

## THE TRIED CHRISTIAN.

BY MRS. JOHN DAVIS.

[This quaint old hymn which has been sent me for publication has a certain old-fashioned charm. I have about it, which will probably revive memories for some of the older readers of the Messenger and Visitor.]

My music is a captive's chain,  
Harsh sounds my ears do fill;  
How shall I sing sweet Zion's song,  
On this side Zion's hill?

I journey in a vale of tears,  
Alas! how can I sing;  
My harp doth on the willows hang,  
Disturbed in every string.

Yet, O, I hear a joyful sound,  
Surely I quickly come;  
Each word with sweetness doth distill,  
Like a full honey-comb.

And dost Thou come, my dearest Lord?  
And dost Thou surely come?  
And dost Thou surely, quickly come?  
Methinks I am at home.

Come, then, my dearest, dearest Lord;  
My sweetest, surest friend;  
Come, for I loathe these mortal tents;  
The fiery chariot send.

What have I here? My thoughts and joys  
Are all packed up and gone;  
My eager soul would follow them,  
To Thine eternal throne.

What have I in this barren land?  
My Jesus is not here;  
My eyes will not be left until  
My Jesus doth appear.

My Jesus is gone up to heaven;  
Forget a place for me;  
For His will with Him be His,  
There should His servants be.

Canaan's view from Pisgah's top,  
Of Canaan's grapes I taste;  
My Lord who sends unto me here,  
Will send for me at last.

I have a God that changes not,  
Why should I be perplexed?  
My God that dwells in this world,  
Will own me in the next.

Go fearless then, my soul, with God,  
Into another room;  
Those who have walked with Him here,  
Shall see their God at home.

View death with a believer's eyes,  
It hath an angel's place;  
And this kind angel will prefer  
Thee to an angel's place.

The grave's not a sleeping place,  
Unto believing eyes;  
For there the flesh shall lose its dress,  
And like the sun shall rise.

The world which I have known too well,  
Hath mocked me with its lies;  
How gladly could I leave behind  
Its vexing vanities.

My dearest friends they dwell above,  
Them will I go and see;  
And all my friends in Christ below,  
Will soon come after me.

Fear not the trumpet's loud sounding  
Dread not the day of doom;  
For He who is to be thy Judge,  
Thy Saviour is become.

Blest be my God, that gives me light,  
Who in the dark doth guide;  
Blest be my God, the God of love,  
Who causeth life to abide.

Here's the world's signed comforts stuff,  
And here is grace's chain;  
By these, Thy pledges, Lord, I know,  
My hopes are not in vain.

## Selected Serial.

## THE SQUIRE OF SANDAL-SIDE.

BY MRS. AMELIA E. BAIR.

## CHAPTER VI.

## WOOING AND WINNING.

Until after Twelfth Night the Christmas festivities were continued, but if the truth had been admitted, the cumbersome ceremonials, the excessive eating and visiting, would have been pronounced by every one very tiresome. Julius found it particularly so for the festival had no rests in his beloved's heart, and he did not include it in his dreams of pre-existence.

"It is such a weariness of good fellow-ship, such a weariness of pretense of good wishes that mean nothing," he said one day. "What value is there in such talk?"

"Well," answered the Squire, "it isn't a bad thing for some of us to feel obliged one in a twelve months to be good-natured, and give our neighbors a kind word. There's the good that comes out of it except at Christmas. Eh? What?"

"Such wishes mean nothing."

"Nay, how there is no need to think that kind words are false words. There is a deal of good sometimes in a month of words. Eh? What?"

"And yet, sir, as the queen of the crocodiles remarked, 'Words mean more than eggs that are broken.'"

"I know nothing about the queen of the crocodiles. But if you don't believe in words, Julius, it is quite allowable at Christmas time to put your words into any substantial form you like. Nobody will doubt a good wish that is father to a handsome gift, so if you don't believe in good words, you have a very reliable substitute in good deeds. I saw how you looked when I said 'A Merry Christmas to you.' And you had to say the words after me. I understand that you said 'Merry Christmas to you.' Well, send old Simon a new pair of trousers, and you'll believe in yourself, eh? What?"

"The days were full of such strained conversations on various topics. Julius could say nothing which Julius did not politely challenge by some doubtful inquiry. Julius felt in every word and action of Harry's the authority of the heir, and the fatherhood of a host. He was a guest, and he understood that he was a guest of the position in which he was constantly put. "Your father and brother have been examining the timber and the fashions of the houses, and I understand that they were discussing the building of a conservatory for Charlotte; but I was left out of the conversation entirely. Is it fair, Sophia? You and I are the next heirs, and just as likely to inherit as Harry. More so, I may say, for a

solider's life is already sold, and Harry is reckless and dissipated as well. I think I ought to have been consulted. I should not be in favor of thinning the timber. I dare say it is to be done by Harry's bill; and thus, you see, it may really be who are made to suffer. I don't think your father likes our marriage, dear one."

"But he gave his consent, beloved."

"I was very dissatisfied with his way of doing it. He might as well have said, 'If it has to be, it has to be; and there is no use fretting about it.' I may be wrong, but that is the impression his consent left on my mind. And he was quite unreasonable when I alluded to money matters. I would not have believed that your father was capable of being so disagreeably haughty. Of course, respected him, and say something about our rights, failing Harry's, and he treated them as if they did not exist. Even when I introduced them in the most delicate way, he was what I call downright rude. Julius," he said, "I will discuss any future that newspaper Harry's dearest."

"Father's sun rises and sets in Harry, and it was like him to speak that way. He meant nothing against us. Father would always do right. What I feel most is the refusal to give us our own apartments in Sandal-Side. We do not want to live here all the time, but ought to be able to feel that we have a certain home here."

"Yes, indeed. It is very important in my eyes to keep a footing in the house. Sandal-Side is a kind of right. But never mind, Sophia. I have always had the impression that this was my home. The first moment I crossed the threshold I felt it. All its rooms were familiar to me. People do not have such presentiments for nothing."

"There is a class of lovers who find their supreme pleasure in isolating themselves; who consider their own affairs an oasis of delight, and make it desert all around them. Julius and Sophia belonged to it. They really enjoyed the idea that they were being badly used. They talked over the Squire's injustice, Mrs. Sandal's indifference to every one but Harry, and Charlotte's envy, until they had persuaded themselves that they were the only respectable and intelligent members of the family. Naturally, Sophia's condition deteriorated under this isolating process. She grew secretive and suspicious. Her love affairs assumed a proportion which put her in false relations to all the rest of the world."

It was unfortunate that they had come to a crisis during Harry's visit, for of course Harry occupied a large share of every one's interest. The Squire took the opportunity to talk over the affairs of the estate with him, and this was not a kind of conversation they felt inclined to make general. It took them long solitary walks together to the different "folds," and several times as far as Kendal together. "Am I not the family, or am I not?" Julius would ask Sophia on such occasions; and then the discussion of this question separated them at last, sometimes for hours at a time.

Mrs. Sandal had perceived the growth of this domestic antagonism. When Harry was at Sandal-Side, she lived and moved and had her being in Harry. His food and drink, and the multitude of his small comforts; his own furniture, his renovation of his linen and books, and his own fears and his promotion or marriage, were enough to fill the mother's heart. She was by no means oblivious of Sophia's new interests, solely thought that they could be put aside until Harry's short visit was over; and Charlotte's sympathies were also with Harry. "Julius and Sophia do not want them, mother," she said; "they are sufficient unto themselves. If I see a man, I shall be put aside until Sophia's silent over her work; with a look of injury on her face; and Julius walks about, and kicks the stools out of his way, and simply looks me out of their presence."

After such an explosion one morning, she put on her bonnet and mantle, and went into the park. She was hot and trembling with anger, and her eyes were misty with tears. In the main walk, she met Harry. He was smoking, and looking down at his pipe, and he was pining slowly in the park, and he was looking at the bare branches of the oaks. For a moment he also seemed annoyed at her intrusion on his solitude; but the next one he had tucked her arm through his own, and was looking with brotherly sympathy into her flushed and troubled face. This morning Charlotte felt it to be a great comfort to complain to him, to even cry a little over the breaking of the family bond and the loss of her sister's affection.

"I have always been so proud of Sophia, always given up to her in everything. When grandmother showed me the sapphires necklace, and said she was going to leave it to me because she loved me best, I begged her not to slight Sophia in such a way as that. Sophia being the elder, you know, Harry. I cried about it until she was almost angry with me. Julius offered his hand to me, and though I claim no merit for giving up what I do not want, yet, all the same, if I had wanted him, I should have refused. He said that Sophia had set her heart upon him. I believe you would, Charlotte."

"And somehow Julius manages to give Sandal-Side the feeling that I am only in Sandal-Side to tell myself that father is still alive, and that I have a right in his house. I do not know how he manages to make me feel so."

"In the same way that he conveys to me the impression that I shall never be Squire of Sandal-Side. He has domed me to death in his own mind; and I should feel constrained to go and shoot myself."

"I would come home, and get married, and welcome enough for your wife in Sandal-Side, especially if she be Emily."

"She will not be Emily, for I love some one else far away better—millions of times better than I love Emily."

"I am so glad, Harry. Have you told father?"

"Not yet. I do not think he will be glad, Charlotte."

"But why?"

"There are many reasons."

"Such as?"

"She is poor."

"Oh! that is bad, Harry; because I know that we are not rich. But she is not your inferior? I mean she is not uneducated, or unkindly, or anything of the kind?"

"She is highly educated, and in all England there is not a more perfect lady."

"Then I can see no reason to think Harry that I shall love your wife. Oh, yes! I shall love her very dearly."

Then Harry pressed her arm close to his side, and looked lovingly down into her bright, earnest face. There was no more speech. In a glance their souls touched each other.

"And so he asked you first, eh, Charlotte?"

"Yes."

"And you would not have him? What for, Charlotte?"

"I did not like Julius, and I did like some one else."

"Oh, oh! Who is the some one else?"

"Guess, Harry. He is very like you, very fair and tall, with clear, candid, happy eyes, and a broad, sunny countenance. He is in the fields he is master. His heart is gentle to all, and full of love for me. He has spirit, dirt, ambition, enterprise, and can work twenty hours out of the twenty-four to carry out his own plans. He is a right good fellow, Harry."

"A North-country man?"

"Certainly. Do you think I would marry a stranger?"

"And where is he?"

"Who else?"

"Then it is Steve Lattig, eh? Well, Charles, you might go farther and farther. I don't think he is worthy of you."

"Oh, but I do!"

"Very few men are worthy of you."

"Only Steve. I want you to like Steve, Harry."

"Certainly. Sandal-Side folks and Up-Hill folks are always thick friends. And Steve and I were boy chums. He is a fine fellow, and no mistake. I am glad he is to be my brother. I asked mother about him and she said he was in Yorkshire, learning how to spin and weave wool—a queer thing, Charles."

Not at all. He may just as well spin his own eggs as sell them to Yorkshire men to spin. He was not the owner of Stephen's plans, and Harry appeared to be much impressed with them. "It is a pity father does not join him, Charles," he said. "Every one is doing something of the kind now. Land and sheep do not make money fast enough for the wants of our present life. The income of the estate is no larger than it was in grandfather's time, but the expenses are much greater, although I need not see the same extravagant style. I need money, too, and I am very much; but I see plainly that father has none to spare. Julius will prove him very close."

"What has Julius to do with father's money?"

"Father must, in honor, pay Sophia's portion. Unfortunately, when the fellow was here last, father told him that he had put away from the estate one hundred pounds a year for Sophia's education. Under this promise he had to go, and he took three thousand pounds, exclusive of her share in the money grandmother left you. I am sorry to say that I have had something to do with making it hard for father to meet these obligations. And Julius, too, has had a share in it. Marriage, father, too, feels very much as I feel, and would rather throw it into the sea than give it to him; only no-blessed oblige."

The subject evidently irritated Harry, and he suddenly changed it by taking from his pocket an ivory miniature. He gave it to Charlotte, and watched her face with a glow of pleasant expectation. "Why, Harry?" she cried, "does so lovely a woman really exist?"

He nodded happily, and answered, in a voice full of emotion, "And she loves me."

"It is the countenance of an angel."

"And she loves me. I am not worthy to touch the hand of her who is so lovely, but she loves me." Then Charlotte lifted the pictured face to her lips. Their confidence was complete, and they did not think it necessary to talk it out. Julius's exact promises of secrecy from each other.

The next day Harry returned to his regiment, and Sophia's affairs began to receive the attention which their important crisis demanded. In those days it was customary for girls to make their sewing machine to her father, and this was the first marriage in the family. "Mine is the first marriage in the family," said Julius, "and I think there ought to be a great deal of interest felt in it."

And there was. Grandmother Sandal's, every eye was turned for old faces and old memories, and the old ladies of the family, wonderful in quality and color, and guileless of any admixture of less precious material. There were whole sets of many garments to make, and there were many of the old ladies, and they were slow to give up what they had been used to, but the work promised to be so tedious that the marriage day was postponed until July.

In the meantime Julius spent his time between Oxford and Sandal-Side. Every eye was distinguished by some rich or rare gift to his bride, and he was full of pleasure in assuring himself that Charlotte was consumed with envy and regret. He was very much in love with Sophia, and quite glad she was giving to him, and yet he dearly loved to think that he made Charles's sorry for her rejection of his love, and wistfully anxious for the rings and trousseau that were the portion of his bride. This idea flattered and pleased him, and it gave him neither shame nor regret to endorse it. She loved no one but Julius, and she made a kind of merit in giving up every one for him. The sentimentality rather well, but it was really an intense selfishness, and he did not reflect that the daily love and duty done to others cannot be sinfully withheld or refused to some object of our own particular choice, or he made Charles's idolatry a domestic crime.

It was a very unhappy time to Charlotte. Her mother was weary with many unusual cares, her father more so, and she was depressed than she had ever before seen him. The severe anxiety of her happy home was disturbed by a multitude of new elements, for an atmosphere of constant expectation gave a restless tone to its usual placid routine. And through all and below all, the feeling that feeling of money perplexity, which, where it exists, is no more to be hid than the subtle odor of musk, present though unseen.

## A Boy's Story.

(FOR GIRLS.)

BY MRS. NATHANIEL CONKLIN.

"I say, Bess, will you mind my pocket?"

"Which pocket?" jerked out Bess, not lifting her eyes from the delicious story she was reading.

"The money pocket."

"You don't have to put things in it."

"But I do. I like to put things in it."

"Well, go away now. I'll do it this afternoon."

"I'm going away to Hackettstown; father wants me to go to see Mr. Brown for a long time. I shall be home till dark."

"H'm," assented Bess, lost again in her delicious story.

Julius went in a factory and was hurrying off with her lunch, Sophie was learning dressmaking and must be in her seat among the girls at seven o'clock. Rob gave a quick, imploring glance toward them, but both were too absorbed in their stories. Bess, the youngest of the girls, and two years older than Rob, had risen early and cooked a good breakfast for the working people, and now while her father was putting on his overcoat, and the girls giggling and giggling off she stood ten minutes for the story. After the breakfast dishes were washed and the sleeping rooms in order she had to walk a mile, to the hospital in order to take the paper and a jar of blackberry jam to Aunt Elmira, who was home sick, and depended upon her visits. It was true, she might read the story to Aunt Elmira, but then, she had snatched half of it and how could she wait?

And wasn't Rob always teasing for something? She eased her conscience by this thought as she stepped lightly about the house, and the story and the hospital in order to take the paper and a jar of blackberry jam to Aunt Elmira, who was home sick, and depended upon her visits. It was true, she might read the story to Aunt Elmira, but then, she had snatched half of it and how could she wait?

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A voice was saying it; such a queer thing to say. Rob pulled himself up and listened. "Common sense and the Lord," he would tell his father that a voice came out of the old barn and spoke it in his dreams. Two men were walking past the opening where a door had been, and one of them was talking; the sun was shining on the wet grass. He stretched himself and gave himself a shake, and then was ready for his journey. It could not be far now, and the sun was shining. "Nothing hurts boys"—his father said that every day.

"Mamma, I wish that you would make that call with me to-day," coaxed Jennie.

"Not to-day," answered mamma. "I haven't had a breath of fresh air to-day, and I have one or two errands down town."

"I can do the errands," said Giles.

"But you can't breathe the air for me," laughed the mother of fifteen-year-old Giles. "What a glorious fall day it has been, and there is some of it left now, if the sun is most down."

After her errands were done Mrs. Henderson stood on the corner meditating which way to walk for another breath of fresh air. Down the wide street toward the church looked tempting, and she turned, stepping briskly.

For five minutes she kept on, not meeting anyone, enjoying the keen air and the yellow maple leaves strewn everywhere.

"Can you give me something?" pleaded a voice.

Walking hurriedly she had not noticed the figure she had just passed. She turned, and saw an overgrown boy leaning against a fence. His round, brown face was very serious, and his big brown eyes full of tears.

"Give you something? What for?"

"To pay my fare."

"Where are you going?"

"To Brooklyn."

"Do you live there?"

"Yes, and I lost my ticket. In this hole in my pocket, I put it in there."

"It wasn't a very safe place, was it?"

"No; it wasn't. And I'll get it mended when I go home. Father sent me to Hackettstown, and I'm walking home."

"You can't get home to-night, or I wouldn't ask you. I never asked for money before."

"When did you go to Hackettstown?"

"Yesterday."

"Where did you sleep last night?"

"In a barn, out in a lot."

"Are you hungry?"

"No; I'm not hungry."

"Have you had anything to eat?"

"I had some dinner yesterday. I couldn't ask for anything."

"Why, you child! You must be hungry."

"Oh, no," with the big tears dropping. "All I want is to get home. I can't walk to-night."

"I should think not."

"I'm not so tired; but it is a long way."

"You are twenty-five miles from New York now—from Hoboken. Well, the next train down is after six. Come home with me and eat something; and I'll get you a ticket to New York."

"I am much obliged to you," choked Rob.

"You have pluck and perseverance enough to make a good soldier," remarked Mrs. Henderson as they walked on together.

His grandfather was a soldier; he was in the war of 1812. And my father has a pension; he was in the Grand Army.

"Then I think for the sake of my country I should do something for you. My home isn't far, you will be in time for the train and be home before eight o'clock."

"Oh, yes, I'll cut up Barclay street, and walk across the bridge and my street isn't far from the bridge."

In reply to her quick and sympathetic questions Rob told quite a story about his home life; with each reply the lady became more interested in the boy. His slow, pathetic voice, overgrown body, and luminous, tearful, big eyes touched the motherliness that went out to every living creature. While he sat in the dining-room eating thick slices of bread and butter and a saucer of baked apples the tears never left his eyes.

"I am much obliged to you," were all the thanks he could speak.

On the way down the hill to the station Rob answered her questions simply and in few words, only once did he speak anything of himself and then it was to exclaim over the beauty of a Virginia creeper that climbed to the chimney of a house they were passing.

When Mrs. Henderson gave him his ticket she put a hand on his hand. "I would like you always to remember this little experience when you were self-reliant and brave. This book is named 'Fifteen,' and will suit you because you are fifteen. It is about a girl; but girls have a great deal to do in boys' lives. Remember that the lady who wrote the book found it."

"But I wasn't lost," persisted Rob.

"No," laughed the lady, "you were only on the way home."

The next evening she received the postal dressed to herself that she had given him. In pencil, and in a plain, round hand he had written: "I got safe home. I was glad to get home. I like the book very much. Please write to me. My pocket is mended."

—Advance.

—Unique—K. D. C. is not advertised to cure all the "ills that flesh is heir to," but is specially prepared for the cure of indigestion or dyspepsia. Cure guaranteed. Try it.

—Professor of Geometry—"Mr. Bright, what is the shortest line between two points?" Mr. Bright—"A railroad line on its own maps."

—Emmett means softening. This is the action Dr. Kendrick's White Liniment has on swellings of all kinds on man or beast. Try it.

—Magistrate—"Now then, McCarthy, no prevarication. Tell us all that passed between you and the defendant." McCarthy—"Brickbats, yer honor; just brickbats."

—Intolerable itching, excruciating eruptions, scrofulous sores, scaly skin diseases may be removed by the purifying action of B. B. B.



Some Children Growing Too Fast