continued in a weary tone. "It seems strange how people stand aloof from o one calls and everybody wants what They might have advised and helped us. but nothing would tempt me to go to

unsuccessful expedition to the village, and while she was gone, Zell went to the post office to which she had told Van Dam to direct his reply. She found the sible lie we have already placed be-

At first she experienced a sensation of anger that he had not complied with her wish. It was a new experience to have gentlemen, especially Van Dam, so long her obsequious slave, think of anything contrary to her wishes. She also feared that Edith might be right, and that Van would not openly admit, even to herself, that this was his purpose, and yet Edith's words had been so clear and strong, and Van Dam's conditions placed her so entirely at his mercy, that she shrank from him and was fascinated at the same time. But instead of indignantly casting the letter from her, she read it again and

to his written word," she said, and the letter was hidden away, and she passed into the dangerous stage of irres where temptation is secretly dwelt upon. She hesitated and according to the proverb, the woman who does this is lost. Instead of indignantly casting temptation om her, she left her course open, to be She willfully shut her eyes to the danger, and tried to believe, and did almost be-

trying to find something to do, and working hard in her garden, which at present brought no return. She was often very sad and despondent and again very irri-Laura's apathy only deepened, and she seemed like one not yet awakened from a dream of the past. Zell made Edith sharply chided her she

laughed recklessly and said,—
"What's the use? If we are going to starve we might as well do so at once and

fiercely. "There must be honest work somewhere in the world for one willing to do it, and I'm going to find it. At any ate, I can raise food in my garden before

"I'm afraid we'll starve before your

persons turn and look after me, and vet they will let me alone hereafter. I won-der if any stories could have got around "Oh, Hannibal, I

said Laura languidly.
"No, not one," was Edith's despondent

they had nothing in the house save a litdry bread, which they ate moistened and cried all day. Laura had the strange manner of one waking up to something to take the place of apathy, and her eyes | pretty nigh crazy over you." often sought the face of Edith in a ques;

the garden, she said,-"Why, Edith, I'm hungry. I never remember being hungry before. Is it possible we have come to this?" Edit's burst into tears, ad said broken

"Come with me to the arbor." "I'm sure I'm willing to do anything," said Laura piteously, "but I never real-

ized we would come to this."

"Oh, how can the birds sing?" said Edith bitterly. "This beautiful spring weather, with its promise and hopefulness, seems a mockery. The sun is shining brightly, flowers are budding and blooming, and all the world seems so happy, but my heart aches as if it would burst. I'm hungry, too, and I know poor old Hannibal is faint, though he tries to keep up whenever I am around."

"I am going, Edith, to meet Mr. Van Dam, as he told me. I cannot—I will not believe that he will prove false to me. I leave his letter, which I received to-day. Perhaps you never will forgive me at lone; but whatever becomes of poor little Zell, she will not cease to love you all. I would only be a burden if I stayed. There will be one less to provide for, and I may be able to help you far more by going than staying. Don't follow me. I've made my venture, and chosen my lot. ized we would come to this."

"But Edith, if people knew how we are situated they would not let us want.
Our old acquaintances in New York, or pail of water, heard the gate-latch click, our relations even, though not very friend-

charity, and no one world undertake to first, but then Zell was so full of impulse, support us. What discourages me most that he concluded, money. Between people wishing to have all a lookin and leanin on Miss Edie, Lornothing to do with us, on one hand, and bress her." my ignorance on the other, there seems no resource. Some of those whom we owe seem inclined to press us. I'm so Edith home, but in better spirits than a raid of losing this place and being out before, as she had realized a somewhat on the street. If I could only get a fair sum for what she had sold, and had chance somewhere, or get time to learn been treated politely.

Then after a moment she asked sud- "Where is Zell?" denly, "Where's Zell?"

her room, I think." "I don't like Zell's manner," said Edith, after a brief, painful reverie. "Its so hard and reckless. Something seems on door now caught her attention, and she her mind. She has long fits of abstrac- joined him at once. tion as if she was thinking of something, or weighing some plan. Could she have cation with that villain, Van Dam? Oh, that would be the bitter citedly.

est drop of all in our cup of sorrow. I would rather see her dead than that." had been in a trance and had just awak- again." ened. Why Edith, I must do something.

It is not right to let you bear all these things alone. But don't trouble about saw Zell's note. Tearing it open, she flickering light of the lantern.

Trembling she could hardly walk steaded by strange bearded faces, that appear ed both savage and grotesque in the flickering light of the lantern.

Mrs. A Zell, not one of George Allen's daughters only read the first line, and then rushed

CHAPTER XIX.

A FALLING STAR.

Zell slept most of the day. She had eached that point where she did not want to think. On hearing Edith say that she would go to New York on Monday, a sudden and strong temptation assailed her. Impulsive, but not courageous, abounding in energy, but having little fortitude, she found the conditions of her country life growing unendurable. Van Dam seemed her only refuge, her only means of escape. She soon lost all hope of their sustaining themselves by work in Pushton. Her uncurbed nature could wait patiently for nothing, and as temptation and the consciousness of doner hard, reckless tone and manner was the natural consequence. Though she said to herself, and tried to believe, "He will marry me_he has promised

again and again." she could not stifle, and to provide some excuse for her action, and still more, to brace the hope she tried to cherish that he really meant truly by her, she wrote,
"If I will meet you at the boat Monday evening, will you surely marry me? Promise me on your sacred honor.'

Van Dam muttered, with a low laugh, "That's a rich joke, for her to accept such a proposition as mine, especially after all that has happened, and still prate of

sacred honor'." But he unhesitatingly, promptly, and with many protestations, assured her that he would, and at once prepared to carry out his part of the programme.
"What's the use of half-way lies?" he again. Her foolish heart pleaded for

aid, carelessly.
On Monday Edith again took the early train with the valuables she designed dis-posing of. Zell had said indifferently, "You may take anything I have left except my watch and chain."

But Laura had insisted on sending her watch, saying, "I really wish to do something, Edith. I've left all the burden on you too long."

anything you please." So Edith carried away with her the

means of fighting the wolf, hunger, from their doors a little longer. But if she had known that a more cruel enemy would despoil her home in her absence, should have rather starved than gone. Laura was reading to her mother when Zell put her head in at the door, saying, "I am going for a short walk, and will

She hastened to the office at which she his reply. With feverish cheeks, and eyes in which glowed excitement rather than happiness, she read it as soon as alone on possible. Her mind was in a mild tumult, but she would not allow herself one conday in her room preparing for her flight. surprise and alarm,
"Oh, Miss Zell, how burnin' red your

cheeks be! You'se got a ragin' feber, sure 'nuff. Go and lie right straight down, and I'se see to ebery ting. I'se been to de village and got some tea. A man guve low, and as you say, the money is nearly it to me as a sample, and I telled him one."

we'se like our tea mighty strong, sc you'se
all hab a cup of tea to-day, and to-night Miss Edie 'll come back with

> sudden rush of tenderness. "I wish I were as good as you are."

"Oh, Hannibal, I wish I was dead and out of the way! Then there would be one

less to provide for." "Dead and out of de way!" said Hannibal, half indignantly, "dat's jest how to get into de way. I'd be afeerd of answer. "If nothing turns up before, I'll seein your spook whenever I was alone. I had no comfort in New York arter Massa Allen died, and was mighty glad to get Edie and all would cry dar eyes out, and couldn't do nothin'. Folks is often more in de way arter dey's dead and gone dan when libin. Seen' your sweet face around ebery day, honey, is a great help to ole

Hannibal. It seems only yesterday it was a little baby face, and we was all passionately, and hurrying away.

"Poor chile, poor chile! she takes it
mighty hard," said innocent Hannibal. tioning manner. Finding her alone in

She kept her room during the after noon, pleading that she did not feel well. It gave her pain to be with her mother and Laura, now that she purposed to leave them so abruptly; and she wished to see nothing that would shake her resolution to go as she had arranged. She wrote to

ZELL." As the long twilight was deepening and looking up, saw Zell hurrying out with hat and shawl on, and having the "Oh, yes, I suppose so for a little while, but I can't bring myself to ask for her shawl. He felt a little surprise at

that I can't get work that will bring in "She's gwine to meet Miss Edie. We'se

But Zell was going to perdition.

After taking off her things, she asked, "Lying down, I think," said Laura She complained of not feeling well this

"Didn't you meet Miss Zell ?" he ask. ed in a whisper. "Meet her? no," answered Edith, ex-

"Dat's quare. She went out with ha est drop of air in our cup of sorrow.

"Dat's quare. She went out with hat and shawl on a little while ago. Praps she's come back, and gone up stairs wonderingly around; then came a look than in a transfer of the came a look."

"Dat's quare. She went out with hat signs of returning consciousness. She slowly opened her eyes, and turned them wonderingly around; then came a look."

Hannibal, trembling with fear himself,

"Zell's gone. "Gone! Where ?" they said, with dis

Edith's only reply was to suddenly look at her watch, put on her hat, and dart out of the door. She saw that there was still ten minutes before the evening boat passed the Pushton landing, and remem bered that it was sometimes delayed. There was a shorter road to the dock than the one through the village, and thi

she took, with flying feet, and a white but determined face. It would have been a terrible thing for Van Dam to have met her then. She seemed sustained by sup ernatural strength, and, walking and running by turns, made the mile and a the long, idle days passed, she doubted, and them despaired, on any success from Edith's plans. She harbored Van Dam's the landing, she saw the boat coming in ing this hurt her womanly nature, and to the dock. Though panting and almost spent, again she ran at the top of he speed. Half way down she heard the plank ring out upon the wharf. "Stop!" she called. But her parched

lips uttered only a faint sound, like the cry of one in a dream. A moment later, as she struggled des

knell of hope, the command,
"All aboard!" "Oh, wait, wait!" she again tried to call, but her tongue seemed paralyzed.

As she reached the commencement the long dock, she saw the lines cast off.

tion, and the boat swept away. She was too late. She stagger ward a few steps more, and then all her remaining strength went into one agoniz. Groody's and Arden's assistance, she was cup and glass into the kitchen,

The great wheels gave a vigorous revolu

And she fell fainting on the dock. Zell heard that cry, and recognized the voice. Taking her hand from Mr Van Dam's arm, she covered her face in sud

But is was too late. She had left the shelter of home. ventured out into the great pitiless world on nothing better than Van Dam's word. It was like walking a rotten plank out into the sea. ain't to blame. I'll stand by you if no own time and way, so she said, one else will. It don't take me long to "Good night, my faithful old Zell was lost!

CHAPTER XX.

Not only did Edith's bitter cry startle be a pretty fair sort of a friend if I do poor Zell, coming to her ear as a despair ing recall from the battlements of heaven might have sounded to a fallen angel, but Arden Lacey was as thoroughly aroused from his painful reverie as if shaken by a giant hand. He had been down to meet the boat, with many others he rarely noticed any one unless the told Van Dam to address her, and found spoke to him, and then gave but brief, surly attention. Only one had scanned Zell curiously, and that was Tom Crowl. happiness, she read it as soon as alone on the road, and returned as quickly as in human action, he was attracted by gle she knew Zell's manner. He could not make out said, kindly, through her thick veil who she was, in the increasing darkness, but he saw that she was agitated, and that she looked But when she came down to see Hannibal about their meagre lunch, he said in some surprise and alarm.

eagerly for the coming of the boat, also landward, where the road came out on the dock, as if fearing or expecting come. landward, where the road came out on the dock, as if fearing or expecting some-thing from that quarter. But when he saw her join Van Dam, he recognized his that the lady was one of the Allen family.

Possessing these links in the chain, he "God bless you for speaking to me at rush of tears. "Everything depends on "on"."

tion of the sound and was gently lifting the unconscious persons turn and look after me, and yet they avoid me. Two or three impudent clerks tried to make my acquaintance. Its kind of a heathen. But somehow I somehow I snubbed them in such a way that the Lord will bress me when I subbed them in such a way that the lord will bress me when I with here.

"Lor bress you, Miss Zell, I isn't good. only equalled by his helplessness, and be the what at enderness only equalled by his helplessness, and that it is the what ever people are willing to give for it, till I can do better." Edith spoke the yard. An angel of light could not with here

The first impulse of his great strength went straight to the heart. was to carry her directly to her home.

But Edith was anything but ethereal, and Groody, wiping her eyes, "You can't do long before he could have passed the work. You are pale as a ghost, and you mile and a half, he would have fainted look like a delicate lady." under the burden, even though love nerved his arms. But while he stood in delicate lady who has no money, but piteous irresolution, there came out from the crowd that had gathered round, a that was almost stern. stout, middle aged woman, who said, in a voice that not only betokened the utmost confidence in herself, but also the assurance that all the world had confidence Groody, musingly.

in her: nen-folks know about women?"

she wanted some one to hold her."

desire to do something, was almost be- her eyes away from Mrs. Groody, with

all now. She's down to stop her sister woman found her voice, though it seemed who's just ran away with one of those city | a little husky: scamps, that was up here a while ago. 1 "Lor' bless you, child, I ain't got a millthen."

Crowl," said Mrs. Groody. "There's never are able, and we'll find something." nothing wrong going on but you will see it. You are worse than any old woman for gossip. Why don't you put on petti"Is dat you, coats and go out to tea for a livin'?" When the laugh ceased at Crowl's ex-

pense, he said: "Don't you put on airs, Mrs. Groody; you are as glad to hear the news as anyought to be. I seem too worried and one. It's a pity you turned up and busy to 'tend to religion; but I know

Tom's further utterance was effectually stopped by such a blow across his mouth, from Lacey's hand, as brought the blood can believe is, that we are dealt within a profusely on the spot, and caused such disfigurement, for days after, that approsight of. But I am indeed grateful for priate justice seemed visited on the your kindness, and will come to-morrow offending region. "Leave this dock," said Arden, stern-

ly; "and if I trave any slander to you concerning this lady or myself, I will gate. break every bone in your miserable body." Crowl shrank off amid the jeers of the crowd, but when reaching a safe distance, said, "You will be sorry for this."

Hannibal, in an awed whisper.

"Would to heaven she had never been "Would to heaven she had never been "Help me

under Mrs. Groody's treatment, gave born," said Edith bitterly. "Help me general depression of her system, and signs of returning consciousness. She into the house, for I feel as if I would need of rest. That's all." of wild alarm, as she saw herself surrounded by strage bearded faces, that appear sofa, and then disappeared in the "Oh, Heaven, have mercy," she cried, aintly, "Where am I?" with white faces by Edith's languid, unfaintly, "Where am I?"

"Among friends, I assure you, Miss Allen," said Arden, kneeling at her side. | She had returned alone, with her fresh Edith, trying to rise. "You surely will

protect me. "Do not be afraid. Miss Allen. No on would harm you for the world; and Mrs. Groody is a good kind lady, and will see you safely home, I am sure."

Edith now became conscious that it was Mrs. Groody who was supporting her, was no mo and regaining confidence, as she recognized the presence of a woman. "Law bless you, child, you needn't be

since last summer," she muttered to he

be home and safe.' But the memory of it all suddenly see on every face.

rong already quivered in her heart.
"Don't you think you could walk a The appeal, with its element of de little now, just enough to get into the affection, was more needed by Edith in hack with me and go home?" asked the her half paralyzed state than even the kind woman, in a soothing voice.

soon seated in the hack, and was glad to note that there was no other passenger. every drop. So don't worry about me The ride was a silent one. Edith any more, my poor old Hannibal, but go The ride was a silent one. was too exhausted from her desperate to bed, after your hard day's work." struggle to reach the boat, and her heart her part much more than monosyllables.

versation. But as they stopped at the cottage, her new friend said, cheerily, Edith thought it kindness to leave the "Don't take it so hard, my child, you know a good honest girl when I see one, You're worth your weight in gold."

work for a livin'." nan readily surmised the nature of Edith's trouble, and knew well extraordinary exertion of the previous how deeply the shadow of Zell's disgrace would fall on the family. Edith's desperate effort to save her sister, her bitter prostration of an overtaxed system, made humiliation and shrinking shame in view and was sending off some little produce of the flight, all proved her to be worthy than she really was. For the sake of her from their place. He had not noticed in the dusk the closely-veiled lady; indeed, Mrs. Groody saw that Edith lived in a ent at the meagre little breakfast which little house, and was probably not in so her economy now permitted, but found high a social position as to resent her patronage, her big heart yearned in double sympathy over the poor girl, and

Mrs. Allen and Laura were terror With his quick eye for something wrong she determined to help her in the struggle she knew to be before her; so she

"Now ain't there somethin' I can do now from the outside world. for you?" The driver stood with his lantern near the door, and its rays fell on Edith's pale one of a faithful dog; it was so strong, old bar-room acquaintance, and surmised hands, she said, in a voice of tremulous

was ready for the next. Edith's presence and cry supplied this, and he chuckled exultantly,

"An elopement!" and ran in the direction of the chuckled who knew. You ask if you can do any thing for me. If you'll only get me work, I'll bless you every day of my life, once started in quest of Arden Lacey. No one in earth or in heaven can help But Arden was already at Edith's side, having reached her almost at a bound, perate for it, and I can't seem to find any that will bring us bread, but I'll do any

in a rapid manner, but in a tone that

"What is there in this world for a

"We have tried to get employme

"Here, give me the girl. What do you almost any kind. I can't think my sister would have taken her desperate "I declare it's Mrs. Groody from the course if we could have obtained somehotel," ejaculated Tom Crowl, as this de- thing to do. I know she ought to have lightful drama (to him) went on from act starved first. But we were not brought to act.

up to work, and we can't do anything

"Standin' there and holden' of her," well enough to satisfy people, and we
continued Mrs. Groody, who was somehaven't time to learn. Besides, before times a little severe on both sexes, "won't this happened, for some reason people bring her to, unless she fainted 'cause' stood aloof from us, and now it will be far worse. Oh, what shall we do? What A general laugh greeted this implied shall we do?" cried Edith, despairingly; satire, but Arden, between anger and and in her trouble she seemed to turn

side himself. He had the presence of wild questioning of the future.

mind to rush to the boat house and get a Her new acquaintance was sniffling bucket of water, and when he arrived and blowing her nose in a manner that with it a man had also procured a lantern, betokened serious internal commotion. which revealed to the curious onlookers | The driver, who would have hustled any that gathered around with craning necks, the pale features of Edith Allen. ordinary passenger out quickly enough, waited Mrs. Groody's leisure at a respectthe pale features of Edith Allen.

"By golly, but it's one of them Allen girls," said Tom Crowl eagerly. "I see it influence at the hotel. At last the good

saw her join him and take his arm on stun for a heart, and if I had, you'd turn the boat, but wasn't sure who she was it into wax. If work's all you want, you shall have it. I'm housekeeper at the "Might know you was round, Tom hotel. You come to me as soon as you

> "Is dat you, Miss Edie?" called Hannibal's anxious voice, "Good night, my dear," said Mrs. Groody, hastily. "Don't lose courage. I ain't on as good terms with the Lord as I

spoiled Mr. Lacey's part of the play, for, if this one is anything like her sister, she, perhaps, wanted to be held as you..."

enough about him to be sure that He will take care of a poor child that wants to do right." "I don't understand how God lets hap- pect to pay. After all I'm the cheapest

Arden's urgency soon brought him to Edith's side, and his practised eye saw and do anything I can. Good-bye." And the hack rumbled away, leaving "Oh, Hannibal, Hannibal," was all that

(To be Continued Mrs. Allen and Laura came and stood

There was no need of asking questions

"Mr. Lacey ! and are you here?" said young face looking old and drawn in its At last Mrs. Allen said, with bitter e

"She is no child of mine from this day Then followed such a dreary silence that it might seem that Zell had died and

At last Hannibal bustled in, making a nost desperate effort to keep up a poor show of courage and hope. He placed scared. You have only had a faint. I'll on a little table before Edith a stea take care of you, as young Lacey says. hot cup of tea, some toast, some wine Seems to me he's got wonderfully polite but the food was motioned away.

"It would choke me," said Edith. "But where am I?" asked Edith, with his quaint old visage working under the a bewildered air; "what has happened?" influence of emotion, almost beyond con "Oh, don't worry yourself; you'll soon trol. At last he managed to say:

"Miss Edie, we'se all a leanin' on We'se nothin but vines a climbin up de came to Edith, and even by the lantern's orange bush. If you goes down, we all light, Arden saw the sudden crimson does. And now, Miss Edie, I'd swallow pour into her face and neck. She gave pison for you, won't you take a cup o' tea one wild deprecating look around, and for de sake of ole Hannibal? Cause your then buried her face in her hands as if sweet face looks so pinched, honey, dat I to hide the look of scorn she expected to feels dat my ole black heart's ready to bust;" and Hannibal, feeling that the limit of his restraint was reached, re-

The appeal, with its element of deep material refreshment. She sat up in-"Yes, yes," said Edith, eagerly; "let us stantly, and drank the tea and wine, and get away at once." And with Mrs. ate a little of the toast. Then taking the "There," she said, "see, I've drunk

But Hannibal would not venture out of was too bruised and sore, to permit on his dark corner, but muttered, brokenly, "Lor-bress-you-Miss Edie - you'se in answer to Mrs. Groody's efforts at con- an angel-Ise be better soon-Ise got de

> old man to recover his self-control in his "Good-night, my faithful old CHAPTER XXI.

EDITH'S TRUE KNIGHT. The next morning Edith was too ill to rise. She had become chilled after her evening, and a severe cold was the con her appear more seriously indisposed

stricken at this new trouble. Hannibal said they were all leaning on Edith. They

Poor old Hannibal had no fear for him self. His devotion to Edith reminde instinctive, unreasoning.

"Oh, no," murmured Edith; "we can't afford it."

have been more welcome than this dusky messenger, for he came from the centre of all light and hope now to poor Arden. Then a feeling of alarm took possession of him. Had anything hap-pened to Edith? He had seen her shrinking shame. Had it led her toand he shuddered at the thought his wild imagination suggested. It was al-

most a relief when Hannibal said, "Oh, Mr. Lacey, I'se sure from de way you acted when you fust come, dat you can feel for people in trouble. Miss Edie's berry sick, and I don't know whar to go for a doctor, and she won't have any; but she must, and right away. Den again, I oughter not to leave, for dey's all nearly dead wid trouble and

"You are a good, faithful fellow, Arden, heartily; go back and do all you can for Miss Edith, and I'll bring a doctor myself, and much quicker too

vou could." galloped past him, and the old man chuckled,

"De drunken Laceys' mighty good neighbors when dey's sober. Dr. Neak, a new-comer who was ing some little name for skill and success, and was making the most of it, was at home; but on Arden's hurried applica

"Look here, Mr .- (I beg your pardon I've not the pleasure of knowing your name,) I'm a comparative stranger i Pushton, and am just gaining some little reputation among the better classes. ould rather not compromise myself by attendance upon that family. If you can't get anyone else, and the girl is suffering,

"Enough," interrupted Arden, starting up blazing with wrath. "You should "Oh, thank you, thank you!" said spell your name with an S, I want a man as well as a physician," and, with a look of utter contempt, he hastened away, leaving the medical man somewhat auxious, not about Edith, but whether he had taken the best course in view of his growing reputation.

Arden next traced out Dr. Blunt, wh readily promised to come. He attended all alike, and charged roundly also, "Business is business," was his motto man in the place, for I tell my patients the truth, and cure them as quickly as

no serious cause for alarm, and having heard more fully the circumstances, said, "She will be well in a few days if she is kept quiet, and nothing new sets in Of course she will be sick after last night. One might as well put his hand in the fire and not expect to burn him, as to get very warm and then cool off suddenly without being ill. Her pulse indicates

Farmer (to his servant, who is early home from the fair); "Ye're hame sune the nicht, Jock. Were ye no at the penny reels?" Jock: "I lookit in, but the maesick was naething worth, sae I didna wait," Farmer: "what, could ye no dance till't?" Jock, with a supreme disdain: "Dance till't man, ye couldna whurl a wheelbarrow till't!"

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Ask the same physicians
"What is the most reliable and surest cure for all liver diseases or dyspepsia; constination, indigestion, billousness, malaria, fever, ague, &c.," and they will tell you:

Mandrake! or Dandelion!!!!"

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