

gining of it, for every one has been good to me, since, I think. Mr. and Mrs. Clare, and Mr. Simmons the schoolmaster—I live with him now—and he teaches me at odd times, too, and I'm learning to play the organ. And then that old lady, Mrs. Clare's aunt, she pays money for me."

"Do you mean Miss Everson?" interrupted Reggie.

"The lady that came with you just now," replied Nat.

"Why!" exclaimed Reggie in amazement, "it was Miss Everson that I lived with at Westhampton. It was she who found us in the hedge and was so angry. Don't you remember? Didn't you remember her?"

"I never saw her again till today," said Nat, "only Mrs. Clare told me about her, and she would send the money."

"It is odd," said Reggie, "and perhaps I should never have found you again if it hadn't been for her. It is odd."

Mr. and Mrs. Lacy had in the meantime been taking counsel with Mr. and Mrs. Clare, and had expressed their desire to do everything that was in their power for the advantage of Nat, to whom a very high character was given.

The oldest and youngest of the party were perhaps the most shaken in their ideas by all these events. Miss Everson was much discomposed. She would not blame herself, she felt sure she had acted rightly; but why had not Reginald told her at the time what he was about? She could not think that comfortably though, for she knew she would not have listened to him. But he was to blame, he himself acknowledged it.

The Lacys were going home, and she was to remain at the vicarage. Reggie lingered behind his father and mother.

"Miss Everson," he said. "Thank you so much for being so kind to Nat. I am sorry I was naughty and troublesome to you; please forgive me."

"There, there, my dear," said Miss Everson, stooping and kissing him, "I am sure you will be a very good boy in future, and a great comfort to your parents."

* * * * *
The months and years pass on with rain and sunshine, joy and sorrow, all serving in their turn to ripen the grain growing in earthly fields, and that whereof the harvest is gathered in by angel reapers.

In one of the stately cathedrals where the faith of our forefathers expressed itself in all the beauty of art, in whose long aisles the prayers of the Church triumphant seem to linger and mingle with those of the Church still militant here below, a crowd was gathered for the solemn ordination service.

The young organist had taken his seat. He was already celebrated, but it seemed to those who heard him, that never before had his music produced such a wonderful effect.

He had always done his best, he had always striven to feel the sacredness of his talent, and the sacredness of its dedication. But to-

day his heart was more than ever in his work. For among the white robed throng who knelt to give themselves as laborers to serve God, for the promoting of His glory, and the edifying of His people, was his own earliest friend, whose name was Reginald Lacy, and he himself was called Nathaniel Ashman.

THE END.

BIRTH.

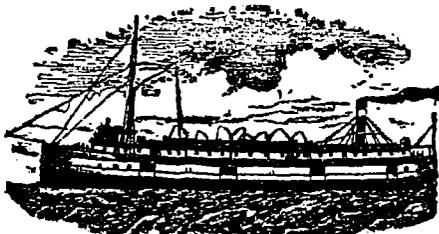
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