Marian, dear, how is the morning, fair or cloudy?' inquired Ethel Ray, turning on the invalid couch, where she lay day s well as night. Marian swept the scant curtain back

from the narrow window of their poor Dark and cloudy,' she replied the cold dreariness of the new-day striking, a chill to her sensitive, heavily-burdened heart. A tired hopeless look swept over her delicate, noble face, leaving a slight droop at the corners of her mouth, a shadow in her eyes. Ethel saw the change of expression and for a moment her own grew less cheerful and bright.

'Never mind; there will be a rift in the clouds by and by,' she said with renewed

'I am glad you have such faith, pet, said Marian, still looking out on the street. A poor beggar crept feebly along, his rags fluttering in the bitter wind, and, in pity for a lot sadder than her own the girl lost some of her own discontent. She turned from the window with a brighter expression, and put on her hat and cloak to start out on that weary round of music lessons, which were their support.

'I am sorry to leave you all day Ethel but it will be late before I can get through. 'Do not fret about me, Marian. Mrs. McNally will come in and give me my lunch and a fresh glass of water, and l have this beautiful lace to mend for Miss Constantine, and that magazine you ought me yesterday to read. Oh, I

shall be fully occupied until you return. ·Well, well, it is comforting to have s brave and busy a little sister at home. I think of it often when I am out, and it gives me courage,' said Marion, bending over the couch with tender misty eyes. The crippled girl clasped the slender hand caressing her hair, and drew it down

against her pale cheek.

'Am I a help to you Marian? Oh, that
thought makes me happy! I lie here such
a helpless useless creature. Sometimes I
have feared that I was only a burden to

you,'
'Never think that again, dear one—
never. If it were not for you—'
She broke off, and stooping, kissed the
sweet, pale face resting on the pillow, but
when she would have moved away, Ethel when an woment longer.

'Marian, darling, do not lose your faith and hope. There will be clear sunshine after a while, and all these dark clouds

after a while, and all these dark clouds will vanish."

I will try to think so,' she replied, with a smile—a smile that vanished the moment she left her sister's presence, and memory began to bring up one by one the events of the two years passed.

The girls had been left orphans at an early age, but with property sufficient to supply all they could ever need, not only of necessities, but even luxuries. Their guardian controlled and managed the meney, and they lived in his house, under the care of his good hearted maiden sister. Ethel had always been lame and delicate, but Marian went out into the world, seeing and enjoying its beauties and pleasures.

world, seeing and enjoying its beauties and pleasures.

Walking swiftly along to give her first music lesson, she drew a sharp breath of anguish as memory too faithfully recalled all the glory and happiness of a three month's tour to Europe, with a party of fortune. At the very outset they met Mark Keller, handsome, travelled, and to the young girl a very king among men. He joined the party, and singled her out as the object of his attentions. The routes they travelled he had been over before, and he could point out all that was beautiful or interesting. It was a golden season, and the girl's heart surrendered in spite of womanly pride and reluctance. But she had no cause to feel shame, or believe her love unsought for. shame, or believe her love unsought for shame, or believe her love unsought for. One mellow, moonlight night in an old Italian garden, he stretched out his hand to her with sudden passionate words of love, and so eloquently did he plead for the sweet gift of all her future life, she could not withhold the promise to be his wife.

'You shall never regret it. You shall be happy,' he cried, with a lover's confi-"I am happy now," she whispered, freshed and shy, but radiant.

They wandered long among the flowers feeling that heaven lay about them; but the next morning the girl received bad news from heme. She only made out clearly that her presence was needed, and with only one regretful sigh for the bright dreams she had cherished, she began preparations for the long journey. Keller earnestly begged to be allowed to accompany her, but she gently refused. He must go on with their friends, and if she needed him she would write for him to come.

Members of Board of Trade, Corn and Mechanic Exchanges.

Stolen Net.

SMELT NET of Large Size was stolen from the Subscriber's Barn in Douglastown on the night of November 16th last. Any information which may lead to its recovery will be galdy received by

MRS. A. GUNTER. 'I am happy now,' she whispered, frush-

I shall come on in a few weeks whether you send for me or not. We must finish this interrupted tour together, Marian.

'She returned home to find her guardian dead, and their fortune gone, swept away in some ill-devised speculation. The maiden lady sought a home with relatives and Marian Ray found herself among the world's workers, and with a helpless invalid to take care of. Helpless, did I say? Nay, she was the only hope and comfort of poor Marian's heart, for her handsome wealthy lover came not, and the letter she wrote to him explaining their reverse of fortune remained un answered. She tried to think of him with contempt; to hold the love that failed in the hour of her bicterest need as valueless, but she only succeeded in tormenting her own faithful, loving heart which in spite of pride and reason clung to that short sweet romance, with a hold 'I shall come on in a few weeks whethe to that short sweet romance, with a hold

which death alone could break. which death alone could break.

All day she walked from house to house through the bitter cold, while the clouds hung dull and heavy over the city; but when, her day's work ended, she started home in the evening a strip of blue appeared overhead. She lifted her eyes to it, and saw the clouds part wider and wider, until the little rift had become a broad space across the heavens.

Dear Ethel! She would rejoics in that and call it a happy omen, but I cannot. and call it a happy omen, but I cannot,'
she thought with a tender smile that ended in a sigh.

It was dark when she reached home,

It was dark when she reached home, and hurrying eagerly up stairs, she pushed open the door, anxious to be with her sister as soon as possible. They were careful with fuel, with everything necessity forced them to study economy, and Marian expected to find the room in darkness, only a seanty handful of coals in the grate. She entered, to find a glowing fire, and the table set with dainties, while the tea-kettle steamed merrily on the hearth.

Ethel' she cried, hastily throwing off hat and wraps, and turning toward her sister's bed.

'Oh, Marian, sister' cried the invalid, the standard tambling with strange emo-Assurance Coy, in a voice trembling with strange emo-tion; then Marian felt her heart leap in a suffocating throb of pain and rapture, for out of the semi-darkness of the corner,

Mark Keller advanced, with outstretched hands to meet her. A chilling remembrance of all his silence and neglect swept over her, and pride rose in arms.

'Certainly, I—I welcome you, Mr. Keller,' she said, stiffly, and stepping back a little.

SEE BOS.

2,700 lbs. Timothy Seed. Marian, have you no welcome for me!' back a little.
'What?' 'Have you forgotten?' he

"What?" 'Have you forgotten?' he cried, in keenest disappointment.
'No, sir, it is because I remember that I can give no friendlier greeting. I wonder that you can expect it, after such long neglect and coldness. I cannot pass over such slights.'
'But Marian, he did not get your letter and he could not come when he intended for a hurt received among the Alpskept him a prisoner for several weeks, and then he had to search and search, and has just found us,' said Ethel, half and then he had to search and search, and has just found us,' said Ethel, half raising herself up, the crimson firelight giving even her pale face a roseate tint. Marian's face changed, and her eyes mutely questioned her lover's.

'It is all true. Could you believe I loved you so lightly?' he murmured; and this time she did not shrink back when nached but gave him the welcome he craved.

"Tis the rift in the clouds. Hope said it would come, and I had faith to believe, thank God."

Ethel fell back among her pilows, her clicate hands clasped, her eyes radiant.

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"Ladies."

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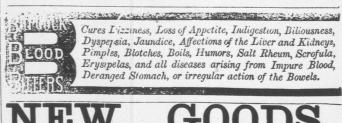
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GENERAL BUSINESS.

AND CARRIAGES. I have just received for the spring trade, 1 car load of Wilkin-

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