

After a few moments' silence, she said in a tone of bitterness:

"As I feel and see things to-night, I should say, for neither God nor myself, but solely and expressly for the sake of the Evil One. What good, what happiness, do all the compliments, all the attention I ever received, secure to me to-night? I thought I was using all for my own benefit. That was my only purpose and aim, but every flattering thing that I can remember is only a burden to think of now. I am the worse for my beauty, as you regard it. I cannot think of any one that I have made better, but many that I have made worse. I seem to have been receiving all my life, and yet to-night I feel as if I had nothing but a burden upon my heart."

Hemstead's words were not reassuring. Indeed, Lottie thought them a trifle harsh, though spoken so kindly.

"You cannot feel otherwise, Miss Marsden. You have been seeking to keep and use for yourself, what God meant you should use for Him. You feel very much as you would did you take a large sum of money, left in your hands as a sacred trust, and go on a pleasure trip with it. He has entrusted to you the richest and rarest gifts, and every day that you have misappropriated them is a burden on your conscience. You will feel the same after a long life of adulation, in which every whim was gratified. Believe me, Miss Marsden, it is a very sad thing to come to the end of one's life with no other possession than a burdened conscience and a heavy, guilty heart. I long to save you from such a fate. That would be a wretchedly poor result of a life-time for one endowed as you are."

"Your words are very severe. Mr. Hemstead," she said in a low tone, burying her face in her hands.

"Faithful are the wounds of a friend," he replied.

"I never thought I could permit any one to speak to me as you have, nor would I endure it from you, did I not recognize something like sympathy in the voice with which you speak such cutting words. But I fear they are true after all. A burdened conscience and a guilty heart seem all there is of me to-night."

He was about to reverse the picture, and portray in strong and hopeful terms what she might be, and what she could accomplish, when the sleigh-bells announced the return of the rest of the party. She sprang up and said hastily:

"I do not wish to meet them to-night, and so will retire at once. A physician of the 'mind diseased' you clearly believe in what is termed the 'heroic treatment.' Your scapel is sharp, and you cut deeply. But as proof that I have kept my word, and am not offended, I give you my hand."

He took it in both of his, but did not speak. She looked up at him through the tears that still lingered, and was touched to see that his eyes were as moist as hers; giving his hand a cordial pressure, she said as she left him:

"You cannot look at me in harsh criticism, through tears of sympathy. Your face is kinder than your words. I am glad you do not despise me."

Hemstead admitted Harcourt and the young ladies into the shadowy hall, and then bade them good night. He, too, was in no mood for Addie's gossip or Bel's satire. They had also found Harcourt strangely silent and preoccupied.

The evident influence of Miss Martell over Harcourt, and their intimate relations, requires some explanation. He was an orphan, and his father had been a friend of Mr. Martell. During the last illness of the elder Mr. Harcourt, he had asked his friend to take some interest, and when possible, to give his son friendly counsel. To a man like Mr. Martell, such a request was like a sacred obligation; and he had sought to do more than was asked. He wrote the young man almost fatherly letters, and often invited him to his house. Thus it came about that the influence of Mr. Martell and his daughter did more to restrain the wayward tendencies of young Harcourt than all other things combined; and it must be confessed that the little blue-eyed girl had more influence than the wise old father. She seemed to take almost a sisterly interest in him, and occasionally wrote such a sweet little letter, that he would reform his college life for a week thereafter. But he seemed to have a dash of wild blood that would break out only too often into indiscretions, the rumours of which filled his kind friend Mr. Martell with anxiety. But Clara, his daughter, ever insisted that he would "come out all right."

"Tom has a good heart, father," she would say; and so with woman's faith, she hoped where her father feared.

If Harcourt could have been continually under their influence he would undoubtedly have developed into a far better man. But between absence at college and the law school, and some travel during vacations, he saw less and less of them. Clara also was kept very steadily at school, and during the last two years of her studies they had missed each other in vacations, and met but seldom.

But something more than maidenly modesty and pride made Clara shy and reserved when with Harcourt. She would think more and more about him, but talk less to him than to others when in company. She was a peculiarly sensitive, diffident girl, and instinctively shrank from the man who had for her the strongest interest.

On completing her studies her father had taken her abroad, and they had spent two or three years in travel. The extraordinary graces of her person were but the reflex of her richly cultivated mind. Even abroad she had many admirers; but with tact, firmness, and inimitable grace, she ever sought to prevent false hopes, and so had fewer offers than an ordinary coquette. But many who soon learned that they could never establish a deeper relation, became strong friends, and also better men; for Clara Martell seemed to have the power of evoking all the good there was in a man, and of putting him under a kind of sacred obligation to be true and manly, as the result of her acquaintance. However deep and lasting regret may have been, no man ever left her presence in harsh and bitter contempt for the very name of woman, as too often had been the case with Lottie Marsden. Those who knew her least, said she was cold, and those who knew her true, womanly heart best, wondered at her continued indifference to every suit. And sometimes she wondered at herself—how it was, that all the attention she received scarcely ever quickened her pulse.

But when after long absence she returned and met the friend and playmate of her childhood—the wayward youth to whom she was accustomed to give sisterly counsel—her pulse was so strangely quickened, and the blood so quick to mount to her face at his every word and look, that she began to understand herself somewhat.

They had but recently returned to their residence on the banks of the Hudson; and Harcourt was made a welcome visitor.

Having completed his professional studies, the young man had succeeded largely to the practice of his deceased father, and was doing well in a business point of view. He had inherited enough property to secure a good start in life, but not enough to rob him of the wholesome stimulus which comes from the need of self-exertion. He had an acute, active mind. Abundance of intellect and fire flashed from his dark eyes, and we have seen that he was not without good and generous traits. But in his spiritual life he had become materialistic and sceptical. His associates were brilliant, but fast men; and for him also the wine cup was gaining dangerous fascination.

Mr. Martell, in the spirit of the most friendly interest, soon learned these facts after his return, and also the gossip, which brought a sudden paleness to his daughter's cheek, that he was engaged, or he same as engaged, to Addie Marchmont.

While Clara therefore was kind, she seemed to avoid him; and he found it almost impossible to be alone with her. She had always dwelt in his mind, more as a cherished ideal, a revered saint, than as an ordinary flesh-and-blood girl with whom he was fit to associate, and for a time after her return her manner increased this impression. He explained the recognized fact that she shunned his society, by thinking that she knew his evil tendencies, and that to her believing and Christian spirit, his faithless and irregular life was utterly uncongenial. For a short time he had tried to ignore her opinion and society with reckless indifference; but the loveliness of her person and character daily grew more fascinating, and his evil habit lost in power as she gained. For some little time before Mrs. Byram's company, he had been earnestly wishing that he could become worthy of at least her esteem and old friendly regard, not daring to hope for anything more. It never occurred to him that gossip had coupled his name with his cousin Addie, and that this fact influenced Miss Martell's manner as well as his tendencies toward dissipation. He laid it all to the latter cause, and was beginning to feel that he could live the life of an ascetic, if this lovely saint would only permit his devotion.

And Clara, so sensitive where he was concerned, thought she saw a change in him for the better, and in the spirit of womanly self-sacrifice was resolving to see more of him than was prudent for her peace of mind, and if by so doing she could regain her old power to advise and restrain.

With gladness she recognized her influence over him at Mrs. Byram's company, and as we have seen, made the most of it. But with surprise and some strange thrills at heart, she noted that he and Addie Marchmont did not act as an engaged couple naturally would; and observed with disgust, that Miss Marchmont seemed more pleased with Brentley's attentions than Lottie Marsden had been.

That a man of Harcourt's force and mind should be captivated by such a girl as Miss Marchmont, had been a mystery; and she thought, when seeing them together in Mrs. Byram's parlours:

"They take it more coolly than any people I ever saw."

Addie appeared engrossed with the attentions of others, and Harcourt not in the least jealous or annoyed. In brief, they acted like cousins, and not in the least like lovers.

But in the sensitive delicacy of her character she would not permit her mind to dwell on the problem of their relations, and bent all her thoughts upon her efforts to win Harcourt to a better life.

And she had moved him that evening more deeply than she could know. Neither she, nor any finite power, could plant righteous principle within his soul and transform his character; but she had created, for the time at least, an utter distaste for all low and sensual pleasures, and an honest and absorbing wish to become a true, good man. He felt that he could not be in her society, and breathe the pure atmosphere of her life and be his old self.

Never did a man return from a fashionable revel in a more serious and thoughtful mood, and equally with Lottie and Hemstead he was glad to escape the trifling chat and gossip of Addie and Bel Parton, to the welcome solitude of his own room.

(To be continued.)

BUSINESS FAILURES.

Lack of judgment causes fully fifty per cent. of all business men to fail, earlier or later. No not an equal proportion of physicians fail to cure from the same cause. At the Grand Invalids' and Tourists' Hotel, Buffalo, N. Y., Dr. Pierce, through the skill attained by his several specialists, each having devoted years to a special department of medical science; is able to cure a large per cent. of cases hitherto considered incurable. Many physicians in view of the superior advantages of this model sanitarium, bring there stubborn, obscure, complicated, and surgical cases, for examinations, operation and treatment. Full particulars given in the People's Common Sense Medical Adviser, an illustrated work of over 900 pages. Price, post-paid \$1.50. Address the author, R. V. Pierce, M. D., Buffalo, N. Y.

CHRISTIAN Temperance Unions composed of young ladies, are a new feature in Chicago.

Drunkenness is a sin. We are thankful the world is emphasizing this truth more and more. But quite consistent with this view is the statement that it is often not only a cause of disease, but disease itself. Drunkenness, more than any other sin, directly affects the very tissues of the body, and eats up the brain. An alcohol-saturated brain is a diseased brain, and therefore a diseased nervous system. When drunkenness has reached that stage, it has so affected soul and body that the man is thoroughly diseased.—*Interior.*

BRITISH AND FOREIGN ITEMS.

THERE are reports of a serious famine in Upper Egypt.

H. M. STANLEY it is said proposes to conduct another expedition to Central Africa.

THE Archbishop of York, speaking at a recent banquet, said that he saw no signs of approaching dis-establishment.

MR. R. W. DARE, has been lecturing at Hare Court, Canonbury, London, on New England and Religious Liberty.

ON a recent Sabbath all the saloons and rum-shops in Richmond, Va., were closed, for the first time in the history of the city.

OVER 200 of New York street boys have been provided with good homes among the farmers of Southern Virginia by the Children's Aid Society.

THE Japanese churches connected with the Presbyterian, Reformed, and Scotch United Presbyterian Missions propose to send a pioneer missionary to Corea.

A COMPANY of twenty-two young Japanese meet weekly in the Chinese Methodist Mission House in San Francisco, to study the Bible and to discuss religious questions.

BESIDES preaching so constantly and reaching such multitudes with his voice, Mr. Spurgeon has published one sermon a week for twenty-four years, or 1,450 in all.

BISHOP ELLICOTT defends his vote in the House of Lords in favour of the Afghan War. He believes "war to be an element in the divine government of this present world."

NEARLY 2,000 warehouses, shops, and offices, on or near the main thoroughfare from the city boundary at Holborn to Aldgate, in London, are to let, owing to the business depression.

THE Japanese government has given permission to a native publisher to print an edition of Genesis in Chinese, the first time it has authorized any portion of Scripture to be published.

A MISSION-HALL has been opened at Marseilles, France, on the Boulevard National, in a district where thousands of workmen meet every night. The religious meetings have been crowded.

THE American Episcopal Church reports 48 dioceses, 13 missionary districts, 63 bishops, 3,330 clergy, 312,718 communicants, 28,365 Sunday-school teachers, with 265,555 pupils.

THE Established Presbytery of Glasgow has passed a resolution—28 votes to 19—to the effect that in the present state of society it is desirable "for necessity and mercy's sake," that public carriages should run on Sunday.

DURING the past six years the committee of the Established Church of Scotland, having charge of the extension scheme, have aided in the erection of eighty-nine churches, the entire cost of the same being \$1,000,000.

THE total receipts of the Bazaar for the Spurgeon Testimonial Fund amounted to £3,400, making with the subscriptions £6,400, or about \$32,000, being some \$5,000 more than was required for the endowment of the Tabernacle Almshouses.

THE liquor lovers of Maine have introduced a bill into the Maine Legislature giving to druggists enlarged privileges in the sale of spirituous liquors. If it passes, of which there is little hope, the drug business will be very popular in some directions.

THE Welsh Calvinistic Methodists have 1,134 congregations (only 70 of which are in England), 1,269 churches and stations, 872 ministers and preachers, 110,016 communicants, 275,406 hearers. The denomination has nearly doubled in twenty-seven years.

THE London Religious Tract Society is about to issue "The Boy's Own Paper," which it proposes to make an attractive, wholesome, and amply-illustrated paper, designed to counteract the influence of the pernicious papers that circulate so largely among youth.

OWING to the severity of the weather, the forests of the Bernese Jura, in Switzerland, are infested with droves of wild boars, which are sometimes so many in number as to defy attack. The farms are frequently overrun by wolves, and hundreds of chamois have descended into the valleys in search of food.

THE mission to the Friendly Islands has ceased to be a charge and has become a contributor to the treasury of the Wesleyan Society to the amount of from £1,000 to £2,000 a year—a larger sum of money, probably, than had ever been seen in the entire group before the introduction of Christianity.

THE missions of the Moravian Church, the earliest of which dates from 1732, have now 92 stations, 323 missionaries, 1,504 native assistants, and 70,646 converts, of whom 23,185 are communicants. These are the latest statistics. The standing wonder is how so small a church can carry on so large a missionary work.

THE Vermont Legislature defeated the attempt to substitute a license law for its prohibitory law, and added lager-beer to the prohibited drinks. The anti-temperance men, wishing to bring odium on the law, moved to "add cider after thirty days old," and to their chagrin, their satirical amendment was passed.

MR. MOODY's rest in Baltimore consists in holding meetings under the direction of a committee of the Y. M. C. A., twice a day, with three or four meetings on the Sabbath. During last month Mr. Moody held 150 meetings, besides studying six hours a day. The city pastors are greatly encouraged at the prospect.

BARNES "Educational Monthly" states the historical fact that after the return of the Stuarts, King James II. wanting to write a letter, was handed some of Cromwell's paper, on which was the stamp of the Cap of Liberty. Noticing the stamp he said, "What is that in the corner?" When told he flew into a passion, and said, "Take it away. None of your foolscap for me!" and so the paper got its name.