

POETRY.

OLD DOBBIN.

I see old Dobbin through the fence; how weak he looks and old; His hair is falling off in spots, he feels the damp and cold; He hangs his head, his step is slow; His plain enough to see His thirty years are more to him than fifty are to me.

SELECT STORY.

"AFTER SORROW, JOY."

Mrs. Dale had just come back to the one poor room she called home, weary, faint, disheartened, after a fruitless search for employment. There was nothing in all the world she could find to do to keep away that phantom "want," which hovered so remorselessly near, overshadowing her more distinct as each passing day brought it nearer and still nearer to her door.

wealthy enough to be independent of his practice, nobly gave his time, his skill, his wealth to the suffering poor in our great city. "O, my mother!" moaned Mabel, looking up with wild-eyed grief as the doctor approached. "I cannot rouse her. I fear she is dead."

paused an instant, while her soft, velvet eyes met his and held him spellbound. Where had he seen those dewy, earnest eyes? He wondered. It puzzled him, and the delicious, entrancing voice that floated through the room a few moments later puzzled him still more. Like a long-forgotten dream came the memory of a child's sweet face, drawn with suffering; of pleading eyes that met his so wistfully when, with a touch whose very kindness seemed cruel, he bound the delicate, wounded ankle in the splints that were to strengthen it. "Can it be little Mabel?" he murmured.

MR. MSWAT AS A PROTECTOR. "Billiger! Hark!" Mr. McSwat sat straight up in bed and listened to a noise she seemed to hear down stairs. "What is it, Lobelia?" inquired Mr. McSwat drowsily. "It sounds like somebody talking. Listen!" Mr. McSwat listened. He, too, thought he heard something. "I will see what it is," he said, speaking very loudly and moving very leisurely. "Don't be alarmed, Lobelia. We are well armed. Besides, these two revolvers," he continued, in a high pitched voice intended to terrify any unauthorized persons that might be in the house, "I have a heavy cane and a large glass paper weight. Be calm, Lobelia!" He crawled out of bed, collected his revolver, and the procession moved down stairs in the following order: Mr. McSwat, with revolver in each hand, heavy cane under his arm, and paper weight in pocket of his embroidered robe de nuit.

DESPERATE FIGHTING. A severe engagement was fought on February 10th between the Egyptian troops who recently left El Teb, and Osman Digna's forces. Nearly one thousand lives were lost in the battle which followed the appearance of the Egyptians at Tokar. The Egyptians made their advance from Affate during the early dawn of Thursday morning. The enemy was sighted near Tokar about a hot fire into the ranks of the advancing Egyptians. The latter pushed forward through the brushwood surrounding Tokar and its neighborhood to seize the old government buildings, now little more than a tumble down ruin, but which forms a strategic point where a force of infantry could hold out against heavy odds. The Derivishes, seeing the object of the Egyptian advance, made a rush for the building and surrounding it by a compact mass of Arab riflemen, who pounced a hot fire into the ranks of the advancing Egyptians. The latter, however, returned the Arab's fire as they advanced. The Egyptians fixed bayonets when within easy distance of the enemy and bravely charged upon the defenders of the old ruins. For over an hour a desperate hand to hand, bayonet to spear and sword fight followed, during which the Egyptian troops fought with most determined bravery. Finally the Egyptian cavalry made a brilliant charge upon the Derivishes, who retired in disorder, suffering a crushing defeat. The Derivishes numbered at least 2000 fighting men. About an equal force of the Egyptians succeeded in reaching the shelter of the building before the Arabs surrounded them at the attack. After the retreat of the Derivishes the troops found over seven hundred dead around the position mentioned, while large numbers of dead were lying in the bushes around the building. Nearly every Emir of importance who was present at the battle fell upon the field. Osman Digna did not take part in the fight, but watched its progress from a point of vantage near Affate. After seeing that his followers had suffered a disastrous defeat, Osman Digna, accompanied by about thirty horsemen, fled toward Temrin. The Egyptians will advance on Temrin to-day. The Egyptians were commanded by Sir Francis Grenfell.

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