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CHAPTER IX.—MRS. WORTLE AND MR. PUDDICOMBE.

In this way nothing was said at the first telling of the story to decide the fate of the schoolmaster and of the lady whom we shall still call his wife. There certainly had been no horror displayed by the Doctor. "Whether you can remain here is another question." The Doctor, during the whole interview, had said nothing harder than that. Mr. Peacocke, as he left the rectory, did feel that the Doctor had been very good to him. There had not only been no horror, but an expression of the kindest sympathy. And as to the going, that was left in doubt. He himself feit that the ought to go;—but it would have been so very said to have to go without a friend left whom he could consult as to his future condition!

"He has been very kind, then?" said

been so very said to have to go without a friend left whom he could consult as to his future condition!

"He has been very kind, then?" said Mrs. Peacocke to her husband when he related to her the particulars of the interview.

"Very kind."

"And he did not reproach you?"

"Not a word."

"Nor me?"

"He declared that had it been he who was in question he would have clung to you for eyer and ever."

"Did ho? Then will he leave us here?"

"That does not follow. I should think not He will know that others must know it. Your brother-ln-law will not tell him only. Lefroy, when he finds that he can get no money here, from sheer revenge will tell the story everywhere When he left the rectory, he was probably as angry with the Doctor as he is with me. He will do all the harm that he can to all of us."

"We must go, then?"

"I should think so Your position here would be insupportable even if it could be permitted. You may be sure of this:—everybody will know it."

"What do I care for everybody?" she-

"I should think so Your position here would be insupportable even if it could be permitted. You may be sure of this:—everybody will know it."

"What do I care for everybody?" shesaid. "It is not that I am ashamed of myself"

"No, dearest, nor am I,—ashamed of myself or of you. But there will be bitter words, and bitter words will produce bitter looks and scant respect. How would it be with you if the boys looked at you as though they thought ill of you!" "I was only a young girl."
"But if you had been a widow?"
"Don't my dear; don't! It wouldn't have been possible."
"But you pity her?"
"Oh yes."

"And you see that a great misfortune has fallen upon her, which she could not

with whom I was not connected. Would it do, do you think, for a priest to preach against drunkenness, whilst he himself was a noted drunkard?"

"Are we like that?"

"It is not what the drunken priest might think of him. It would not be with us the position which we know that we hold together, but that which others would think it to be. If I were in Dr. Wortle's case, and another were to me as I am to him, I should bid him go."

"You would turn him away from you; him and his—wife?"

"I should. My first duty would be to my parish and to my school. If I could expected.

"She was his wife, as far as she knew."

"But when she knew that it was not so any longer,—then she should have left him."

We shall have to go, and I shall be forced to approve of our dismissal."

In this way Mr. Peacocke came definitely and clearly to a conclusion in his own mind But it was very different with Dr. Wortle. The story so disturbed him, that during the whole afternoon he did not attempt to turn his mind to any other subject. He even went so far as to send over to Mr. Puddicombe and asked for some assistance for the afternoon service on the following day. He was too unwell, he said, to preach himself and the him."

64 And have starved?" "I suppose she might have taken bread from him."
"You think, then, that she should go away from here?"
"Do you not think so? What will Mrs. Stantiloup say?"
"And I am to turn them out into the cold because of a virago such as she is? You would have no more charity than well, he said, to preach himself and the one curate would have the two entire ser-vices unless Mr Puddicombe could help him. Could Mr. Puddicombe come him-self and see him on Sunday afternoon?

that?"
"Oh, Jeffrey! what would the Bishop
say?"
"Cannot you get beyond Mrs. Staniloup
and beyond the Bishop, and think what wice unless Mr Puddicombe cond help, him. Gould Mr. Puddicombe cond help, him. Gould Mr. Puddicombe come himself to be sent away by a messenger, who came back with a reply, saying that Mr. Puddicombe would himself pread to in the afternoon, and would afterwards call in at the rectory. For an hour or two before his dinner, the Dootor went out on horsebeck, and roamed about among the lanes, endeavouring to make up his mind. He was hitherto allegether at a loss as done and the lanes, endeavouring to make up his mind. He was hitherto allegether at a loss as to what he should do in this present uncorrefor able emergency. He could not be seen to what he should do in this present uncorrefor able emergency. He could not be made upon the subject and yet sheev was no softer-hearted woman length of the consciousness and his inclination to come square together. And even when he could not begin his conscience and his inclination to come square together. And even when he could with the best of the consciousness are second conscience, as it were, —revolved against the first. His primary duty to his partial, a second duty to his school, and a third to his wife and daughter. In the performance of all two these duties he would be bound to rid himself of Mr. Peacocks. But then there cannot have the man had been incre 'sinned again,' he said, 'I' will do so. But it will be better that I should consult an extending him that the man had been incre 'sinned again,' he said, 'I' will do so. But it will be better that I should consult an extending him that the man he seem of the second conscience went on to remind him that the man was a goof-fearing man, moral, and especially he considered so unworthly. Then this second conscience went on to remind him that the man was a goof-fearing man, moral, and especially he considered so unworthly intellectual assistant in his second conscience as a foll of the partial that the man's greater and search and the partial that the man's greater and search and the partial that the man's greater and the

impulses and softness of heart to save the faulty one from the effect of his fault, merely because that effect would be painful. He was a man of no great mental

know that if a man be under a cloud the very cloud will make him more attentive to his duties than another? If a man, for the wages which he receives, can give to his employer high character as well as work, he will think that he may lighten his work because of his character. And as to this man, who was the very phoenix of school assistants, there could really be nothing amiss with his character if only this piteous incident as to his wife were unknown. In this way his second conscince almost got the better of the first.

But then it would be known. It would be impossible that it should not be known. story. "I do not think so; I have no such feeling myself,"
"He behaved very badly in bringing her hare without telling you all the facts. Considering the position that she was to occupy he must have known that he was deceiving you."
"I can forgive all that," said the Dootor vehemently. "As far "as I myself am concerned, I forgive everything."
"You are not entitled to do so."
"How—not entitled?" But then it would be known. It would be impossible that it should not be known. He had already made up his mind to tell Mr. Puddicombe, absolutely not daring to decide in such an emergency without consulting some friend. Mr. Puddicombe would hold his peace if he were to promise to do so. Certainly he might be trusted to do that. But others would know it; the Bishop would know it; Mrs. Stantiloup would know it. That man, of course, would take care that all Broughton, with its close full of cathedral clergymen, would know it. When Mrs. Stantiloup should know it there would not be a boy's parent through all the school who would not know it. If he kept the man he must keep him resolving that all the

tor vehemently. "As far "as I myself am concerned, I forgive everything."

"You are not entitled to do so."
"You are not entitled?"
"You must pardon me if I seem to take a liberty in expressing myself too boldly in this matter. Of course I should not do so unless you asked me."
"I want you to speak freely,—all that to consider it all. First a great and seemed to the consider it all. First a great and seemed to include the most wonderful Blemish Cure ever known. War away from the consider it all. First a way from the constant of the most wonderful Blemish Cure ever known. War away from the consider it all. First a way from the constant of the cons

to consider it all. First of all there came a great and terrible misfortune which cannot but excite our pity. According to his own story, he seems, up to that time, to have been affectionate and generous."

"I believe every word of it," said the

must keep him resolving that all the world should know that he kept him, that the world should know of what nature was the married life of the assistant in whom he trusted And he must be prepared to face all the world, confiding in the uprightness and the humanity of his purpose. allowed this kind to all the world: "I know that their for Stanley.

ALEX. GIESON; Gen'l Managor

ALEX. GIESON; Gen'l Managor

ALEX. Has a stanley and the stanley and the stanley and the stanley.

Doctor.

"Allowing for a man's natural bias on this kind to all the world: "I know that their they are not married. I know that their multion of life is opposed to the law of G.! and man. I know that she bears a nam's wife; but we need not, perhaps, insist upon that." The Doctor moved himname that is not, in truth, her own; but

We will grant that he put himself ing. "We will grant that he put himself right by his marriage, though in that, no doubt, there should have been more of caution. Then came his great misfortune. He knew that his marriage had been no marriage. He saw the man and had no doubt."

doubt,"
"Quite so; quite so," said the Doctor,
impatiently. "He should, of course, have
separated himself from her. There can
be no doubt about it. There is no room

(The any coult high.")

separated nimself from her. There can be no doubt about it. There is no room for any quibble."

"Quibble!" said the Doctor.

"I mean no reference in our own minds to the pity of the thing, to the softness of the moment,—should make us doubt about it. Feelings such as these should induce us to pardon sinners, even to receive them back into our friendship and respect,—when they have seen the error of their ways and have repented."

"You are very hard."

"I hope not. At any rate I can only say as I think. But, in truth, in the present emergency you have nothing to do with all that If he asked you for counsel you might give it to him, but what is his present position. He has told you his story, not in a spirit of repentance, but because such telling had become necessary."

"He would have told it all the same though this man had never come."

"Let us grant that it is so, there still remains his relation to you. He came here under false pretences, and has done you a serious injury."

"It think not." said the Doctor.

under false pretences, and has done you a serious injury."

"I think not," said the Doctor.

"Would you have taken him into your establishment had you known it all before? Certainly not. Therefore I say that he has deceived you. I do not advise you to speak to him with severity; but he should, I think, be made to know that you appreciate what he has done."

"And you would turn him off;—send him away at one, out about his busi-

"I have not said so. I know nothing of his means of earning his bread. Men living in sin earn their bread constantly. But he certainly should not be allowed to earn his here."

"Not though that man who was her husband should now be dead, and he should again marry,—legally marry,—this woman to whom he has been so true and lovel." woman to whom he has been so true and loyal."

"As regards you and your school," said Mr. Puddicombe, "I do not think it would alter his position."

With this the conference ended, and Mr. Puddicombe took his leave.

As he left the house the Doctor declared to himself that the man was a strait-laced, famatical hard-hearted bigot. But though he said so to himself he hardly though to; and was aware that the man's

thought so; and was aware that the man's words had had effect upon him. CHAPTER X.-MR. PEACOCKE GUES.

has fallen upon her, which she could not belop?"

"Not till she knew it," said the wife who had been married quite properly.
"And what then? What should she have the Doctor said himself just now;—a man cannot isolate the morals of others. Mon, if they live together, must live together by certain laws."

"Then there can be no hope for us."
"None that I can see, as far as Bowick is concerned. We are too closely joined in our work with other people. There is not a boy here with whose father and mother and eisters we are not more or less connected. When I was preaching in the church, there was not one in the parish with whom I was not connected. Would it do, do you think, for a priest to preach against drunkenness, whilst he himself was a noted drunkenness, whilst he himself was a noted introducing the first of the work of the more of the proper in the strict law of right and wrong, the would not have brought the woman there, into his school, as his wife. There had been deceit. But then, would not he, by it have never been tried, my dear," said the wife, who had no doubt as to the comfort, the beauty, the perfect security of her own position.

"Gone," said the wife, who had no doubt as to the comfort, the beauty, the perfect security of her own position.

"Gone away at one."

"Gone away at one."

"Gone away at one."

"Whither should she go? Who would have taken her by the hand? Who would have bad her lay herself down in the first gutter and die?"

"Then, by all the faith I have in Christ, have been guilty of similar deceit had it fallen upon her. Do you think what it is to have to go out and live desolation?"

"It is not what the drunken priest might think of himself, but what there was not one to be comed to make the price of the pri

feeling no tugging at his heart-strings. It was so that our Doctor spoke to himself of his counsellor, sitting there alone in his of his counsellor, sitting there alone in his library.

During his conference with Lefroy something had been said which had impressed him suddenly with an idea. A word had fallen from the Colonel, an unintended word, by which the Doctor was made to believe that the other Colonel was dead, at any rate, now. He had cunningly tried to lead up to the subject, but Robert Lefroy had been on his guard as soon as he

to lead up to the subject, but Robert Le-froy had been on his guard as soon as he had perceived the Doctor's object, and had drawn back, denying the truth of the word he had before spoken. The Doctor at last asked him the question direct. Lefroy then declared that his brother had been alive and well when he left Texas, but he did this in such a manner as to strengthen in the Doctor's mind the impression that he was dead. If it were so then might not all these crooked things be made straight? he was dead. If it were so then might not all these crooked things be made straight?
He had thought it better to raise no false hopes. He had said nothing of this to Peacocke in discussing the story. He had not even hinted it to his wife, from whom it might probably make its way to Mrs. Peacocke. He had suggested it to Mr. Puddicombe, — asking whether there might not be a way out of all their difficulties. Mr. Puddicombe had declared that there could be no such way as far as the school was concerned. Let them marry, and repent of their sins, and go away from the spot they had contaminated, amd earn their bread in some place in which there need be no longer additional sin in concealing the story of their past

married in North Adams, Mass., recently. The groom has outlived five wives, but the bride had only had one other husband.

ful. He was a man of no great mental calibre,—not sharp, and quick, and capable of repartee as was the Dootor, but rational in all things, and always guided by his conscience. "He has behaved very hadly to you," he said, when he heard the

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