"To be shure I did! wasn't it meself that nursed her from the day she saw the light of life, and a bitter life it was to her, the poor darlint. Loved her! as the core of my heart I did; aye, better than all the rest of them !" she "But continued with mournful tenderness. what's come over you, Miss Hilda, to ask me

such a question, now ?" "Ah, nurse ! I want you to love me for her sake-and to help me too !" Hilds added, impressively.

"Help you, avourneen ! shure I'll do that same, never fear. But what's throubling you, darlint ?"

"Eveleen, you remember mamma's unhappy marriage; but you do not know all she suffered."

suffered." "Och, then, it was the woful marriage, shure enough! To think of her, a rale lady marrying a play-acthor! Many a tear I shed afther she was gone, and if I knew what part of the wide world she was in, I would have followed her to share the hard fortune she brought upon herself. But the masther would never tell me, and many a time I begged him on my knees to forgive her, but 'twas no use. It was the pride that hardened him agin his own flesh and blood,-for the pride of ould Nick himself isn't greater than the pride of

the Godfreys." "But, Eveleen, you never did know the sufferings poor mamma endured-the misery, the want that shortened her days."

"Och, don't talk of it, avourneen; it's all over now and your dear mamma is in glory, for shure the life she led here was purgatory enough for her, the crathur," and the old woman wiped the tears of sympathy from her shrivelled face.

"I must speak of it, Eveleen, that you may understand what I am going to tell you. have a secret I am going to confide in you. am in great trouble, and you must help me.'

"A saycret is it, agra?" and an undefined fear was expressed in the dark sunken eye. "Yes, nurse, a secret, you will not betray

me. I know." There was a touching sadness in Hilda's

voice, and the chiselled features worked convulsively.

"Betray you! not if I was to gain a King's ransom !"

There was a sudden lighting up of those dark eyes which were fixed with an anxious expression on the agonized face of her young lady.

"I trust implicitly in your fidelity, and as a proof of it I will tell you the painful secret which has almost broken my heart. Eveleen, I am married!"

The words came unwillingly from the pale. trembling lips. It cost the wretched wife an effort to acknowledge it even to the faithful old nurse.

"The saints forbid! Holy Biddy be good to me! Och, Miss Hilda! is it the thruth ye're telling?"

"The sad truth, Eveleen. To save mamma from want I married a man I did not love, whose money made the last few months of her life comfortable."

"And the man himself, who was he, alanna?" There was a gloomy suspicion fastening itself upon the nurse's mind, the painful truth was dawning upon her. "The captain of the wrecked vessel. The

man who lies in the opposite room." These words were spoken calmly as some

persons can cnunciate what costs them a deathpang to utter.

Bowing her head upon her hands to shut out the intense anguish of that colourless face, the old woman rocked to and fro with that oscillating motion peculiar to the Irish

peasant when in sorrow. "Och, my grief! What'll be the end of this?" she wailed forth. "Shure if the masther himself should come to know it, it will be the death of him !"

"But he must never know it, Eveleen!" ex-claimed Hilda, vehemently. "The secret is known only to you."

"But the man himself, acushla! did not he see you? Shure I met you coming out of the room. Why did you venture into it at all?"

" It was very foolish, I know, but I wanted to find out if it was he. I was wild with the agony of suspense; the terrible dread that all would be discovered."

"And you did the very thing to bring it about! Shure he would never set his eyes on you if you kept out of his way, ochone! You just put your foot in it. It's little sense is in your young head Why didn't you come and tell me all ahout it at onct?"

"I am sorry I did not, but I was not quite sure the man was Dudley. It was so unlook-ed for his coming here. I never thought this would happen."

"Sthrange things do happen shure enough," observed the nurse in tones of deep dejection. "Just to think of the storm dhriving that ship dead on shore, at the very door, as if it might not as well be lost off some other part of the coast! And then, too, his life must be spared, while others is dhrowned! His life saved!" she repeated angrily, "when it would be a mercy if the wild waves swallowed him up! Och, my grief, if he only was lying cowld and stiff like them other sailors they are waking this blessed night! Wouldn't it be the weight off your heart, alanna? But he must be

spared-spared to be the torment of your life bad luck to him !" There was fierceness in Eveleen's tones not she was angry with the Providence that ha

spared the life of Dudley. "Did he see you, Miss Hilda?" she resum ed after a short silence. "I left him sleepin when I went to get his supper. Mayl was asleep and never noticed you going in the room.

There was a sudden hope in the old woman eyes as she turned them on her young lady. "He awoke when I was standing beside h

bed, but he only saw me for a moment, I e tinguished the light instantly. He will men tion this to you. Try to persuade him he we dreaming. You will know best what to se to him, nurse." "Lave that to me! I'll bamboosle him

I'll engage !"

"Give him no information about the fami -about mamma, I mean. He will, undoub edly make many inquiries, but you must be o your guard, Eveleen."

"He'll get no news out of me that can hu you, avourneen. And now it's time for you go back to the company. The gintlemen ha left the dinner-table, and Sir Gervase will a axing for you, for it is the core of his hea you are, ochone! To think of what might 1 if it only pleased the Lord to let that man dhrowned this blessed day, Faix it's my lac you might be to-morrow! If I have not mind to give him a dose and put an end him!" Eveleen continued with sudden veh hemence. "By all that's bad, I'll do it," sl added with that wild impetuosity, that rec lessness of crime which is so characteristic the Irish peasant who boasts a Spanish d scent

"Oh nurse, you will not do it! You da not!" exclaimed Hilda in accents of horror. "Dare not!" repeated Eveleen, with

scornful curl of her thin lip. "I would da do anything to serve a Godfrey, and by th cross, I'll never let that man leave this hou alive to bring disgrace on your young hea alanna!"

"Nurse, I will denounce you as his mu deress if anything happens to Dudley!" claimed Hilda with solemn earnestness, h eyes dilating with horror as she regarded t old woman.

"Well, then, I wont do it, as it is so d plazing to you, darlint. Shure it was the Divil tempting me that made me think of suc

a thing. Bad cess to him, he is always one's elbow egging them on to mischief!" "But it is no use talking," she muttered, she took up the tray of refreshments and pr ceeded to Dudley's room, "it is the very be thing could happen to him if I did give th misfortunate man a dhrink that would mal him sleep the drameless sleep of death. Th would be the way to keep his tongue quid for dead men tell no tales. And who wou be the wiser for it? Even if they did brin the gring here the men tell and the sleep the sle the crime home to me, who cares? My life nearly spent, and what matther if the last fe years was cut off before the time? Wou not it be to serve a Godfrey-to save t young innocent craythur from disgrace w sacrificed herself to keep her mother fro starving? And to think that she, a Godfr born, should ever be brought to that! Shu it's full and plenty was always in her fathe house, and she almost dying of hunger! O my grief, how some are born to suffer in the world !"

"Oh, here you are at last!" was the e clamation with which Dudley greeted Ev leen, as she made her appearance, "I w afraid you were not coming back to-night." He was sitting up in bed looking much e

cited. " Is it the hunger that's throubling you asked the nurse with affected simplicity. ax your pardon for keeping you so long with out your supper. But you were sleeping comfortable when I left, I was in no hur back, bekase, 'ye see, the sleep is the be thing for you. Is it long awake you are?" To be continued.



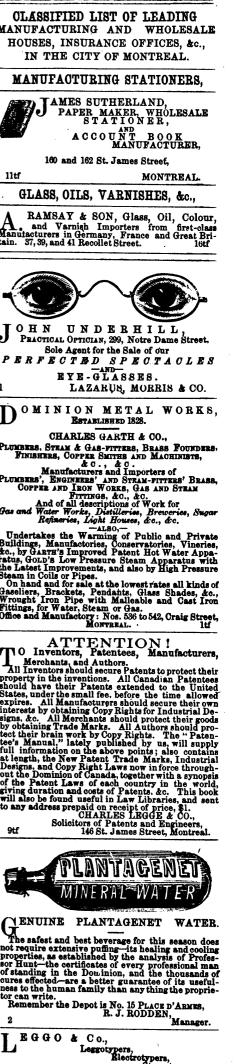
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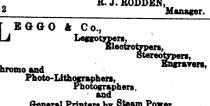
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