PERSON.

[Concluded.] CHAPTER III.

The government inspection was alplace in the end of August. The in-Miss Jordan had had tender, or semi-another of the same type. tender passages at some remote epoch. At any rate, they were very good as he seated himself in the little parfriends; and Mr. Wensby always dined lor, 'this cannot be true!' at the rectory once a year, when his toils in the little village schoolroom were over. The day came ; the inspection was duly performed; and at the

at the rector's hospitable table. 'And what do you think of our new mistress? asked the rector, as he began to carve the joint.

'A very superior person-very superior person indeed,' returned the in-

Miss Jordan's chin was lifted a little higher in the air as this answer was given; but the gesture went unnoticed. 'Ah! Glad you think so. We consider her quite an acquisition,' said Mr. Dowthwaite.

'Yes : there seemed an improvement in all directions, continued Mr. Wens. by; but especially in the needlework. Under the former mistress the needle-

Miss Jordan smiled incredulously. 'I assure you I have received very neat specimens of button-holing,' said the inspector. 'The department cannot fail to be pleased with them. I

'I should very much like to them,' said Miss Jordan dryly. After dinner, accordingly, the specimens were produced, and very neatly executed they were.

'I don't believe our girls ever did as she bent over the button-holes. 'But I saw them !' ejaculated Mr.

'Saw the stuff in their hands, I dare say, returned the lady. 'What do dismissal, the agitated curate took his ger lemen know about things of that hat and stick and departed. sort? she added contemptuously.

quality of the needlework,' said the in- which she said that, much as she hon-But if you assure me, from your own friendship, she could see that it was knowledge of the children, that they not for his interest to marry a dowercould not have done this work them-less girl, and she, therefore, declined selves, it will be my duty to institute his proposal. Her decision, she addfurther enquiry.'

notes with his host; and the rector which Mr. Cope received his letter of confessed that he was surprised—secretly he was startled-to find what a arge number of "attendances" had of the village children.

'We have a Board meeting to-morrow,' said Mr. Dowthwaite. Then ask Miss Grayling to attend

verbal message to the schoolmistress, those contained in the specimens. requesting her to step over to the rec-

without embarrassment, 'I believe that one or two questions. These pieces of the school, she felt that the course most sewing, now —as he produced them consistent with her dignity was to reme very neat, very creditable; but are honor of holding. you sure that the children whose The rector was indignant, and moved themselves, unaided?

ter accurately?'

looking the clergyman full in the face.
One or two members of the Board let the resignation be accepted. moved uneasily in their seats, and Mr. Sowerbutts seemed to be on the point was the curate's turn to preach, the of protesting audibly against these aspersions on Miss Grayling's good faith. rector's to read prayers. The choir and the school children were in their The rector felt very uncomfortable. 'Very good, Miss Grayling,' he said :

'Very good, Miss Grayling,' he said: congregation with an approving glance '1 am glad to hear you say so. And I from the rectory pew. think we needn't detain you any long- 'Dearly beloved brethren, the Scrip-

Before long it got abread in Little shippers, and the rector, lifting his Puddington that Miss Grayling was in eyes, beheld the ex-schoolmistress movdisgrace, or at least in a condition of ing up the aisle on the arm of Mr. suspended favor. Various reasons Sowerbutts! There could be no doubt were given for this, the most popular of what had happened. The curate theory being that the new mistress had received a shock such as he had never been caught stealing the school pence. before experienced. Miss Jordan for-The matter was discussed in the ale-houses, at the doors of the cottages, in the churchyard after savvice. Through the churchyard after service. Through a ghost. Mr. Sowerbutts tramped it all Miss Grayling went on her way, stolidly on till he reached his own pew, serene as usual, preserving exactly the and then, having duly installed his same manner to every one as if the wife therein, began to say the responses voice of scandal had never mentioned, in a louder tone than usual.

ing the Rev. Augustine Cope knocked was complete. Miss Sowerbutts retirat the door of the pretty cottage in ed to a cottage which she owned in the which Miss Grayling lived. For some outskirts of Groby; and the schoolmismonths—ever since he had first seen tress reigned over the Mount Farm and her, in fact—the susceptible curate had its owner, with gentle but firm sway. been under the spell of the young | When Mr. Wensby came to Little lady's sweet brown eyes. He had | Puddington for the next annual inspecstruggled with himself long and man- tion, he was proceeding to the school-

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.

YOUNG fully. He was not in a position to house in state, bearing Miss Jordan on marry; and Miss Grayling was not a suitable match for him. He knew all when the party met a pony-carriage, in that very well. He did not like to which was seated a pretty and beautithink of what his aunts, Miss Cope and fully dressed woman. The lady bowed Miss Georgina Cope, would say, on graciously to Mr. Wensby, and he, not ways one of the events of the year at Little Puddington. It generally took being presented with a village school-remembering the circumstances under mistress for a niece. But then, he had last seen that attractive not looked on the face of any other smile, returned the salute. Mrs. spector was an elderly gentleman, woman who could be called a lady— Sowerbutts glanced at Miss Jordan and whose proper name was Christopher save Miss Jordan's—for nearly eight smiled maliciously. Miss Jordan drop-Wensby; but whose ordinary name months. He was in love; he could ped her hand from her companion's among the teachers of his district was not help it; and now this unpleasant arm; and the rector, stepping forward. "The Walrus," from the fact that his matter added at once to his love and whispered something in his friend's bald forehead, and white moustache his embarrassment. Even now he did ear. pointing downwards in a straight line not know his own mind. His osten- 'Good gracious!' exclaimed the in

decided resemblance to that creature. harmless novels, with which he now idea who she was, I assure you Report stated that Mr. Wensby and kept Miss Grayling well supplied, for Thought I knew the face—that was 'Miss Grayling,' began the curate,

'What is not true, Mr. Cope?' 'These shameful accusations, these | her days.

end of the day Mr. Wensby sat down that you, Mr. Cope, would pay any attention to them,' said the schoolmistress, with quiet dignity.

> the curate; 'I believe in you as I would in a saint! Dear Miss Grayling-Laura-I may call you Laura ?-I find it difficult to say how I feel for you-and how much I long to shield you from the calumnies and troubles of the world in the shelter of an honest man's love.'

As he spoke, the curate took Miss Grayling's white and well-formed fin-

'I offer you my heart and all I have, he continued, his eyes searching her down-cast face. 'Alas, that is so little work was very clumsy; now it is ad- I know well we cannot marry on my present stipend; but I have youth and strength on my side. Sooner or later I must get a living; and then-and -Oh, Laura! say that you love

'Mr. Cope, I feel honored and flattercan show you them after dinner, if you ed more than I can say; and my heart tells me it is not indifferent to you; MARBLE, FREESTONE AND GRANITE

She paused, and the tones of the church clock striking fell on her ear. 'Mr. Cope!' she exclaimed, withdrawing her fingers as she spoke, 'you are more than generous; but 1 cannot that work,' said Miss Jordan solemnly, trust myself to give you an answer new. I must not be rash, or unjust to you. Leave me now—leave me, I beg you. I will write to you tomorrow.' Somewhat surprised at this sudden

Next day he received a daintily I have alway to report as to the scented note from Miss Grayling, in spector stiffly, and with a slight blush. ored him and highly as she valued his ed, was quite 'irevocable.' 'I am certain of it,' said Miss Jor-was but one 'r' in 'irrevocable,' and, somehow, this circumstance did some That evening Mr. Wensby compared thing towards mitigating the grief with

The testing examination, which was to confirm or overthrow Miss Graybeen made, even by the most irregular ling's reputation, was fixed for a Friday afternoon. The School Board eting happened to fall on the

following day, Saturday. At three o'clock on Friday Mr. it, said Mr. Wensby, 'and ask her Wensby arrived; and Mr. Dowthwaite whether the children actually do the and Miss Jordan went with him to the needlework themselves. If she says schoolhouse. The children were all they did, I will fix a day—I can come there, with clean pinafores and shining over in about three weeks—to see them faces: but Miss Grayling was absent. do some more specimens; and Miss Miss Jordan's face wore a peculiar Jordan can be present. If there is a smile as one of the older girls informed marked discrepancy between the two the rector that Miss Grayling had not sets of work—why, of course, I must been at home for three days.

report accordingly; and you can con-Miss Jordan soon set the children sider the matter till the next Board to work; and in five minutes the Chatham, Sept. 5th 88. neeting.'
All this made the rector feel very clearest evidence, that not one of uncomfortable. But there was no the school girls could make even a help for it; and the next day he sent a decent button-hole, much less one like

'You had better get rid of your supetory, where the School Board was then rior young person as soon as you can,' itting.

'Miss Grayling,' said the rector, not went back to the rectory. Next morning, however, [when the her Majesty's inspector will be able to School Board met, they found a letter

report very favorably of the condition awaiting them from Miss Grayling, in of the school.' Miss Grayling bowed which she said that, in consequence of politely. 'There is one point, how- the undeserved aspersions which had ever, on which I should like to ask you been thrown upon her management of from a drawer as he spoke—'seem to sign the post which she had had the

names are attached to them did them that Miss Grayling's resignation be not hemselves, unaided?'
'Quite sure,' said Miss Grayling tranthe revelations that had been made, she be summarily dismissed. Mr. 'And the attendances—they seem Sowerbutts was not present; but the much larger than they used to be. other members of the Board, who had Are you sure you have kept the regis- but a very limited idea of the heinous-Perfectly sure, said Miss Grayling, ness of Miss Grayling of the sentence; ness of Miss Graylin's offence mur-

> The following day was Sunday. It places; and Miss Jordan scanned the

ture moveth us,' begun the rector. The schoolmistress slowly rose, bow- At that moment an unwonted rustle ed in her usual dignified manner, and was heard at the door, a subdued murmur ran through the assembled wor-

The bride, in a dainty Parisian bon-A little before six o'clock one even- net, looked very pretty. Her triumph

on each side of his mouth, gave him a sible object was to exchange one of the spector; 'that woman! I hadn't an

But Miss Jordan had suddenly be come deaf; and on the subject of the senior churchwarden's wife, she continued to be deaf for the remainder of

'Of course not; and I did not think New Field Seeds. 'Oh, no! not for worlds!' exclaimed Fresh Canadian Timothy

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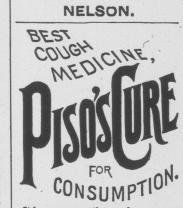
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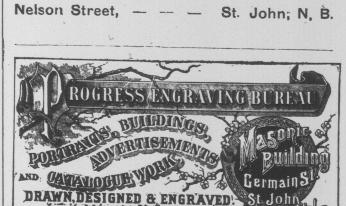
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