

## 428 THE BATTLE OF THE STRONG

said Jean, speaking to the fantastic fires as though they were human.

"There's plenty things we see we can't understand, and there's plenty we understand we can't never see. Ah bah, so it goes!" said Maitresse Aimable, and she put Guida's letter in her bosom.

Upon the hill of Piemont above them, a stone taken from the chimney of the hut where Guida used to live, stood upright beside a little grave. Upon it was carved:

"BIRIBI,  
Fidèle ami  
De quels jours!"

In the words of Maitresse Aimable, "Ah bah, so it goes."

FINIS