

BITTER SWEET.

BY MADAME DE WICK, AND GEORGE.

'And Charlotte, did you say nothing of her?' enquired Madame de They, who had just returned to France, after a long absence, and had scarcely had time to embrace the daughter who had been for two years entrusted to the charge of her uncle and aunt.

Madame de Salviane bent eagerly back in her easy chair, and her husband slowly took a pinch of snuff.

'Charlotte is a good little girl,' he answered, taking to himself the question addressed to his wife.

'Except when she is cross,' put in Madame de Salviane.

'When she is cross she is sent out of the room, and there's an end of it. You might say that she is well,' continued the old gentleman, bending towards Madame de Salviane, who nodded to him.

Madame de They rose. She was chilled, though she hardly knew why.

'May I go to Charlotte?' she asked. M. de Salviane looked at the clock-face supported by two gilded Cupids.

She ought to be practising her steps for her dancing-master, he said; but you are returned, my dear sister, and he made a low bow; and our authority is at an end. A mother's will is supreme. Charlotte is entirely yours.

Madame de They's heart had not waited for this permission. It was two years since she had been suddenly obliged to leave France to nurse her husband, who had been severely wounded in a skirmish with the Arabs. She could not take her little girl, who was too young and delicate for such a life as her parents would lead in a remote station in Algiers, and had therefore entrusted her to the care of Madame de Salviane, her husband's oldest sister, an elderly lady, who had never had any children, but who was the only person in either family who had manifested any inclination to receive the forlorn girl.

M. de They had been still hovering between life and death when the German war had broken out, cutting off communication between the different parts of France; and M. and Madame de Salviane, in the chateau in the Bourbonnois, heard nothing from Algeria, and abstained carefully from writing.

Letters might fall into the enemy's hands, said M. de Salviane; and he left Madame de They in complete ignorance of her child's fate.

When peace had re-opened communication, the poor mother had broken down under the weight of her troubles, and fell ill of a typhoid fever, which left her so weak that it was months before her husband could let her embark for France, and then she was so much altered that her father-in-law and his wife had hardly recognized her.

'Who could have thought that Enlalie had ever been pretty?' said Madame de Salviane, settling her gray curls before the glass, while Madame de They was wandering about the chateau, where she had somewhat forgotten her way. At last she found the large room, where her daughter was practising her steps.

Charlotte's face was gloomy, her lips compressed, and, as she rose on tip toe, excited entrechats, and bent in contortions, her brow pover relaxed.

An elderly woman, of respectable appearance, half governess, half housekeeper, who was watching the child, rose at Madame de They's entrance.

'Mademoiselle will be glad,' said she, respectfully. 'She wanted not to dance to-day, because Madame was come; but M. de Salviane insisted.'

'My brother-in-law has given us our liberty, Madame Antoine,' said Madame de They, smiling; and the good woman, pleased to find herself recognized, bowed, making a low curtsy, with all Charlotte's studied ones, for it expressed respect and sympathy.

The little girl was standing still in the middle of the room, her hand on the back of the chair on which she leaned when performing her exercises. Her mother waited a moment; then, as the child did not move, she came up and threw her arms round her, kissing her several times, till at last Charlotte returned her kisses, and the little lips pointed no longer.

'Does my uncle give me leave to play?' she soon asked, with visible eagerness.

'Your uncle has absented with the best grace in the world,' replied Madame de They, laughing. 'He was only a Vicaroy, and the true Queen is come back. He has given my child back to me, you are come, my child. And she received the embraces of which she had been so long deprived.'

Charlotte received them in a kindly enough, until suddenly she sprang up.

'Then I shall fetch my doll, my Fatina, whom you dressed like an Arab her mamma, you know. My aunt took her away, but now you are come, Madame Antoine will give her back to me.' And so the first time the little girl seemed amused.

Her mother held her hand.

'Wait, my dear,' she gently said. 'Your first use of our liberty must not be disobedience to your aunt's orders. Come into my room. We have not had time to open my boxes.'

Charlotte opened her eyes wide. 'She was already looking less cross, and her face was clearing up, when, as they met her uncle in a long passage, he looked at her, sat, and, with a laugh—

Charlotte kept her eyes down and made no answer; she was not pert, but her sullen manner, real or feigned indifference, and a kind of dizziness in her movements showed a good deal of temper.

Madame de They hastened to her room, and, without another word, as soon as the door was shut, she again kissed her child, as if to restore the life which in both had been so long and sadly interrupted. The child began to run round the trunk.

'How small your trunks are, mamma,' she said. 'My aunt has a great box that she can put her dresses into without folding them, and there are three compartments: It wants two men to carry it down when it is full.'

Madame de They laughed—

'My boxes are made to travel on mule-back, and my dresses are rolled up like a shawl,—see!'

So saying, she opened a little black leather portmanteau, worn by travelling, and accidents on bad roads, and mounded in some places by unskilful hands; and she showed the child some dresses—woollen, or of some slight material, rolled carefully, and compressed into the smallest space possible.

'And your silk dresses, mamma?' asked Charlotte, in consternation.

Her mother opened the other side of the valise.

'I have one black silk, and here it is,' she said, gravely, though the corners of her mouth were curling up; she was so much amused at her little girl's dismay.

'One black silk!' she repeated, 'like Madame Antoine!'

'Like Madame Antoine!' and Madame de They stooped to kiss her little girl. 'I am very fond of Madame Antoine, and should not be sorry to be like her. She is very kind to you, is she not?'

Charlotte only answered by a nod, for she had spied out a box that she knew; and she remembered that this Indian casket, with the delicate ivory carvings, used to contain her mother's jewellery. She opened it eagerly, but nearly let it fall again, for the box was almost empty. 'What have you done with your jewels, mamma?' she asked in alarm. 'Did you put your diamonds in another box, or have they been stolen?'

Madame de They blushed like a girl. 'I was the thief, my dear; I have no diamonds now.'

'What have you done with them?' persisted Charlotte, who seemed to be very anxious.

Madame de They laid down the carpet-bag that she was emptying, and, taking her little girl on her lap, said, very low, 'It was in the war; your father was wretched at being unable to leave, and we had no money to send for the prisoners, and all who were suffering in France.' So, one day, I took my poor little trinkets to a Jew I knew at Leghoad; a good Jew—there are some such. He carried them to Algiers and sold them, and papa sent the money for the wounded.'

So saying, she stroked the head of the little girl, who was still gazing at the empty casket.

'What did you send, mamma?' she asked gravely, as if she needed information.

'Five thousand francs,' said Madame de They, shortly.

'My uncle and aunt sent five hundred francs, observed Miss Bitter Sweet, curiously; and they sent all their plate and my aunt's diamonds to England.'

The mother rose quickly. 'That does not concern us,' she said. 'Your uncle and aunt did what they thought right. Besides, your uncle never was a soldier; your aunt never nursed him after a wound. If you know what your father went through! When I thought of all our poor soldiers in tortures like his, and in want of everything, I would have sold my very hair to help them.'

Madame de They went on unpacking, but quietly dried her eyes; Charlotte could not tell why, but she was ready to cry, too. A month passed heavily away; M. de Salviane had abdicated, as he said, and his wife had never taken much interest in her little niece's education; but when they thought the mother too indulgent, or there was the least irregularity at meal-times or lesson times, the uncle could not refrain from knitting his brows, or uttering a few keen sayings.

A sarcasm, or joke beyond her comprehension, was always sufficient to throw Charlotte into her cold, sullen mood. Miss Bitter Sweet repeated, and her mother was forced to be severe. 'The sun cannot shine into dark corners,' she said, and to her child; but lightning searches everywhere. When you resist my affection I am forced to punish you.'

Charlotte did not understand the difference between her mother's punishments and those of her uncle, but in some degree she felt that the latter triumphed in the use of his authority, the former grieved over applying a remedy.

At last came the day when M. de They landed in France. He had been promoted to a lieutenant-colonelcy, and his regiment had been quartered at Lamoges. The town was not a pleasant one; the population was said to be restless and disaffected, and there was no society; but the neighborhood was beautiful, and it was in France. Madame de They could be with her husband and her daughter, and both together they might work upon the heart that seemed closed, and try to infuse into her mind the great principle which guided their own lives. The mother, who had been so thin and pale on their arrival, looked ten years younger.

Enlalie is growing handsome again since she has been at Salviane, said her sister-in-law. 'That comes of the fine air and good meals.'

Enlalie cannot contain her joy at leaving us, said M. de Salviane, who always perceived an unpleasant truth, and never denied himself the pleasure of uttering it. He did not add that, after a month of the pleasant conversation, gentle cheerfulness, and inextinguishable presence of her sister-in-law, he should miss her greatly, and would have been ever ready to resign her to her

she was to lead at Lamoges. Her mother's own all done, and the husband of the stay at Lamoges, were those of some business in the child, who had for two years been accustomed to all the luxuries and comforts of a wealthy establishment, where a child's master and mistress were always doing things for her convenience; but the delight she was beginning to feel in her mother's presence, and the pleasure of seeing her father, who used to spoil her when she was little, and, above all, a child's natural love of change, drove out of Charlotte's mind all her mother had told her of the little house and humble way of living she would find in the garison.

'We are going to Lamoges,' she said again and again; and she showed no signs of regret when bidding farewell to her uncle and aunt after two years' sojourn under their roof. 'That child has no feeling,' said Madame de Salviane, sitting down on a bench in front of the chateau as the carriage drove away towards the station with the mother and daughter.

'We have not done much to make her fond of us,' said M. de Salviane, that inflexible judge; but he, too, sighed.

There were no signs that evening at Lamoges. M. de They had his daughter on his knee, embracing her with such affection as amazed and astonished the child. Her mother had thrown aside her hat and cloak, and was superintending the arrival of the luggage and the arranging it in the fifth house. Charlotte's trunks were twice as big as her mother's. M. de They had been only, as it were, encamped till his wife's arrival, and the rooms had to be chosen. Charlotte ran after her mother. 'Can I help you, mamma?' she asked.

It was the first time the daughter had seemed to resume her right and proper place in her parent's life, and Madame de They turned quickly. 'Settle your room,' she said, 'whichever you please.'

When, after half an hour, she came to see what orders Charlotte had given, she found that her confidence had borne fruit; the little girl had left the best rooms to her father and mother, and had chosen such a small one that her boxes were out in the passage.

'I shall move her; it is not comfortable enough,' was her mother's first thought; the second was, 'After all, there is no harm in it.' And Charlotte spent two months in her tiny room.

She was, indeed, seldom there, except when asleep or at her toilette. On resuming her daughter Madame de They had taken full possession of her. The child's education at Salviane had been entrusted to Madame Antoine and the village school-master; and as Mademoiselle Charlotte did not choose to work, did not do her task every day, and stared about while her blunders in grammar or arithmetic were being explained, her progress had been so slow that Madame de They was dismayed at her first examination into her daughter's acquisitions.

'Only think! You are twelve years old,' she sadly said, 'and you know no more than when I went away.'

'Oh! I am so little and so thin that nobody takes me for more than ten, mamma,' said the child, quickly. 'No one will wonder that I am not more forward.'

Her mother looked at her with surprise. 'When will you learn that I care more for what you are than what you seem?'

Charlotte blushed, understanding what her mother meant. Madame de They lived as in the Divine Providence, and never forgot the glance that searches the hearts and reins, while the poor child learnt to care above all for the mere outside opinions of men.

All that day Charlotte was again Miss Bitter Sweet, tired by commanding at a sham fight, he was received in such a dry, cross manner, that he asked his wife what it meant. 'What is the matter with Charlotte?' he asked.

His wife told him the little girl's discomfort over her books. 'She is out of temper; she will get over it.'

'She must, or I shall see to it,' answered M. de They, used to the prompt obedience of his soldiers. 'I don't like to find sulky faces when I come home.'

And he sought for his wife's sweet smile and calm brow, which had so often soothed and refreshed him in days of trial.

'We shall succeed, my dear, by God's help,' she said, with a sigh; but there is much to do. And she added, under her breath, 'much to undo.' Her daily serenity and unselfishness told more and more upon the little girl, and drew her to do what she would have disliked.

One day Charlotte found her with a number of pieces of cotton and small garments spread on the table.

'One of the soldier's wives has just had twin boys, when she was ill provided with clothes for one. I have promised her some, and we must make them at once. I have cut them out; come and help.'

Charlotte obeyed, not without temper. 'Bitter, so far,' thought her mother; but as the girl was threading her needle, she recognized among the carefully-prepared baby-clothes some that she had not seen for years. 'That is Henri's frock,' she thoughtfully said.

'You know it?' her mother said, in a low voice.

'Of course! He was wearing it when we were at Algiers. There is a great darn that you made when he tore it against the Indian fig-tree.'

Charlotte stopped short, for the tears were running down her mother's face as she gently stroked the little dress of the boy she had lost, the brother of whom Charlotte spoke so lightly, but whom she had not forgotten.

'Why do you cut up his frock if you are sorry for it?' abruptly asked Charlotte.

'Because this poor woman's two little boys will be cold, and I have no money to buy them dresses,' quickly answered Madame de They, as she wiped her eyes.

The dresses were finished in a few days, and for the first time Charlotte sewed with

room, and her father had placed there his boots, his uniforms, and his military equipments. Her room was next to that of her parents, and the noisiness of the two apartments was very plain to the mother, and accordingly so to the child. Madame de They had almost succeeded in driving Miss Bitter Sweet out of the house.

'I think, my uncle De Salviane would hardly know her,' said she to her husband. 'So much the better,' answered the Colonel; 'for she was not amiable when we first had her again. I was not really anxious, for I knew she would not long resist her mother's influence.'

TO BE CONTINUED.

Presbytery of Huron.

The Presbytery held a regular meeting on the 13th and 14th of January. Mr. Young was appointed Moderator for the ensuing six months. A long time was spent in considering a Reference from the Session of Duff's Church, McMillan, among members of that congregation holding lines of demission from the late pastor of said congregation, asking advice on the following points: 1st. The relation of said members to Duff's Church; 2nd. Their relation to unpaid stipend. The Reference was received, and the Session was advised to assume, meanwhile, the validity of the certificates of said members. Rev. Walter M. Roger, Peter McDiarmid, and J. Mitchell being present, were invited to sit as corresponding members. The following were elected Commissioners to the General Assembly:—Messrs. Uro, Ross, Hatcher, Brown, Grant, Ferguson, Hartley, Ministers; Matheson, Spence, Gardner, Agnew, Scott, Wilson, and Strachan, Elders. Mr. Thomson, Student, read discourses before the Presbytery, which were cordially sustained. He also underwent an examination on Eschatology and Church History, (1st two centuries), which was sustained. On behalf of the Committee appointed to consider the financial returns of the past year, Mr. Gray read a Report setting forth the average contributions per family and per member, &c. The report, which, on the whole, showed gratifying results, was received, and measures were under consideration to induce the people to increase their contributions. The Remit on Union was taken up. After a lengthened discussion the following motion and amendment were submitted:—Moved, and duly seconded, That the Presbytery, having taken into consideration the remit from the Assembly Basis; approve generally of the Resolutions accompanying it, and express the earnest hope that, on said Basis, Union may speedily be effected. Moved in amendment, and duly seconded, That, seeing we are already under the covenant engagements and solemn vows regarding the Lord Jesus Christ as the only King and Head of His Church, and also as the King of Kings, this Presbytery disapproves of a Basis of Union in which no place is allowed to a distinct recognition of His glorious Crown Rights, and in which entangling relations to other churches are made a fundamental provision of the Constitution of the United Church. Votes being taken, the motion was carried by a majority of one; 13 voting for the motion, and 12 for the amendment. From the finding of Presbytery on this point, Messrs. Ross, Graham, Ferguson, Logie, Ministers; and Kerr, Walker, and Carmichael, Elders, recorded their dissent, with reasons given in. Thereafter the Remit on Foreign Missions was taken up, and it was agreed that, while recognizing the zeal of the respected brother who originated the question, the Presbytery do not deem it expedient to recommend to the Assembly to adopt it. Mr. McPherson of Stratford, was nominated as the next Moderator of the General Assembly. The next meeting of Presbytery was appointed to take place on the 2nd Tuesday of March, at Clinton, and within Willis Church, at 11 a.m.

Presbytery of Ontario.

This Presbytery met at Port Perry on the 13th of January with a very full attendance of members. A considerable amount of routine business was transacted, but I shall notice only what may be of general interest. There was an unanimous call from Wick and Greenbank before the Presbytery, addressed to Mr. Anderson. The call was sustained and ordered to be transmitted to him. Reports were given in by those who had been appointed to attend Missionary meetings within the bounds, from which it appeared that the meetings, with very few exceptions, had been held, and several of them satisfactorily attended; but, generally, there had not been a fair representation of the respective congregations. A committee was appointed to consider with all possible care the unsatisfactory circumstances in connection with most of the congregations, and to devise some measures by which an interest in missionary operations may be increased, or whether something more effective than those meetings may be adopted in future. The Presbytery then proceeded to consider the Remit on Union. A full consideration was given to the proposed Basis. Although there was a very general harmony in the views of members in regard to it, several motions were made, but were gradually withdrawn as discussion upon their respective merits proceeded, and the following was unanimously adopted:—I. That this Presbytery, while desirous of Union between the several negotiating Churches, and while rejoicing in the substantial harmony which exists among them in regard to important points of Faith and manner, and while they would not feel called upon to oppose Union on the proposed Basis, would much prefer a Union simply on the doctrinal and ecclesiastical Basis of our common standards, without being encumbered by any further additions. The Bible and Confession of Faith, formed the Basis of the recent Union of Presbyterian Churches in the United States, which is in the words following: 'The reunion shall be effected on the doctrinal and ecclesiastical basis of our common standards. The

Presbytery of Hamilton.

This Presbytery met in Central Church, Hamilton, on the 13th and 14th of January. Mr. Wilson, of Caledonia, was the Moderator. There were 17 ministers and 10 elders present. The Clerk was instructed to give certificate of Ministerial stations to the Rev. G. F. Stevens, about to return to Scotland. Mr. John McClung, student, was licensed to preach the gospel. A notice on Mr. A. B. Simpson's translation to Louisville, Ky., was adopted and engrossed in the records, a copy of which was sent to Mr. Simpson. The Rev. Thomas McPherson, of Stratford, was nominated as the next Moderator of the General Assembly. The question of Union was taken up. Thirteen sessions approved and five disapproved of Union on the present basis; and sixteen congregations approved and three disapproved. The committee appointed to visit the congregation of which Mr. Cheyne has been pastor so long, and to obtain some definite retiring allowance, reported that the congregation had only resolved to grant an annual subscription. The Presbytery requested this, and after deliberation, appointed Mr. Laing to visit the congregation, inform them of the regret of the Presbytery at their decision, and endeavor to get them to reconsider it, and to come to one more definite to their pastor, who had labored so long and so faithfully among them. Mr. Laing was also appointed to solicit an expression of the desires of congregation in relation to re-arrangement of Stations, which appears to be necessary to work the field to greater advantage, and to report at next meeting of Presbytery.—Con.

Presbytery of Owen Sound.

The proceedings of the remit on Union from the General Assembly were published last week.—Ed. B. A. P.

Presbytery of Owen Sound.

This Presbytery met on Tuesday, the 6th inst., in Division Street Church, Owen Sound; the Moderator, Mr. Dewar, presiding. A letter was read from the Rev. A. Stevenson, preacher of the Gospel, signifying his acceptance of the call addressed to him by the congregations of St. Vincent, Sydney and Ephraim. Mr. St. V. on being present, in certain trials for ordination; these trials were most cordially sustained by the court. A meeting of Presbytery was ordered to be held in St. Vincent Church on the 20th inst., at half-past ten o'clock, a.m., to ordain and admit him into the pastoral charge of the above-named congregations. Mr. Whimster was appointed to present; and a Moderator to address the minister, and Mr. McLennan the people. Mr. Whimster was also invited to serve the edict on Sabbath first. Mr. McNaughton gave notice that at the next regular meeting he would introduce an overture to the General Assembly on the revision of the Home Mission Scheme of our Church. The Rev. R. Williams, a minister of the Antiochian Presbyterian Church, made application to be received as a minister of our Church. The Moderator and Mr. Cameron, with their representative elders, were appointed a committee to examine his papers and report. The proposed basis of union between our Church and the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connection with the Church of England, was ordered to be sent down to sessions and congregations for their consideration, with instructions to report thereon to the next meeting of Presbytery. A communication was received from Allenford Station expressing a desire to unite with the congregation of Tara; the communication was laid on the table, and a deputation consisting of the Moderator, Mr. McNaughton, and Mr. Ormiston, elders, was appointed to visit Allenford, Percy, Chesley Lake, South Diagonal and Winton, to gather information as to the condition of these stations, and also to refer to the western boundary of the Presbytery, and report at next meeting. Next ordinary meeting of Presbytery will be held at Owen Sound on the 3rd of Tuesday of March, at 10 o'clock a.m.—Con.

seely received and adopted as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures, and the government and discipline of the Presbyterian Church in the United States shall be approved, as containing the principles and rules of our polity." II. In the opinion of this Presbytery, the first three Articles contain all that is required for a Basis of Union; and inasmuch as these Articles have been agreed upon by the joint Committee, therefore this Presbytery would recommend that these three Articles be the Basis on which the negotiating Churches shall unite. III. That the third and fourth Resolutions (including the Act of Independence) are unnecessary, and as many claim that they commit the Church to doubtful principles and practices, this Presbytery would recommend that they form no part of the deliberations of the negotiating Churches. The resignation of Rev. Hugh Currie, presented at the last regular meeting, was taken up and disposed of. Commissioners from Meville and Cunningham were heard, from whose statements it appeared that the greatest harmony exists between the congregation and their pastor, and there was an unanimous desire that he should continue in his charge. Mr. Currie confirmed the expressions of cordiality on the part of the Commissioners, but earnestly pressed the acceptance of his resignation, from a strong conviction of duty; and that there were circumstances in connection with the field of labour, which for a length of time had led him to believe that another might cultivate it more successfully, and that it was from a desire to promote the cause that he desired to resign. After deliberation the resignation was accepted, to take effect the 10th Sabbath of January. Mr. Murray was appointed to preach, and declare the pulpit vacant. Arrangements were made for visiting the mission field, and holding missionary meetings in the various stations therein.—R. H. Thompson, Clerk.

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Be friendly to all; but make it no your friends until they know you and you know them. Many a friendship, born in the