

## Saved in a Basket, or Daph and Her Charge.

CHAPTER IV.—Continued.

### THE RED HOUSE WITH BLUE SHUTTERS.

'Daphne,' said the woman, sweetening a little, 'Captain Jones says that is your name, and that you are an honest, industrious woman. Do you think that you will be able to pay the rent regularly?'

'I has a right to my name,' said Daph, straightening up her stout figure. 'Missus had it gib to me like any white folks, when she had me baptized. I isn't particular about having all of it, so most folks calls me Daph. Is I honest? Look me in de eye, and answer dat yourself. Is I industrious? Look at dat arm, and dese ere fingers: do they look if I was lazy?'

The clear eye, muscular arm, and hard work-worn hand were indeed the best assurances the doubtful questioner could have received.

'As to de rent,' added Daph, 'my missus's children isn't widout money.' As she spoke, she gave her pocket a hearty shake, which produced a significant chinking, that seemed quite satisfactory.

'You are a queer one!' said the woman, 'but you may as well look at the room. It's just in front, you passed it as you came in.'

Daph stepped to the door of the front room, pushed it open, and looked around her, with her head thrown a little on one side, as if that position were favorable to forming a correct judgment as to its merits.

'Well, it do be rader small,' she said, after a few moments dignified consideration. 'But den, it be proper clean, and two winder to de street, for de children. Haven't ye got anything to put in it; no chair, nor table, nor such like?'

'You will have to furnish it for yourself,' said the woman, 'but you shall have the room on reasonable terms.'

The bargain was soon made, but whether on reasonable terms or not, Daph had but little idea, though she prudently concealed her ignorance.

Once in her own domain, Daph sat down on the floor, and giving each of the children a huge sea-biscuit, she took them in her arms, and began to wave to and fro, singing one of the wild negro melodies which spring up wherever the African race take root.

The weary children were soon in a sound sleep, and then Daph laid them carefully down on the clean floor, covered them with the shawls she had found so useful, and then sat stock still beside them, for a few moments, lost in deep thought. After a while, she took from her pocket the purse the captain had given her, and her own store of small change, wrapped in its bit of rag. The latter she had laid aside, saying, 'That must do for eat. That Daph's own. Now dis, Daph us' borry from the cap'in. Massa's children don't have to come to livin' on other people, when Daph's on her feet. Cap'in Jones got he money's worth in that beauty gold chain I puts in his hand, and he not know it.'

Here Daph gave a real negro chuckle at the thought of the artifice which had made her feel at liberty to use the money so kindly given her, without accepting charity, from which she revolted, as well

for herself as for her master's children.

'Now Daph must be gettin' dis place in order quick, or de children will be wakin' up,' said Daph, as she rose hastily with the air of one prepared for action. She carefully closed the shutters, locked the door behind her, and, putting the key in her pocket, set off to make her purchases.

### CHAPTER V.

#### DAPH'S SHOPPING.

Daph had observed a small cabinet-maker's shop, not far from her new home, and to it she easily made her way. The sight of two little wooden chairs, painted with the usual variety of wonderfully bright colors, attracted her attention, and suggested her plan of operations.

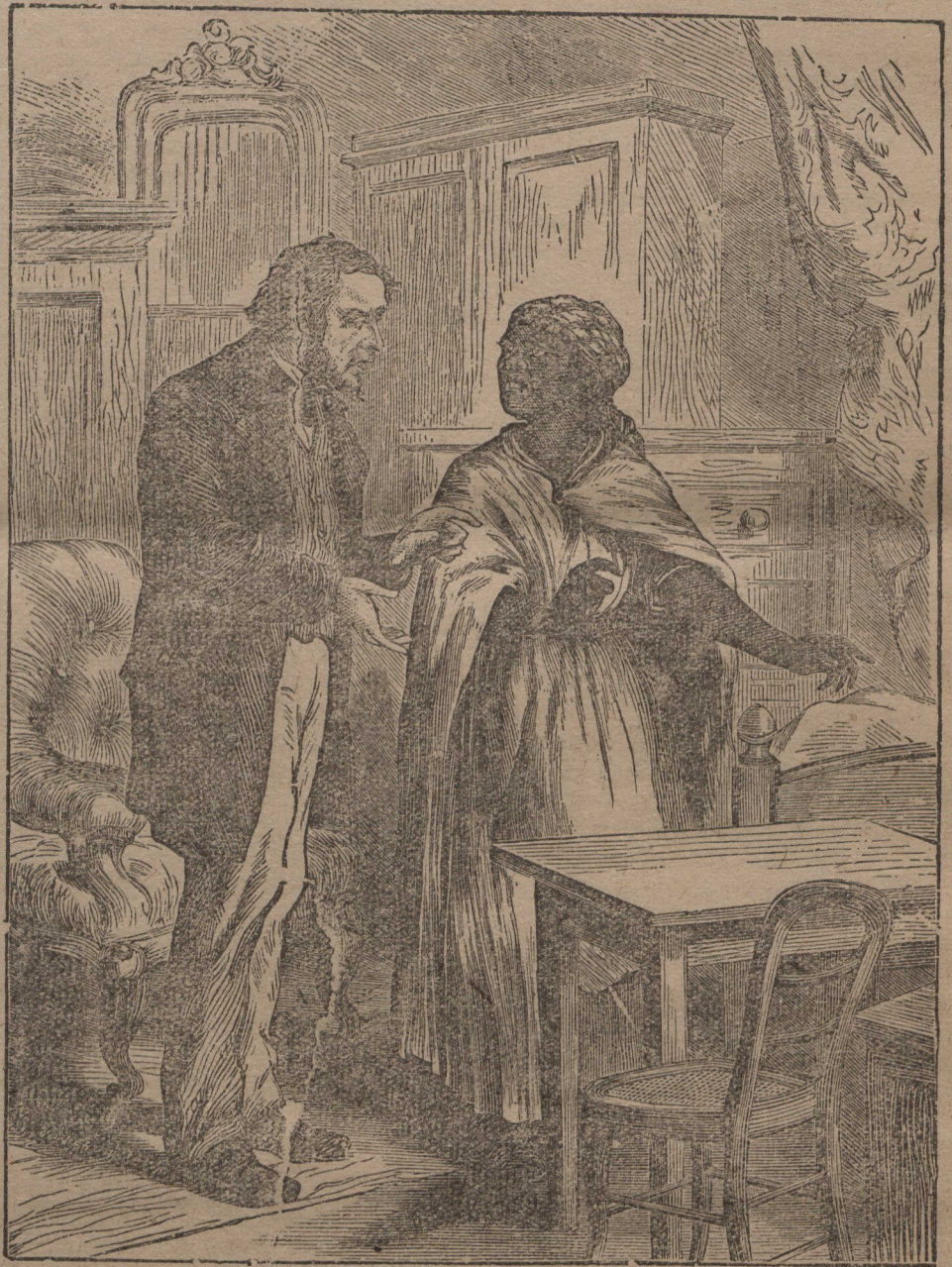
'It's for de children I'se buyin',' she said, 'and what's de use of payin' a big price

briskly, and Daph soon had displayed before her all the small articles of furniture he had on hand.

The bright yellow chairs adorned with the wonderful roses and tulips, were first set aside; then followed a little table, painted in the same fanciful manner; and lastly, a good-sized trundle-bed, of a somewhat less gaudy appearance.

'I'se in a most partickler hurry, jus' now,' said Daph, 'would you jus' hab de kindness to get for de bed jus' what will make it look neat and comfable—not too nice for children to play on—while I steps out for a few notions as I'se obliged to git?'

The shopkeeper kindly complied, while Daph went on her way, delighted at being thus able to have what the children would need for comfort, a matter about which



I JUST WANTS TWO CHAIRS AND A FEW THINGS TO MATCH  
FOR MY MISSE'S CHILDREN.

for grown-up things? I just wants two chairs and a few tings to match for de dears.' When Daph was thus soliloquizing, the shopman came forward, and she promptly addressed him as follows, 'I'se jus' come, sar, to buy de fixin' ob a little room for my massa's children, General Louis la Tourette.'

Daph mentioned her master's name with a pompous air, and with great distinctness, which had their effect on the humble cabinet-maker. He moved about very

she felt herself quite ignorant in this new climate.

(To be continued.)

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