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Selected Literature.
DOCTER RAIME'S STRANGE PATIENT.
Frank W. Sage in Youth's Companion.

'Clear out, you little tramp!' Conley, the sentry, lowered his gun threateningly. As the boy shrank away, the melancholy droop of his mouth contrasted so ludicrously with his keen eyes, shrewdly sounding the temper of his adversary, that Coney burst into laughter. But the boy's countenance did not change. In his arms he held a small dog which varied an almost constant whine by sharp, querulous barks.

Conley's mate, Mulligan, stood with his gun at 'parade rest' on the opposite side of the entrance to the armory, within which the First Regiment's annual ball was in progress. The newspapers called it a society affair, patronized by the elite of the city. Now the objectionable boy seemed desirous to enter.

'Git, I say!' Conley stamped his foot. The boy regarded him with a sad, hunted look. The dog whimpered in protest, and snapped viciously at Conley's bayonet.

Mulligan's florid face beamed admiringly. 'Faith, it's a spunky little baste, Conley! Have a heed, or he'll be twistin' off th' tip av ver bagnet loike a sugar stick,' he said, softly.

'Now what do you want?' Conley demanded of the boy.

'My dog's leg's broke. I want Doctor Raime,' the boy answered.

'Oh, clear out!' Conley said, 'n look at you, you little fool!'

With awakened concern, Mulligan bent over the dog. 'Shure, Conley, th' dog do be hurt. D'ye mind the oi av him, tinder as the corn on yer fut wid sufferin', poor crayther! Faix, I wish I dare call the doother!' He stroked the dog's head softly. The boy's pleading look and the dog's suffering touched the big Irish heart.

The boy rubbed his cheek against the dog's head, with no other show of emotion. Then he breathed on the injured leg, whereat the dog pointed his nose upward in a long-drawn, desolate wail. At that the door of the assembly-room softly opened. A wave of perfumed air, sounds of rippling laughter, murmuring voices and an attuning of orchestral instruments came forth, as an officer, resplendent in blue and gold, confronted the trio in the vestibule.

'What's all this disturbance, Conley? Mulligan?' He glanced rapidly from one to the other. 'Is this boy a relative of ours, Mulligan?'

'No, sor, I niver saw um till this minute. He be callin' out Doctor Raime. Th' dog's leg do be broke.' Mulligan blinked rapidly as he said it, but Captain Blake frowned. 'Stuff! And you stand here parley-

ing with him? What do you mean?'

He closed the door carefully and walked toward the intruder, who shrank instinctively nearer Mulligan, and thrust the dog into the Irishman's arms.

'You lemme a-be!' he tearfully protested. 'I've got a right to see Doctor Raime when I've got the money to pay him. You aint only state militia, an' you aint licensed to arrest nobody!'

The officer paused, and a smile stole over his dark features.

'Confound you, Mulligan! Can't you do any better than to lunge at the boy with the dog? Do you expect to shoo him off, and keep his dog?' Set the baste down, and see that the boy leaves at once. The guests will be swarming out here to investigate this disturbance in another minute.'

In stooping to set down the dog Mulligan awkwardly dropped his gun, which fell with a great clatter. In an instant two or three gentlemen, in full dress, and as many officers, came through the doorway into the vestibule.

'What's the matter, guard?' asked one of the gentlemen.

The sentry with a smile answered softly, 'Doctor Raime is wanted, I believe, sor.'

Without further inquiry the gentleman mounted a chair, and called in tones which could be heard throughout the ball-room, 'Is Doctor Raime present? He is wanted here!'

'Oh, no, no, Walton, my dear sir, I implore you to recall that at once!' Captain Blake interposed, in consternation. 'It's an annoying mistake. 'You hold the dog's muzzle, Luke. Don't let him bite either of us.'

An eagle-eyed gentleman came pressing through, the throng making way for him with a deference that testified to his importance. A young lady gently relaxed her clasp of his arm when the doorway was reached.

'What has happened, Captain Blake?' he inquired.

'Nothing at all, I assure you, Doctor Raime. Our friend Walton was misled by—'

'It's my dog's leg that's broke, Doctor Raime,' the boy interposed. 'They want me to go to a horse-doctor, but I don't want a horse-doctor, and I've got the money to pay, an' I want you to—to set—'

The boy's voice broke. Down he sunk on the tiled floor, burying his face in the dog's shaggy mane. Silence, broken only by murmurs of pity from the ladies, fell on the beholders.

The young lady whom Doctor Raime has escorted stooped down and laid her gloved hand on the boy's bowed head. 'Oh, you poor little waif! To think of your loving your dog so! You have a good heart. What is your name?'

'Gip—er—my name's Luke, hisn's Gip,' the boy sobbed.

The lady glanced at the dog, and touched his leg. 'O Doctor Raime, isn't it too bad?' she exclaimed. 'You hold the dog's leg is dreadfully swollen. Won't you attend to him at once?' She looked up pleadingly.

The doctor stooped and examined the injured leg. Then he rose with the dog in his arms. 'Where is your surgeon's room, Captain Blake?'

The captain smiled half-quizzically. 'Oh now, Doctor Raime—really, I protest!'

'Kindly direct me to the surgeon's room, captain.' The doctor's voice was pleasant, but firm, as he bowed and smiled.

'Directly in the rear of the ball-room — directly back. You'll find the surgeon's outfit right at hand.'

Without further words Doctor Raime turned toward the great ballroom with the dog in his arms. The young lady hesitated an instant, and then, at a glance from him, gathered up her train and clasped his arm again. Luke wiped his eyes, and with no mind for anything but his suffering dog, sprang after his benefactors.

As the little procession went through the great room, bejewelled ladies swept their trains aside and—

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turned with surprised, inquiring looks at sight of the famous surgeon carrying a frowzy terrier against his bosom, and followed by an outlandishly-dressed boy of the streets.

'Now, Miss Edith, will you kindly turn up the gas? And I shall need some hot water to soften a sheet of gutta-percha for a splint,' said the doctor when they had reached the surgeon's room. He laid the dog on a table.

'A dislocation,' he reported, after a second and more careful examination. 'You hold the dog's muzzle, Luke. Don't let him bite either of us.'

He fingered the injured member a moment, then with a dexterous twist, snap went the head of the bone into its socket. The dog uttered a smothered yelp, but fell to licking the joint, looking gratefully at his benefactor and whining his relief.

'Hold him once more, boy.' The doctor softened the sheets of gutta-percha, bent them to fit the limb, adjusted and bound them on.

'There, now next Saturday you bring the patient to my office, at four o'clock sharp. Do you know where it is?'

'Yessir.'

'See that he isn't allowed to chase a cat for two weeks.' The doctor eyed Luke with solemn impressiveness. The boy's face beamed satisfaction. A smile stole over the doctor's features as he turned toward the young lady.

Luke slid a half-dollar along the table. 'Here,' and Luke turned to go.

'Wait a moment for your change.' The doctor fumbled in his pocket and gravely produced a quarter. Luke accepted it with a dazed look. Miss Edith suppressed a rippling laugh. The doctor preserved an air of frozen gravity.

'Don't let Gip gnaw at the splint. Rub some coal oil on it if he won't let it alone. That is all. Carry him out through the side door there.'

'Good night, Luke.' The young lady followed him to the door.

'Good night, miss.' Luke tucked his cap under his arm and backed away bareheaded, as a token of reverent regard. At the street entrance he met Mulligan, just startled out of his guard duty.

'Twenty-five cints yez paid him!' he exclaimed, when Luke had told his story. 'Jist the moment since, I was sayin' to Conley

Conley,' says I, 'the doother'll be after chargin' the little kid dollars.' 'Twinty,' says Coney. 'We'll bether have put the both av thim out.'

Luke stared, turned 'aek and again sought the surgeon's room. Captain Blake and several ladies had joined Miss Edith and the doctor.

'Was that what I paid you all right, Doctor Raime?' Luke faltered.

Doctor Raime's eyebrows contracted in a fierce scowl. 'Was it right? Was it right?' he repeated, as if unable to believe his ears. 'I'd have charged Miss Edith Captain Blake there, twice the amount—'

Captain Blake laughed.

The young lady interposed. 'O Doctor Raime, please don't tease the poor boy. It's too bad. Never mind Doctor Raime, Luke; it's only an odd way of his,' said the lady, reassuringly. 'Wait a minute.' She turned to the others and held a hurried conference.

Then Doctor Raime came to the door, bent over the boy, and in deep, mysterious tones, whispered, 'Have—you—ever—before—been—to—a—military—ball?'

Under the spell of those magnetic eyes the boy whispered back hesitatingly, 'No, sir.'

The melodramatic expression of the doctor's face dropped away suddenly, as if it had been a mask. A kindly smile beamed in its stead. 'Yessir, I would so.'

'You won't make any disturbance—throw wads, whistle, anything?'

'No, sir.'

'And how about the dog?'

'Gip?' He'll keep still. He always minds me.'

'Good. Come with me, then.' The doctor led the way to the gallery, gave Luke a seat commanding a view of the lower floor, and then turned and left him. Absorbed in the splendor of the scene below, Luke was startled by a waiter's setting a loaded tray on a chair beside him.

'Doctor Raime is waiting for his patient,' she said.

While Luke was wondering at her air of directing matters, Doctor Raime appeared at his office door. 'I intend giving Miss Edith a year's experience for each of you. Will you send your mother to see me on Monday at four o'clock? I intend giving Miss Edith a post here, Luke,' he called. 'Put him down there,' he directed, pointing to a velvet hassock. He removed his gloves, took out his watch, and gravely felt the dog's pulse.

'Has Gip slept well?' he asked, solemnly.

Luke stared. 'Ye-yessir, I believe so. I aint sure; he don't ever sleep very sound, he dreams and scrambles round some.'

Doctor Raime removed the splint and examined the joint. 'I think we may dismiss the case,' he said, finally. 'The leg is still a trifle weak, but he won't need a crutch.'

'N-n-no, sir,' Luke assented, simply. He fumbled in his pocket.

'The bill is—let me see—say twenty-five dollars—'

Luke gasped.

'Oh doctor, why will you tease the poor boy?' the young lady interposed.

While Luke was admiring her beautiful hair encircled by a fillet of pearls, he suddenly became aware of a thin, whitish stream pouring downward. Suddenly plump rome soft substance flashed down the white line, and struck the lady's neck. Luke jumped, staring wildly at the plate, tilting on the edge of the rail.

Overwhelmed with shame and remorse he sank back on Gip's ease. The next moment he clutched the dog to his bosom and ran trembling downstairs. The door of the box stood ajar. In a spirit of desperation Luke pushed it wide open

'I done it, Miss Edith. I didn't go to. I never seen ice-cream that was so slippery,'

The tears were streaming down his face. The dog whined and licked his eyes and mouth. With a motion of renunciation he lifted him toward her.

'You take Gip. I spoilt your dress, an' I aint got a quarter to pay you. You take my Gip. He's worth ten dollars. You at Doctor Raime'

Miss Edith assures him that he had not ruined her gown but only startled her a little, and that she wouldn't take Gip from him 'for the world, and after it cooled in a mould.' At last Luke was pacified, and Miss Edith promised to meet him at the doctor's on Saturday.

'For you must know I am almost as much interested in Gip al-

'twenty-five dollars, but we'll call it square. I find this case has taught me a lot about these old boys and—and—young ladies.'

Miss Edith blushed in sudden confusion. Doctor Raime turned his dark eyes sharply on Luke. 'Do you know anything about horses.'

'Yessir. I got throwed by one once.'

'Good! So did Miss Edith. That's equal to a year's experience for each of you. Will you send your mother to see me on Monday at four o'clock? I intend giving Miss Edith a post here, Luke,' he called. 'I'll be very careful boy to groom him. It's a trifle early to be arranging these details, but that needn't matter.

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