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### JUBILEE BOOK,

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### CHRISTMAS MORN.

Up, Christian | Hark! the crowing cock Proclaims the break of day! Up 1 light the lamp, undo the lock, And take the well-known way. Already through the painted glass Streams forth the light of early Mass!

Our altur! oh, how fair it shows Unto the night-dimm'd eyes! Oh! surely yonder leaf that glows Was pluck'd in Paradisc!

Without, it snows; the wind is loud; Earth sleeps, wrapp'd iz her yearly shroud.

Within, the organ's soaring peal, The choir's bace The surging crowd that stands or kneels, The glorious errand tells. Rejoice ! rejoice! ye sons of men, For man may hope for heaven again !

'Tis but a step, a threshold cross'd, Yet such a change we find ; Without, the wand'ring worldling toss'd By every gust of wind; Within, there reigns a holy calm. For here abides the dread " I AM !" T. D. McGER.

. IV.

## CHRISTMAS STORY.

## A STORY WITH A HAPPY ENDING.

CHAPTER I.

It was Christmas Eve. The snowy valleys of Connemara lay smooth and serenc in the shadows that were just beginning to make mystery in hollow places, though the after glow of an angry sunset had not yet died along the ridges of the eastern hills. Very quickly the night came down, the stars blazed out with frosty brilliance above the white crowns of the tall mountains, and a red large moon came up between two peaks of the twelve Bens, and gaz d at its own solemn face in the broad Glenmore Lake.

As the night darkened the lights from Glenmore Castle shown more steadily down through a clearing in the crowd of pine trees that separated its cultivated grounds from the wild path above the lake. Along this path a little band of figures was moving, men, a woman and children. They walked slowly, for the woman carried a baby wrapped in her cloak, and her broken steps did not betoken health, or strength. The children clung to the men's hands, and cried, for the cold pinched their bare tors. Some of the men bent their heads and looked on the ground, others fixed their gaze on the warm glard streaming from every window in the castle, and thought of the luxary within, and festive preparations of which these comfortable lights were the signal. They were bound for that castle in search of mercy, and perhaps they thought they should be likely to find it at the hands of Sir Miles Darcy, now, at this season of lavish hospital ity and general rejoicing.

Behind the screen of one of those well-lighted windows, Sir Miles Darcy was at that moment sitting in his library. Looking in, we find it a bandsome and cosy room. The walls are well lined with books, the crimson hangings have a stately sweep, the wide grate glows with fire. Sir Miles armchair is drawn to the verge of the heartrug, and at the table Sir Miles is writing.

crimson cloth and the books and papers, that litter. it, over the barobet's desk and the pen as it moves in his quick fingers and over his face. There are lines of thought on his brow, and the marks of an fron purpose are set about his stern mouth, . Very stern it looks now though it can be pleasant too; but at prosent these more gonial looks are only about his features for the last forty years, and has side her. traditionary The soulptor will has been carving

chiselled them to well nigh the perfection of grim-

Sir Miles writes; and stops and thinks; and writes on. Suddenly a hand upon the door inter-rupts the silence. Sir Miles looks up with a disturbed eye.

"Sir, there's a man out abroad that'd be wanting to spake a word to yer honor." "Who is he?"

"He didn't give any name, yer honor, an' it's mortal dark outley, but he said if it'd be a thing that yer honor'd give him the speech o' yen, he wouldn't bother ye more nor wan couple o' minutes.' " Let him come in," said Sir Miles, and Pat vanished.

In a few seconds the library door opened again, and a group, strangely out of keeping with the handsome room into which they seemed afraid to step, appeared in the doorway. Foremost, there was a gaunt, hungry-looking man, with a strong frame, brawny hands clutching his dingy cap, and with a craving fire smouldering in his sunken eyes. By his side was a pretty woman in a red petticoat, and a handkerchief tied under her chin, just such a pretty, dark-haired, dark-eyed woman as, under more happy circumstances, must have been the admiration of every tourist, and a godsend to every wandering artist who might chance to pass her cottage door. But now the merry, mischlevous eyes were unnaturally large, and heavily dull, the mouth was wan and drawn, the cheeks were hollow; every feature was pinched with want and sickness. A baby was wrapt in the skirt of her scanty gown and held close to her bosom; but there was a pallor up her face, and a wandering dimness in her eyes that seemed to warn that the wasted arms must soon relax their eager clasp. Three or four little frightened children clung about her skirts, with cold blue faces, and red bare feet and legs.

Sir Miles started at the picture thus auddenly thrust before his eyes, and a flush overspread his

face.
"What is your business?" he asked, harshly and hurriedly. "What brings you here?"
The gaunt man shivered at the sharp tone; a tremor runs through his frame. He lifts his voice

to speak, but the sounds that come are very husky. Another shock passes over him, and the cap in his hand is convulsively twitched. He clears his throat, and speaks again.

"Master for forty long years my father was a faithful servant to yer honor's father. God rest them both! nor iver wint agin him or giv him a minute's trouble to the day of his death. Master, yoursel' was but small whin I was a little boy climbin' the rocks, and finding the nest that used to place ye, and many's the time I risked my neck for the givin' o' you pleasure, not that it fits the likes o'me to be reminding your honor of such things, and to keep my bones out of the grave I wouldn't do it; but masther, the thought of the childher, my nine helpless little wancens, makes me bold for to mention it. Since the day I got the bit o' land, and took the rint on my own shoulders, with Maury here, I always paid you faithful, an' niver was the shadow on your honor's path. Au' if I swore agin yer that day in coort, how could I help it, yer honor? What for did they bring up a poor man that was minding his business, and niver thinkin' on them, and put him on his oath? Sure I couldn't swear the lie? An' if yer honor has for me, there's them other poor fellows as niver crossed you anyhow, ten o' them yer honor, with long, wake families, with weenis girleens, and ou'd fathers and ould mothers that isn't fit to put the foot under them. Sure if it was only the young itsel'. And now, masther, if ye'l be pleased to think on my hard case, an' not take the root from over our heads, an the bit out of our mouths, an' the snow fellin' Mauria kneel down childher kneel down, down on yer knees, an' ask his honor to have mercy on ve."

There was a silence broken only by the sobbing of the woman, and the whimpering of the children. If the lamp-light that gazed on Sir Miles Darcy's lace had been anything human it might have told that for a moment there was a look upon it that was something like relenting. But it vanished, and the storm gathered in his eyes, and burst over the heads of the wretched suppliants.

"All that I have to say to you," he cried, "I said long ago. I will have no more dealings with you. I have passed my word, and not for hundreds like you will I break it. Monday morning shall rid me

of your whining ad snivellings. Begone!"
The gaunt man rose from his knees, and looking wonderingly round the room, as if he strove to realize what was passing. Mechanically he took a child's hand in each of his, and followed his wife and her little brood from the room. The door was closed once more, and Sir Miles was left to himself.

As the dreary little band passed out from the shadow of the castle into the moonlight, a number of dark figures emerged from the shadow of a wall and joined them. They were gloomy-faced men, and walked with a kind of spiritless doggedness.

"Well?" asked the oldest and gloomiest of the band.

The gaunt man shook his head in silence, and no more words were spoken.

In silence the mournful party went on, winding along by the pine trees. The children cried again with the cold, and the men took them in their arms and soothed them roughly. There were tracks of blood upon the snow; but what of that? Little the children could care for this, when they were under shelter again, and at rest in their little poor beds. The shelter, and the corner to cover them. selves up and sleep, were still left to them for three days to come. They are well off as yet— After Monday night it will be time enough to commisserate them.

The children were scothed, on moved the little crowd by the dark lake and bright mountains, till Mary, the mother of the little ones, grew fuint and The lamp sheds its tempered light over the, dizzy, and began to strike her feet painfully against the stones, and to clasp her baby in a blind reckless way to ker chilled bosom. One of the men took the child from her arms, and the next moment the woman fell with a moan, and lay, the full length of her dark figure stretched on the snow, under the moonlight.

Her husband stared round on his companions

a horrible conviction seized him.

"She's gone!" he shricked, "she's gone. And
by the Blessed Saviour this night I'il have the blood of her murderer!"

"Whist, whist! Ned Mangan," said one of the men. "Sorra wan o' her's dead at all, but only wake she is, an' tired out with the cold and the frettin'. Hould sisy a bit, man, an' I'll git her in my arms, and we'll have her at home, an' in her bed, and the dbrop of something warm to her in less than no time. Whist, whist, man, an' be aisy.' "Stand by, Mick Coyne!" cried the desperate

man, "it's well you mane, but niver a man shall lift her but the husband she sthruv for an' died for. Come, Mauria ashtore, lay your cold head on my shoulder, and short be the time till my coffin is laid beside yours—but not till I have revenged you, Mauria, acushla machree!"

Mick fell back, Ned strode on with his burden, and the gloomy procession moved forward as before, and passed away into the shadows of more pine

#### CHAPTER IL.

While Mary Mangan fell in the snow, Kate Darcy, the landlord's only child, stood before the glass in her dressing room, preparing for the ball which always celebrated Christmas Eve at Glenmore Castle. The blood flowed rapidly in her young veins, and her heart beat glad time to the music of her thoughts. No nipping frost had ever pinched her soft cheek, no rough encounter with hardship bad ever chilled the generous impulses of her kindly nature. She was very fair to see, a creature richly gifted, and very sweet to dwell beside, for she seemed created to dispense with lavish hand the gentle charities of life. No wonder if she was the idol of her father's heart.

The firelight crept with a rosy blush over her own pure heart. Her eyes were dark and blue like the spring violets, and the golden hair which hung upon her neck seemed to have stolen its lustrous sheen from the summer sun to gladden the dull sight of the dreary old man, Winter.
Kate's little maid stood at the window, holding

the shinning wreath of holly which was to crown her beautiful mistress as queen of the Christmas festival.

"Brideen," said Kate, "I cannot get this bracelet to fasten. Will you try it—closer to the light

or it will not do,"
Brideen, who had been keeping as much as possible behind her mistress's back while she dressed her, approached reluctantly and bent her face very low over the young lady's hand while she performed the required service.

"There, that will do," said Kate, and Brideen raised her head. "Why, child, you have been crying," exclaimed Kate in surprise. "Crying to night! What can be the matter?"

must be a good deal that sits so heavily on your You are too clear-sighted not to see that they are so, merry heart. Why, Brideen, I never saw you cry even while the world is trying to throw dust in your before. I shall not enjoy this evening at all if you do not tell me what is the matter. Come, Brideen, tell me what ails you."

"No, no, no! gasped Bridgen, who was by this time sobbing bitterly; and throwing her apron over her face she durted from the room. After her went Kate, along the corridor and half

down the stairs, where glancing over the balustrade she caught sight of Brideen's swift retreat, and heard the voices of two other servants who had stopped on the stairs as the little maid ran past.
"No wondher," said one, "it's a sorraful heart she

has this night, an' small blame to her."

"Aye, aye," said the other, "Ned Mangan was nere but a bit ago, with Mauria, an' four or five of

Brideen's little sisthers. Och! och! but it's the long wake family he has, the poor man! Sure it was to mysel' that Pat came in the pantbry, an' says he, 'Norah,' says he, 'Ned has got word o' the masther at last, says he, 'an' sure I am that he'll forgive him the blissid night that it is! Not so sure, Pat agra," says I; "the masther's

good to the likes 'o you su' me as does his bidden', but he's hard an' bitcher to them that crosses his will. An' thrue were the words I spoke, for they worint out 'o my gnouth whin wirra! we hears the masthers voice phillilleughin up to the ceilin', and bang goes the library duer, an' out comes Ned an' his wife, poor soul, but it's sick my heart was from her, an' the weenle wancen in her arms, an' the wee bits o' girleens runnin' among her feet."

"Och! for's this? for's this? But it's many's the sore heart Monday night'll see, and many's the cowld hearthstone. Sure if myself could help them I wouldn't be long doin' it. But as that's not to be, sorra bit o' use in you an' me, Norah, standin' prachin' collioqin' here, and sich a power o' work to be got undher afore to-morrow night."

"It's thrue for you." " Faith it is."

And bringing this conversation abruptly to a close, the two wined away the genuine tear, from their eyes, and went on their separate errauds.

Kate left her retreat, and, swift as an arrow, sped down the staircase, nor paused until her hand was on the library door. Sir Miles sought the intruder with an angry eye, and no gentle greeting on the tip of his tongue, but the change that passed over his countenance was wonderful when his daughter entered the room. To no other visitor on earth could he have given a smile at that moment, but while the smile lingers we will look and acknowledge that that face can look pleasant and genial; and speculate on the possibility of that iron firmness of character outstretching its strong arm to uphold the right cause of humanity.
"Well," he says, with light still lingering in his

eyes, "is my time up, darling? Are our guests begioning to arrive?" Kate has crossed the room with a quick step, and

kneeling down by his chair, takes his hand cares-singly between hers.

"No, papa; it is not that: Papa I went to speak to you, but I am afraid of making you angry."

Sir Miles face is grave now. "Why, my child: When was I angry with you?

will vex you.'

Sir Miles' face is growing very firm, but he does not interrupt.

"Isn't it true that you have threatened to turn out some of the tenants on Monday night? I only heard it by accident a few minutes ago. Oh! father, you surely are not in earnest. You could not send the poor creatures out on the snow without food and shelter and we in the midst of feasting and rejoicing ?"

"Kate," and Sir Miles face is very dark, and there is a storm rising. "I will not suffer any one, not even you, to call me to account for what I think right to do. I am responsible for my action and will not tolerate interiorence. Say no more, lest you have just cause to feel my anger."

Of father, I implore you to hear me. For Christ's sake, who comes on this holy eve to bring peace and charity among men, be merciful and spare these poor people. Papa, I am your only child, and the only one you have to care for. In the whole world there is not one who loves you as I do, and I tell you you will break my heart, crush all my life with misery if you do this cruel thing."

The storm is risen, but still Sir Miles listens and is silent. Strange gusts of anger sweep his face, strange lightnings are in his eyes, but still he is silent and listens.

"Father, when my mother lived you did none of these cruel things. She loved these poor people, and you loved her, and you were both honored and blessed by the poor on every side. If she were here now she would plead as I do, and you could not refuse her prayer. Look at me, father, I am her child, you say I am like her, I am on my knees before you, will you not hear me? I am pleading for yourself, for your own soul. Mow awful on your deathbed, when this dear hand (passionately kissing it again and again) shall be growing cold, shall be unable to do one more good deed in this world, think how terrible then the memory of these poor shivering creatures turned adrift by you at the very season when He was bora who urged us to love and cherish the poor. Think of them crowding around your beside, laying their loads upon your soul, the loads of their suffering, perhaps death, their sins of hute and resentment and revenge. What, oh! what will it be to you then that you have enriched your lands, or swelled your purse, or gratified your pride?

She pauses, but still he does not speak. His face is turned away, but his hand is trembling. She is afraid he is terribly angry, but she dashes on with desperate courage.

I know there are many who will applaud this deed for which the angels are weeping. They will sneer at your mercy, I know, and affect to think you weak minded and faint hearted, and afraid to do what you please with your own. But, dear fa-"Oh, sorra, haporth's the matter with me, Miss ther, though their destiny has been cast among the Kate, nothin' in the world, only a little somethin' high places, the censure of such people is not that vexed me."

"Crying again, Brideen! surely that something be here to-night, selfish, avaricious and cold hearted."

"Oh, sorra, haporth's the matter with me, Miss there wan among us would refuse him the honorable shelter of the roof or harm high places, the censure of such people is not inimy of wan, or two, or those, or a dozen of us, but of the whole downstrampled, starvin' country? eyes. They are the only class who will condemn you. The whole world of right-thinking, God-fearing men, will bless and applaud your charity.

"And father, dear father, have putience with me a little longer; think on your dying day to have the memory of this good action to smooth your pillow, of this conquest of your pride, of this rescuing your fellow creatures from suffering, perhaps crime. of this fit birth-offering to Jesus, more precious than gold, than frankincense, than myrrh! Think of this good deed standing like an angel by your side! O father, for my mother's sake; she would plead, she is pleading with me-you must feel her in your heart-oh, will you not hear our prayer ?"

Her tears wet the hand she clasps, and it is not withdrawn, but the face is still turned from her. A deep silence reigns through the room. Kate can think of nothing more to say, and is quite still. The spent ashes fell in the grate, the lamp burns with its steadfast light, the busts that frown from the cornices, of great men who died centuries ago, gaze on with their white stare, as though the bidden workings of earthly things had not long since been

made clear to their dissolved spirits.

Kate arose and stole nearer to her father, put her arms softly round his neck, and laid her cheek against his.

Sir Miles pressed his darling in his arms, and his voice was husky with emotion when he spoke. " My child, my good angel, you have conquered

me. Let it be as you say."
But Kate is on her knees again. "O futher, pardon me if I have pained you, for-

give me for ever distrusting your generous heart." "Hush, any child, I do not deserve your praise," and Sir Miles, the harsh, the inexorable Sir Miles, rose to his feet, and with wet eyes and faltering voice, prayed aloud :

"Great God, I have sinned; I acknowledge it before the face of the angel Thou hast sent to save me. In her presence I promise to obey the promptings of that better nature which she has awakened within me."

Sir Miles sat down at the table awhile, and shaded his face with his hand. Presently he looked

"Kate, said he, "the rod of power is in your hands; make what use of it you please. Kate took his hand again and kissed it, and laid

her cheek against it. 6 Dear papa: And will you then listen to my little tlny bit of advice? Let us try to conciliate

these poor people; they are wonderful creatures for forgiving and forgetting. Indeed I know them better than you do. I go more amongst them, and see many things you overlook. Grant them all a free pardobnow for whatever offence they have given. Let it be known that you wish their welfare. Go a little more among them, invite their confidence and awaken their trust. If you do this all will be woll, for they have quick hearts to feel, and eloquent tongues to utter blessings that will echo at the judgment seat of God! In ten minutes after this Rate sprang briskly

through her chamber door.

Brideen ! Brideen ! Where is my cloak ? Run

"Mary avourneen!" he murmured, bending over her, touching her face, and feeling her hands. Then have anything to do with your business affairs, and to your father's house!" And flashing a bright look a horrible conviction seized him.

"No, no, dear papa; never indeed, but I never able thing you can find, and follow me to the valley have anything to do with your business affairs, and to your father's house!" And flashing a bright look a horrible conviction seized him. accomplished Miss Darcy" tucked up her white skirts, threw her cloak over her head, and van-ished from the little maid's vision like a winter suubeam.

#### CHAPTER III.

In distant cities the clocks were striking nine, but on the lonesome moors the hours come and go unannounced. In Ned Mangan's cabin eight men had gathered together. They sat in the dark, for the embers had burnt low, and were dying on the hearth, and they had furnished themselves with no other light. The moon edged the rude windowpane, with a binding of silver, and this was the only Christmas decoration about the place. Within the walls all was in deep shadow. No man could see his neighbor's face, nor did any man wish tor light. The last ray of hope was extinct in their hearts, and the prince of darkness himself was doing his foul work within them. Why make visible the utter darkness of their souls by the flicker of a rushlight while they sat in kindred gloom, and held the dread counsel of desperate men?

One amongst them was addressing the rest. It was hard to recognize Ned Mangan's voice, a cheery voice in good times, in the phrenzied, shricking tones of the speaker; yet it was Ned Mangan who

"Boys!" he cried, "we have thried our last chance. We have knelt like slaves, only to be spurned like dogs. We have been called whiners, an' snivellers, and we will whine an' snivel no longer!-

"Boys! I tell ye that the heart o' the rich man is harder than the rock, and colder than the ice to the poor tinant that stands in his road. I tell yo that he will walk o'er the dead bodies o' our childher, an' o'er the gray heads o' our people; he wilt let the strongest o' us waste to the slow hungry death, that his fat cattle may graze in our bits of gardens. Boys, there is only wan coorse for us now. The bullet that goes through the tyrant's body will free the lan', will give life to the dyin', and warmth o' the livin' hearthstone to the freezin', an the bit to the cravin' mouth. Boys, is there any man that will dare call us murtherers? Is there wan amongst us that hasn't a wife, or a chil', or a sister, or an' ould father or mother, an' would we spake the foul word to them? but work an' toll for them, an' be good husbands an' fathers, an' brothers an' sons while the breath was in us? If the tyrant thrusted us with his chisfuls o' goold, is there wan o' us here would touch an unlawful penny ?"

A grean ran through the assembly, and seemed to give answer in the negative.

"Boys, there's not wan amongst us but has an inimy o' some time or another, an' if he had wrought us all the unessiness he could, an' if he came to the door o' the wild night, is there wan among us would Did ye niver hear o' the brave woman Judith, that with the strength o' fifty in her wan heart, killed the cruel king, an' how God Almighty put it is her head, an' all good men praised her, an' glorified her -- an' why? Because he was the inimy o' her counthry, an' was bringin' blackness an' desolation on her people. Boys, it must be done. It's not blood we thirst for, Christ Himself was to send an angel o' light.''

The door opened wide, and a slender white figure appeared upon the threshold.

Every man fell on his knees as with one con-

"Just God of Heaven!" murmured Ned, and a rush of smothered ejaculations followed this. Then a terrible spell fell upon the group. Every man's tongue clove to his mouth with awe.

'Is Ned Mangan here?" asked a fresh voice that entered the gloomy walls as an errant summer beam might strike to the heart of a sunless for-

There was no answer The spell remained: unbroken. Again the question was repeated.
"If Ned Mangan is here let him speak, for L am the bearer of good things."

This time Ned found courage to answer, and Kate advanced into the cabin.

"Will you please get a light ?" she said. Some one blew a flame from the embers, lit a candle, one stuck it in a sconce against the wall-The feeble flame revealed a crowd of desperate looking men with gloomy brows and silent tongues; some sat on a bench, with folded arms and eyes sullenly bent on the ground, others half knelt and shaded their dark faces from the unwelcome light each man avoiding his fellow's eye.

If Kate thought it an odd state of things the did not seem surprised. Possibly she thought they had been praying. She walked up to where Ned stood, with nerveless arms hanging by his side, with haggard cheeks, and loose hanging under jaw, and with eyes that were fixed on the opposite wall with a

blank, idiotic stare.

"Ned Mangan," said she, gently laying her hand on his arm, "I am sorry that you have been in trouble, but thank God your trouble may be at an end. My father has repented of his rash anger, and wishes to deal kindly with you all on this eve. Ho tells me that not one of you will be disturbed on Monday, and if all goes well I trust you will soon have good leases. All your offence against him, whatever it may be, is forgiven, and be asks you in Christ's name to forget any harshness he has shown towards you. He invites you all, with your wives and children, to spend to-morrow at the Castle, and have a dance in the large hall. I hope you will all come, dear friends, and taste the plum pudding and mince pies that are getting ready for you, and drown care and old quarrels in a draught of good wine. And now, dear friends, will you shake hands with me all around in token of good will, that I may carry your friendship back with me to Sir Miles ?"

The rough mountaineers glanced at the generous. beaming face, and the little fair hand, so frankly extended towards them, and were conquered. As each advanced to offer his hard, brown hand, the tears that dropped on his face washed away all traces of bitterness from his heart.

Am I over harsh to you Kate? As for poor Ned, he caught in both his the soft and the second of the second s