THE BLINDESS OF DR. GRAY

THE BLINDESS OF DR accomplished nurse watched over her patient. He could not help noticing, too, how completely differences of re-ligion were kept out of sight. There was but one guiding principle—kindness, humanity, charity. One day when Annie g into the room unexpectedly, was coming into the room unexpectedly, she heard the old man saying:
"On, that God has given me such a daughter in my old age!"
She drew back the door gently and

She drew back the door gently and retired. But it was enough to prove how deep, if unspoken, was the grateful appreciation of her services in that Protestant household. And yet it was only her strong spirit that helped her to persevere in face of the tacit opposition of her uncle, and the knowledge, conveyed to her in a hundred ways, that "the people were talking about her."

"the people were talking about her."

As the days lengthened, Jack
Wycherly was able to release his nurse Wycherly was ane to release his hirse and even to resume in part his studies at the hospital. But the cold of January, the icy showers of sleet, and the biting of the air at night made it soon evident that, if he were to escape death, he would have to run for his life. The senior surgeon, who was so deeply interested in him, peremptorily ordered interested in him, peremptority ordered him abroad, and after a consultation with the other members of the staff, all of whom liked the boy, it was decided that South Africa, with its dry, warm climate, was the one place on earth that gave hopes of arresting the ravages of

e dread disease.
He promptly decided to go, but dare
go alone? He thought not. He was He promptly decided to go, but dare he go alone? He thought not. He was too weak, too depressed by his illness to face the ordeal of an ocean voyage. And then—suppose that this terrible hemorrhage should recur whilst at sea? He decided he would not go unless someone accompanied him. Needless to say—that someone was Annie.

It was pitiful during these days of doubt to see how the poor boy would follow with his eyes the figure of the girl, who now seemed indispensable to him, as she flitted through the wards, apparently unconscious of his anxiety;

apparently unconscious of his anxiety; but in reality full of doubt and terror at ught that he might ask her to the thought that he might ask her to accompany him abroad and that she would not refuse him. To his eager question to the senior surgeon, whether he might travel alone, the decided answer was given, "Most certainly not You dare not travel without a skilled nurse." And he had not concealed it. You dare not travel without a skilled nurse." And he had not concealed it. Two things then were clear. Jack Wycherly was to leave Ireland for the Cape on the first of February; and one of the hospital nurses was to accompany him. Many of the latter were eager to go. The novelty of the thing, the desire to see life, the pleasures of ocean travel, the wish to improve themselves, and to obtain larger knowledge of their profession, were excellent reasons for wishing to go abroad; and yet it was mutely understood that the dying boy cared but for one to be his nurse, com-panion, and friend. Yet he hesitated

It was a bitterly cold afternoon

showers of sleet beating against the windows and a flerce wind howling along the streets and sweeping them free of pedestrians.
"Nearly all, sir," said Jack. "But I

fear I cannot manage about the nurse."
"Why?" said the doctor impatiently. "Expense, is it?"
"No!" said the boy, with a blush

spreading over his pale, hectic face. "Father has actually secured cabins in "Father has actuary secured that the 'Castle' Line. But—"
Here he stopped and the blush grew

"Well?" s

else? Can't you get the lady? I'd imagine they'd jump at the offer."
"I am afraid I cannot get the nurse I need most," said the boy.

"In your condition you will need sympathy and the feeling of confidence even more than skilful nursing. But why has Miss O'Farrell refused? That was

"And why not? The time is closing in the boy. The stime is closing in the services?"

"And why not? The time is closing in the boy. You don't expect she is going to proffer her services?"

"But I'm afraid she won't go and I don't like to risk a refusal. Besides, if Miss O'Farrell won't come with me, I shall stay at home to die."

never underwent such an oronaent life as the one he faced that evening, when the doctors had departed and he does the the doctors had departed and he life, as the one he faced that evening, life as the one he faced that he had to settle the matter felt that he had to settle the matter felt that he had to settle the matter finally, or decide to remain and die at the loss of the life, he of the life, bed spoken to felt that he had to settle the matter finally, or decide to remain and die at the loss of the life, he of such that he had to settle the matter limitly, or decide to remain and die at the loss of the life, when the life that he had to settle the matter limitly, or decide to remain and die at the loss of the life, when the loss of the life of the life, which had clustered and to takeleton. The great brown masses of aubten hair life, he was no longer a prepossessing figure.

All his masculine energy, which had clustered and for life, more provided and save for a life, he crept through the corridors, he was no longer a prepossessing figure.

All his masculine energy, which had only the loss of the kind. Give me and surface and save for a life, he crept through the corridors, he was no longer a prepossessing figure.

All his masculine energy, which had only the life with poor uncle. Hell never forgive men, who took you into his house on a mission his important the power of the kind. Give me away and left him a witted and washed out skeleton. The great brown masses of aubtenhied and the provided him to complete the loss of the appoint. Coming on to the close of the appoint to dweek, these promptings becames our gurner and set all your life.

Coming the loss of the kind work by the mechant through the checks had so life, he or the loss of th and prominent. His lips were blue and dry. His hands were worn and lengthened; and his frame, shrunken and emaciated, seemed but a skeleton on which his garments were hung. He coughed slightly, always with the dread accompaniment of his handkerchief to his lips. He felt lonely, miserable, unhappy, dreading, yet seeking this interview with the one being, who alone could shed upon his desolate path a little ray of hope and love.

He walked up and down the long corridor of the hospital under the gasjets, watching and listening for the opening of every door, in the hope that

corridor of the hospital under the gasjets, watching and listening for the opening of every door, in the hope that the one face and figure he desired to see might appear. Now and again, at the sonnd of a bell, a nurse would appear, glide swiftly along the corridor, exchange a kind word with the stricken student and pass on. But to all appearances Annie O'Farrell had vanished. Then he began to ask himself, could he be mistaken, and was she on night duty. But he knew this was not the case. At last he was about to leave for his lodgings, when, on turning around, he came face to face with the girl.

She adid not make light of the ordeal before her. She had calculated everything; and yet it was only when she stood face to face with her trial that she reduled its magnitude.

She consulted her confessor in the divided her consulted her doubts and fears. He was struck at once by the singular fact that she made down and hampered by the burden of a helpless and hopeless invalid, unused to the climate, and possibly beyond the reach of the most ordinary advantages of civilized life. The thought had not occurred to her and she brushed aside

walked slowly by his side a little dis tance, and was then about to pass into another ward, when he arrested her with

the one word:

"Annie!"

She stood still arranging some utensils she held in her hands, until he said:

Sne stood still arranging some utensils she held in her hands, until he said:
"Would you spare me one moment and walk a few steps with me?"
She at once turned around and slowly accompanied the weak footsteps of the boy. He moistened his dry lips and said with a tremor in his voice:
"Annie, you know I'm ordered abroad?"

boy.
blosing a don't be there there were conflicting opinions; and you know he is at the head of his profession, that in the public acte, or imprudent, in any skilled nurse a ground each, or imprudent, in any skilled nurse a ground each.

I shall

I shall

I shall

I lied, "brutally selfish, but I suppose it is my malady. But I have the most is my malady. But I have the most positive assurances, Annie, from Doctor Staniburst, and you know he is at the head of his profession, that in the public acte, or imprudent, in any skilled nurse accompaning a poor devil that has been sentenced to death."

"Of course that's true," said the nurse, "in the profession and amongst educated in the profession and while the profession and there is absolutely nothing indelicate, or imprudent, in any skilled nurse accompaning a poor devil that has been sentenced to death."

"Of course that's true," said the nurse, "in the profession and amongst educated impulse; and, although she had yet to should have forbidden me, tunele, to study for the profession af first. You should have forbidden me, tunele, to study for the profession af first. You should have forbidden me, tunele, to study for the profession af first. You should have forbidden me, tunele, to study for the profession af first. You should have forbidden me, tunele, to study for the profession af first. You should have forbidden me, tunele, to study for the profession af first. You should have forbidden me, tunele, to study for the profession af first. You should have forbidden me, tunele, to study for the profession af first. You should have forbidden me, tunele, to study for the profession af first. You should have forbed means there these times through the set under for many scrows, I sought whele, the true of the relative profession af first. You should have forbed means there to sum you held the profession and gradient of below a profession and gradient of

CHAPTER XXXVIII NATURE AND LAW

She did not make light of the ordeal

She consulted her confessor in the city next day, telling him candidly all her doubts and fears. He was struck at once by the singular fact that she made nothing of the dangers and trials of travel in an unknown land, weighed down and hampered by the burden of a helpless and hopeless invalid, unused to the climate, and possibly beyond the reach of the most ordinary advantages of civilized life. The thought had not occurred to her and she brushed aside the difficulty. But on the question of disobeying and even abandoning her uncle in his old age and with his terrible infirmity, he was peremptory, and sternly bade her to abandon the idea at the subject to her uncle. The meal had been suffered by both to pass almost in silence, as if he had a foreboding that it was the last. Then, gulping down

Almost in despair, she remembered the words of the wrecked and broken student and she timidly asked:

"What would our Lord do? What would He say?" He said coldly:

"I don't know. I am only judging by my own weak lights and they are

spected the question, and then she said quietly:

"Impossible, Jack. I would do anything to help you, but that is impossible."

"I expected to hear you say so," he realigned gently but sadly. "It was too sabut asking her and the day of his departure was drawing near.

One afternoon the senior surgeon bluntly asked him:

Well, Wycherly, have you made all arrangements? The sooner you get away from this infernal climate the "Don't say that!" she cried, alarmed.

"Don't say that!" she cried, alarmed.

"It was too much to hope for. I know all the difficulties and I admit they are insurmountable. But it was my last hope. I shall die at home now."

"Don't say that!" she cried, alarmed.

"Ton't say that!" she cried, alarmed.

"Don't say that!" she cried, alarmed.

"You she to reduce soil. And like to saintly spirits, she did not put her savingly spirits, she did not put her sav

But she shook her head.
"That cannot be," she said. "You must go to South Africa and I must go with you. It is Destiny!"

fixed for departure and she knew she had to face the bitter ordeal before the night closed down. She had spoken to Father Liston in the afternoon when he feath, for henceforth you are dead to Liston in the atternoon when he had been additive the him seed his daily visit and told him seed his daily visit and told him me—" "Uncle, uncle, stop, stop, or you'll stoping her.

Father Liston in the afternoon when he had closed his daily visit and told him all. He had not reassured her.

"Probably, if I were in the place of your director." he said gravely, "I should have proferred the same advice, because a director has to consider the spiritual interests of the penitent at his feet and none other. But somehow, if you were to consult me on the general principle—whether it were greater or nobler to go abroad or to remain at home—well I

ant; and there he is releatives.

She only replied:

"May God help me. It is the hardest trial of my life."

And it was.

It was just after tea that she broached

might be the last. Then, gulping down her emotion and summoning all her strength, she said:
"I shall be leaving in the morning, Uncle, and I shall not probably see you shall not probably see you shall not probably see.

to bid you good-bye!"
Something in her tone of voice struck
him, for he raised himself up into an

He paused so long that she was beginning to hope that he had taken the mat-ter indifferently, but she was soon unde-

The scandal to my parisioners concerns
me. But there is no use in wasting
words on such a subject. You have
made your decision. And this is mine."
He \*paused for a moment and began
tapping the table, as if to measure his
words by that mechanical action. Then
he corringed.

rained hotly through her flagers Then
Nature woke within him and, although
he was inexorable, he felt deeply
touched.

"Sit down," he said, "and listen to

She took, me!"
She rose from her kneeling position and sat down, though she well knew it was only the prolongation of her agony. He again tapped the table gently the bands and said rather gently:

with his hands and said rather gently:

"Five or six years ago, its matters not which, I received a letter from a priest in Chicago to the effect that my sister had just died and left an orphan girl to my charge. I had not parted from that sister in a very friendly way and had not heard from her for years. And I was a lonely, solitary man, accustomed to quietness and solitude and finding society of any kind irksome. I wrote promptly to the priest to the effect that under no circumstances could I receive the orphan girl into my house; that it was against our statutes to do so; but that out of my limited means I would provide amply for her education in with his hands and said rather gently attitude of attention.

"You are going back to the hospital?" he said.

"No!" she replied. "I a m going to South Africa." I posted that letter without a misgiving, but to make my conscience more at rest I consulted an old woman, a sain in the parish, as to what I had done. She was one of those rare characters who see things from eternity, and she answered at once that I had done rightly, adding that a priest's relatives were the flock that God committed to his care, and that any solici-tude withdrawn from them and given to his relations in the flesh was so much taken from God, for which God would exact a corresponding retribution. I was quite at ease, therefore, in my mind until that Christmas eve, when you, Aunie, unexpectedly arrived. I don't know if I betrayed my feelings, but you

know if I betrayed my feelings, but you ter indifferently, but she was soon undeceived.

"You see no impropriety in this?" he said.

"No, uncle," she replied. "I thought you might object on that ground, so I thought it well to get the fullest assurance from our medical staff that it was strictly correct and professional." ing. Soon, very soon, I saw in you, Annie, only a ray of sunlight shot by a merciful Providence athwart the gloom Annie, only a ray of sunlight shot by a merciful Providence athwart the gloom of my declining years. I saw in your disposition, your talents your dirmness of character the very ideal of all that an old, forsaken man could dream of as a prop and support for my old age; and I said to myself that my remaining years would be brightened and blessed by your presence, and that my growing infirmity, which I knew could only end in total blindness, would at least be alleviated by such help as a bright, in telligent girl alone could give."

He paused again and every word was rankling, like an arrow, in the soul of the girl.

"But now I know that all that was sin and that it should bear its retribution. I broke the law, and the law has tion. I broke the law, and the law has the fact that we are on our way to Long has the fact that we are on our way to Long h

"But now I know that all that was sin and that it should bear its retribution. I broke the law, and the law has its inevitable revenge. Instead of leaning on God in my old age and under the burden of many sorrows, I sought strength and support in a creature, And, as is usual in all such cases, I have

She went weeping to her room, where she passed a sleepless and sorrowful night. And it was only the loud chiming of the clock at midnight on his mantelpiece in the dining-room that woke up the old man from his reverie. He turned down the lamp, lighted his candle, and groped his way upwards to his bedroom. He never closed his eyes in sleep until the gray down was breaking and, therefore, he could not have

in sleep until the gray down was breaking and, therefore, he could not have heard a light footfall stopping outside his door in the early morning, or the sound of sobbing, as the girl kneit and put her lips to the panels of the door.

Outside in the cold, icy atmosphere of a January morning the brougham was waiting and the coachman had already hoisted her luggage on the top. Jack Wycherly, looking wan and pinched and miserable, even though he was wrapped to the eyes in fur, put out pinched and miserable, even though ne was wrapped to the eyes in fur, put out one bony hand and clasped the soft fingers of his nurse, as he drew her into the carriage. She turned away her face after the first greeting, but he saw the head here weening.

that she had been weeping.

"Annie," he said, "I know what a sacrifice you are making. But God will reward you."

In an hour they were in the train, where the same of the sam

A WAITRESS OF QUALITY Shields and Richards had been bound

Shields and kichards had been bound-ing over the macadam highways in the former's motor-ear since early morn-ing, and Richards protested petulantly that it was altogether too far past noon-time and luncheon-time to proceed longer without a halt for refreshment. Still Shields held to his course, ex-

Still Shields held to his course, explaining that they could easily wait until they got into Westchester County; and there they could have their pick of the best inns in the State.

"There, confound you, Westchester at last!" cried Richards, as they whirled past a finger-post. "Now I shall drop off at the very first suspicion of a hostelry—good or bad—whether you stop your car or not. I am weak from hunger."

"Very nice, I'm sure," commented the plant of shields. "But please don't forget, madam, that my friend is in the, final throes of starvation."

"1 shall have the bouillon here in a moment," answered the girl with a smile fapology.

"Pray, don't hurry," said Richards kindly. "The promise of a good luncheon and such dett service makes me feel better already."

Shields uttered a dry, sarcastic

Shields
A countryman came trudging along
the road, and Shields stopped the car as
they met him.
"Is there an inn anywhere along here
before you get to the 'Willow Tree'?"
he asked. "I have a starving man
there."

"Go 'long 'bout a mile," answered the

"Go 'long 'bout a mile," answered the man, "an' jest before yer come to the old brick church, he'll see a ro'd-house ter th' right, and they'll treat yer all right there."

"Thank Heaven, it's only a mile," said Richards as they sped on. "By Jove, I can see the steeple of the church now."

And presently the car was brought to a wider, but as a pice old Colonial muskmellons, fresh from the garden, and muskmellons, fresh from the garden, and

a sudden halt as a nice old Colonial house appeared on the right of the road, just on the edge of a small village. In front of it a wooden signboard swung from the branch of an oak and heralded the name of the establishment, "Friendship Lodge" "What's the tax?" demanded Shields abruptly, as the waitress came to inquire as to further requirements. "I'm the ont of it a wooden signopard swind of the form the branch of an oak and heralded he name of the establishment, "Friendip Lodge."

The gardens and yard were treated the state of the state ship Lodge."

rather too decoratively, as is often the case with such places; in the midst of a wild mixture of formal gardens with old-fashioned gardens and another variety or two, cast-iron statuary was liberally distributed, the subjects ranging from nymphs and fawns to deer, dogs and other beasts.

Just back of the box-hedge there was a rustic nergola, leading into a cozy Shields. "Ten dollars for this afternymphs and fawns to deer, dogs and other beasts.

Just back of the box-hedge there was a rustic pergola. leading into a cozy summer-bouse, with a table and seats.

"Right here in this Arcadian nook we will eat, drink, and be merry," declared Richards, striding into the pergola.

"You seem offensively indifferent to the fact that we are on our way to Long Island to meet my Cousin Edna," said Shields.

"You seem offensively indifferent to the fact that we are on our way to Long Island to meet my Cousin Edna," said Shields.

"Ten dollars for this afternoon tea that we've had?"

"Yes, sir," answered the waitress, blushing and casting down her eyes in confusion. "I suppose our prices are a little ligh, sir; but we have very exclusive patronage, you know."

"That's all right," Richards hastened to assure her. "I have paid twice as much for meals far inferior to this."

don't care what we eat, if she serves it."

Standing by a rustic table, a pretty lass with apple cheeks and deep brown eyes was busily arranging some nasturtiums in a bowl. She was dressed neatly in white muslin and a broad apron of linen. No cap of the conventional waitress style covered her fluffy coppertinted hair.

She started pervously as the two men are started pervously a

comp'ny of a Sunday evening, you would be disillusioned, my boy. This little social veneer is very neatly assumed, but you should wait until these Arcadi-ans forget themselves and revert to type. They can't help it, you know." "That's thoughtless sophistry," de-clared Richards. "You can generalize' all you please; it doesn't affect the present case. I know a truly refined nature when I see it, you know.

nature when I see it, you know,

" And one has to be mighty careful about making such breaks as you do, Tom. Nowadays one finds all sorts of e top.

and
ice girls—college girls and daughters
of impecunious families—engaged in all
tout
soft
into

for all you know."

into

know."
"Oh, don't be a fool, Tom," said Richards. "All I ask of you is to be reasonably decent. You think you must have a different set of manners and behavior for every class of persons. Don't forget that a waitress is a woman, just as society girls, shop-girls, nurse-maids, and all the After a long wait, the pretty waitress

"I shall have the bouillon here in a moment," answered the girl with a smile of apology,
"Pray, don't hurry," said Richards kindly. "The promise of a good luncheon and such dett service makes me feel better already."
Shields uttered a dry, sarcastic chuckle. Presently the bouillon arrived in

Presently the boullion arrived in pretty, flowered-china cups, and it was followed by delicious broiled chicken, grilled potatoes, and a perfectly dressed lettuce and tomato salad, with toasted muffins and tea.

"The most delicious tea I ever tasted," dealered Richards.

She started nervously as the two men entered the summer-house, but Richards addressed her in the most courteous manner.

"We are quite famished," he announced pathetically, "and I beg that rever mind, I'll forgive you. Come on. We shall be late for dinner at my consin's now unless we run the gantlet of all the constables in Westchester."

It was just after dinner when they arrived at the Weston's great country

JANUARY 28 place on Long Isla spare his friend's spare his friend's the blame upon his and guests an exs what he termed the of a gentleman for Not wishing to quarrel with the held his tongue stood for the merel tire commany. So

tire company. Son inclined to treat the score of Shie the whole situation comfortable for his
The next day
members of the
over the estate, ric
ing until the aft eon two motoring swell the number promptu musicale music-room.

music-room.
Richards had ke
the day, and shiel
alone on one of
middle of the after
Y I've hunted a
you," he said. "
yours here. Came you," he said. "
yours here. Came
their auto. Guess
"Haven't the g
Richards, "and
particularly."
"Well, you will
"it's your president " it's your preciou of the modest little oed by yesterda with those easy make's probably a diffusion to tell Mer"

her."
"You'll do no s
Richards fiercely
lying anyway; bu
is really here, I
nothing to embara just show what an elf. I warned yo college girl or sor "She's more like said Shields. " A moment later sented to a hands —Miss Faulkner, grew very red a barely found voi

greetings. "Now what d

Shields to Richar "Look at the go

a heroine of po find out about thi You dare to s and I'll take you said Richards case is peculiar, honor of that gi investigating tha Miss Faulkner ease. She was si whenever her gla the two men, spale and red. pale and red.
singing a song a
managed to get a
she sat by hersel
"My dear Mi
kindly, "we all
things happen if
we can hardly o
difference of ent difference of env

we met yesterday
"I am very cu
should be glad
plained. But I d
planation, and I
any secret you
safe with me. I
incidence to no o incidence to no o sure you that n The girl was and found it diffi and found it dim said at last:

"You are va Richards, to she tion. I will adm be reintroduced waitress, but I d really Miss Fau "Why I was 6

Why I was fo in a public pla myself. You m prank, or any ot I hope I may ha admit that you l put me in a very Richards was Richards was surely a myster bred face and ho girl were all the but he disliked knew how to do and troublesome ner," he said nothing more t nave given me. "What have y

e replied your own affairs sible for any act You and I have ious prank in girl has as good such things. I right, and tha "Well, it Shields, "You pulled over you adventuress. o

easy. I'll keep I'll keep a close lady just the sa The music ha pany was almo Then a burst of announced the Weston, from a Weston, from a guests.

"James, here delighted to n heard to say to Miss Faulkner old chum, Colo delphia."

"Yen don't

"Why—I thoug mite of a girl, friend by the a "That is on said. "You ca business is on

You don't