

It's kisses or cash with Dan Buck—Mary or money. You know that I could get a thousand dollars out of the old man for tipping him the wink, and I can't afford to lose the rhino. You are nothing to me. You hate me, and think I'm very wicked, and I shan't do anything to change your opinion. You always had favours enough for you know who but nothing for this child. Now, what can you do for a feller?"

Mary was angry and disgusted with the mercenary scoundrel, but she was relieved. "You know that I am poor," said she, "and labour for every dollar I receive."

"That's not my look-out," responded Dan Buck. "I know that you have only to say the word to have all the money you want: but if you won't say it, why I can't help it. It doesn't seem to be just the cheese for Dan Buck to pocket your change, I know; but he knows where you can get more, whenever you care more about the money than you do about your own will."

Dan Buck said all this leaning forward in his chair with his elbows on his knees, and his hands employed in beating a tattoo upon his front teeth with the pointer's head. Such cool, imperturbable impudence Mary had never seen. After a few moments of thought, she said: "How much money must I give you to secure your silence, and free myself from your importunities?"

"All you've got."

"And what security will you give me that your part of the bargain will be fulfilled?"

"The word of a man of honour," replied Dan Buck, with special unction, "provided you've saved up anything handsome."

Mary smiled in spite of her vexation. "You have no honour, Dan Buck," said she.

Dan Buck's temper was entirely unruffled by this very uncomplimentary statement. "Wrong," said he; "got considerable. Any quantity left over when I failed, you know; give you a mortgage on the lot."

"Then you are really in earnest in wishing to take this money from me?" said Miss Hammett.

"I'd rather it would come out of the old man, of course," said he. "Now you don't consider that I'm really making a great sacrifice in consenting to take up with what you've got to give me, for the sake of accommodating you."

Mary reflected a minute, then rose and said: "Excuse me for a moment."

"Where are you going?"

"Up stairs for my money."

Dan Buck drew the parlour key from his pocket, put it into the lock, and turning the bolt, said: "All fair now, no dodges;" and then he opened the door and let her out.

The moment she retired, he went to the centre-table, turned over the cards and billets-doux, and among them found a note in Mary's handwriting. This he carefully placed in his pocket-book, and was engaged in another critical examination of the Holy Family when the young woman returned. Mary handed him a roll of bank-notes, the result mainly of her year's earnings, and said: "Here is all the money I have in the world. If you choose to take it all, be it so. Whatever you do, I wish you to understand that I consider you the blackest villain I ever saw."

Dan Buck took the notes, unfolded them upon his knee, counted them over, pocketed them, and, rising to his feet, said: "You've got off cheap; and now, if you ever blow on me, I'll have the old man on your track in thirty-six hours. I wish you a good evening."

Then Dan Buck stuck his jockey cap upon his head, walked out of the house with a careless whistle upon his lips, and took his way back to Hucklebury Run.

When at the end of the week Arthur came home to spend the Sabbath, his mother told him the whole story of Dan Buck's visit so far as she knew it. Arthur raved with indignation. The thought that his angel, his impersonation of all earthly and heavenly graces, should be subjected to the insolence of so low and unprincipled a man as Dan Buck aroused everything fierce in his nature. There was nothing in the way of retribution or revenge that he did not feel ready to undertake. He determined to call the villain to account, and so informed his mother. Nothing could have alarmed Mrs. Blague more than this declaration. She immediately saw before her imagination the mangled corpse of her son, and tried words and tears in vain to dissuade him from his purpose. She did not see the secret spring of her son's ungovernable wrath, and was frightened at its manifestations. Accordingly, on the first opportunity, she sought Miss Hammett's room and communicated to her the condition of her son's mind, and besought her good offices in pacifying him. Under the circumstances, Miss Hammett was alarmed, and begged for an immediate private interview with him in the parlour.

Seated there before him, she told him how necessary to her peace it was that Arthur should take no notice whatever of Mr. Dan Buck's insults. She could not tell him why it was so, but she assured him that no one could interfere between the young scoundrel and herself without doing her an essential unkindness. On that occasion and on all future occasions she must be left absolutely alone in the management of her relations to Mr. Dan Buck. If she should ever need assistance, the first one to whom she should look for aid would be Arthur Blague. Arthur was softened and conciliated by this latter assurance, but the close of the interview left him mystified and uncomfortable. What had Mary Hammett been—what had she done—to make her the subject of Dan Buck's persecutions? Why should she be unwilling to have her cause espoused by a man who was ready and anxious to protect her? What right had a man of Dan Buck's character to force himself into her society? By what means had he been able to do this with impunity? These questions made him very miserable, and his Sabbath was a day of moody abstraction, which all of Mary's delicate and cordial attentions failed to alleviate.

(To be continued.)

LORD ABERDEEN, accompanied by the Countess, attended service at Rutland Square Church, Dublin, the first occasion on which a lord-tenant has ever attended a Presbyterian place of worship in the Irish Capital.

IT IS WELL.

"Is it well with thee, and with thy husband, and with the child?" And she said, "It is well."—2 Kings iv. 26.

Yes; it is well! The evening shadows lengthen;
Home's golden gates shine on our ravished sight;
And though the tender ties we strove to strengthen
Break one by one—at evening-time 'tis light.

'Tis well! The way was often dull and weary;
The spirit fainted oft beneath its load;
No sunshine came from skies all gray and dreary,
And yet our feet were bound to tread that road.

'Tis well that not again our hearts shall shiver
Beneath old sorrows, once so hard to bear;
That not again beside Death's darksome river
Shall we deplore the good, the loved, the fair.

No more with tears, wrought from deep, inner anguish,
Shall we bewail the dear hopes crushed and gone;
No more need we in doubt or fear to languish;
So far the day is past, the journey done!

As voyagers, by fierce winds beat and broken,
Come into port, beneath a calmer sky,
So we, still bearing on our brows the token
Of tempest past, draw to our haven nigh.

A sweet air cometh from the shore immortal,
Inviting homeward at the day's decline;
Almost we see where from the open portal
Fair forms stand beckoning with their smiles divine.

'Tis well! The earth with all her myriad voices
Has lost the power our senses to enthral;
We hear, above the tumult and the noises,
Soft tones of music, like an angel's call.

'Tis well, O friends! We would not turn—retracing
The long, vain years, nor call our lost youth back;
Gladly, with spirits braced, the future facing,
We leave behind the dusty, foot-worn track.

—Chambers' Journal.

THE NEEDED REFORMATION OF CHARITY.

The theory upon which society has heretofore treated human suffering or degradation has been very simple. There were two classes of misery: the one produced, as the old underwriters would express it, "by the hand of God," and the other by depravity bearing fruit. This distinction lies patent upon the surface of the Elizabethan poor laws, and reappears in the workhouse test of Earl Grey. The whole scheme of legislation has aimed at some means to separate those who ought to be punished from those whose undeserved calamities constitute a title to sympathy. The claim of the last has been held by British courts to be a right to participate in the parish poor relief virtually enforceable by law. But such a classification is impracticable in the present conditions of society, if it has not always been so. Chalmers demonstrated not only by his experiment at St. John's Church in Glasgow, but by his appeal to the history of the Scottish peasantry, that natural affection was a sufficient motive and the generosity of the poor one to another was a sufficient resource for the sick, the aged, the orphan, the widow, the halt, the blind, the wayfarer, and the imbecile of all Caledonia. He insisted that the springs of this lowly beneficence were congealed by the interference of strangers, and he arraigned compulsory relief because it relaxed natural ties and dissolved the amenities of kinship and affection. The progress of state relief has been marked by the abandonment of wives and children, by the increase of illegitimacy, by the turning of tottering age to the almshouse, and by the consequent degradation of those in whom motives of family affection ceased. Professor Fawcett has shown that the legal provision for foundlings in England is so superior, in amount and in the associations created for the child, to what a farm hand can supply as to be an enticement for fathers to abandon their offspring—an enticement which is the stronger as the father is more reflective, disinterested and ambitious for his children. It has been abundantly shown that the poor-rate operates to depress wages, by handicapping the self-supporting in their labour contest with state-aided workmen, and that the workhouse is incompatible with family relations and with the innocence of childhood. Thus society can corrupt its humble members.—D. O. Kellogg, in *April Atlantic*.

CLAUDE LORRAINE'S PUPIL.

There is one anecdote told of Claude which shows his quiet nature more than any other circumstance of which we know. He had but a single pupil in all his life. This was a poor cripple named Giovanni Domenico. Claude remembered with so much gratitude all that Agostino Tassi had done for him that he wished to bestow like benefits upon another. Domenico was bright in mind though deformed in body; he learned rapidly, and for twenty-five years remained in Claude's studio, and was well known in all the city. When he was forty years old, some of his master's enemies persuaded him to claim that he had executed the best pictures which Claude had sold as his own. Domenico left the master's studio and demanded a salary for all the years he had passed there. It is difficult to imagine the grief this must have been to Claude; he would not, however, contend with one whom he had loved, and he gave Domenico the sum for which he asked. The traitor died soon after, and reaped no happiness from the fruits of his wickedness. The falsehood of his claim was shown to the world by the fact that Claude painted his best pictures after Domenico had left him.—From "Stories of Art and Artists," by Clara Friskine Clement, in *St. Nicholas* for March.

ABERDEEN Town Council has resolved by fifteen to seven not to elect a commissioner to the General Assembly.

British and Foreign.

THE Methodists in Bulgaria are about to issue a monthly paper to be called the *Christian Witness*.

JAMES WATT's original engine is lying in the ship-building yard on the Clyde of Barclay, Curle & Co.

MR. FREEMAN, the historian, has consented to be nominated for the lord rectorship of Edinburgh University.

PRINCIPAL CULROSS, of Bristol, has been elected president for the coming year of the Association of Independent Students at Glasgow.

IN Glasgow Established Presbytery the congregations have raised during the past year \$370,575, an increase of \$14,275 over the preceding year.

THE Rev. John Gibb, professor of exegesis and Biblical criticism to the English Presbyterian Church, has received the degree of D.D. from Aberdeen.

THE Queen, on the recommendation of Mr. Gladstone, has approved of a pension of \$750 a year from the civil list to the widow of Principal Tulloch.

BISHOP LIGHTFOOT preached in St. Thomas's Church, Edinburgh, one of the monthly sermons in connection with the University Medical Students' Christian Association.

THE sale of liquor to soldiers or officers has been prohibited at Mandalay. Perfect sobriety prevails, though something more than moral suasion is deemed necessary.

AT the March meeting of the Commission of Assembly of the Church of Scotland no business could be transacted as, on account of the severe storm, a quorum did not appear.

AN Egyptian necropolis has been discovered by General Grenfell in the Libyan desert opposite Assuan, and the tombs opened are believed to date back as far as B.C. 3000.

THE Rev. Dr. Cameron Lees does not think that there is in the Church of Scotland at the present day a man more eminent for his varied gifts than Dr. George Matheson, of Inellan.

THE Rev. Dr. James Brown at next meeting of Paisley U. P. Presbytery will move an overture to the Synod concerning the better representation of laymen in Church Courts.

IN Aberdeen Free Presbytery the contributions to the Sustentation Fund during the past nine months show a slight increase on those of the corresponding period of the previous year.

MR. P. M'LAGAN is to be the leader of the temperance host in the British Parliament in the absence of Sir Wilfrid Lawson. There are 350 members of the new House pledged to the principle of Local Option.

AN amicable arrangement of the unhappy division in the church at Dunipace has been effected, and Rev. Duncan C. McNICOL, M.A., B.D., Huntly, has been called to be colleague and successor to Rev. Thomas Robertson.

THE U. P. Presbytery of Ireland has passed resolutions against Home Rule, and in favour of the present unsectarian, as opposed to a denominational, system of education as best suited to the wants of the people and just to all parties.

PROFESSOR ROBERTSON SMITH has been elected to the Cambridge librarianship; and though he has hitherto paid no special attention to bibliography, it is believed that his encyclopedic knowledge will enable him to become an excellent librarian.

THE Archbishop of York, speaking in Convocation, said that if freedom of legislation were not secured the number was likely to swell of those who think that even disestablishment with freedom might be preferable to establishment with enforced inaction.

THE Rev. James Smith, senior minister of the Free Mid Church, Greenock, died at Ryde, Isle of Wight, in his ninety-first year. He was called to Greenock from Alva in 1836 to succeed Mr. (afterwards Principal) Cunningham in the pastorate of the Mid parish.

THE Rev. Donald Mackinnon, of Strath, Skye, has brought an action for alleged slander against Rev. Alex. Grant, his Free Church neighbour. The words complained of were spoken in a heated debate at the School Board, of which Mr. Mackinnon is chairman. The sum sued for is \$2,500.

THE largest congregation that has ever met in the Bute Hall of Glasgow University was the one attracted on the afternoon of a recent Sunday to hear Archdeacon Farrar. He delivered an exceedingly eloquent discourse on the subject of missions; and at a reference to Livingstone as a son of the university, the congregation broke into applause.

THE address of welcome presented to Lord Aberdeen by the Committee of Assembly declared that the Presbyterians would oppose to the utmost any attempt to disturb the Legislative Union between Great Britain and Ireland. The Viceroy said it did not need the assurance of the deputation to convince him of the loyalty of the Irish Presbyterians.

IN spite of trade depression the ordinary subscriptions to the Glasgow auxiliary of the *Zenana Bible and Medical Mission* have increased during the past year by \$410. There has been a similar advance in most of the Scottish auxiliaries; and three new associations have been started during the year.

MISS C. WARDLAW BARDNER, of Dunfermline, who died recently, leaves to Gillespie Church \$2,500 for congregational purposes, and to the Synod \$8,750 to be divided among the mission and other funds. To the National Bible Society and other religious and philanthropic institutions she has bequeathed sums which bring up the total to \$29,750.

THE Rev. Dr. Dobie, of Shamrock Street Church, Glasgow, to the great satisfaction of his congregation and numerous friends, has returned to pulpit work much improved in health after an absence of several months through illness. At his first meeting with the session one of its members, as a token of welcome, presented the Doctor with a silver-mounted staff.