

back all the sorrowful past to you, and you are letting it kill you. Listen! Let me speak this once, and then I will never speak again, if you wish it. Canon Pascal knows it all; I told him. And Felix knows it, and he loves you more than ever; you are dearer to him a hundred times than you were before. And he forgives his father—fully. God has cast his sin as a stone into the depths of the sea, to be remembered against him no more for ever!”

A slight flush crept over Felicitia's pale face. It was a relief to her to learn that Canon Pascal and Felix knew so much of the truth. The darker secret must be hidden still in the depths of her heart until she found out whether she was altogether free from the chance of discovery.

“It is right they should know,” she said in a low and dreamy tone, “and Canon Pascal makes no difficulty of it?”

“Canon Pascal said to me,” answered Phebe, “that your noble life and the fame you had won atoned for the error of which Felix and Hilda's father had been guilty. He said they were your children, brought up under your training and example, not their father's. Why do you dwell so bitterly upon the past? It is all forgotten now.”

“Not by me,” murmured Felicitia, “nor by you, Phebe.”

“No, I have never forgotten him,” cried Phebe, with a passionate sorrow in her voice. “How good he was to me, and to all about him! Yes, he was guilty of a sin before God and against man; I know it. But oh! if he had only suffered the penalty, and come back to us again, for us to comfort him and to help him to live down the shame! Possibly we could not have done it in Riversborough; I do not know; but I would have gone with you, as your servant, to the ends of the earth, and you would have lived happy days again—happier than the former days. And he would have proved himself a good man in spite of his sin; a Christian man, whom Christ would not have been ashamed to own.”

“No, no,” said Felicitia; “that is impossible. I never loved Roland; can you believe that, Phebe?”

“Yes,” she answered in a whisper, and with downcast eyes.

“Not as I think of love,” continued Felicitia in a dreary voice. “I have tried to love you all; but you seem so far away from me, as if I could never touch you. Even Felix and Hilda, they are like phantom children, who do not warm my heart or gladden it, as other mothers are made happy by their children. Sometimes I have dreamed of what life would have been: I had given myself to some man for whom I could have forfeited the world and counted the loss as nothing. But that is past now, and I feel old. There is nothing more before me; all is gray, and flat, and cold, a desolate monotony of years, till death comes.”

“You make me unhappy,” said Phebe. “Ought we not to love God first, and man for God's sake? There is no passion in that; but there is inexhaustible faithfulness and tenderness.”

“How far away from me you are!” answered Felicitia with a faint smile.

She turned her sad face again towards the sea, and sat silent, watching the flitting sails pass by, but holding Phebe's hand fast in her own, as if she craved her companionship. Phebe, too, was silent, the tears dimming her blue eyes and blotting out the scene before her. Her heart was very heavy and troubled for Felicitia.

“Will you go to Engelberg with me by-and-by?” asked Felicitia suddenly, but in a calm and tranquil tone.

“To Engelberg!” echoed Phebe.

“I must go there before Felix thinks of marrying,” she answered in short and broken sentences; “but it cannot be till spring. Yet I cannot write again until I have been there; the thought of it haunts me intolerably. Sometimes—say, often—the word Engelberg has slipped from my pen unawares when I have tried to write; so I shall do no more work till I have fulfilled this duty; but I will rest another few months. When I have been to Engelberg again for the last time, I shall be not happy, but less miserable.”

“I will go with you wherever you wish,” said Phebe.

(To be continued.)

LAW OF BRANCHES OVERHANGING NEIGHBOURS.

Two persons own land separated by a line fence, which is common property between the two parties. One has an apple tree on his side of the fence, whose limbs overhang the fence on the side of the other. Apples fall on either side. The question often asked is, Do the apples that fall on one's land belong to one or the other, or to both? This subject has been several times discussed, with some contradictory decisions and judgments, but the rules are now pretty well established. If the stem or trunk of the tree grows so close to the line that parts of its vital body extend into each, neither owner can cut it down without the consent of the other, and the fruit is to be equitably divided. If the stem of the tree stands wholly within the boundary line of one owner, he owns the whole tree with its products, although the roots and branches extend into the property of the other. There was an old rule of law that the latter might claim from the yield of the tree as much as would be an offset for the nourishment it derived from his estate, but this is now obsolete. The law gives the landowner on whose side the tree stands the right to cut it down at his pleasure, and to pluck all the fruit from it while it stands.

In New York State the courts have decided that trespass by assault would lie by the owner of the tree against the owner of the land over which its branches extended if he prevented the owner of the tree, by personal violence, from reaching over and picking the fruit growing upon these branches while standing on the fence dividing the lands. The land of the owner over which the branches extend may be by the branches close to his line. He may also dig down and cut the roots square with his line, if he so elects. In plain terms, if no portion of the trunk is within his line he may refuse all trespass of the tree on his premises, either above the ground or below it. But if he gives the tree leave either to extend its roots under his soil or to hang its

branches over his premises he does not thereby gain any right to its fruit. He cannot pick it for himself nor interfere with the picking by the owner, as long as the latter remains in the tree or on the fence which divides the property. This right to the fruit does not, however, permit the other owner to come upon the soil on the other side of the line to gather the fruit, and all the fruit which falls without violence to the ground on that side may thus become the property of its owner.—*Philadelphia Ledger.*

A CAT'S MIND.

A certain household with which we had the best opportunity in the world to be familiar, was served by a very noisy milkman, who came rushing up the back steps to the veranda every morning, banged down his old tin pail, and shouted “Milk!” The pet cat of the establishment always received a saucer full of milk on his arrival, and soon connected breakfast with the noisy milkman. When the familiar step beat on the walk and the rattle and the shout were heard, the cat would spring to the door with tail in air and eyes sparkling. A mischievous boy, noticing this, conceived the brilliant idea of fooling the cat. He slipped out quietly one afternoon, ran noiselessly along the walk and up the steps, and shouted “Milk!” The cat was at the door in an instant, all agog with expectation, and savagely comprehended the meaning of things when the door opened and no milkman appeared. There was something so funny about making a fool of the cat that the experiment was tried from time to time with great success; but suddenly it failed. When the boy rushed up the steps and shouted “Milk!” the cat lay beside the stove and purred sedately. She had learned to detect the imposture. The experiment did not stop here. The boy was resolved not to be beaten by the cat, and after failing in several attempts to arouse her by the old method, he slyly took out with him a tin can, came rushing up the veranda, banged down the can with a great rattle and yelled “Milk!” The cat sprang for the door as if she had been touched with an electric battery.—*Buffalo Courier.*

HUMOUR AT HOME.

A good thing to have in the house is a sense of humour, or the capacity to see a little fun lurking under the humdrum cares and work of life. We all know how it brightens up things generally to have a lively, witty companion, who sees the ridiculous points of things and who can turn an annoyance into an occasion for laughter. It is a great deal better to laugh over some domestic mishaps than to cry or scold over them. Many homes are dull because they are allowed to become too deeply impressed with the cares and responsibilities of life to recognize its bright side and especially its mirthful side. Into such a household, good but dull, the advent of a witty, humorous friend is like sunshine on a cloudy day. While it is always oppressive to hear persons constantly trying to say witty and funny things, it is comfortable to see what a brightener a little fun is—to make an effort to have some at home. It is well to turn off an impatient question sometimes, and to regard it from a humorous point of view, instead of becoming irritated about it. “Wife, what is the reason I can never find a clean shirt?” exclaimed a good but rather impatient husband, after rummaging all through the wrong drawers. His wife looked at him steadily for a moment, half inclined to be provoked, then with a comical look she said, “I never could guess conundrums, I give it up.” Then he laughed, and they both laughed, and she went and got his shirt, and he felt ashamed of himself and kissed her, and then they both felt happy; so what might have been an occasion for hard words and unkind feelings became just the contrary, all through the little vein of humour that had cropped out to the surface. Some children have a peculiar faculty for a humorous turn to things when they are reproved. It does just as well to laugh things off as to scold them off. Laughter is better than tears. Let us have a little more of it at home.

THE PATHOS OF LIFE.

The pathos of life lies but little below the surface; the loving heart feels it all.

While I was in college I was impressed very deeply by an incident illustrating the pathos of these facts, which needs only to be known to be felt. I had observed a large Newfoundland dog about the dormitories for nearly a week. One cloudy afternoon an old man came wearily into the yard and enquired for the dog. The wild ones saw a chance for a little diversion, and so the dog was allowed to look benignly down from the attic windows upon his master. The old man trudged up the long flights of steps, but when he reached the room he saw the dog playing leap-frog with the boys on the campus. Again he patiently descended, and the chase was kept up until the old man saw it was of no use. It afforded great sport for the thoughtless, but there were some among the scores looking on whose hearts and tongues protested.

“Boys,” said the old man, “this looks like sport to you, but if you only understood the circumstances, you'd feel more like crying than like laughing. My wife and I had a little granddaughter a week ago, but we haven't now. She died last Saturday. The dog was a great favourite with her. He stayed in her room all through her sickness, and she would stroke him with great tenderness when she was almost too feeble to raise her hand. While she was dying, she said: ‘Grandma, you'll keep Rover to remember me by—won't you, grandma?’ Be good to Rover, and we'll all meet in heaven.” And now grandma is very lonesome without her little girl, and she wants the dog. He ran away as soon as the little girl died, and I have been searching for him ever since. Please, boys, let me take him home, for we have nobody to care for but the dog.” His voice choked, while tears started in many eyes. Quickly the dog was given up; a hat was passed, and substantial tokens of the boys' repentance were presented the old man; and while he

trudged away followed closely by his dog, the sun broke through the clouds, for it was about to set, and flung a flood of golden rays upon the college campus and its buildings, lighted up the old man's face as he made an adieu, and seemed to be the benediction of heaven on the scene. I shall never forget it.—*Rev. G. L. White.*

BRITISH AND FOREIGN ITEMS.

The laying of the new American cable has been completed.

The Old Catholic College in Berne has only nine students, for whom there are five professors.

MR. PARNELL has been released from gaol on parole to attend the funeral of his sister's child.

QUITE a number of merchants in Madrid have determined to close their places of business on Sundays.

A FAMINE is reported in Zululand, the severe drought having caused a complete failure of the crops.

THOMAS HARRISON, the boy evangelist, has accepted an invitation to labour next winter with the churches in Chicago.

THE President of the United States has vetoed the anti-Chinese Bill on the grounds that it is unreasonable and unjust.

PRINCE GORTSCHAKOFF has, at his own request, been relieved of his duties as Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Empire.

A MEETING has been held at the Mansion House, in London, with a view of taking steps to raise a fund for assisting unemployed working-people to emigrate to Canada.

ACCORDING to the London journals, it is generally thought in England that Dr. Lamson will not escape execution, though the possibility of a further reprieve is admitted.

SEVERAL thousand were added last week to the number of striking labourers in the United States, and there are few signs of accession to their demand for increase of wages.

THE House Committee on Education and Labour has ordered a bill drafted to appropriate \$10,000,000 for schools throughout the United States in proportion to the prevailing illiteracy.

THOMAS A. EDISON, John Kruesi, David Brooks, and other electricians have testified before the sub-committee of the New York Senate investigating the practicability of underground telegraphy.

GENERAL IGNATIEFF says there is a secret treaty against Russia between Sweden and Germany. It is further stated that, in the event of a war between Russia and Germany, Sweden will invade Finland.

A SECT called the “New Israel” has risen among the Jews of Russia. It abandons circumcision, abstinence from certain viands, changes the Sabbath from the seventh to the first day, and abolishes usury.

DR. THOMAS M. MAGUIRE has become Professor of Moral Philosophy in Dublin University. He is the first Roman Catholic to hold this post. Religious tests formerly barred positions in the University to all but Episcopalians.

THE Salvation Army has opened a building, formerly used as a rink, in the west end of London. It accommodates 2,300 persons, and is rented at \$5,000 a year. An admission fee of a shilling was charged to non-members of the Army.

THE next Decennial Missionary Conference of India will be held Christmas week of the present year, in Calcutta. Preparations are making for a large attendance. A committee representing all the churches has been appointed to make the arrangements.

THE American Board of Foreign Missions at Boston has been advised by cable from Constantinople that in a region of Turkey, three times as large as Massachusetts, the people are starving on account of the ravages of locusts. An urgent appeal for succour is made.

THE Catholics make a good showing of educational facilities in the archdiocese of Baltimore. There are seven colleges and twenty-two academies, seminaries and institutes, besides numerous male and female schools. The total of pupils is 19,141, requiring 480 teachers.

IT is not often that a man's will is read in public before he dies, but this was done at Cincinnati in the suit for an order for the sale of Archbishop Purcell's real estate. The Archbishop made the will on May 4th, 1853, a clause of which provides for the payment of his just debts.

FRESH disturbances and outrages against the Jews are reported from Russia. The Austrian Government has issued positive orders forbidding all meetings avowedly for the purpose of anti-Semitic demonstrations, and maintaining the duty of the Government to protect the rights of every subject, regardless of politics or religion.

MR. W. MITCHELL, one of Mr. Spurgeon's students, has sailed for India, to take part in the Bethel Santhal Mission, which has a parish extending over 400 square miles, with a population of 140,000, who worship idols. He is a Scotchman, and at Bethel he will be received by another Scotchman, Mr. H. Patterson, from Mr. Guinness's college.

THE Mormon President Taylor, of Salt Lake City, and some of the apostles who had their polygamous wives living in one house with them, fearing arrest under a section of the Edmunds Bill, which makes cohabitation with more than one woman a misdemeanor, have dispersed their harems. Taylor told his wives that if he could not have all of them, he would not have any of them.

REV. W. K. LANDELS, son of Dr. William Landels, of London, has secured a building at Naples for the prosecution of his missionary work in that city. The cost is £3,500, and towards this £2,500 have been collected. Mr. Landels has been the means of bringing several students in the University of Naples to a knowledge of the truth, and these, having returned to their homes, are sowing the seeds of the kingdom in their several localities.