

you work it in with your trade and make something by it, without taking up much time."

"Yes, sir; I could do that, but I've no money to buy the stock, and I'll not run in debt, and besides, this place is not fit for such a trade, and at present I cannot hire a better."

"Do you know that little draper's shop in John street, that is just now vacant and isn't it in a good location and suitable for a tailor's shop?"

"Yes, it's in a very good place and is a very good shop, but I can't think of it."

"Somers, you go hire the shop and leave the rest to me."

"Sir, do you really mean it?"

"Yes, I mean it, go hire the shop."

This I did, and the gentleman supplied me with a small stock, everything that I wished, and within the year I had paid the rent, the interest and family expenses, and had ninety-five odd over. I soon paid the gentleman his outlay with interest, and have now the largest shop in the town. On the first of April, 1840, I was only a drunken journeyman tailor with a wife and two children and not a penny in the world. Now, I am what I am, and the difference comes only from this, that now I am a teetotaler, and then I was not. Then I was a miserable vagabond, and now I am a member of the town council, and am respected by my fellow-citizens, and am honoured by them by a seat in the council.

Lord Palmerston's house was near the town, and somehow he knew me or knew of me in my old drinking days, and being often in the town, he came to know me in my later and better days, and always had for me a pleasant smile and a kind word, so that the people imagined that his lordship was very much my friend. The Good Templars here had a poor old hall in a poor place, and Lord Palmerston had a public-house in a good place, the lease of which had fallen in, and he would not let it again for such a purpose. In the lodge room, one night, the brethren said to me:

"Somers, suppose you should go to Lord Palmerston and ask him to exchange with us, that place for this, and ask him to build a hall for us into the bargain."

"That will be asking too much of his lordship."

"Yes, but he'll do it for you; he'll do almost anything for you."

"I don't like to trespass upon his kindness, but I'll see what I can do."

When his lordship came down from London, I went to see him. He said: "Yes, I see; but, Somers, what shall I get out of that?"

"In fact, my lord, you'll get very little out of it, but we'll get a good deal!"

"Very well; be on the ground tomorrow at ten o'clock, and my man of business will meet you there; tell him what you want."

This I did, and his lordship made the exchange with us and built us a nice Good Templars' hall.

I was then a member of the town council. We needed a town hall very much, and we proposed, in order to get something out of the Government, to have a court house under the same roof. My associate said: "Somers, you must go to London and see Lord Palmerston about it; he'll give you £500." When I arrived at his lordship's London house, I found in the court-yard many carriages waiting, with

liveried coachmen and footmen; noblemen and gentlemen were waiting in the ante-room to see the Prime Minister. When I entered, the footman in waiting, asked me: "What name?"

"Mr. Somers, of Romsey." When the nobleman, then with his lordship came out, the footman in a loud voice said: "Mr. Somers, of Romsey." There were many noblemen and gentlemen waiting, while I, who had just come in, was summoned before them.

I found his lordship sitting before the fire. He said: "Well, Mr. Somers, I haven't a moment to spare, there's to be a Cabinet meeting, and my carriage is at the door; jump in and I'll introduce you to the Home Secretary."

As we were driving down to Downing street, tears, in spite of me, came into my eyes. Here am I, riding with the Prime Minister to see the Home Secretary, while he has left behind noblemen and gentlemen, waiting to see him. A drunken journeyman tailor on the first of April, 1840, despised by all who know me!

On arriving, Lord Palmerston whispered a few words to the Secretary, and turning to me, said: "Mr. Somers, you need not wait, the affair will be attended to." We got £1,000.

What has brought about this wonderful change? With the blessing of God, it is only the emancipation from the horrible slavery of the liquor traffic.

After more than twenty years of discussion, the House of Commons has adopted a resolution by a majority of eighty-seven affirming the right of the people in their several localities, to determine by ballot whether they will have grog-shops among them or not, and Mr. Gladstone has promised to bring in a bill to carry out the will of the House.

Coming.

"At even, or at midnight, or at the cock-crowing, or in the morning"

It may be in the evening,

When the work of the day is done,

And you have time to sit in the twilight

And watching the sinking sun,

While the long bright day dies slowly

Over the sea,

And the hour grows quiet and holy

With the thoughts of me—

While you hear the village children

Passing along the street,

Among those thronging footsteps

May come the sound of my feet;

Therefore I tell you—Watch

By the light of the evening star,

When the room is growing dusky

As the clouds afar;

Let the door be on the latch

In your home,

For it may be through the gloaming

I will come.

It may be when the midnight

Is heavy upon the land,

And the black waves lying dumbly

Along the sand;

When the moonless night draws close,

And the lights are out in the house,

When the fire burns low and red,

And the watch is ticking loudly

Beside the bed—

Though you sleep, tired out, on your couch,

Still your heart must wake and watch

In the dark room,

For it may be at midnight

I will come.

It may at the cock-crow.

When the night is dying slowly

In the sky,

And the sea looks calm and holy,

Waiting for the dawn

Of the golden sun,

Which draweth nigh;

When the mists are on the valley, shading

The rivers chill,

And my morning star is fading, fading

Over the hill;

Behold! I say to you—Watch,

Let the door be on the latch

In your home

In the chill before the dawning,

Between the night and morning,

I may come.

It may be in the morning,

When the sun is bright and strong,

And the dew is glittering sharply

Over the little lawn;

When the waves are laughing loudly

Along the shore,

And the birds are singing sweetly

About the door;

With a long day's work before you,

You rise up with the sun,

And the neighbours come in to talk a little

Of all that must be done;

But remember I may be the next

To come in at the door.

To call you from your busy work

Forevermore;

As you work your heart must watch,

For the door is on the latch

In your room,

And it may be in the morning

I will come.

The Minister's Visitors.

BY MISS BARBARA SEMPLE.

EDWARD and Amelia Baines, aged respectively eighteen and sixteen, had gone to visit their uncle, Mr. Calman, the clergyman of the parish of Riverend. There they saw a good deal of company; for people were kind to them out of regard for their uncle, and they had more invitations to evening parties and picnics in one fortnight than they had previously received in the whole course of their existence. Flattered with the attention they got they began to consider themselves very superior young people, and imagined that their social talents had hitherto been quite buried in the little town in which their father served his generation as a linen-draper. Now, to imitate our superiors is, no doubt, a laudable thing; but unhappily Edward and Amelia had not sufficient perception to lay hold of that which was most worthy of emulation, and only made themselves ridiculous by sundry affectations of the manners of their betters. It was, for instance, not the good sense and amiability of the rich Mrs. Senon which Amelia imitated; she preferred to adopt her lisp, a defect which the lady had no doubt made every effort to overcome. Again, though Captain Albert, of the Royal Navy, was a brave and honourable gentleman, he had unquestionably a languid, indifferent air in general society, in consequence, possibly, of his being very much bored by seeing the same people at a perpetual round of cricket-parties and other entertainments. Still, every one said Captain Albert was a gentleman, and perhaps that was the reason Edward Baines formed himself upon him, and conducted himself with an affectation of nonchalance which so ill became him that he was only tolerated out of respect for his uncle.

The brother and sister had been at a boating-party, but returned to their uncle's house in time for luncheon. The minister was, however, engaged with a visitor in his study, just then, the servant told them, so they went into the drawing-room to wait till the lunch-bell rang. Great was their surprise to see in that apartment a middle-aged female, whose appearance struck them as being exceedingly vulgar. It is true that she was stout and red-faced, and had large, coarse hands. "Well, a high-born lady might be stout and red-faced," reasoned Amelia, "but she wouldn't have coarse hands." This person wore a gown of blue and white check, not the most suitable

pattern for such a figure as hers, and a large old-fashioned collar. "What a vulgarian!" thought Edward as he stared at her rudely. "What a guy!" was the mental reflection of Amelia as she looked from the stranger to her brother, and then pretended to smother a laugh in her handkerchief. With his most nonchalant air Edward stretched himself upon a couch, throw one leg over the back, and raising his eye-glass—since coming to Riverend he had discovered that he was short-sighted—he deliberately stared at the middle-aged person as if she were some natural curiosity. Amelia meanwhile began to hum a tune, and to drum on the table as if she were playing a piano.

"I don't know who you may be, young people," said the stranger, "but it strikes me you are ill at ease, and would feel more comfortable in the kitchen than in the drawing-room."

The brother and sister were both somewhat amazed at this reproof, and tried to cover their confusion by a forced laugh. At that instant Mr. Calman entered, and after an angry glance at his nephew and niece, he turned toward his visitor, whom he addressed as Mrs. Abingdon, and treated her with marked respect. At length he led her into the dining-room to luncheon, while Edward and Amelia followed, looking very foolish. They had not been introduced to Mrs. Abingdon, nor did their uncle take the slightest notice of them during the meal. He was evidently displeased with them, and as they stood much in awe of him, they were both ashamed and distressed. At length it seemed to them that Mrs. Abingdon interceded for them; for they heard their uncle reply in an unrelenting tone,

"Rudeness to you, Mrs. Abingdon, is unpardonable."

As soon as the visitor had taken leave, however, Mr. Calman let his nephew and niece see in what light he regarded their conduct.

"Before I turned the handle of the drawing-room door," said he, "I knew by the laugh I heard that you were behaving disrespectfully to my visitor. On what grounds, pray, did you dare to do so?"

"We thought her a low, vulgar person, uncle, and one who had intruded into your house," said Edward timidly.

"Well, what did you consider vulgar in her manner or appearance? Her hands, you snob! Why there isn't a pair of hands in the country that has done more good than Mrs. Abingdon's. Many fine ladies with their lily-white palms ought to humble themselves in the dust before her. Go and ask the sick folk whom she has tended and the poor whose garments she has made if they have any fault to find with the hands of my late guest. Do you not see that it was you who were vulgar in judging from mere externals, and insufferably ill-bred besides? I tell you I was so much alarmed of you that I had not the moral courage to induce you as my nephew and niece."

Edward and Amelia hung their heads as their uncle rebuked them. The lesson was not lost upon them.

When I see fair hands proffer the sparkling wine to the noble and gifted, I think what a terrible wreck they would be if the rocks were encountered, and I pray that the scales may fall from the eyes of the tempted so that they may stand out from the danger.