

SELF-RAISED

BY
EMMA D. M. SOUTHWORTH

"Well, you see these mechanics, they have journeymen and apprentices with their trade at their fingers' ends and they can do their work not only easier and quicker and better than I can, but even cheaper. So I cannot complain that they have taken the custom of the neighborhood from me."

"Professor, I really do admire the justice and forbearance of your nature."

"Well, young Ishmael, there was another thing. I was getting too old to tramp miles and miles through the country with a heavy pack on my back, as I used to do."

"Well, then, I hope you have saved a little money, at least, to keep you comfortable in your old age," said Ishmael, feelingly.

The poor old odd-job man looked up with a humorous twinkle in his eye as he replied:

"Why, law, young Ishmael, the idea of my saving money! When had I ever a chance to do it in the best 'a days? Why, Ishmael, they say how ministers of the gospel and teachers of youth are the worst paid men in the country; but I think, judging by my own case, that professors are quite as poorly paid. It used to take everything I could rake and scrape to keep my family together; and so, young Ishmael, I haven't saved a dollar."

"Is that so?" asked Ishmael in a voice of pain.

"True as gospel, young Ishmael—Mr. Worth."

"How then do you manage to live, Morris? I ask this from the kindest of feelings."

"Don't I know it, young—Mr. Worth. Well, sir, I do an odd job once in a while yet, for the colored people, and that keeps me from starving," said the professor with a smile.

Ishmael fell into a deep thought for a while, and then lifting his head, said:

"Well, professor, you have been in your day and generation as useful a man to your fellow creatures as any other in this world. You have contributed as much to the comfort and well being of the community in which you live as any other member of it. And you should not and you shall not be left in your old age either to suffer from want or live on charity."

"I may suffer from want, Mr. Worth, but I will never consent to live on charity," said the odd job man with dignity.

"I am sure you never will, professor, though mind! I do not believe it to be any degradation to live by charity when one cannot live in any other way. For if all men are brethren should not the able brother help the disabled brother, and that without lumbering him?"

"Yes, but I am not disabled Mr. Worth, I am only diseased."

"That is very true, and therefore I spoke as I did when I said, just now that you should not suffer from want nor live by charity. Listen to me, professor, I have a proposition to make to you. Your daughters are all married and your work is done; you are alone and idle here. But you are not a mere animal to be tied down to one spot of earth by local attachment. You are a very intelligent man with a progressive mind. You will never stop improving yourself. You have improved very much in the last few years. I notice it in your conversation—"

"I am glad you think so young—Mr. Worth! but I am getting aged."

"What of that? You are travelling towards the light, and after improving all your life here you will go on progressing through all eternity."

"Well, sir, that ought to be a great comfort to an old man."

"Yes, Now what I want to propose to you is that—I think you love me, professor?"

"Love you, young—Mr. Worth! I do love you better than I do anything on the face of the earth, and that is a fact," said the professor, with his face all in a glow of feeling.

And all who knew him might have sworn that he spoke the truth; for though he was not in the least degree deficient in affection for his daughters, yet his love for Ishmael amounted almost to idolatry.

"Dear old friend, I will prove to you some day how high a value I set upon your love. I think, professor, that loving me as you do, you could live happily with me?"

"What did you say, young—Mr. Worth? I did not quite understand."

"I will be plain professor. You have lived out your present life here; it is gone. Now, instead of vegetating on here any longer come into another sphere, a more enlarged and active sphere, where your thoughts as well as your hands will find employment and your mind as well as your body have food."

"Come with me to Washington. I have a suit of three very pleasant rooms where I board. Now suppose you come and live with me and take care of my rooms? Your services would be worth a good salary, from which you would be enabled to live very comfortably and save money."

"What young Ishmael! Me! I go to Washington and live with you all the time day and night, under one roof and live where I can get books and newspapers and hear lectures and debates and see pictures and models, and, in short, come at everything I have been longing to reach all my life?"

"Yes, professor, that is what I propose to you."

"There! I used to say that you'd live to be a blessing to my declining years, young—Mr. Worth (if dearest I'll not forget myself again), Mr. Worth! there! Do you really mean it, sir?"

"Really and truly."

"There then, I am not going to be a hypocrite and pretend to higgledy about it. I'll go sir; and

le proud to do it; it will be taking a new lease of life for me to go. Do you know I was never in a large city all my life, though I have always longed to go? Well, sir, I'll go with you. And I will serve you faithfully sir; for mine will be a service for love more than for money. And I will never forget the proprieties so far as to call you anything else but Mr. Worth, or sir, in the presence of others, sir, though my heart does betray me into calling you young Ishmael sometimes here."

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4 corners, block 51. Price \$19,000. Easy terms.

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6 lots, block 53. Price \$16,800. Good terms.

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2 corners block 24. Price \$1150. Terms.

2 lots, block 6. Price \$250 each. Terms.

4 lots, block 15. Price \$1800. Terms.

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2 lots, block 14, plan a3. Price \$1500 each. Terms.

1 lot, block 17, plan a3. Price \$2000. Terms.

2 lots, block 14, plan a3. Price \$300 each. Terms.

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2 lots, block 72. Price \$8000. Terms.

3 corners, block 70. Price \$10,000. Terms.

2 lots, block 72. Price \$9000. Terms.

2 corners, block 72. Price \$15,000. Terms.

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1 lot, block 6, plan a3. Price \$3000. Terms.

1 lot, block 13, plan a3. Price \$2500. Terms.

4 lots, block 12, plan a3, with a 2000 building, for \$11,000. Terms.

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2 lots, block 72. Price \$9000. Terms.

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4 corners, block 51. Price \$19,000. Easy terms.

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