

"And left before I came home; your first visit, too—that was cousinly courtesy, Cousin Janet."

"I hae a lang road tae gang, an' the darkenin' fa's quick in April," she answered quietly.

"Um, Mary is in the blues! I suppose she's been giving you my character?" said Hugh Nesbit sarcastically.

"I dinna need onybody tae gie me your character, Hugh Nesbit," said Janet drily. "I hae kenned ye sin' ye were a laddie."

"Is there anything wrong with Mary?" asked he abruptly. "Women always croak, you know, when things don't agree with them. I suppose you know we don't live like turtle-doves, Janet."

"Wha's blame's that!"

"Hers! She hates me, and lets me see it in her quiet way. Your quiet women are the worst to live with. I'd rather have a thrashing from your honest tongue than her everlasting tears. Ugh, I am sick of them!"

"Ye'll maybe mind what I said tae ye that nicht ye cam seekin' Mary, when she was bidin' wi' me at Windy-knoe?"

"No; what was it?"

"Fine ye ken what it was. Weel, I said ye wad hae nae pleasure or happiness wi' an unwilling bride."

"How was I to know she was unwilling? Women always act no when they mean yes."

Miss Nesbit lifted her eyes to his face, and beneath their honest scorn his fell.

"Mary'll no live lang tae trouble ye wi' tears or ony ither thing, Hugh. Already her shadow is lengthenin' tae a grave in St. Mary's. Oh, be gentle wi' her, I pray ye again, as I preyed on yer wedding day. It'll maybe spare ye a remorse which wad follow ye tae the grave," said Miss Nesbit passionately. Then without another word, she passed the laird, and took her lonely way up past the chapel of St. Mary.

(To be continued.)

### THE RECENT REMARKABLE TWILIGHTS.

It is now practically certain that the brilliant phenomena, which during the past few months have been so often seen at sunrise and sunset, cannot be due to merely local causes, nor to any ordinary meteorological conditions. It is true, of course, that now and then, after the clearing of a storm, sunsets quite as gorgeous have often occurred before; and if we had to do only with scattered instances, it might be admitted that no new hypothesis is needed. But when we are dealing, as now, with such appearances, simultaneous, and extending over the whole earth's surface, the affair is different.

We have accounts from every direction of a series of most impressive atmospheric phenomena, which began with the closing days of August in the islands of the Indian Ocean, and on the eastern coast of Africa, and since then have covered the world. At first, and near the Equator, there was a dense haze, which made the sun no brighter than the moon, and tinged its light with vivid hues of green and blue. Later, in October, the equatorial stations had the same crimson dawns and sunsets, which in November and December reached the temperate zones, and still continue in the United States and Europe. All the observations go to show that the upper regions of the atmosphere, at an elevation between twenty and fifty miles, are now filled with a fine haze or cloud, which consists neither of ice-crystals nor water-drops (as is proved by the testimony of the spectroscopic and polariscope), but probably of minute solid particles, possibly mingled with some gas, lighter than common air. There is no difficulty in understanding how such a cloud, originating near the Equator, and carried at first by the upper equatorial current, would be gradually diffused and distributed north and south over the earth by the return trade-winds; and if the dust were fine enough, it might be many months before it would finally settle down and clear the air above the region of the clouds.

Now where could and did such a cloud originate? I believe (and this is the independent conclusion of many men of science) that it consists simply of the ashes and other matter ejected during the great volcanic eruption of Krakatoa, in the Straits of Sunda. (Latitude 6° S.) This eruption, probably the most tremendous in the annals of history, reached its crisis on Aug. 27th and 28th, and an island some 4,000 feet in height, and seven or eight miles in diameter, was literally, blown into the air, and vanished. Over Java and Sumatra day became night. On the 28th and 29th the cloud reached Mauritius (which, however, lay near its edge). Mr. Meldrum observed the characteristic sunset phenomena and at once surmised their volcanic origin, because a notable series of earthquake-waves had arrived a few hours before. On Sept. 1st an English observer on the Gold Coast of Africa (in the Gulf of Guinea) reported that the sun was green for several hours, and so pale as to be mistaken for the moon. The next day, in the West Indies and over northern Brazil and Venezuela, the same green or bluish sun appeared. No report has yet been received to determine the westward progress of the cloud across the Pacific, but probably the circuit of the earth was made within a week or ten days. At any rate, in India and Ceylon they were confounded by a bright green sun at sunrise and sunset for a week or more, from Sept. 8th to 15th—an effect probably produced by the cloud on its first return, much widened and rarefied by the deposition of its coarser particles. It need hardly be added that a cloud which would cause the sun, seen through it, to look green, would itself be likely to appear red by reflected light. When at last the cloud had been so widened in its travels as to spread itself over our latitudes, its density had become so reduced that its effects on transmitted light were hardly noticeable, though in a few cases observers in this country and England saw the moon-light tinged with green.

It would not be proper to discuss the matter without an allusion to another theory proposed and held by some astronomers of authority: that this upper-air cloud is of meteoric origin. I have no time to discuss it here, further than to say that in the presence of a known and sufficient

cause it is hardly worth while to have recourse to one that is purely hypothetical. We have had no known meteoric encounter lately, nor was any known meteoric encounter ever followed by similar phenomena.—*The Critic*.

### AN ANSWER TO "WANTED."

Do you know you have asked for the costliest thing  
Ever made by the hand above,  
A woman's heart and a woman's life,  
And a woman's wonderful love?

Do you know you have asked for this priceless thing  
As a child might ask for a toy?  
Demanding what others have died to win,  
With the reckless dash of a boy.

You have written my lesson of duty out,  
Man-like, you have questioned me;  
Now stand at the bar of my woman's soul  
Until I shall question thee.

You require your mutton shall always be hot,  
Your socks and your shirts shall be whole;  
I require your heart to be true as God's stars,  
And pure as heaven, your soul.

You require a cook for your mutton and beef,  
I require a far better thing;  
A seamstress you're wanting for stockings and shirts;  
I look for a man and a king.

A king for a beautiful realm called Home,  
And a man that the Maker, God,  
Shall look upon as He did on the first,  
And say "It is very good."

I am fair and young, but the rose will fade  
From my soft young cheek some day;  
Will you love me then, mid the falling leaves,  
As you did mid the bloom of May?

Is your heart an ocean so strong and deep,  
I may launch my all on its tide?  
A loving woman finds heaven or hell  
On the day she is made a bride.

I require all things that are grand and true,  
All things that a man should be.  
If you give this all, I would stake my life  
To be all you demand of me.

If you cannot do this, a laundress and cook  
You can hire with little to pay;  
But a woman's heart and a woman's life  
Are not to be won that way.

### MEDICAL WOMEN FOR INDIA.

The following, though not all new to our readers, deserves admission, as the subject is important. Some few months ago a number of native merchants of Bombay organised themselves into a committee, and raised large funds for the purpose of inviting one or more first-class medical women to come out from England to practise in Bombay among the native women and children, one gentleman giving no less than £10,000 to found a hospital and dispensary in connection with this object. In response to an invitation from this committee, Dr. Edith Peckey, who, in 1870, won (and was refused) the Hope Scholarship in the University of Edinburgh, has started for Bombay, and is to be followed as soon as possible by another registered medical woman, who will act as junior physician in the hospital. To both these posts a liberal salary is attached, with abundant opportunities for private practice, and an excellent residence is also to be provided for Dr. Peckey. It is well known that the Viceroy has long felt the extreme need for medical women in India, and, though no official action has been taken, it is understood that Dr. Peckey carries with her most excellent introductions, and that her mission has inspired the warmest interest in many quarters. It is thought probable that the foundation-stone of the hospital may be laid by His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, who will thus well represent the interest expressed by Her Majesty in 1881, in response to the pathetic appeal of the Mahi Rani of Ponna, who besought her to send medical women to the aid of the perishing sufferers in a thousand zenanas into which no male practitioner can enter. The only help hitherto has been afforded by a few medical missionaries, but their avowed object of proselytism of course prevents the more scrupulous natives from availing themselves of their services. Now for the first time a medical woman goes out with the single object of professional usefulness, and with no idea of entering into conflict with the religious convictions of her patients. No better pioneer than Dr. Peckey could possibly have been chosen; and she must carry with her the heartiest good wishes even of those who think medical women a superfluity in England.—*The Quaker*.

A MINNEAPOLIS caller on New Year's Day assaulted a hostess because she hinted that, owing to his condition, coffee was a more suitable beverage for him than wine. Both were members of fashionable society.

CONCERNING the ten thousand persons who went to see William Fox hanged, the *Kansas City Times* says: "Many women fainted. The men did not faint, for the probable reason that the most of them were boyed up with ten-cent whiskey."

THE Rev. Dr. Whyte, St. George's, Edinburgh, entertained lately 400 young men connected with the congregation or attending the new college at a conversation. Each of the young men was presented with a copy of Dr. Whyte's "Commentary on the Shorter Catechism."

## BRITISH AND FOREIGN NEWS.

MR. MOODY is to visit Edinburgh about the end of January.

NEW ZEALAND has two universities, both of which confer degrees.

FIFTY fishermen belonging to Yarmouth lost their lives in recent gales.

OF the sixty members of the Dublin corporation, twenty-one are drink-sellers.

A GAS explosion at Ghent injured several persons, and did great damage to property.

THE South Australian wheat crop is this season expected to be considerably above the average.

IT is proposed to enlist a thousand men in excess of the legal strength of the United States army.

THE King of Servia has pardoned some hundreds of criminals confined in the dungeons of the fortresses.

THIS sum spent on drink in Great Britain in four years would purchase all the railways in the kingdom.

NOROKO and Seku, the Kafir chief and his adviser, have come to England on an official visit to Lord Derby.

IT is stated that Mr. O'Kelly, M.P., has gone to the Soudan as special correspondent for the *New York Herald*.

KING JOHN of Abyssinia, supported by two of his vassal chiefs, is concentrating troops at Adna and menacing Massowah.

A DEALER in patent collars and baby linen has been sending circulars to doctors in England, offering a commission of ten per cent. on all orders.

MR. GEORGE MULLER, at latest dates, was holding successful meetings in Madras. He devoted two days to giving an account of his life-work.

AT the latest sale of Texas State lands, the average price paid was \$2.01 per acre. The highest bid was \$5.10. The Land Board sold 272,047 acres.

ON the Queen's Park estate, Kensal Green, London, there are 2,400 dwelling-houses, but no public-house. Intemperance is almost unknown.

A REGISTERED letter, addressed to W. H. Harrison, of the staff of the Governor of Georgia, got through from Oglethorpe county to Augusta in sixty-five days.

JOHN MELVILLE, the pioneer labourer for the Bible Society at Odessa, is now in his eighty-third year. He has been at work in that part of Russia since 1827.

A LADY of Birmingham, Miss Lily Prime, has joined the Brahma Somaj, and has sent to the head office in Calcutta the prescribed form of initiation duly filled in.

THE students of the Nonconformist colleges in London and its vicinity have formed a missionary league, the first meeting of which was held at Regent's Park college.

THERE is at present living in Yorkshire a family of a sister and four brothers whose united ages represent 430 years, the eldest being ninety-two and the youngest seventy-five years of age.

THE Provost of Glasgow humorously remarked at a public dinner lately that there were some members of the town council who ought to pray "for grace to hold their tongue oftener."

PRIMROSES in full bloom, pinks, and roses grown in the open air were plucked the other week in the vicinity of the Holy Loch; and chrysanthemums were in full bloom outside at Hunter's Quay, Dunoon.

THE retail liquor trade is perfectly free in Belgium, and anybody can open a public-house when he pleases. The sum spent annually in public-houses is \$100,000,000, equal to twenty dollars per head of the population.

PHINEAS FINN was informed by a very candid adviser that there were "plenty of lawyers in Parliament already." That is certainly the case in England, but how about the United States? Of 325 members, 245 are lawyers.

COLONEL OLCOTT, an American, is perambulating India in the character of "President-Founder" of a new religious movement. He abjures Christianity, and professes to accept and admire all the Oriental faiths.

THE Rev. Dr. Kennedy, of Dingwall, having travelled by easy stages, arrived at Rome on 13th ult., considerably improved in health. He is suffering from diabetes, but hopes are entertained of his recovery.

PROF. CALDERWOOD, Edinburgh, says it is a humiliating thing that while the Church—he meant the whole Church—was the great force of Scotland, yet drink was the power which was constantly struggling with it.

AT Rancher, in India, the native Lutherans began their commemoration service on the anniversary of the great Reformer's birth at daybreak, and held it on the top of the octagonal turret of their church.

IT is stated that at a distribution of prizes in a mission school in India the lieutenant-governor of the province, finding a Bible among the books to be given, absolutely refused to hand it to the pupil who was to receive it.

AT Wishaw on Sunday week the Free Church congregation, by special request of the parish minister, joined with the worshippers in the parish church. The services were conducted by the two ministers. The Free Church had been seriously damaged by a storm.

THE authorities at Saint Giles, in Belgium, have supplied the police on night duty with cloth boots having Indian rubber soles. With these boots the police are so perfectly noiseless that they are at least placed on a footing of equal advantage with burglars.

AFTER indictments had been found against twenty liquor dealers in Lawrence, Kan., the offenders closed their doors under a promise that the suits should not be prosecuted. And now, it is said, not a drop of liquor can be bought in Lawrence.