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## The Little Minister.

By J. M Barrie,

AUTHOR OF "WINDOW IN THRUMS," "WHEN A MAN'S SINGLE," "MY LADY NICOTINE," ETC.

Until the moment when he kissed her she and only conceived him a quaint fellow whose life was a string of Sundays, but behold what she saw in him now. Evidently to his noble mind her mystery was only some misfortune, not of her making, and his was to be the part of leading her away from it into the happiness of the open life. He did not doubt her, for he loved, and to doubt is to dip love in the mire. She had been given to him by God, and he was so rich in her possession that the responsibility attached to the gift was not grievous. She was his, and no mortal man could part them. Those who looked askance at her were looking askance at him; in so far as

them. Those who looked askance at her were looking askance at him; in so far as she was wayward and wild, he was those things; so long as she remained strange to religion, the blame lay on him.

All this Babbie read in the Gavin of the past night, and to her it was the book of love. What things she had known, said, and done in that holy name. How shamefully have we all besmirched it: She had only known it as the most selfish of the passions, a brittle image that men consulted because it could only answer in the words they gave it to say. But here was a man to whom love was something better than his own desires leering on a pedestal. Such love as Babble had seen hitherto made strong men weak, but this was a love that Such love as Babble had seen intherto made strong men weak, but this was a love that made a weak man strong. All her life strength had been her idel, and the weak-ness that bent to her cajoling her scorn. But only now was it revealed to her that strength, instead of being the lusty child of passion, grows by grappling with and therewing them.

throwing them.
So Babbie loved the little minister for

throwing them.

So Babbie loved the little minister for the best that she had ever seen in man. I shall be told that she thought far more of him than he deserved, forgetting the mean in the worthy; but who that has had a glimpse of heaven will care to let his mind dwell henceforth on earth? Love, it is said, is blind, but love is not blind. It is an extra eye, which shows us what is most worthy of regard. To see the best is to see most clearly, and it is the lover's privilege. Down in the Auld Licht kirk that forenoon Gavin preached a sermon in praise of woman, and up in the mudhouse in Windyghoul Babbie sat alone. But it was the Sabbath day to her; the first Sabbath in her life. Her discovery had frozen her mind for a time, so that she could only stare with eyes that would not shut, but that had seen in the night. Already her love seemed a thing of years, for it was as old as herselt, as old as the new Babbie. It was such a dear delight that she clasped it to her, and examited over it because it was hers, and then she cried over it because the must give it up.

For Babbie must only look at this love that had seen in the night. Already her love seemed a thing of years, for it was as old as herself, as old as the new Babbie. It was such a dear delight that she clasped it to her, and exaulted over it because it was hers, and then she cried over it because it was hers, and then she cried over it because it was hers, and then she cried over it because it was hers, and then she cried over it because it was hers, and then she cried over it because it was hers, and then she cried over it because it was hers, and then she cried over it because it was hers, and then she cried over it because it was hers, and then she cried over it because it was hers, and then she cried over it because it was hers, and then she wood. It was so unexpected that she gave a cry, and then for the first time dical blocked at her.

"How should that send your father to the drink?" she asked with an effort.

"Because my father's michty fond o' mi," answered Micah, staring strangely at her; "and when the folk ken about the woman, they'll stane the minister out o' Thrums."

The wood faded for a moment from the Egyptian's sight. When it came back the boy had slid off the Standing Stone and was stealing away.

CHAPTER XXIV.

Up here in the glen school-house after my pupils have straggled home, there comes to me at times, and so sudden that it may be while I am infusing my tea, a hot desire to write great books. Perhaps an hour afterwards I rise, beaten, from my desk, flinging all I have written into the fire (yet rescuing some of it on second thoughts), and curse myself as an ingle-nook man; for I see that one can only paint what he himself has elet, and in my passion I wish to have all the vices, even to being an implous man, that I may describe them better. For this may I be pardoned. It comes to nothing in the end, save that my tea is brackish. Yet though my solitary life in the glen is cheating me of many experiences, more helpful to a writer than so a Christian, it has not been so tame but that I can understand why Babbie cried when she went into Nanny's garden and saw the new world. Let no one who loves be called altogether unhappy. Even love unrequited has its rainbow, and Babbie knew that Gavin loved her. Yet she stood in woe among

the stiff berry bushes, as one who stretches forth her hands to Love and sees him looking for her, and knows she must shrink from the arms she would lie in, and only call to him in a voice he can not hear. This is not a love that is always bitter. It grows sweet with age. But could that dry the tears of the little Egyptian, who had only been a woman for a day.

Much was still dark to her. Of one obstacle that must keep her and Gavin ever

Much was still dark to her. Of one obstacle that must keep her and Gavin ever apart sike knew, and he did not, tut had it been removed she would have given herself to him humbly, not in her own louging, but because he wanted her. "Behold what I am," she could have said to him then, and left the rest to him, believing that her unworthiness would not drag him down, it would lose itself so readily in his strength. That Thrums could rise against such a man if he defied it she did not believe; but she was to learn the truth presently from a child.

was to learn the truth presently from a child.

To most of us, I suppose, has come some shock that was to make us different men from that hour, and yet, how many days elapsed before something of the man we had been leapt up in us? Babbie thought she had buried her old impulsiveness, and then remembering that from the top of the field she should see Gavin returning from church, she hastened to the hill to look upon him from a distance. Before she reached the gate where I had met her and him, however, she stopped, distressed at her selfishness, and asked bitterly, "Why am I so different from other women; why am I so different from other women; why should what is so easy to them be so hard

"Gavin, my beloved!" the Egyptian cried in her agony, and the wind caught her words and flung them in the air, mak-

ing sport of her.
She wandered westward over the bleal She wandered westward over the bleak hill, and by-and-by came to a great slab called the Standing Stone, on which children often sit and muse until they see gay ladies riding by on palfreys, a kind of horse, and knights in glittering armor, and fiery dragons, and other wonders now extinct, of which bare legged laddies dream, as well as boys in socks. The Standing Stone is in the dyke that separates the hill from a fir wood, and it is the fairy book of Thrums. If you would be a knight yourself you must sit on it and whisper to it your desire.

self you must sit on it and whisper to he your desire.

Babbie came to the Standing Stone, and there was a little boy astride it. His hair stood up through holes in his bonnet, and he was very ragged and miserable.

"Why are you crying, little boy?" Babbie asked him gently; but he did not look up, and the tongue was strange to him.

"How are you greeting so sair?" she asked.

"How are you sair," he answered turning his head from her that a woman might not see his tears. "I'm no greeting so sair but what I grat sairer when my mither died."
"When did she die?" Babbie inquired.

"Lang syne," he answered, still with "What is your name?"
"Micah is my name. Rob Dow's

"Micah is my name. Rob Dow's my father."

"And have you no brothers nor sisters?" asked Babbie with a fellow-feeling for him.

"Na, just my father," he said.

"You should be the better laddie to him then. Did your mither no tell you to be that afore she died?"

"Ay," he answered, "she telled me ay to hold the bottle frae him when I could get haud o't. She took me into the bed to make me promise that, and syne she died."

"Does your father drink?"

"He hauds mair than ony other man in Thrums," Micah replied, almost proudly.

"And he strikes you?" Babbie asked, compassionately.

compassionately.
"That's a lie," retorted the boy, fiercely.
"Leastwise he doesna strike me except
when he's mortal, and syne I can jouk
him."

was stealing away.
"Why do you run frae me?" Babbie
asked, pathetically.
"I'm field at you," he gasped, coming to
a standstill at a safe distance; "you're the
woman!" Babbie cowered before her little judge,

and he drew nearer her slowly.
"What makes you think that?" she asked.

It was a curious time for Babbie's beauty to be paid its most princely compliment. (To be Continued.)

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when as him."

"What are you doing there?"

"I'm wishing. It's a wishing stane."

"You are wishing your father wouldna

drink?"

"No, 'm no," answered Micah. "There was a lang time he didna drink, but the woman has sent him to it again. It's about her I'm wishing. I'm wishing she was in bell."

"What woman is it?" asked Babbie shuddering.

"I dinna ken," Micah said, "but she's an ill ane."

ill ane."
"Did you ever see her at your father's

house?"

"Na; if he could get grip o' her he would break her ower his knee. I hearken to him saying that, when he's wild. He says she should be burned for a witch."

"But if he hates her," asked Babbie, "how can she have sic power over him?"

"It's no him that she had haud o'," replied Micah, still looking away from her.

"Wha is it then?"

"It's Mr. Dishart."

Babbie was struck as if by an arrow from

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Heaven" with Him.

JEWETT CITY, Conn., April 4.—Wm.
Reese, a barber, became suddenly insane
while shaving Larkin Jackson. He had
just finished lathering Jackson's face when
he suddenly remarked: "Jackson, you
would make a beautiful corpse. I will take
you to heaven with me."

The barber's eyes grow wild and his hand
moved uneasily, scratching Jackson's face.
He laid the razor down for a minute and
began rubbing his hands. Jackson sprang
from the chair and rushed for the door, but
Reese headed him off.
Jackson grappled with the mad man, and

Reese hended him off.

Jackson grappled with the mad man, and
after a desperate struggle freed himself and
started down the street with Reese in close
pursuit. Reese stumbled and fell, and was
quickly overcome by several men. He was
locked up and will be taken to an asylum.

### INCIDENTS OF INTEREST.

The News of the Day, Culled and Condensed

The membership of Dr. Talmage's taber-nacle in Brooklyn is over 5,000.

All the stamboats along the Lower Hudson have begun their trips for the

Africa has an estimated population of 163,000,000 people, or 42,000,000 more than inhabit the three Americas.

The British admiralty has ordered a re-port showing the dates on which the ships building under the Naval Defense Act will be completed.

A London dispatch says the Naval Steam-ship Company has notified the Board of Trade that it is about to abandon its Atlantic passenger service.

It is stated that Mrs. Annie Besant's daughter Mabel is betrothed to Mr. Scott,

the well known Socialistic writer, and nephew to Clement Scott, the dramatic Saturday night a burglar entered the train agent's office at the union depot at Omaha, Neb., and stole nearly \$20,000 worth of tickets. From the manner of the

theft the officials believe the thief was ar

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Monday)	9:50 a.m. 9:50 a.m. 2:25 p.m.	1:50 p.r
(daily)	7:25 p.m. 8:30 p.m.	
Canada Southern Divis	on-Got	ng Wes
orth Shore Limited (daily)	8:30 p.m.	

Trains arrive in London at 8:25 a.m., 12 m and 6:40 p.m. [Norr. No trains to or from London on Fundays.]

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ARRIVE. | DEPART 

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London and Port Stanley. odation 5:20 a.m. 2:10 p.m. odation 6:38 p.m. 6:65 p.m. 11:15 p.m. St. Marys and Stratford Branch.

| ARRIVE | DEPART, | Mixed-Mail | 11:20 a.m. | 15:5 a.m | Express | 15:50 p.m. | 2:30 p.m | Express | 5:50 p.m. | 2:30 p.m | Express | 9:25 p.m. | 6:05 p.m Terente Branch.

Hamilton—Depart—
a.m., a.m., a.m., p.m., p.m., p.m., p.m., p.m., p.m., 6:30 7:00 11:05 12:30 4:10 5:40 a\*6:55 9:25 12:30 | 19:00 | 10:25 | 11:25 | 4:00 | 6:25 | 8:13

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