

THE SHADOW AT THE FIRE-SIDE.

There's a shadow at the fire-side when the sunset colors creep
And crinkle in waves of gold along the
"western step."
The huge back log is blazing, and before
its ruddy glow
Sits grandpa in the great oak chair, slow
rocking to and fro.

Though his hair is white and scanty, still
his face with pleasure glows,
His old bowed silver spectacles are slant
upon his nose,
And by his ample handkerchief, with
checked lines all through,
I read his whole life-story—or, at least,
I think I do.

There's a flint lock of "ye olden time," a
sword of shining steel—
Mute witnesses, but eloquent of the way
he used to feel.
And from a hook depending is a huckle-
burnish bright,
That spoke the magic "Forward!" in the
thickest of the fight.

His voice is low and gentle now—but
then it ran along
And held the "wing" motionless—in
courage doubly strong.
His words and deeds united were
by faith in freedom's cause.
He spoke and fought for conscience' sake—
and not for men's applause.

Then, too, the deep sea's treasures, on
the kitchen walls are hung;
A wondrous shell, within whose ear the
far Pacific sung;
An antler's branchlike coral; a sponge
of rarest hue.
All speak of dear old grandpa and of
what he used to do.

Now, his face is quite a study of the line
engraver's art;
A portrait of "old age" is he—right well
he looks the part;
And, though his sight is failing, there is
something in his look
Of a sweetness wise and holy—a reflec-
tion from the Book.

I lie upon the settle and watch the sear-
ed old face,
Whose wrinkles and whose crowfeet are
but the signs of grace,
And see with tears, through laughter,
the grotesque shadow go.
Of grandpa and the great oak chair, slow
rocking to and fro.

Selected Serial.

THE SQUIRE OF SANDAL-SIDE.

BY MRS. AMELIA E. BARR.

CHAPTER V.—Continued.

She went next to the parlor. The
Squire's chair was empty, and on the
little stand at its side the "Gleaner's"
Magazine lay uncut. His slippers, usu-
ally assumed after dinner, were still
warm on the white sheepskin rug be-
fore the fire. But the large, handsome
face that always made a sunny feeling
round the hearth was absent; and the
room had a loneliness that made her
heart fear. She waited a few minutes,
looking with expectation toward a piece
of knitting which was Mrs. Sandal's
evening work. But the ivory needles
and the colored wools remained uncalled
for, and she grew rapidly impatient, and
went to her mother's room. Mrs. Sandal
was lying upon her couch, exhausted
with weeping; and the Squire sat holding
his head in his hands, the very picture of
despondency and sorrow.

"Can I come and speak to you,
mother?"

The Squire answered, "To be sure
you can, Charlotte. We are glad to see
you. We are in trouble, my dear."

"Is it Harry, father?"

"Trouble mostly comes that way. Yes,
it is Harry. He is in a great strait, and
white five hundred pounds, Charlotte;
five hundred pounds, dear, and he wants
it at once. Only six weeks ago he wrote
in the same way for a hundred and fifty
pounds. He is robbing me, robbing his
mother, robbing Sophia, and you."

"William, I wouldn't give way to temper
that road; calling your own son and
my son a thief! It's not fair," said Mrs.
Sandal, with considerable asperity.

"I must call him that by his right
name, Alice. I know that cat, and I
call her a thief; for I don't know
that forcing money from a father is any
better than forcing it from a stranger.
It is only using a father's love as a pick-
lock instead of an iron tool. That's all
the difference, Alice, and I don't think
the difference is one that helps Harry's
case much. Eh? What?"

"Dear me! it is always money," sighed
Charlotte.

"Your father knows very well that
Harry must have the money, Charlotte.
I think it is cruel of him to make every-
one ill before he gives what is sure to be
given in the end. Sophia has a head-
ache, I dare say, and I am sure I have."

"But I cannot give him this money,
Alice. I have not realized on my wool
and wheat yet, and I cannot coin money. I
will not beg or borrow it. I will not
mortgage an acre for it."

"And you will let your only son, the
heir of Sandal-Side, go to jail and dis-
grace for five hundred pounds? I never
heard tell of such cruelty. Never, never,
never!"

"You do not know what you are say-
ing, Alice. Tell me how I am to find
five hundred pounds. Eh? What?"

"There must be ways. How can a
woman find?"

"Father, have I not got some money
of my own?"

face between his hands and kissed it.
Then he sent a servant for Sophia; and,
after a short delay, the young lady ap-
peared, looking pale and exceedingly in-
jured.

"Did you send for me, father?"

"Yes, I did. Come in and sit down.
There is something to be done for Harry,
and we want your help, Sophia. Eh?
What?"

She pushed a chair gently to the
table, and sat down languidly. She was
really sick, but her air and attitude was
that of a person suffering an extremity of
physical anguish. The Squire looked at
her and then at Charlotte with dismay
and self-reproach.

"Harry wants five hundred pounds,
Sophia."

"I am astonished he does not want five
thousand pounds, father. I would not
send a sovereign of it. Julius told me
he was carrying-on."

"Oh, but Harry has said any words
so favorable to Harry's cause. The Squire
was on the defensive for his own side in
a moment."

"What has Julius to do with it?" he
cried. "Sandal-Side is not his property,
and he is not his son. Julius is another
kind of a sinner. God Almighty only
knows which kind of sinner is the mean-
er and worse. The long and the short of
it is this: Harry must have five hundred
pounds. Charlotte is willing to give the
loan on her interest account, about three
hundred pounds, toward it. Will you
make up what is lacking, out of the
interest money. Eh? What?"

"I do not know why I should be asked
to do this, I am sure."

"Only because the worst above no ready money
at present. And because, however bad
Harry is, he is your brother. And be-
cause he is heir of Sandal, and the honor
of the name is worth saving. And because
your mother will break her heart if
she comes to know of this. And there are
other reasons too; but, if mother, brother,
and honor don't seem worth
while to you, why, then, Sophia, there
is no use wasting words. Eh? What?"

"Let father have what is needed, So-
phia. I will pay you back."

"Very well, Charlotte; but I think it
is most unjust, most inequitable, as Julius
says—"

"Now, then, don't quote Julius to me.
What right had he to be discussing my
family matters, or Sandal matters either,
I wonder? Eh? What?"

"He is in the family."

"Is he? Very well then, I am still the
head of the family. If he has any ad-
vice to offer he can come to me with it.
Eh? What?"

"Father, I am as sick as can be to
night."

"Go thy ways then. Mother and I are
both poorly, too. Good-night, both."

And he turned away with an air of hope-
less depression, that was more pitiful
than loudest complaining.

The sisters went together, silent,
and their cheeks, they washed all of
Charlotte's anger away; she forgot her
resolution not to enter her sister's room
again, and at the door she said, "Let me
stay with you till you can sleep, Sophia;
or I will go and ask Ann to make you a
cup of strong coffee. You are suffering
very much."

"Yes, I am suffering, and father knows
how I do suffer with these headaches,
and that any annoyance brings them on;
and yet, if Harry cries out at Edinburgh,
everybody at Sandal must be put
out of their own way to help him. And
I do think it is a shame that our little
fortunes are to be crumbled as a kind of
spice into his big fortune. If Harry
does not know the value of money, I
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"I will pay you back every pound. I
really do not care a bit about money. I
have all the dress I want. You buy
books and music, I do not. I have no
use for my money except to buy happi-
ness with it; and, after all, that is the
best interest I can possibly get."

"Very well. Then you can pay
Harry's debts if it gives you pleasure.
I suppose I am a little peculiar on this
subject. Last Sunday, when the rector
was preaching about the prodigal son, I
could not help thinking that the sym-
bol of the bad young man was too
obvious. I know, if I had been the elder
brother, I should have felt precisely as
he did. I don't think he ought to be
blamed. And it certainly would have
been more just and proper for the father
to have given the feast and the gifts to
the son who never at any time trans-
gressed his commandments. You see,
Charlotte, that parable is going on all
over the world ever since; and going on
right here in Sandal; and I am on the
elder-brother's side. Harry has given
me a headache to-night; and I dare say
he is enjoying himself precisely as the
prodigal did before the swine hounds,
when it was the riotous living."

"Have a cup of coffee, Sophia. I'll go
down for it. You are just as trembly
and excited as you can be."

"Very well; thank you, Charlotte. You
always have such bright, kind faces!
I am afraid I do not deserve such a
good sister."

"Yes, you do deserve all I can help
or pleasure you in. And then, when
the coffee had been taken, and Sophia
lay at rest, wide-eyed upon her bed,
Charlotte proposed to read to her from
any book she desired; an offer involving
no small degree of self-denial, for
Sophia's books were very rarely interest-
ing or even intelligible to her sister.

"I read the 'Psalms,' the 'Psalms,' and
the 'Psalms,' and the 'Psalms,' and the
rather dimly asked which it was to be."

"Neither of them, Charlotte. The
'Maga' makes me think, and I know you
dearly. I got a letter to-night
from Agnes Bullock, and it appears to be
about Professor Sedgwick. I was so an-
noyed at Harry I could not feel any
interest in it then; but if you don't
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"Object? No, indeed. I think a great
deal of the old Professor. What are
times father and I have had on my
Scribbles with him, and his hammer and
leather bags! And, as Agnes writes a
large, round hand, and does not fresco
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"Respected Miss Sandal—I have such
a thing to tell you about Professor Sedg-

wick and our Joe; hoping that the Squire
or Miss Charlotte may see him, and let
him know that Joe meant no harm at
all. One hot forenoon lately, when we
were through at home, as father and I
lay on a sofa, quite natural, that he wanted
somebody to go with him on to the fells.
We all stopped, and took a good look at
him before any spoke; but at last father
said, maddening sharp-like—he
always speaks that way, does father,
when we are busy—

"We've something else to do here
than go raking over the fells on a fine
day like this with nobody knows who."

"He gave father a life, cheerful bit of a
laugh, and said he didn't want to hinder
work; but he would give anybody that
knew the fells well a matter of five
shillings to go with him, and carry his
two little bags. And father says to our
little Agnes with these: 'It's a crown more
than your father's worth it home.'"

"The old man gave Joe two little
leather bags to carry; and Joe thought
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would find anything on the fells to put
in his bags. But Joe was mistaken. The
old gentleman, he said, went
over wet spots and great stones, and
scrambling over crags and scree, till you
would have thought he was some kin to a
Hereward shepherd."

Charlotte laughed heartily at this point.
"It's just the way Sedgwick goes on."
He led father and me exactly such a
chase one day last June."

"I dare say he did. I remember you
looked like it. Go on."

"After a while he began looking hard
at the fells, and the worst above no ready money
at present. And because, however bad
Harry is, he is your brother. And be-
cause he is heir of Sandal, and the honor
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Facing a Giant.

"Frau Schmidt, will you please to
watch mother for a minute? I'm going
to try if I can find the key."

Christian Klein's mother was very ill—
ill of a complaint called hanger, of
which many people died in the cruel old
times, nearly four hundred years ago.
His father had been away since day-
break, and the hope of getting food for
her; and now it was getting near evening
and he had not returned. So Frau
Schmidt came in and Christian Klein
went out.

Very picturesque looked the old town
of Riesenburg (Giant's Tower) in the red
light of sunset. Its gray old church
towers and steep, narrow streets and
queer little loophole-shaped windows,
and tall, wooden house-fronts, striped
with white and black—all looked fairy-
like in the crimson glow. High over all
rose the shadowy pines that covered the
rocky hill, on the brow of which stood
old, dark and stern, the battlements of
the Grand Duke Ludwig's castle.

But the town people were in no mood
to enjoy the view splendid though it was.
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The few living things which that iron-

hearted man had ever loved.

"Come with me, and show me where
thy mother lives," said the Grand Duke
at last, "if thou hast spoken truly, well
and good; if not—"

The flash of those terrible eyes, which
had never known fear nor mercy, suffi-
ciently filled up the blank as the Prince
and the peasant boy went forth into the
darkness.

"Good news, mother!" cried little
Christian, rushing into the dark and di-
mal room where his mother was lying
all alone, for good Dame Schmidt had at
length been forced to leave her.

"Who talks of good news?" answered
Frau Klein, in a dreary voice; for her
mind was so weakened by hunger and
distress that she hardly knew what was
passing around her. "There is no good
news for us, unless it pleases God that
the Grand Duke should die."

A quick drawn breath, as of someone
in pain, answered her from without, and
Prince Ludwig's mighty figure stalked
into the room, which he surveyed won-
deringly by the light of the lantern that
he carried.

"The boy spoke truth in very deed,"
muttered he. "What a place! This
worse than any one of my castle dun-
geons!"

It was indeed. The plank walls shook
and groaned at every gust of wind. The
mud floor was worn into countless hol-
lows by the rain, which had trickled
through the cracks in the roof. The air
was chilly and damp as a burial vault,
and the white, pinched face of the poor
creature who lay helpless on her rotting
straw might have passed for one who
was already dead.

Keenly by the stranger's entrance
(though she did not recognise him), she
rose half erect, with a look of terror in
her sunken eyes.

"What has happened?" she gasped.

"My husband—"

"Fear not. Thy husband shall be
here within two hours," said Ludwig,
turning hastily away, as if ashamed of
himself. But at the door he turned
again, and, holding out his hand to Chris-
tian, said, "Little one, wilt thou kiss me
before I go?"

The child put his thin arms around
the great, thick neck, and as his little
white cheek touched the old tyrant's
grim, bearded face, Ludwig's savage eyes
grew dim with unworldly tears.

Two hours later Hans Klein was in
his sick room, and little Christian
was looking wonderingly at a packet con-
taining a heavy gold chain which he had
seen on the prince's neck, with a slip of
parchment inscribed: "From Grand Duke
Ludwig to the little boy who did not
hate him."

Thirty years later two men, the one
in dark robes, the other wearing the rich
dress which showed him to be the mayor
of Riesenburg, stood together in the old
church of St. Adelbert, beside the tomb
in which Grand Duke Ludwig had just
been laid to rest.

"God bless him!" said the mayor.
"If he began by doing evil, he ended by
doing much good."

"Thanks to thee, Master Klein. And
they might well write upon thy tomb
(thou art a true and long one, thou
needest one), what they have written on
thy monument in the market-place yon-
der: 'God hath sent His angel and shut
the lion's mouth.'—Herald and Presby-
ter."

A timely word to the Receiver of Gifts.