

Rheumatism and palpitation of the heart, that generally follows long cases of diseased liver and kidneys, were now almost constantly present, so that he could scarcely hobble across the room. His cough had become dreadful, with a greenish-coloured expectoration. His breathing had now become like that of an asthmatic. His money was now exhausted, and the little children were aiding their mother to supply the absolute wants by working in the mill, he being no longer able to perform even the light task some kind friends had provided him in the early days of his confinement to the house. We speak of this to show the sympathetic nature and noble magnanimity of the man, for it is a fact that should not be omitted that in this, his dire extremity, with no money, with no strength to earn bread, and with the wolf of want staring in at the door, he gave a home to a poor fatherless and motherless boy, and let him share his scanty living, and to this day the little orphan boy has a home with the family, made comfortable by the surprising recovery and subsequent success of this noble man.

It is an old saying that it is always darkest just before day. It is a true saying as applied in the case of our friend. Reduced to absolute want in purse, and to a mere skeleton in body, his mind dejected, there appeared to be no room for hope.

One day some friend handed him a little book issued by an American in London, setting forth the virtues of certain plants

and roots that grew in America, and which had been accidentally discovered by an old German nurse, to be not only harmless, but a potent remedy for indigestion. The American was sending out the medicine on trial without the payment of any money. Mr. Briggs' eye rested on the following clause in the little book: "Being a stranger in a strange land, I do not wish the people to feel that I have the least disposition to take advantage of them. I feel that I have a remedy that will cure disease, and I have so much confidence in it, that I authorize my agents to refund the money for the first bottle sold to a party in case no benefit is derived therefrom. I want no one's money unless they receive their money's worth. While I place such confidence in the people as to take their statements upon this subject, I hope they will not take advantage of my liberality in this respect."

After reading this, Briggs said, "Well, if this American is not a fool he certainly must have a good medicine, for no one but a fool or a crazy man would send out a poor medicine on such favourable terms without prepayment of money." At all events, he determined to send for a package and see what it was like. Briggs wrote to the American medicine man that he had no money, and no prospect of having any, and if the American had confidence to send out his medicine in such cases without money in advance, he ought at least to have confidence enough to give it a trial. He did so, and that act was the