

can only stand by and watch, doing our best to alleviate." The doctor explained the nature of the disease and went his way, seeing only through tears.

The Rector walked on, scarcely realizing what he had heard; the sight of John Laxton sitting in his garden a heap of misery and despair wrung his heart; he tried to speak some words of sympathy, but broke down, hindered by tears.

Laxton had no tears to shed. "Go to her," he said, "tell her if you like, 'twon't frighten her."

Pearl, in her little white bed, greeted the Rector with a smile. "I hope I'll be able to come to the class next week," she said, wistfully.

Then the shepherd had to prepare her for the coming change; she was not frightened, only awed; and a little troubled at the thought of leaving her father. She could not be confirmed, but never had the Rector known one more "ready and desirous," so the Blessed Feast was spread once and again for the little one, who thus was given provision for the journey she so soon must take. The second time John Laxton was present at the service, and afterwards he said reverently to Pearl, "I thought you'd like to know, Pearl, that the 'Jolly Carters' is shut up for good."

"Wasn't it a nice place, father, dear? then I am glad."

Pearl passed away early on the morning of the Confirmation day, the day which she had so looked forward to, and which so far more than fulfilled her anticipation.

John Laxton is a changed man. The possession of his treasure on earth had not done for him what her removal did, and in his lonely, yet not joyless life, he has learned to be thankful for the Love which smote him so heavily.

—The Chinese have a flower resembling a lily in shape, which is white in the shade or at night, and assumes a light pink tinge on exposure in the sun.

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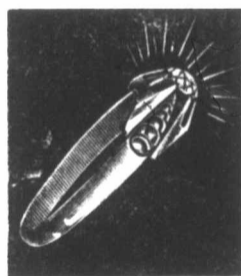
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