sew, and Mam'selle Diane was drilling

Tite Souris had happened to pass

could never speak of the little dancing-

master without loud explosions of laughter. "Oh Lor', Miss Peps, I wish you jes' done seed littl' Mars Gex,

a-stanin' up wid he toes turn out so he look lak he o'ny got one foot, an' he

ap'on roll up un'er he arms, an' he hands jes' so,"—here Tite caught the sides of her scant skirt, displaying two

enormous feet and a pair of thin black legs—"a steppin', an' a hoppin' an' a-whirlin' an' a-smilin' wid he eyes

shet, jes' as if he done got religion, an'

was so happy he doan' know what'er do. An' Miss Lady, wid'er head on

one side, lak a morkin' bird, a holdin' out 'er littl' skirt, an' a steppin', an'

a-prancin', for all de worl' jes' lak Mars Gex, an' a-puttin' 'er han' on 'er

time, w'en 'ers a-stepping' an' a-hop-

pin', an' tote 'er off ter dat dar old

wicked devil, wat 's watchin' fer triflin' chil'ren lak dat, 'cause Deacon Jone

say, der devil 'll git all pussuns wat dance, shore, shore."

"Nonsense, Tite, go away!" cried Pepsie, laughing till the tears came at

over, when she's been repeating her dancing-lesson to me? Have n't you

been standing right up on that floor,

holding out your skirt, and dancing back and forth, and whirling, and

prancing, as much like Mr. Gex as you

possibly could? Have n't you now, Tite? And I'm sure the 'gobble-uns

would take an ugly black thing like

"But I war jes' a-funnin', Miss

Peps.' Dat ole devil know I war jes' a-funnin'; an' he ain't gwine ter tote me off wen I ain't done no harm; 't ain't lak I war in earnest, yer know, Miss Peps.' And with this nice distribution.

Miss Peps.'" And with this nice dis-tinction Tite comforted herself and

seized with a sudden spasm of piety

and took to going to church again. However, she kept at a discreet dis-

that she ought to take Lady Jane to

grow up like a heathen; and, besides, the child dressed in her best had such

an air of distinction that she would add

greatly to the elegant appearance Madame desired to make.

Pepsie had a knack of dressing Lady Jane as Madame never could; so the little girl was sent across the street to

be made beautiful, with flowing glossy

widow's elegant mourning suits, som

choir made a deep and lasting impres

and listen to the music, and afterwards

to tell Pepsie of all she had seen and enjoyed, and to repeat, as far as it was possible with her small, sweet voice, the heavenly strains of the anthems she

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Bring forth therefore fruit worthy of pen-St. John the Baptistin these words, my dear brethren, teaches us, as he taught those who came to him, that penance, if it be true and genuine, must bring forth its proper fruit. Every repentance, if it be sincere, every contession, if it be really good, must be followed by a good life. If any confession is not so followed, it must needs be a delusion; though it should have been actually by torrents of tears, and the Christmas gifts can make a child content of the content of th sins exposed as perfectly as God Himself knows them.

And, moreover, the tree which brings forth the good fruit should continue to bear it; it should not only for a few days or weeks give this proof that it is what it should be, and then have Him who planted it come to seek fruit on it and find none.

Yet how often do we find sinners who come to confession with what would seem to be the best dispositions very seem to be the best dispositions very seem to be fore! How discouraging it is to the priest to find the fruits of a mission which seemed to be so promising reduced down almost to nothing for so many who seemed to profit by it; to spend long hours, to wear away his spend long hours, to wear away his strength, instructing, exhorting, and absolving, and to have so little return from his labor for God and for souls! What is the reason of all this failure

of what began so well? Of course it is partly that the tree planted by the grace of God in the sacrament of pan-ance was not tended afterwards. Its life was not supplied to it, as it should have been, by the frequent renewal of confession and reception of holy Communion. But there was a difficulty further back than that; a want of something at the start, which, indeed. was the reason that the sacrament were not regularly received. What was this difficulty? It was a want of a thorough earnestness; of an understanding of the greatness of the work that was undertaken, and of a real determination to sacrifice everything in

order to accomplish it.

It is a great undertaking which one law is a great undertaking which one among her treasures. commits one's self to in coming to reconcile himself with God after a sinful life. The task is not merely to ex amine his conscience, to tell his sins plainly and without concealment, and to feel heartily sorry for them; that is a great part of it, but by no means all. There is a great deal left, and that is to leave them for good; to quit company with them for ever. And this is not such an easy matter, When one has lived so that his whole pleasure has been in sin, in drunkenness and debauchery, in filthy conversation, in bad actions and bad thoughts, it will perhaps seem almost like giving up life itself to part from them. The penitent sinner has not all at onee become an angel; his whole nature has been warped and twisted out of place by sin, and, though the guilt of the sin has gone, the effects are there; his soul, like a limb out of joint, has much to suffer before it can get set right again.

A man must make up his mind, when he comes to serve God after serving the devil, that he has got an uphill road to travel; if he does not, he will not persevere. Labor and suffering, self-denial and mortification, he has to face these manfully. His consolation, his happiness, as well as his strength, have got to come from God, If one understands this he will seek that hapniness and that strength again where he first found it-in confession and Communion. But if he does not-if he thinks that he will go right now without any more trouble-his old nature and habits will claim their dues, and

he will soon be back in his sins again. Yes, we must cut right down to the root of sin if we wish to bring forth the fruits of penance, and must make up our minds to suffer the pain that this cutting will bring. Occasions of sin must be avoided, appetites must be denied, contempt and ridicule must be faced; we must pray, we must struggle, we must resist even to blood; we must put our former life to death, that Christ may live in us. For, as St Paul tells us: "If we be dead with Him, we shall live also with Him; if we suffer, we shall also reign with

Him." There is no other way. Let us not shrink from this pain and this conflict; that would be the greatest mistake of all. But let us understand it, that when the trial comes, as it surely will, it may not find us unprepared.

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LADY JANE.

CHAPTER XVIII.

LADY JANE'S CHRISTMAS PRESENTS. Christmas came and went; and whatever hopes, desires, or regrets filled the loving little heart of Lady Jane, the child kept them to herself, and was outwardly as bright and cheerful as on other days, although Pepsie, who watched her closely, thought that

reason to complain.

constant instruction had learned to take steps, to mince and hop and pirouette, if not as correctly, as least as gracefully as the ancient Professor The first thing on which her eyes fell when she awoke was her stockings, the slender legs very much swollen and bulged, hanging in Madame's chimney-corner, waiting to be relieved of their undue expansion. Even Raste - the extravagant and impecunious Raste—had remembered her; for a very dressy doll, with a French-gilt bangle encircling its waist (the bangle being intended not for the doll, but for Lady Jane), bore a card on which was inscribed in bold characters, "M. Adraste Jozain," and underneath the name, "A mery Crismus." Adraste was very proud of his English, and as Lady Jane was more grateful than critical it passed muster. Then there was a basket of fruit from Gex, and beside the basket nestled a little yellow duckling which came from Mam'selle Diane, as Lady Jane knew without looking at the tiny old fashioned card attached to it. And, after she had been made happy at home, she still had another pleasure in store, for Pepsie, wishing to witness the pleasure of her little friend, had the Paichoux pres-ents, with her own and Madelon's. beautifully arranged on her table, and carefully covered, until the important moment of unveiling. Every Paich-oux had remembered Lady Jane, and a finer array of picture books, dolls and toys was never spread before a happier child; but the presents which pleased her most were a small music box from Madelon, a tiny silver thimble from Pepsie, and Mam'selle Diane's little These she kept always

"The day I like best," said Pepsie after Lady Jane had exhausted all the adjectives expressive of admiration, "is the jour de l'an, New Year's, as you call it. Then Tante Modeste and the children come and bring bonbons and fireworks, and the street is lighted from one end to the other, and the sky is full of rockets and Roman candles and there is so much noise, and every one is merry—because the New Year

you before they would a little angel At that moment, Tite Souris entered with an expressive grin on her ebony face, and an air of great mystery:

"Here you, chil'runs, I done got yer Crismus; doan' say nufin 'bout it, 'cause 't ain't nufin' much. I ain't got no money ter buy dolls an' sech; so I jes bought yer boaf a 'stage plank.' I

Jes obught yer boat a stage plank. I'l lowed yer might lak a 'stage plank.'' Unfolding a large yellow paper, she laid a huge sheet of coarse black ginger-bread on the table among Lady

Jane's treasures.
"Thank you, Tite," said Lady Jane, eyeing the strange object askance.
"What is it?" "Oh Lor,' Miss Lady, ain't ye neber

Seed a stage plank? It's ter eat.

It's good,—ain't it, Miss Peps?''

'I don't know, Time: I never ate one," replied Pepsie, smiling broadly,
'but I dare say it's good. It's kind of you to think of us, and we'll try it by

and by.' "Dear me!" said Pepsie, after Tite, who was grinning with satisfaction, had left the room. "What shall we do

with it? We can't eat it."
"Perhaps Tony will," exclaimed Lady Jane, eagerly. "He will eat almost anything. He ate all Tante Pauline's shrimps, the other day, and he swallowed two live toads in Mam'selle Diana's garden. Oh he's got a selle Diane's garden. Oh, he's got a dreadful appetite. Tante Pauline says she can't afford to feed him." And she looked anxiously at her greedy pet.
"Well, we'll try him," said Pepsie,

breaking off a piece of the 'stage widow's elegant mourning suits, some-plank 'and throwing it to Tony. The what changed to better suit her age and bird gobbled it down promptly, and position, leading Lady Jane by the then looked for more.

Lady Jane clapped her hands de-lightedly. "Oh, isn't Tony nice to eat it? But we must n't let Tite know, because she'd be sorry that we did n't like it. We'll keep it and give it all to Tony ;" and in this way Tite's "stage " was disposed of.

If Christmas was a merry day to Lady Jane, New Year's was certainly a happy one. The Paichoux children came, as Pepsie said they would, loaded with bonbons and fireworks, and all day the neighborhood was lively with their fun—and such a dinner as they brought with them! Lady Jane thought there never could be anything as pretty as the table in Madelon's little room, loaded, as it was, with all sorts of good things. Tante Modeste went home to dine with her husband, but the children remained until the milk-cart

came for them when it was quite dark. After they were all gone, and quiet was restored to the tiny dwelling, Lady Jane remarked to Pepsie that she thought New Year's was better than

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Lady Jane wondered very much what "Mardi-gras" was, but tried to wait notionals with the world start of the martingly with the world start of the world

ness & Consumption if taken in time.

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wait patiently until that wonderful day should arrive. The time did not gas slowly to her, surrounded as she pass slowly to her, wait patiently until that wonderful

had heard.

IT IS HARD TO BE SAVED.

her in scales — although at times Madame d'Hautreve grumbled and Our Saviour said with a sigh, "Many are called, but few are chosen." We are called, but who can say we are of the quavered about the noise, and declared that the child was too young; for, stretch them all she could, her tiny fingers would not reach an octave. chosen? None know this but God alone. It will not be known whether we are acceptable or not until the last sigh escapes and the last tributary tear has rolled down from the faded eyes And then there were the dancing ssons, which were always a pleasure, and a constant source of amusement in which Pepsie and Tite Souris shared; upon the cold cheek. Alas! poor soul, what a flutter of anxiety will be yours at the last moment. Strange that all this anxiety about the soul's hereafter Pepsie as an enraptured spectator, and Tite Souris by personating Mr. Gex in Lady Jane's frequent rehearsals; and even Tony had caught the spirit of Terpsichore, and under Lady Jane's

is put off to worry the parting moment. "Many are called but few are chosen." These are our Saviour's own words. Is there one of all my readers who will turn white with anxiety and dread at this announcement of the Lord? Not one. All feel a sort of confidence, not in their own worthiness, but in God's mercy, that they will be of the few that are saved. What do the words of our Lord imply? They Gex's little shop one day while Lady Jane was taking her lesson, and from that moment the humorous darkey simply mean that it is hard to be

Our Saviour said also-"I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall render an account for it in the day of judgment." My friends, these are startling words If these words were engrossed upon the sky in large letters men would never tire of reading them. Would that I could say that these were idle words! Why don't the people stop and think? Pause and see where you stand! Have you repented of the countless sins you have committed since you were nine years old? This life is merely a season of probation, given to us to prepare for eternity, whence we shall be removed in a certain number Mars Gex, an' a puttin' 'er han' on 'er bre's', an' a bowin' so 'er yaller har all-a-mos' tech der flo'. Lor', Lor, I done mos' die a larfin'. Such cuttin's up yer nebber did see! It's might' funny, Miss Peps, 'all dis yer dancin' an' acaperin', but I'se scared 'bout Miss Lady wid all dem goin's on. I'm feared der gobleuns 'll ketch 'er sum time, w'en 'ers a-stepping' an' a-hopof days. Then why not prepare? How few prepare! I am startled to think that the greatest number of my acquaintances who died within the year were not prepared. At the moment of death the mind is struck with the absolute worthlessness of the possessions we struggled so hard to secure. Oh, my friends, how few are striving to secure salvation, although it be the real purpose of our creation Why set the heart on things that perish?

It is a startling thought to know that we must change to a spiritual exist-ence at an early day by the pro-cess of death? Who thinks of death? Not one. Who prepares? I her handmaid's droll pantomime. "If what you say is true, where do you think you 'll go to? Have n't you been acting Mr. Gex for Miss Lady, over and know not. Hundreds of old persons here have never thought of prepara-Even their white hair brings no tion. warning Friend, do you know that every

time your heart beats there is a moment gone from your estate forever Time relentlessly stalks on, away away; death takes the same measured step nearer, nearer-you don't get nervous; but if you only knew that the flowers would be growing on your grave in a few months hence, you would turn white. I am shocked at the sudden taking off of my friends, but still more shocked when I know that they are unprepared. They did did not expect to die in 1892. If one had told this to them they would have turned pale, they would have cried out went on her way rejoicing.

About this time Madame Jozain was in an agony of fear. If they had been warned two years ago they would have become saints, because of an extraordinary repentance and a marvellous earnestness and devotion. Good friends, this moment that you read this tance from Father Ducros, who, at the time of the death of the young widow, had asked her some rather searching is an important occasion; either you will put off preparation as usual, or you will commence a course of devo questions, and several times when he met her afterwards remarked that she tion, so earnest, so zealous, so devout, so remarkable, that it will be an ex-

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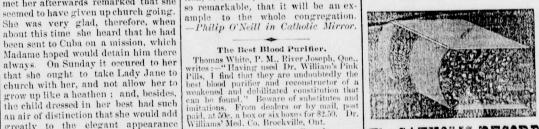
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