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is known. Barbara felt that she might have borne anything, could she only have known something definite. Almost the worst feature of the case was her rebellion against Divine Providence. How could her Heavenly Father let her suffer so? What disaster had befallen Evan Sinclair?

One morning in October, a sunny morning, when the air was amber and the hills were opal, and a sweet Indian-summer warmth enfolded the old-fashioned gardens, Dr. Foss drew rein at Barbara's gate. The old doctor moved with deliberation, but he had no need to tie his old brown pony. It was accustomed to stand at any door in a circuit of miles, so long as it pleased Dr. Foss to linger indoors with a patient. He walked up the little path to the door, lifted the iron knocker, and gave a gentle tap; then opened the door and entered the room.

"You did not send for me, Miss Barbara," he said, "but here I am. Your doctor in town has written to me and has given you in my charge. What have you been doing all summer?"

"Nothing," answered Barbara, with a wan smile. "Nothing except thinking and thinking all day long.'

"I see," said the doctor. "I see. Taking no exercise, living on starvation diet and sleeping very badly. My dear child, this will not do. Tell me the trouble. I am an old hand at the business. Per-

There was something sympathetic and magnetic about the good physician who had spent forty years healing every sort of ills in a community widely scattered. He ministered to the mind as well as to

"Miss Barbara," said the doctor, after a while, "you have stayed here as long as you ought. It is my duty to tell you that it will soon be cold and dreary, and that you must collect your forces and go back to your work. You will never get strong here. You brood too much." "I don't know that I want to get

strong. I don't mind growing weaker." "This," said the doctor, "is the declaration of a coward, and I don't believe you are really a coward. Besides, who knows but there may be some reason of which you have not dreamed why you ought to go back to your own place? I understand that you had given up hope about the friend you have lost, yet it is not in the least impossible that at this very hour he may be alive and may be crossing the ocean with the purpose in his heart to go straight to you.'

The color suddenly surged to Barbara's cheek, fixing on it an almost scarlet stain. "Why, doctor," she exclaimed, "how could that be?"

"Of course," he added, "it may not be. Yet men have lost themselves in strange lands, have lost their own identity by some turn of fate, or untoward accident in a hospital or asylum or in the street or a work shap, or have had a slight Very few mysterious disappearances continue always unsolved mysteries. For the little garden she gazed at the opal

A Frank Statement

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aught that you or I can tell, Evan Sin- hills and took deep drafts of the crystal clair may be on this earth. If he is on the earth, when he comes to himself, he will return at once to the old home. If he is not on the earth, but is living in heaven, what do you suppose he thinks of you throwing away your youthful life and strength on hopeless grief? We are to-day is to drop the apathy that is back to your work. No, I am not prebrave resolution and prayer to God,"

air. A text or two that she had forgotten was suddenly audible in her soul. will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help," "God is our refuge and strength," "The Lord hear thee in the day of trouble."

She went back to the house and packed not here to be happy merely, we are here her trunk. Next morning she gave the to do our work, and my message to you key to a neighbor, and twenty-four hours afterward was in her studio. Beginning veiling you like a shadowy cloak and go work again was not easy, but Barbara had an ally in her new endeavor. Though scribing drugs, nor tonics, aside from a still aware of her weakness, she had not now to fight with torpor and inertia. After the doctor had gone, Barbara She accepted suspense as the burden she had to carry, but half consciously she began to grow chill, and walking through leaned on a hope the doctor had given her, and almost imperceptibly the hope

changed to anticipation. Thus she was not greatly surprised one day in November, when the postman in the morning mail handed her a foreign letter. It bore a French postmark. She turned dizzy and faint as she saw the writing, and fell, gasping, into a chair. But joy does not kill. When she felt the touch of the paper in her hand, her pulse steadled, her eyes brightened, and dashing away sudden tears, she read the words that Evan Sinclair's hand had penned.

The story that the letter told was of an attack, a robbery, and long aberration due to a blow on the head. way, to be explained later, Evan had found himself in France, his case had attracted the attention of a surgeon, there had been an operation just as Dr. Foss had suggested as possible, and, in brief, he was coming home to gather up the threads of his life; he was coming home to his family and the girl he loved, and to whatever work he could find to do.

It may well be imagined how the tide turned. The first thing Barbara did was to thank God. The next, only a woman can understand. She went to her dressing-room and took off the ashen-gray gown that had expressed the state of her mind when she dwelt under a gray cloud.

"I shall never wear that again," she said. In the corner of her wardrobe hung a soft robe of warm crimson, a dress that Evan had liked. She put it on and t seemed to her that her youth was flooding in again as if it were spring intead of autumn. Then she put on her hat and went to see Janet to tell the good news. Together they went to Evan's mother and found her transfigured with joy. The mother's grief had been as deep as Barbara's, but she had borne it with a larger patience.

It was a beautiful Thanksgiving which they all kept, when Evan came home American Messenger.

Work with the Hands.

Work with the hands! Let others toil With magic pen and mighty brain. But you and I, let's till the soil And plant bright roses on the plain. Let genius dwell on peak in cloud. But in the sunlit lower lands Tasks wait for us that call aloud Work with the hands!

Let's rise at dawn; then morn is young Let's do that thing that we should do Out of each task is triumph wrung. Out of pain is the soul made new Let's use our common tools with pride Let's join the strong heroic bands That answer to the summons wide

Work with the hands! Sweet peace shall light our days with

And gladness crown us like a sun. We shall have conquest of our fear From sorrow and from travail won. As Christ of Nazareth toiled with art Obeying all the Lord's commands. So shall we give Him with rapt heart Work with the hands!

- Edward Wilbur Mason

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