

silence. The crumpled letter had been carefully smoothed out again, and she read it till she knew every word by heart. But the pride and gladness died as her heart grew sick with the sickness of hope deferred. The brief sunshine at last faded quite out of her life, and left her in deeper darkness than before. She waited and trusted till she could wait and trust no longer; and then she gave herself up to the full sense of her bitter mortification and sorrow.

There was no one to notice the change except her father, who was too busy to bestow more than a passing thought or two on her melancholy face and fading color. Her happiness, like Jonah's gourd, had sprung up in a night and perished in a night; and like him she was ready to exclaim, "It is better for me to die than to live."

Christmas was near at hand before Kate recovered at all from her overwhelming sense of wretchedness and mortification. She was a pitiful and tender-hearted girl, fond of giving pleasure to others; and she began to feel as if it were necessary for her own relief to make this miserable Christmas a time of pleasure and festivity to some of her poor neighbors. If she could not see happiness with her own eyes, she would like to look at it through other people's. It was impossible to remove the heaviness of her heart, but she might try to lighten others. So one evening, when she and her father was alone together, she approached the subject cautiously.

"Father," she said, "I want to make somebody in the world happier."

Her voice was unconsciously very sorrowful. The burden that was oppressing her had made her feel that other people had heavy burdens to bear. She was learning that, in order to bear her own well, it was necessary to share that of another. Dr. Layard was distressed by the mournfulness of his daughter's tone.

"Make somebody happier!" he repeated. "Well, it is easy enough to do that."

"How?" asked Kate.

"Help them," answered Dr. Layard; "a little help is worth a deal of pity. Helping people is a good step towards making them and yourself happy."

"That is what I want to do," said Kate eagerly. "I want you to manage so that I can have some of your poor patients to tea here, in the large kitchen, on Christmas day; it would make them a little bit happier, I think. I don't know that it would do much good, but they would enjoy it, wouldn't they father?"

"It would do them good, Kate," said Dr. Layard; "making people happy sometimes goes before making them good. In the hospital at times we make our patients as happy as they can be before the sharp operation; sometimes the sharp operation comes first. We'll try the merry Christmas for them this year, and then you must do what you can for them afterwards."

Aunt Brooks somewhat unexpectedly gave a very gracious assent to Dr. Layard's proposal, on condition that Kate took all the trouble of preparing for her guests, and entertaining them when they came. It made her busy enough for two or three days, and she tried to throw all her sad heart into it.

"Kate," said Dr. Layard, on Christmas Eve, "we have forgotten one of our old favorites, who has not been here for months. You recollect old Mrs. Duffy, who used to go about with a basket of bobbins and tapes? Of all my poor patients, she ought to be present at your soiree."

Dr. Layard persisted in calling the intended tea party Kate's soiree, and had taken an unusual interest in it. She was feeling more sorrowful than ever this Christmas Eve, when everybody seemed so absurdly gay. She was wearing her dowdies dress; and she found it difficult to get up a smile when her father spoke of the soiree. How different it would have been if Philip Carey had been true to her!

"Can I find Mrs. Duffy this evening?" she asked, willing to escape from her sad thoughts for a little time.

"Easily," said Dr. Layard; "she lives in Wright's Court, out of New street, the last house but two on your left hand, I think. Anybody would tell you where it is. If you are frightened, take Bob with you."

It was a dark night when Kate started out, without Bob, for she was not frightened; she was too miserable to be frightened. The passing relief she had felt in making her arrangements for her Christmas tea party was spent, and the universal merriment only served to deepen her own loneliness and disappointment. The streets were full and noisy, but not disorderly. The church bells were ringing in anticipation of the coming day, and a general holiday tone was diffused through the crowd though business was going on briskly.—Groups of little children were gathering round the brilliant shop windows, choosing impossible Christmas presents for themselves and each other from the magnificent display within, and laughing with pathetic mirth at their own daring dreams. Kate caught herself wondering if she should ever laugh at her own vanished dream.

Wright's Court was not a good specimen of street architecture and paving. The houses were as low as they could be to boast of two stories, and the pavement was eccentric, making it necessary to take each step with great caution. An open gutter ran down the middle, and through the passage which formed the entrance; a passage four feet wide and twenty feet long, dimly lighted by one lamp in the street, which shone behind Kate as she walked up it, and threw her shadow bewilderingly before her. The court itself had no light but that which came through the uncurtained windows of the dwellings on each side, through which she

caught glimpses of startling phases of English life, before she reached Mrs. Duffy's door, where she stood a minute or two in the dark, looking through the small panes of the casement close beside it.

(To be continued.)

"The wrath of God" is a phrase that frequently occurs in the Bible, and, as there used, is far from being a meaningless phrase. What it represents is his pure and absolute disapproval of moral evil, and his purpose of punishment in the absence of repentance and faith in Christ, God Himself has a moral nature, and is a holy being, and is necessarily opposed to sin. Those who think otherwise of Him have false views of the great Jehovah.

#### MARRIED.

RISH-CUNNINGHAM.—At Bayfield, in the Parish Church, by Rev. C. T. Weston, Frederick Rish, to Mary Cunningham, of Bayfield.

MCDONALD WALTER.—At River Forest, N.S., on January 1st, by the Rev. V. E. Harris, Vicar of Amherst, Archibald J. McDonald to Mary S. Walter, daughter of Goutrey Walter, Esq.

#### DIED.

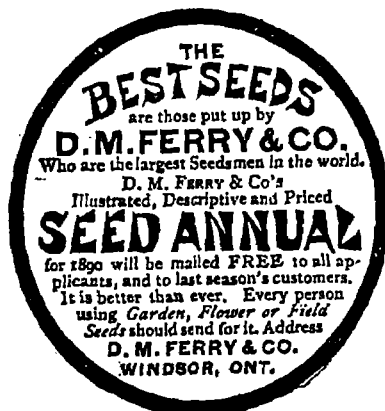
RENDALL.—At Afion, on the 5th inst., Joseph Rendall, after a long illness, entered into rest.

CAREY.—On Dec 4th, Ruth E. Carey, for 90 years a faithful communicant of the Church at Albion Mines, N.S., aged 90, (as is believed)

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