

be answerable for all costs," she said. "The old man shall be taken home, in the first instance, if a doctor will give permission."

One was speedily summoned, for it was a doctors' neighbourhood. A few words from Miss Fielden smoothed all difficulties. The doctor and Dick accompanied Old Roger home in one cab, and Miss Fielden followed a little later, with a nurse, in a second.

"She's got a handful," said the park-keeper to himself, as he pocketed a coin presented by the young lady. "It's a good job she has a full purse too, or she'd be rather in a predicament with that lot. I don't think she'll have the old man long on her hands, anyway."

According to the thinker's way of regarding the position, this last idea offered matter for congratulation.

Great was the excitement at Glinderses when the gossips, who were "getting a breath of fresh air" at the entrance of the court, saw Roger's condition and companion.

Everybody wanted to help, and had it been permitted, the whole group, together with a number of children, would have forced themselves up the stairs and into the archway chamber. But the doctor was firm. He allowed one woman to assist in getting Roger to the door, and then dismissed her with thanks as soon as the patient was inside. He might have had more difficulty, but the arrival of the second cab, with Miss Fielden and the nurse, turned the tide of interest in a new direction.

So the gossips stood in little knots, grieving over Roger's illness and congratulating themselves and each other that they had seen what was coming—meaning Roger's condition—and they weren't a bit surprised. To their credit it may be added that had there been neither doctor, nurse, nor young lady to undertake the responsibility, every woman in Glinderses would have offered her services as nurse "turn about," and been proud to act as such without fee or reward.

To Dick's distress, not even the familiar surroundings brought back thorough consciousness to Grandad.

The old man opened his eyes from time to time, but seldom spoke; and when he did, his words bore no relation

to what was passing around him. No one could have entered Roger's home without being attracted by its cleanliness and orderly arrangement. It might be the abode of poverty, but even the way in which the simple meal was arranged, in waiting for Roger's coming, told of purity and refinement.

The doctor and nurse, accustomed to witness the dirt and squalor of many a dwelling where money was far more abundant, were, like Miss Fielden, profoundly impressed by the appearance of the archway chamber. All were determined that whatever was possible should be done for Roger, and when Norah left him, after having spoken comforting words to Dick, she left the means for providing everything that was necessary for the invalid's well-being.

It was late when she reached home, and her father was becoming anxious. Over the dinner-table and after the meal Norah explained the reason of her unpunctuality.

"I dislike to keep you waiting, dear," she said. "I hoped you would begin dinner without me for once, though you always tell me it does not taste good unless I am here to partake of it with you."

"That is quite true, Norah. Dinner may not be improved by delay. For me it would be hopelessly spoiled if eaten in solitude."

Mr. Fielden was deeply interested in all that his daughter had to tell about Roger and Dick.

"I am glad that all you have heard and seen of the old man and his surroundings only serves to confirm the impression you had received from your own observations. You cannot help being mistaken sometimes, dealing as you do with the poor, the tried, and the tempted, but on the whole you have had cause to rejoice over many of your friends in the slums."

"My old man and his boy are no denizens of the slums, though they live in Glinderses," said Norah. "You must see the place to realise how far that old toiler for daily bread is above the neighbourhood in which he lives, though he is, in a sense, an unlettered and ignorant man, like the first disciples of Jesus. I am sure he has led a beautiful life, and I do thank God for giving me the great privilege of learning,