, and they were not remembered more than the insects of yesterday. Will you thus live and die? Live for something. Do good, and leave behind you a monument of virtue that the storms of time can never destroy. Write your name by kindness, love, and mercy on the hearts of the thousands you have come in contact with year by year, and you will never be forgotten. No, your name, your deeds, will be as legible on the heart you leave behind as the stars on the brow of evening. Good deeds will shine as bright on the earth as the stars of heaven -Dr. Chalmers.