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"I wish I could think with you," Vi-"It is so difficult to bevien sighed. lieve that Aymer has deliberately injured anyone.'

"Then do not believe it. I do not," Sir Innis exclaimed, with generous warmth. "Remember, too, you have heard nothing more than the young lady's assertion that she was wedded to the Earl of Esselyn, and with a peculiar ring which was the only proof she displayed of the truth of her state-

'Ah! I ought to have made another appointment with her, and gone to it prepared to weigh every word she uttered. But now she has vanished, and I must remain in suspense till Aymer

"By no means. On leaving you this morning I walked with Mademoiselle De Villefort and her cousin to the nearest cab-stand, and they gave me their present address, that you might communicate with them if you desired to do so. You will see by this card that they are residing at Kensington with the Madame Mercier at whose house this little Claire states that she first met the English gentleman she believes to be Lord Esselyn.'

"I will go there and see her," Vivien decided "I will not let my agitation bewilder me as it did this morning. but I will be calm and cautious. I will question and cross-question her. Oh. will leave nothing undone that may exonerate Aymer."

You are a brave, as well as a loving sister," Sir Innis told her softly, and she blushed with pleasure at his praises Yet the next minute she was wistfully saying:

"I an afraid you think my efforts will be useless." "Indeed, I do not, for both my reason and my heart refuse to condemn

"Do you mean," Vivien anxiously demanded, "that you do not believe he has married Claire Du Mornay?" On that subject I scarcely know what to think, for she is very rair, and of good family; but if my theory of

mistaken identity is incorrect, and he has positively wedded the young lady in question, I feel convinced that he has had some cogent reasons for leaving ther so soon after their marriage. and keeping the marriage a secret from his own relatives." You comfort me," said his auditor,

But he would not let her finish the

"Dearest Vivien, do not suffer yourself to cherish any doubts of Aymer's Appearances are against him, but so they might be at some time or other against you or me; and remembering this, let us do as we would be done by Wait till the accused party has a chance of setting the other side of the question before us."

"This sounds well," cried Vivien, abruptly. "But can you, do you always act up to what you are counseling?" "I think so," he answered, divining of what she was thinking. "I would always refuse to condemn anyone

especially a person I loved—till I had convinced myself beyond a doubt that he or she deserved it."

Vivien shook her head slightly as if she still fancied that when put to the proof he would be found wanting, but did not pursue the subject, for the countess had sent a footman to remind her step-daughter that she waited for

As Sir Innis led her to the carriage in which Cressida and Lady Esselyn were already seated, she said, hur-"Give me that address. I will go and

see Marie and her cousin tomorrow."
"Alone?" he queried, doubtfully. "Will it be prudent?"

"Whom could I ask to accompany e?" she retorted. "No, I will not have you, though I thank you for your readiness to give the support of your pres-nce; but if I have any good news-if an see the smallest chance of proving that Aymer has not behaved badly to this poor little girl—I will summon you to share my pleasure.'

He thanked her, and then drew back to let the carriage pass on; for Lady Esselyn was getting peevish at the delay. Vivien did not like the task she had

set herself. At one moment she would passionately declare that it was hor-ribly unnatural to go and listen while strangers traduced her only brother; at the next she was reluctantly decid-ing that there was not other way of learning the precise nature of the charges brought against him.

"Anyhow, it will put an end to this torturing suspense," she concluded; "and if Marie and cousin are impostors, as I long to prove them, I shall

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be prepared to put Aymer on his guard, and perhaps help him to defend him-

Madame Mercier, a vivacious elderly lady, received Vivien when she arrived at Kensington, attended only by Justine, whom she left in the carriage. One glance at the mistress of the house and another around the apartment in which she was seated, went far towards demolishing here theory of an imposture. If any such thing were being attempted, madame was certainly

"This poor little Claire," she told her sitor, "would be unable to receive visitor, "would be unable to technique Lady Vivien, for she was suffering headache; but frightfully with nervous headache; but la Comtesse De Villefort should be apprised of her arrival immediately. Then Marie was a countess in her own right. Vivien smiled to herselt,

and then wondered at her blindness as she recalled how this young lady of rank equal to her own had submitted to her caprices, worked for and waited on her. Again she seemed to feel the deft touches of the slender hand that had arranged her fair tresses with a tasteful skill, which at the time she had scarcely deigned to acknowledge. The reserved manner and shrinking from association with the Esselyn household, which she had been wont to regard with contemptuous rie had formed of the English lady to

whom she had acted as attenedant.

With a flush of mingled annoyance and shame, she recalled the slight smile she had seen hovering around the young girl's lips when she condescended to be pleased with her for altering some trimming or arranging a bouquet. At the time she had imagined that her maid was flattered by her praises; now she felt that there might have been more mockery or amusement in those smiles than satisfaction. And when the young countess glided into the room and greeted her with gracef asse, Vivien wondered yet more that she had never suspected Marie's rank during the time they were domesticated at

"Aymer would say," she mentally ejaculated, "that it was because I had been taught by Lady Esselyn to look upon our servants as creatures who must not be allowed to approach us too closely, and whose wants or wishes, whose griefs or joys, do not concern us so long as they earn the wages we give them, and I am afraid he is right. can remember that when I have been told that servants have gone away ill, I have never troubled to inquire after If in the future I have a household of my own I will try to be more considerate for those about me."

"I was thinking of the Manor House," she said, when the young countess had gracefully apologized for her cousin's inability to receive Lady Vivien. "Was I a tolerably good mistress in those

"Am I to be frank? Then I must reply, yes and no. Yes, according to English observances; for in this your country a high barrier has been set up between mistress and maid, and the latter is regarded as a machine; but no, according to the usages of

own, where there mine perhaps a familiarity greater than your compatriotes would approve, perhaps but the domestiques love and se in the service of their employers, who regard them with an indulgent affection that has, believe me, its reward.'

"Why did you not make a friend of me when you were at Esselyn?" queried Vivien abruptly.

You are his sister; how could I?" And this retort being unanswerable,

Vivien took fresh ground. "You are right; it is impossible that we can be friends, while you are bring-ing such terrible accusations against The lightning express rail train has Aymer. But you can deal with me fair-power for good, if it is on the track, never been made public, unless you think it would be impolitic to show me your hand too plainly."

'Claire has nothing to hide," her coufrom your questions; therefore, I am ready to answer any you will ask. Shall continue her story from the point at which it broke off yesterday morning?" Vivien eagerly assented to this, and prepared herself to listen with critical, and even scornful incredulity. But when Marie looked at her, with her dark orbs moist with tears, Aymer's the young girl, in whose subdued tones and pensive visage she could detect no Much to her own surprise, when she recalled the scene in after hours, she found herself extending her clasped hands to Marie, and sobbing an inco-herent entreaty for a merciful interpretation of Aymer's misdoings. She had come to Madame Mercier resolved to entrench herself behind her suspicions, and believe nothing that could not be corroborated by irrefragable proofs; yet the truthful, sorrowful ar

tended to have been stern and reproach-[To be Continued.]

with which she was confronted by Ma-

rie had steadily vanquished her, and

she pleaded for mercy where she in-

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The most terrible captivity a woman can experience to feel herself completely inca-pacitated for all womanly duties, bound hand and foot, as it were, by some nerve-racking, life-draining dis-

ease or weaksuch a condition she cannot be a happy wife or mother; she cannot be an efficient housekeeper; she cannot be a woman at all in any complete or satisfactory sense.

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and yard all the time. I could not be on my
feet but a very little. I could not lift the weight
of a cup of coffee; and did not have strength to
speak more than a few words at a time.

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medicine which cost over one hundred and
twenty-five dollars; and I found no relief. I had
lost all hope of ever getting any better when my
friends advised me to take Dr. Pierce's medicine. My husband said we would try that next.
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commenced taking these medicines and soon
found relief. When I had taken one bottle of
each I walked half a mile to church.

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1897; the first of the following June I took my
cooking in hand and have cooked for eleven in
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Character of

Used by Rev. Dr. Talmage in Showing How People May Multiply Resources for Usefulness,

text probably never before discoursed Dr. Talmage, in his sermon shows how some people multiply their resources for usefulness, and in a novel way urges the putting forth of more energy in right directions. Text, II. Samuel, xviii., 3: "Thou art worth ten thousand of us."

One of the most wonderous characters of his time was David. A redhaired boy, he could shepherd a flock or carry "ten loaves and ten slices of milk cheese to his brothers in the regiment," or with leathern thong, stoneloaded, bring down a giant whose arm-or weighed two hundred weight of metor cause a lion which roared at him in rage to roar with pain as he flung it, could be comprehended now, and she dying, to the roadside, or could mar-began to ask herself what opinions Ma-shal a host, or rule an empire, or thumb a harp so skillfully that it cured Saul's dementia—a harp from whose strings dripped pastorals, elegies, lyrics, tri-umphal marches, benedictions. Now this man, a combination of music and heroics, of dithyrambs and battlefields, of country quietudes and statesman-ship, is to fit out a military expedition. thousand troops, according Josephus, were sent into the field. David proposes to go to the front. He will lead them in the awful charge, for he has not a cowardly nerve in all his body. But there came up from the

troops and from the civilians a mighty

protest against David's taking the field.

His life was too important to the na-

tion. If he went down the empire went

down. The army and the nation practi-cally eried out, "No! No! "Thou art worth ten thousand of us!" That army and that sation reminded David, and now remind us, of the fact which we forget, or never appreciate at all, that some people are morally or spiritually worth far more than others and some worth far less. The practical subject that I want to present today is that those who have especial opportunity, especial graces, especial wealth, especial talent, especial eloquence ought to make up by especial assidulty and consecration for those who have less opportunities and less gifts. You ought to do ten times more for God and human uplifting than those who have

only a tenth of your equipment In no city of its size are there so many men of talent as are gathered in this capital of the American nation. Some of the states are at times represented by men who have neither tal-ents nor good morals. Their political party compensates them for partisan services by sending them to congress, or by securing for them position in the war or navy or pension or printing departments. They were nobodies before they left home, and they are nobodies But they are exceptional. All the states of the union generally send their most talented men, and men of exemplary lives and noble purposes.

With such opportunity are they augmenting their usefulness in every

possible direction? Many of them are, some of them are not. It is a stupendous thing to have power—political power, social power, official power. "Knowledge is power." Yet it may as leged marriage; and explain why it has plunges down the embankment. The ocean steamer has power for good, sailing in right direction and in safe waters and under good helmsman and wide-awake watchman on the lookout, sin proudly answered;"nothing to dread but indescribable power for evil if under full headway it strikes the breakers. At this time millions of men are atremble lest this nation make a mistake and enter upon some policy of government for the islands of the sea that will founder the republic. will give to a few men on both sides of this question faith and courage for all the rest. There are two false positions sister found her heart softening towards many are now taking, false as false can be. The one is that if we decline to take under full charge Cuba and ungenerous wish to triumph over her. Porto Rico and the Philippines we make a declination that will be disastrous to our nation, and other nations will take control of those archipelagoes and rule them, perhaps to our humiliation and destruction. The other theory is that if we take possession of those once Spanish colonies, we invite foreign interference, and enter upon a career that will finally be the demolition of this government. Both positions are immeas urable mistakes. God has set apart this continent for free government, and the triumphs of Christianity, and we may take either the first or the second course without We may say to those islands "We do not want you, but we have set you free; now stay free, while we see that the Spanish panther never again puts its paw on your back." Or we may invite the annexation of Cuba and Porth Rico, and say to the Philippines, "Get ready, by education and good morals, for free government, and at the right time you shall be one of our states." And there is no power in Europe, Asia or Africa, or all com-bined, that could harm this nation in its world-wide endeavor. God is on the side of the right, and by earnest imploration for divine guidance on the part of this nation we will be led to

do the right. A vast majority of men have no surplus of confidence for others and hardly enough confidence for them-selves. They go through life saying depressing things and doing depress-ing things. They chill prayer meet-ings, discourage charitable instituinjure commerce and kill nes. They blow out lights when churches. they ought to be kindling them. They hover around a dull fire on their own hearth, and take up so much room that no one can catch the least caloric, instead of stirring the hearth into a blaze, the crackle of whose back log would inv t the whole neighborhood to come ir to feel the abounding warmth are see the transfiguration of the faces. What a lot of ingrates the Lord has at his table! People who have and et fear that they will soon have to rattle their knife and fork on an empty dinner plate. We want more men to feel that they have a mission to cheer others and to draw up the corners of people's mouths which have a long time been drawn down-more Davids who can shepherd whole flocks of bright hopes, and can play a harp of encouragement, and strike down a Goliath of despair, and whom we can say, "Thou of whom we can say, "Thouart worth ten thousand of us!" Meanness is subtraction and nobility is addition. According as you rise in the scale of holiness and generosity and consecration, you are worth five or ten or fifty or a hundred or a thousand or

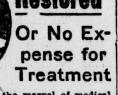
ten thousand others Notice, my friend, that this David, warrior, strategist, minstrel, master of blank verse, and stone-slinger at the giant, on this particular occasion stayed at home or in his place of temperary residence. General Joab, Gen-

Washington, D. C., Jan. 8 .- From a | eral Abishai and General Ittai, who commanded the boys in the right wing and left wing and center, did their work bravely, and left 25,000 of the Lord's enemies dead on the field, and many of the survivors got entangled in the woods of Ephraim, and were dewoured of wild beasts, which seized them in the thickets. But David did his work at home. We all huzza for heroes who have been in battle, and on their return what processions we form, and what triumphal arches we spring, and what banquets we spread, and what garlands we wreathe. But do we do justice to the stay-at-homes? David, who was worth ten thousand of those who went out to meet the Lord's enemies in the woods of Ephraim, that day did his work in retirement. Oh, the world needs a day of judgment, to give many of the stay-at-homes proper recognition. The sons went to the front, and on ship's deck or battlefield exposed their lives and earned the admiration of the country, but how about the mothers and fathers who, through long years, taught those sons the noble sentiments that inspired them to go, and then gave them up, when perhaps a few words of earnest protest would have kept them on the farm and in the homestead? The day of final reward will reveal the self-sacrifice and the fidelity of thousands who never in all their lives received one word of praise. The day will come when the thimble and the darning-needle, and the wash. tub, and the spinning-wheel, and the scythe, and the threshing-machine, and the hammer, and the trowel, and the plow, will come to as high an appreciation as a 74-pounder, or the sword, or the battering-ram that pounded down the wall, or the flag that was hoisted on the scaled parapets. The warrior David of my text showed more self-control and moral prowess in staying at home than he could have shown commanding in the field. Some of the greatest Sedans and Austerlitzes, have been in back woods kitchens, or in nursery, with three children down with scarlet fever, soon to join the two already in the churchyard, or amid domestic wrongs and outrages enough to transform angels into devils. No telegraphic wires reported the crisis of the conflict, no banner was ever waved to celebrate their victory but God; knows and God will eemember, and God will

> Some people think it is a bright thing to put themselves in unnecesperil. They like to walk up to sary the edge of a precipice and look off, defying vertigo, or go among contawhen they can be of no use to demonstrate their own bra-They do not take into consideration what their life is worth to thers, Taken off through such recklessness, they go criminals. In nine cases out of ten, the fatalities every day reported are not the fault of engineers or brakemen or conductors or cab-drivers, but of the stupidity and recklessness of people at street or railroad crossing. You have no right to put your life in peril, unless by such exposure something is to be gained for others. I admire the David of my text as he sup-presses himself, and enters the gate of his castle, as much as I admire him when, with his four fingers and thumb clutched into the grisly locks of Goand Saul admiringly asks, "Whose son are thou, young man?" And David.

blushing with genuine modesty, responds, "I am the son of thy servant, Jesse, the Bethlehemite." Now, here is another important point: As there are so many people in the world who amount to little or nothing, you ought to augment your-self, and if not able, like David, to be worth ten thousand times more than others, you can command God's reinforcing grace to make yourself four times or three times or twice as much as some others. Pray twice as much, read, twice as much, give twice as much, go to church twice as much, Instead of spending your time finding fault with others, substitute your superior fidelity for their dereliction and default. In any church there are ten members worth all the other thousand. In every great business firm there is one man worth the other three partners. In every legislative hall, state or national, there are five worth all the other fifty or hundred. Take the suggestion of my text and augment yourself. Multiply your words of encouragement. Multiply the number of boosts you can give to those who are trying to climb. Instead of being one man in a battalion, by your faith in God and new consecration, be a whole regiment. I like the question of a general of a small army, when someone was counting the number of officers and soldiers of the oppos-ing forces, and the small number of their own army, and the general cried out in indignation: "How many do you take me to be?" David was ten thousand men. You ought to be at least two men in this battle for

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