dur Story.

BARBARA STREET.

A FAMILY STORY OF TO-DAY. BY THE AUTHOR OF "OUR NELL," "A SAILOR'S DAUGHTER," ETC.

CHAPTER XXXVI. (Continued.)

BY-AND-BY Waterhouse made a deliberate effort to get in line with Grace, and there was so much of determination in his manner, that he succeeded in gaining his end, and the two found themselves out of earshot of the others. There was allence for a moment or so; then Waterhouse said, in a tone there was no mistaking—
"Your mother says I may come back to Barbara

street,"

There was no reply.
"May I?" he continued, stooping to look into her face. But Grace kept it averted.

"Why do you ask my permission, since you have settled it between you?" she said. "Not to say 'no,' is to say 'yes,'" replied Water-

"Oh, no," replied Grace, hurriedly.

"Yes; I don't think you can draw back now," insisted Waterhouse, with an unmistakable ring of trumph in his voice. Grace gave him a hasty and rather frightened

"Yes, indeed it is," replied he, emboldened by the look. "You could not possibly send me away

now."
"Well, if you come back," said Grace, after a pause, and with an effort to assume a playful tone,
"you must promise to behave well."
"Have I not behaved admirably since I came

"I do not call that affair of the penny admir-

able." "Oh, well, that was a slip. The penny is in my pocket now, and shan't come out again."

"I understand that as a promise, then," said Grace. And in the same breath she called Kitty to look at a hovering butterfly of gorgeous hue; and the

Ille delète was at an end. Waterhouse muttered something between his teeth, in a threatening tone, concerning the bad in a few moments found himself walking alone with Heater. He was still absorbed in his own feelings, and started when the question reached his ear-

"You leave Martenhoe to-morrow, Mr. Waterhouse?"

"Yes," he said, absently. Heater impelled by her fears, which had grown in strength, took a sudden resolution to speak openly,
"Do you know," she said, "I am rather glad of

that?"

Waterhouse looked into her eyes, and understood her meaning instantly. "Are you in your sister's confidence?" he asked, hastly.

"No," said Hester, colouring slightly.

"Ab," he said, with a sigh of relief, "who is?"

This care mather tells me to come back again, and

But your mother tells me to come back again, and I mean to do so. She will neither tell me to go nor to come. I made a mistake once, you see, in being too precipitate. So that makes me cautious. You meant to warn'me, I'suppose, and I thank you for it; but I hope you wish me success," he added,

hesitatingly.

Heater looked at him, for the first time fully realizing that it was possible Grace might love this man, and that the future might be going to hold in store for her and for them all something very different from expectation. Waterhouse felt that it was a look which meant a good deal, but he sustained well. His manhood was softened by a shade of hasistion of modesty, which was very winning hesitation, of modesty, which was very winning. He was not confident of being approved by Hester, as he knew himself to be by her mother. "It is a surprise to me," said Hester, at length.

"I had never supposed we should any of us marry,

and Grace least of all."

this girlish speech. "You think I am not worthy of moved by Grace. her," he said, with some eagerness; "and perhaps It was natural, after this, that she should glance, out of curiosity, at what had so absorbed him, with-makes up for much. I think I could make her out any idea that here was an ambush prepared for for your sister's sake. You have all done me so much good. I never knew what home was before."

Heater met his eyes and smiled. You are very good and kind, I know," she said, "and if Grace marries you I am sure she will be happy, because she will not do it unless she loves you enough." More towards discouragement than this Hester could not find it in her heart to say, but secretly she very much doubted whether Grace did love enough. "This is all so sudden to me," she added; enough. "This is all so sudden to me, and are is "I have known nothing of it. If it is for Grace's

happiness, I do wish you success."
"Thank you," said Waterhouse, earnestly.
There had been an indescribable atmosphere of womanliness about Hester during the little scene which, sensitive as he was to feminine influences, penetrated Waterhouse keenly. Her own experi-ence had taught her sympathy and the sacredness of love. Her words had not been very gracious, but then her bearing had been more so than Water house had ever known it. He impulsively took and raised to his lipe the hand which was hanging by her side. "I shall hope to make a good brother, if you will let me," he said. Hester had blushed, but she felt more drawn to Waterhouse than she had done before, and she made up her mind that moment to brave Grace's displeasure by another attempt to win her confidence.

An opportunity occurred that very evening, and she did not let it ellp. The parting with Water-house was over, and Grace was up-stairs in her room, Hester made an excuse to go to her, for she felt that just now. Grace would probably be less able to turn off the matter lightly. But her expectations of lightness were quite at fault. Grace was sitting with her face buried in her hands, and was crying most bitterly. She did not hear her sister

"Grace I" cried Hester, alarmed. Grace started

him, you have done a great deal, for he thinks you

Graca's face grew crimson. I have never meant him to think so." she said,

less vehemently.

"But do you, Grace? Do tell me. He is coming back to Barbara etreet. Surely you ought not to let him come if you feel like tals. He is too good and too much in earnest to be played with." "My dear Hester," said Grace, in an altered voice, and, putting her arm round her sister, "do you think him good? Do you like him?"

The sudden transition was so odd that Hester go, but I shall take you with me. Did you suppose

could not forbear a smile.

"He showed how good he was when papa was with us, and I am beginning to like him; but since you ask me that, it is all right then, Grace? I know

ought to have trusted you." "I don't know what you meant by 'all right." I dinner grew should call it all wrong," said Grace, sighing; a wondering. "but," and a smile began to dawn in her eyes, "he Waterhouse seems to be satisfied, and mother is, and I'm sure Kitty is, and if you are, Hester, why, I am the only one who objects, and one is too small a minority to signify. I have been shamefully drawn into it, and I only seem to get deeper and deeper. But we will never say any more about it, please. He has promised not to do so."

With that, words ended between the two, but they kissed each other, and Grace's tears fell again and wet Hester's cheek.

ever felt before; for the sacrifice she was ready to make on behalf of her father's memory (for naturally this was the aspect of the matter which appealed most strongly to Mrs. Norris) called out her mother's affection and gratitude as nothing else could have done. And love always made liester

Three weeks afterwards she heard from Miss Denston that her brother had sailed.

CONCLUSION.

WATERHOUSE remained abroad for four months. This extended absence, and, indeed, his departure effect the country was having upon her, and that itself, were due to Mrs. Norris, who perhaps in-he would find out whether Barbara street did not tended to give Grace time to miss him. But when see her less cruel; but Grace, fortunately for him, he returned, it seemed to him that Grace had put did not hear him, and remained under the impression of his absolute submission. He fell back, and him. She had resumed the duty of waiting upon him, but with it also that manner which set up, as of old, an intangible and impassable barrier between them. The dainty mockery came now and again to bewitch and tease him, but never was he allowed a glimpse of that subdued and shy consciousness which had once or twice filled him with delight and hope. She was again a thing of spirit and air, not to be tamed or touched. But though Waterhouse did not see the change, her mother and the rest knew that Grace was not her old self. She was bright and gay as of old, in the main, but with unaccustomed lapses into thoughtfulness, and a new taste for solitude. Also she suffered and even ought caresses which once would have been playfully set aside. Her eyes more often looked soft and deep, and it was only Waterbouse who always saw in them a gleam and sparkle or a cold reserve. The winter passed thus, but when the first spring days, with mild sunshine and soft winds, visited Barbara street once more, and set country-lovers alonging, they found Waterhouse quite desperate, and bent on desperate measures.

One day Grace, when she came up to his room at dinner-time, found him seated at the table with his head resting on his hand, pouring over some printed list. So intently was he occupied, that he

did not move or even look up.

16 Excuse me, "said Grace, after waiting a moment
in silence, "may I spread the dinner-cloth?"

She spoke in the formal manner which it was her custom still to assume when she put on that cap and apron which to the last inspired Waterhouse with as keen a disgust and irritation as ever they had done Hester, but which Grace with firmness

I had never supposed we should any of us marry, and gravity had declined to remove.

"Oh, I beg you pardon, I'm sure," cried WaterWaterhouse was too much in earnest to smile at
house, starting up, and leaving his papers to be re-

happy. You have seen me under a disadvantage, her. An estate agent's list, marked here and there you know. I do not mean to idle away my life like by Mr. Waterhouse's pencil. She could not refrain work agreed withis always. I have only stayed in Barbara street from a glance in his direction, which he was not it before long, for your sister's sake. You have all done me so unconscious of, though he did not return it.

Waterhouse,

I am thinking of buying some land, at last, and settling down, Miss Norrie. It is high time I gave up this dawdling, good-for-nothing life. I know I

shall have your approval."

Grace did not reply for a moment. She smoothed the creases of the tablecloth carefully. "I do not wonder that you are getting tired of Barbara street," she remarked.

"Yes, I am excessively tired of it," he said, with

A slight colour mounted into Grace's checks. Was she thinking of the occasion, not so very long ago, when he had begged so hard to be allowed to

stay? She had apparently no reply to make.
"You see, I could not possibly spend the summer here," he continued, coolly, fetching the list. from where Grace had laid it, and turning over the leaves. "There is one place here I rather take to, only these descriptions, I am afraid, are got up to humbug one. Oh, here it is, 'Buckhurst, Hamp-shire, a freehold residential estate—""

"Excuse me," interrupted Grace; "I am afraid the fish is spoiling," and she left Waterhouse alone.

If she expected by that means to turn the subject
she was mistaken, for he was still at the list on her
return, and insisted on gaining her ear for further details concerning acreage, shooting, fishing, etc., and the "family mansion" of Queen Anne date, which commanded extensive views of the New

"When are you thinking of leaving?" asked Grace, coldly, with an averted face.

"Why? are you wanting my rooms for some one else? If so, I can go at once," he replied, lightly.
But the farce was ended there, for he surprised the involuntary reproachful gaze of eyes swimming in tears. The next moment, with a leaping heart, he had kissed the face which was pale with emotion and surprise. Grace covered it instantly with her

""Why, Grace," said Hester, " if you do not love | have me stay to be played with, to fritter away my time, and never to get my answer. Isn't that very unkind and unjust?

As Grace did not speak, or remove her hands, he removed them for her, and made her look at him, which she did in a frightened and deprecating way. It was evident that he had successfully stormed the citadel, taken it by a surprise, which is supposed to be equally fair in love and in war. As they looked at each other, the alarm gradually

go, but I shall take you with me. Did you suppose

I meant to go by myself?"

Grace's great dark eyes continued to gaze at Waterhouse, but now with a kind of startled fascination, like that of a deer before it bounds away. But Waterhouse held her fast, while the forgotten dinner grew cold, and Sarah down below fell

Waterhouse and Grace were married two months after this. Grace had said to her mother,

very gravely—
"Mother, if I am to be married at all, you had better make me do it as soon as possible. And in the meanwhile you must take care that I don't run

away. I shall have to be watched."

"But, my dear child," replied her mother, anxiously, "we do not want to marry you against your will."

"Mr. Waterhouse does," said Grace, with a After this, the days slipped back into their old course, and Waterhouse was no more referred to ed, but he says I have gone so far, and given him under his aspect of suitor. Mrs. Norris was told at an much encouragement that I can't in honour last the long-kept secret, and Hester's plans were draw back. Ob, mother, why did we ever take a laid before her. In consequence, Hester was made lodger? How happy we might be now but for to feel more sure of her mother's love than she had that!" Grace's sentiments were so alarming, and her moods so extraordinary, comprising so many fits of depression and irritability quite foreign to her, that her mother betook herself in perplexity to ber lover. Waterhouse laughed a little, but he was nevertheless rendered uneasy and miserable, for of Grace after that one decisive occasion be could scarcely get speech. It was not to be ex-pected that he, although much advanced in knowl-edge of feminine nature, should be able to under-stand these vagaries. Nor could Hester et all understand her sister. Her mother, after all, knew her best, and after a little while came to the conclusion that she had in reality fallen very deeply into love, though her high-spirited nature kept up to the end a fight against it, and that the sooner the marriage took place the better it would be for every one. And so in truth it was. Though Waterhouse's courtainp had been but a stony path, his wedded life blossomed like the rose, and continued sunshine after marriage made up to him for

the stings he had known before. Waterhouse took Grace to the old house at Buckhurst, Hampshire, which naturally had borne off the palm from all others that had not its special recommendation—that of having startled his wife into accepting him. Mrs. Norrie and Kitty were installed in a charming cottage which atood on Waterhouse's land, and Hester and Miss Denston, when they looked across the road to No. 47, saw no longer the cheerful red curtains and glossy no longer the cheerful red curtains and glossy evergreens, but only blank windows and staring bills. Hester had by that time become thoroughly at home and settled in her new life. She had been engaged as daily governess by one of Mr. Waterhouse's friends, and she was fairly interested and successful in her work. Her dignity and self-command gained for her at once that first essential to success, the respect of her pupils. At home she had for comfort the sense of being cf supreme value, and of being well, if selfishly loved. But value, and of being well, if selfishly loved. But supreme comfort of all was the sense of comrade-ship with the brother far away, which made each act of devotion to the sister a tie which bound them together, and which was none the loss sweet because it was recognised nowhere but in the secrecy of her own heart. For three years Hester worked on thus, and from time to time came cheering news of Philip. At the end of that interval, and when he was soon to be expected home, Miss Denston, who had been in better health during those years than for many previous, suddenly died as she war sitting in her chair with Hester by her side. Then Hester went to her mother and slater, and to all the sweet sights and sounds of the Hampshire spring, to the cottage from whose windows she saw the tender haze of green spreading over the stretches of forest and heard the cuckoo notes startlingly near. And she was petted and made much of by her mother and Grace, who were grieved to see her pale looks. But Hester, though she basked in the love as in sunshine, said she must only stay for a boliday, that work agreed with her, and that she must return to

Waterhouse, who had grown to admire Hester more and more, though he still did not feel quite at home with her, on one occasion called his wife to the window to look at her sister as she stood outside on the lawn with Grace's little boy in her arms.

"She is a fit model for a Madonna," he said;
"see the way she carries Jack; and what an exquisite look she is giving him." Here Hester quisite. look she is giving him." Here Hester caught sight of the pair watching her and smiled at them. "I suppose," continued Waterhouse, "you used to see that Denston had views in that direction? You woman have generally sharp eyes in such matters. I hope she won't be cruel to him, don't you?"

"Now, pray don't expect me to fall in with any match-making schemes. You know my opinion of matrimony.

"Come, Beatrice, Beatrice ! that sort of thing does not become you now; your railing days are

Over. And Waterhouse put his hand on his wife's shoulder. He often excited her to merry rejoinder by addressing her thus-though Grace, probably, was not loth to be reminded of an illustrious and charming lady who had, like herself, forsworn her maiden resolutions. But he received no merry answer now. She gave a little sigh, as she looked out of the window at her sister, and caressed with her own small hand the muscular one that rested on her shoulder. It will be seen that she had kept

more than one secret from her husband. Philip had started on his homeward voyage befor the news of his sister's death reached him; but it met him on the way. Barbara Street was de-serted, and, on landing, he went straight into Hampshire, where, as Hester had once promised, a warm welcome awaited him.

THE END.

up, and forced back the tears. 'Hester took her hands by force, and said, "Is this about Mr. Waterhouse?"

Waterhouse?"

"Oh." cried Grace, a gleam coming into, her great eyes, "I will not be talked to about him. 'He and mother, and now you, combine to 'tease me. What have I done to deserve it?"

"I see you do not want me to go, yet you would instantly with her hands and surprise. Grace covered it instantly with her hands, and was making her escape without a word, but Waterhouse barred the way. He felt it must be now or never with him.'

"Why have you been so cruel to me, all this and mother, and now you, combine to 'tease me. What have I done to deserve it?"

"I see you do not want me to go, yet you would the east to engage in missionary work."

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LESSON HELPS.

FOURTH QUARTER.

THOMAS CONVINCED. LESSON VI., November 7th., John xx. 19-31; mem-

orise verses 26-28. GOLDEN TEXT .- And Thomas answered and

wid unto him, my Lord and my God.—John xx. 28. Tiste.-Sunday evening, April 9, A.D. 30, and Sunday evening, April 16.

PLACE - A room in Jerusalem.

INTERVENING HISTORY .- Mail xxviii. 8-15, Mark xvi. 12, 13; Luke xxiv. 13-35; 1 Cor. xv. 5. PARALLEL ACCOUNTS - Mark xvi. 14 22; Luko

(xiv. 36 49 ; 1 Cor. xv. 5 HELPS OVER HARD PLACES—Second appearance of Jesus: Sunday morning, April 9, to the other women (Matt. zxviii. 9, 10) Third appearance: To Peter alone (Luke xxiv. 34; 1 Cor. xv. 5). Fourth appearance: to two disciples on the way to Emmaus, Sunday afternoon (Mark xvi. 12, 13; Luke xxiv. 13 35). Fifth appearance: to the disciples, except Thomas, the same Sunday evening (va. 19 20; Mark 16-14; Luke xxiv. 36-14). 43). 19. Came Jesus and stood in the midst. miraculously, but perhaps by eilently opening the door. Peace be unto you: common salutation of the Jews. 20 Shewed unto them his hands: to show that he was precisely the same Jesus who was crucified, and not a spirit. They were tertified at his appearance. 2t Even so send I you to take my place and do my work. Mark adds that they were to preach the gospel to every creature. Every Christian is able to be a missionary. 23, Whose ever sins ye remit, etc.: the Holy Spirit would so lead them that what they did would be endorsed by God. They would preach the true doctrine of for-giveness of sine to all who believed on Jesus; and lesus would forgive all who believed through their preaching. 24. Didymus: the twin, Greek for the Hebrew Thomas.

SUBJECTS FOR SPECIAL REPORTS.—The appearance of Jesus.—The beginning of the Lord's day as a Sabbath.—The mission of the disciples.—The gift of the Holy Spirit.—Ver. 23.—Ver. 29—The object of John's Gospel.

QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTORY.—To whore did Christ appear first after his resurrection? To whom did he make his second appearance? The third? The fourth? SUBJECT: FAITH CONFIRMED AND WORK APPOINTED.

I. FAITH CONFIRMED BY THE PRESENCE OF I. FAITH CONFIRMED BY THE PRESENCE OF THE RISEN LORD (vs. 19, 20)—How many times did Jesus appear to his disciples on the day he rose from the dead? What were the disciples doing on that first Sunday evening? (Mark xvi. 14.) How many were present? Why were the doors closed? What reason had they to fear the Jews? How does Jesus bring peace? What was the effect of his appearance on the disciples? (Luke xxiv. 37.) How did he prove that he was the same Jesus that had known before? What other proof is Jesus they had known before? What other proof is given in Luke? (xxiv. 41-43). What was the effect of this assurance on the disciples? Does the conscious presence of Jesus always bring gladness to those who love him?

II. THE DISCIPLES COMMISSIONED (vs. 21-23, 30, 31).—Where did Jesus send his disciples? (Mark zvi. 15, 16.) What were they to do? How did he prepare them for this work? (v. 22.) How did the Holy Spirit enable them to carry on the work of Jesus in the world? (John ziv. 26; xv. 26; xvi. 7:11.) When was this gift fully bestowed? (Acts il. 1, 2 16:21) What further promise did Jesus make? (v. 23.) What does this verse

III THE DISCIPLES' FAITH STILL MORE CON-did he say to Thomas? What was the effect on Thomas? Did he then see Jesus as divino? Was his true faith? What kind of faith did Jesus say was still better? Why?

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

I. True disciples love to meet together for worship.

II. Jesus will be present at such meetings. 111. Jeaus' presence brings peace, gladness and

IV. It is a great lose to be away from such meetings. Thomas lost (1) the blessing of Jesus; (2) the gift of the Holy Spirit, (3) the teachings of of Jesus, (4) confirmation of his faith.

V. The duty of preaching the Gospel to every creature is laid upon us all. VI. Jesus has promised to bless faithful labours

in his cause. VII. There are those whose salvation or loss depends on our faithfulness.

VIII. A believing, trueting, loving heart is a great blessing.

REVIEW EXERCISE: (For the whole school in concert.)—5. When did Jesus appear to his disci-ples in a body? ANS. At a meeting on Sunday evening after his resurrection. 6. How did he prove that he was the same Jesus? ANS. He showed them his wounded hands and side, and ate with them. 7. To what work did he send them? Ans. To go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. 8. What help did he give them? Ans. The gift of the Holy Spirit. 9. What is the object of the Gospel? Ans. (Repeat | v. 31.)—Peloubet.