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ve have no ser-

inisters?' An-

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And an.

do you do in said he. 'Why back on Æsop's ended, and entime?' 'What 'Why, do you at the old man, You rememnan rode while all the people etch riding, and son walk." So father walked. See that unduhis grey-haired on foot." So lked. Then the fools to walk t strong ass to ey both got on he people said, ers to overload hen the father ass and carried people shouted do see, carrying Finally the old

'I remember." t became of the said I. 'Well, itor of a paper, ery one, and to

My boy, it is of

them. Let us

## CORNER.

home a mother m light of a solier thoughts had she was a lightout the old farmr childhood. She s eve all its nooks cient wainscoted kitchen with its he laburnum tree en window. All nis quiet hour, for the distance, and rds of memory. , for the click of

tsteps on the path of her boy from

mber evening, igh the window a his mother, look. fortable and jolly, his school books, scholarly troubles igh in his class as clared it was good essons for the , my boy?"

was kept in to write stupid old gramoud came over the inted to have gone

meet him and the boy and seized his cap, Up jumpea and so y and so lead his cap, the wall-his treasured concertina.

"A good thought," he said, "and I'll take this to beguile my walk." Thus beging, he left the cottage and took his hway along the road towards the own, where his father worked in the

"Matthew, supper's ready; what are you listening at, man?"

Thus exclaimed the wife of Anderson, the old pensioner. Matthew was at this moment looking out into the night: peering through the casement of the tiny window which faced the street where he and his old wife had their abode. His ear had caught the sound of a quick-step march, and for a few moments he was living over again the pride and glory of a soldier's life with its chances and changes, its bivouacks, for he had been through the old Crimean war, and had medals in plenty and the visions of Chinese forts and battlefields, Russian trenches and camp fires, comrades long gone to rest, and hoarse tones of command which he should never hear again, came rushing into the old soldier's memory as, turning from the window with moistened eyes, he said to his wife, while the notes of the concertina grew fainter in the

"'Twas the regimental march."

By the bedside of a dear parent, watching for that return to consciousness, that peaceful awakening from sleep which would prove the fever had departed and the crisis passed, a girl sat motionless; so sad had been her tling. thoughts for the past hour, so hopeless, for her faith had grown weak, and she could no longer pray; but like one stunned she mechanically watched the dear face of the kindest and best of mothers, and dreaded to see the eyes unclose and look at her as a stranger.

"Shells of the Ocean:" the strain was wafted onward and came nearer and nearer the house. It was a pretty plaintive air, but the girl had not time to think of that, her only fear was that the music would wake the sufferer, and she dreaded the moment of her awakening. She covered her face with her hands, awaiting she scarcely knew what, and yet even as she did so, there stole into her mind a thought of what music was. A gift, what would this world be without it. And she thought of the great musicians who have left their life works behind them; the noble, grand conceptions, the sweet tunes which have power to thrill the hearts of thousands, proving that there is sent to man at least one echo from his distant home to cheer him onward. And if so, why should there be dispair? why should we mistrust our Father who has given so many a consolation for human trials?

The invalid gave a deep sigh and awoke. With joy her daughter noticed the look of recognition bestowed upon

" Are you better, mother?" she asked, sinking on her knees by the bed-

"Yes, my child," said the mother; "] seem to have had a long dream, and I thought as I woke you were playing at the piano some of those beautiful sonatas by Beethoven." .

"It was a concertina, mother, in the street," answered the girl; but she bowed her head on the pillow as she spoke and silently thanked God for her mothers' restoration, for the hope and joy which had now taken the place of despair, and for the power of thanksgiving and praise of which she now felt music was the interpreter, while still listening to the passing echoes of a simple tune.

Two friends were walking along the road-friends said we? Well, for the time being they were more like foes, for there had been a discussion between Archie and Donald as they walked home from their work with their tools slung over their shoulders, and it had got to high words by the time the town was gained. Each thought himself right, and the sharp instruments they carried matched the keen-edged words which trized.

with Charlie Holt to st. for this is Lord men had been exchanging with one anhe has got for to-night, but I was kept other; and no doubt in a few minutes more they would have parted in. Father home you go and ther suppose you go and anger, but as they turned the corner a figure passed them in the darkness playing the concertina, and a lull fell upon the storm of words as the strain of "Auld Lang Syne" floated past.

"Archie, man, should auld acquaintance be forgot?" said Donald extending his hand.

And Archie grasped it, for this familiar air had spoken to the Scotchman's heart, and the feeling of clanship, which but just before had been fading, brightened up amazingly as he answered,

"And here's a hand o' mine."

So peace was thus proclaimed for the sake of "Auld Lang Syne," and the thoughts it invoked.

A young sailor left the town, and striking into the main road "stood for" a line of lights in the distance which somebody had told him were Poplar Cottages, and in one of them he knew he would find a warm and hearty welcome, the more so as his return from sea had not been communicated to his father and mother, whom he was now on his way to visit. When he left home some three years before they had been living in a village some distance from where they now resided, so it was all new ground to Jack; and as he trudged along, still keeping his eye on the steady light by which he steered his course, the sailor whistled "Hearts of Oak," and then fell to wondering as to whether he had been directed rightly, or if after all he had taken the wrong road; but at this moment a sound of music approached, and the young man said that at any rate he should soon have company on his way, so resumed his whis-

"Father!" cried Harry, as the pair walked on homeward; "that is Jack's old tune; do you hear a fellow whistling it?" And with that he finished off the air just as they passed a lonely figure on the footpath going in the same di-

Again it began, "Hearts of Oak" whistled cheerily half way through, and then again it was finished off by the concertina.

There was something more than a coincidence in this, and the three figures stopped, arrested by a hope of which the music spoke.

"It's Jack, surely?" Yes, Jack come back to cheer them all again; and a happy party were gathered that evening round the bright fire, while the concertina which had performed its part earlier, hung silent on one side of the hearth .-- Workwoman.

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