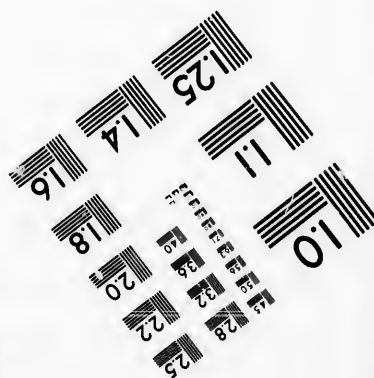
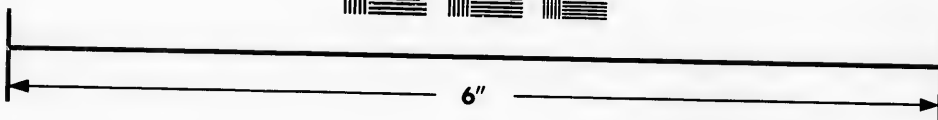
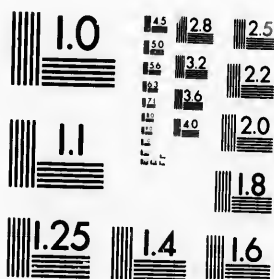


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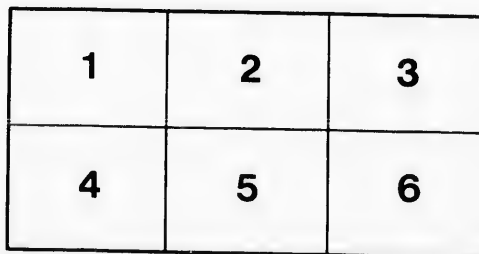
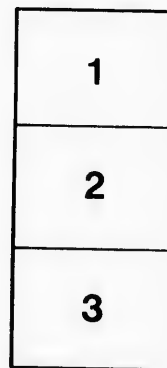
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CHAPTER I.

THE NOCTURNAL VISIT.

... Whence is that knocking?
How is't with me when every sound affrights me?
... I hear a knocking
In the south entry! Hark!—more knocking!
SHAKESPEARE.

Hurricane Hall is a large old family mansion, built of dark, red sandstone, in one of the loneliest and wildest of the mountain regions of Virginia.

The estate is surrounded on three sides by a range of steep, gray rocks, spiked with clumps of dark evergreens, and called, from its horse-shoe form, the Devil's Hoof.

On the fourth side the ground gradually descends in broken rock and barren soil to the edge of the wild mountain stream known as the Devil's Run.

When storms and floods were high, the loud roaring of the wind through the wild mountain gorges, and the terrific raging of the torrent over its rocky course, gave to this savage locality its ill-omened names of Devil's Hoof, Devil's Run, and Hurricane Hall.

Major Ira Warfield, the lonely proprietor of the Hall, was a veteran officer, who, in disgust at what he supposed to be ill-requited services, had retired from public life to spend the evening of his vigorous age on this his hidden mountain estate. Here he lived in seclusion, with his old-fashioned house-keeper, Mrs. Condiment, and his old family servants and his favorite dogs and horses. Here his mornings were usually spent in the chase, in which he excelled, and his afternoons and evenings were occupied in small convivial suppers among his few chosen companions of the chase or the bottle.

In person Major Warfield was tall and strongly built, reminding one of some old iron-limbed Douglas of the olden time. His features were large and harsh; his complexion dark red, as that of one bronzed by long exposure and flushed with strong drink. His hair, dark gray eyes were surrounded by thick, heavy black brows, that, when gathered into a frown, reminded one of a thunder cloud, as the flashing orbs beneath them did of lightning. His hard, harsh face was surrounded by a thick growth of iron-gray hair and beard that met beneath his chin. His usual habit was a black cloth coat, crimson vest, black leather breeches, long black gaiter stockings, fastened at the knees, and morocco slippers with silver buttons.

In character Major Warfield was arrogant,

domineering, and violent—equally loved and feared by his faithful old family servants at home—disliked and dreaded by his neighbors and acquaintances abroad, who, partly from his haughty and domineering habits, and partly from his character, fixed upon him the appropriate nickname of Old Hurricane.

There was, however, other ground of dislike besides that of his arrogant and domineering habits. Old Hurricane was said to be an old bachelor, yet rumor whispered that there was in some obscure part of the world, hidden away from human sight, a deserted wife and child, poor, feeble, and heart-broken. It was further whispered that the elder brother of Ira Warfield had mysteriously disappeared, and not without some suspicion of foul play on the part of the only person in the world who had a strong interest in his "taking off." However these things Hurricane had an only sister, widowed, sick and poor, who with her son dinged on a wretched life of ill-regulated toil, severe privation, and painful infirmity, in a distant city, unaided, unsought and unneared for by her cruel brother.

It was the night of the last day of October, eighteen hundred and forty-five. The evening had closed in dark and gloomy. About dusk the leaden-lured clouds, and in a few minutes the ground was covered deep with snow, and the air was filled with driving sleet.

As this was All Hallow Eve, the dreadful inclemency of the weather did not prevent the negroes of their capricious old master's permission, and going off in a body to a large break-down held in the negro quarters of their next neighbor.

Upon this evening, then, there was left at Hurricane Hall only Major Warfield, Mrs. Condiment, his little old house-keeper, and Wool his body-servant.

Early in the evening the old hall was shut up closely to keep out as much as possible the sound of the storm that roared through the mountain chasms, and canonized the walls of the house as if determined to force an entrance. As soon as she had seen that all was safe, Mrs. Condiment went to bed and went to sleep.

It was about ten o'clock that night, that Old Hurricane, well wrapped up in his well-padded easy chair before a warm and bright fire, taking his comfort in his own most comfortable bedroom. This was the hour of the coziest enjoyment to the self-indulgent old Sybarite, who dearly loved his own

ease. And indeed every means and appliance of bodily comfort was at hand. Strong oaken shutters and thick heavy curtains at the windows kept out every draft of air, and so deadened the sound of the wind that its subdued moaning was just sufficient to remind one of the stormy weather without in contrast to the bright warmth within. Old Hurricane, as I said, sat well wrapped up in his wadded dressing-gown, and reclining in his padded easy chair, with his head thrown back and sipping his punch. On his right hand stood a little table with a lighted candle, a stack of clay pipes, a jug of punch, lemon, sugar, Holland gin, etc., while on the hearth sat a kettle of boiling water to help to replenish the jug if needful.

On his left hand stood his cozy bedstead with its warm crimson curtains festooned back, revealing the luxurious swell of the full feather bed, and pillows with their snow white linen and lamb's-wool blankets inviting repose. Between this bedstead and the corner of the fire-place stood Old Hurricane's ancient holy-servant Wool, engaged in warming a crimson cloth night cap.

"Fools!" muttered Old Hurricane over his punch—"jacks! they'll all get the pleurisy except those that get drunk! Did they all go, Wool?"

"Every man, 'oman and child, sar!—'cept 'is me and conchman, sar."

"More fools they! And I shouldn't wonder if you, you old scoundrel, didn't want to go too!"

"No, Marse—"

"I know better, sar! don't contradict me! Well, as soon as I'm in bed, and that won't be long now, you may go!—so that you get back in time to wait on me to-morrow morning!"

"Thanky, Marse."

"Hold your tongue! You are as big a fool as the rest."

"I take this," said Old Hurricane, as he sipped his punch and smacked his lips—"I take this to be the very quintessence of human enjoyment—sitting here in my soft, warm chair before the fire, loosening my legs, sipping my punch, listening on the one hand to the storm without, and glancing on the other hand at my comfortable bed waiting there to receive my sleepy head. If there is anything better than this in this world, I wish somebody would let me know it."

"It's all werry comfortable indeed, Marse," said the obsequious Wool.

"I wonder now if there is anything on the face of the earth that would tempt me to leave my cozy fireside and go abroad to night? I wonder

how large a promise of pleasure or profit or glory it would take now?"

"Much as either Congress or its' or could give if I give you a penny for all your sorrows," suggested Wool.

"Yes, and more! for I wouldn't leave my home comforts to-night to ensure not only the pension but the thanks of Congress!" said the old man, replenishing his glass with steaming punch, and drinking it off leisurely.

The clock struck eleven. The old man replenished his glass, and while sipping its contents said: "You may fill the warming-pan and warm my bed, Wool. The fumes of this fragrant punch are beginning to rise to my head and make me sleepy."

The servant filled the warming-pan with glowing embers, shut down the lid, and thrust it between the sheets, to warm the couch of the luxurious Old Hurricane. The old man continued to toast his feet, sip his punch, and smack his lips. He finished his glass, set it down, and was just in the act of drawing on his woollen night cap preparatory to stepping into his well-warmed bed, when he was suddenly startled by a loud ringing of the hall door-bell.

"What the foul fiend can that mean at this time of night!" exclaimed Old Hurricane, dropping his night-esp, and turning sharply around towards Wool, who, warming-pan in hand, stood staring with astonishment. "What does that mean, I ask you?"

"Deed, I dunno, sar, less it's some benighted traveller in search of shelter out 'de storm."

"Humph! and in search of supper, too, of course, and every one gone away or gone to bed but you and me!"

At this moment the ringing was followed by a loud knocking.

"Marse, don't less you and me listen to it, and then we ain't 'bliged to sturb ourselves wid answering it," suggested Wool.

"Sdeath, sir! do you think that I am going to turn a deaf ear to a stranger that comes to my house for shelter on such a night as this? Go and answer the bell directly."

"Yes, sar."

"But stop—look here, a traveller—mind I am not to be disturbed. If it is a stranger, ask him in, set refreshments before him, and show him to bed. I'm not going to leave my warm room to welcome anybody to-night, please the Lord. Do you hear?"

"Yes, sar," said the darkey, retreating.

As Wool took a shaded taper and opened the door leading from his master's chamber, the wind was heard howling through the long passages ready to burst into the cozy bedroom.

"Savv the noon, you scoundrel!" roared the old man, folding the skirt of his warm dressing-gown across his knees, and hovering closer to the fire.

Wool quickly obeyed, and was heard retreating down the steps.

"Whew!" said the old man, spreading his hands over the blaze with a look of comfortable appreciation. "What would induce me to go abroad on such a night as this? Wind blowing fast guns from the north-west—snow falling fast from the heavens, and rising just as fast before the wind from the ground—cold as Lapland, dark as Erebus! No telling the earth from the sky. Whew!" and to comfort the cold thought, Old Hurricane poured out another glass of smoking punch, and began to sip it.

"How I thank the Lord that I am not a doctor! If I were a doctor now, the sound of that bell at this hour of night would frighten me, I should think some old woman has been taken with the pleurisy, and wanted me to get up and go out into the storm, to turn out of my warm bed to ride ten miles through the snow to prescribe for her. A doctor never can feel easy, even in the worst of weather, of a good night's rest. But, thank heaven, I am free from all such annoyances, and if I am sure of anything in this wicked world, it is of my comfortable night's sleep," said Old Hurricane, as he sipped his punch, smacked his lips and toasted his feet.

At this moment Wool re-appeared. "Savv zuz noon, you villain! Do you intend to stand there holding it open on me all night?" roared the old man.

Wool hastily closed the offending portals, and hurried to his master's side.

"Well, sir, who was it rung the bell?" "Please, Marster, sir, it wer do Reverend Mr. Parson Goodwin."

"Goodwin! Been to make a sick call, I suppose, and got caught in the snow-storm. I declare it is as bad to be a parson as it is to be a doctor. Thank the Lord, I am not a parson either; if I were now, I might be called away from my cosy arm-chair and fire-side to ride twelve miles to comfort some old man dying of quincy. Wool, here—help me into bed, pile on more comforters, tuck me up warm, put a bottle of hot water to my feet, and then go and attend to the parson," said the old man, getting up and moving towards his inviting couch.

"Sar! sar! stop sar, if you please!" cried Wool, going after him.

"Why, what does the old fool mean," exclaimed Old Hurricane angrily.

"Sar, de Reverend Mr. Parson Goodwin say how he must see you yourself, personable, alone!"

"See me, you villain! Didn't you tell him that I had retired?"

"Yes, Marster, I tell him how you wer' gone to bed and asleep morn'n an hour ago, and he ordered me to come wake you up, and say how it were a matter o' life and death!"

"Life and death? What have I to do with life and death? I won't stir! If the parson wants to see me, he will have to come up here and see me in bed," declared Old Hurricane, sulking the notion to the word, by jumping into bed and drawing all the comforts and blankets up around his head and shoulders.

"Mus' I fetch his reverence up, sar?" "Yes, I wouldn't get up and go down to see—Westington—Savv zuz noon, you rascal, or I'll throw the boot-jack at your wooden head!"

Wool obeyed with alacrity, and in time to escape the threatened missile.

After an absence of a few minutes he was heard returning, attending upon the footsteps of another. And the next minute he entered, ushering in the Rev. Mr. Goodwin, the parish minister of Bethlehem, St. Mary's.

"How do you do? How do you do? Glad to see you, sir! glad to see you, though obliged to receive you in bed! Fast is, I caught a cold with this severe change of weather, and I took a warm exogus and went to bed to sweat it off! You'll exogus me? Wool, draw that easy chair up to my bedside for wrthy Mr. Goodwin, and bring him a glass of warm negus! It will do him good after his cold rid!"

"I thank you, Major Warfield! I will take the seat, but not the negus, if you please, to-night."

"Not the negus! Oh, come now, you are joking! Why, if it will keep you from catching cold, and be a most comfortable night-esp, disposing you to sleep and sweat like a baby! Of course you spend the night with us?"

"I thank you, no. I must take the road again in a few minutes."

"Take the road again to-night! Why, men alive, it is midnight, and the snow driving like all Lapland!"

"Sir, I am sorry to refuse your proffered hospitality, and leave your comfortable roof to-night, and sorrier still to have to take you with me," said the pastor, gravely.

"Take me with you! No, no, my good sir—no, no, that is too good a joke—ha! ha!"

"Sir, I fear that you will find it a very serious one!—Your servant told you that my errand was one of imminent urgency?"

"Yes, something like life and death—"

"Exactly—down in the cabin near the Punch Bowl, there is an old woman dying—"

"There—I knew it! I was just saying there might be an old woman dying! But, my dear sir, what's that to me? What can I do?"

"Humanity, sir, would prompt you!"

"But, my dear sir, how can I help her? I am not a physician to prescribe—"

"She has for need a physician's help!"

"Nor am I priest to hear her confession—"

"Her confession God has already received."

"Well, and I'm not a lawyer to draw up her will!"

"No, sir; but you are recently appointed one of the justices of the Peace for Alleghany?"

"What, for well, what of that? That does not comprise the duty of getting up out of my warm bed and going through a snow-storm to see an old woman expire."

"I regret to inconvenience you, sir; but in this instance your duty demands your attendance at the bedside of this dying woman—"

"I tell you I can't go, and I won't! Anything in reason, I'll do! Anything I can send, she shall have!—Here! Wool, look in my breeches pocket and take out my purse and hand it to me! And then go and wake up Mrs. Condit, and ask her to fill a large basket full of everything a poor old dying woman might want, and you shall carry it!"

"Spur your palms, sir! The poor woman is already past all earthly, selfish wants! She only asks your presence at her dying bed."

"But I can't go! If the idea of turning out of my warm bed and exposing myself to a snowstorm this time of night!"

"Excuse me for insisting, sir; but this is an official duty," said the parson, mildly but firmly.

"I'll—I'll throw up my commission to-morrow!" growled the old man.

"To-morrow you may do that! But meanwhile, to-night, being still in the commission of the peace, you are bound to get up and go with me to this woman's bedside."

"And what the demon is wanted of me there?"

"To receive a dying deposition! Good Heaven! was she murdered, then?" exclaimed the old man, in alarm, as he started out of bed and began to draw on his netter garments.

"Be composed—she was not murdered!" said the pastor.

"Well, then, what is it? Dying deposition! It must concern a crime!" exclaimed the old man, hastily drawing on his coat.

"It does concern a crime."

"What crime, for the love of Heaven?"

"I am not at liberty to tell you. She will do that."

"Wool, go down and rouse up Jehu, and tell him to put Parson Goodwin's mule in the stable for the night. And tell him to put the black draught-horses to the close carriage, and light both the front lanterns—for we shall have a dark, stormy road—Savv the noon, you infernal!"

I beg your pardon, parson, but that villain always leaves the door ajar after him."

The good pastor bowed gravely. And the major completed his toilet by the time the servant returned and reported the carriage ready.

It was dark as pitch, when they emerged from the hall-door out into the front portico, before which nothing could be seen but two red balls, the eyes of the carriage lanterns, and nothing heard but the dissatisfied whinnying and pawing of the horses.

CHAPTER II.

THE MARKS.

"What are these? So withered and so wild in their attire That look not like the inhabitants of earth And yet are men?" Macbeth.

"To the Devil's Punch Bowl!" was the order given by Old Hurricane as he followed the minister into the carriage. "And now, sir be content addressing his companion, "I think you had better represent that part of the church litany that prays to be delivered from 'battle, murder, and sudden death'; for if we should be so lucky as to escape Black Donald and his gang, we shall have at least an exposure of being upset in the darkness of these dreadful mountains."

"A pair of saddle-mules would have been a safer conveyance, certainly," said the minister.

Old Hurricane knew that, but though a great sensualist, he was a brave man, and so he had rather risk his life in a close carriage than suffer cold upon a sure-footed mule's back.

Only by previous knowledge of the route could any one have told the way the carriage went. Old Hurricane and the minister both knew that they drove, lumbering, over the rough road leading by serpentine windings down that rugged fall of ground to the left by a short bend, and that their turning ground to the left by a short bend, they passed in behind that range of horse-shoe rocks that sheltered Hurricane Hall—thus, as it were, doubling their own road. Beneath that range of rocks, and between it and another range, there was an awful abyss or chasm of cleft, torn and jagged rocks opening as it were from the bowels of the earth,

In the of wh see the seeme This Punct Not an lun negro, fortun Bowl. Hut— Hat's travell bearing through wind a to the The opened annual tall for tall for the str The We the parate The miser low bed, feet, and "How for you who in utterly "You woman, "Yes, "And your dep "Will of law? "To the Cr I "Cer after, to sooth "Senc "Wha the stor just as w "No! const "But—of "Thes tion!" "My d to the m retire?" "Her said Hat "Now, be put up "Yes, "A minia ural for "Now the whol know. I "It is "For "Nor recoll authority woman, her visit to her a ser her a ser "Lor it can't midwa or thirtee "Yes, a nurse, wh some a ser "Heavy was it y breast of in doing law now! "I kno

In the shape of a mammoth bowl, in the bottom of which, almost invisible from its great depth, settled and hotted a mass of dark water of which seemed to be a lost river or a subterranean spring. This terrific phenomenon was called the Devil's Punch Bowl.

Not far from the brink of this awful abyss, and close behind the horse-shoe range of rocks, stood a humble log cabin, occupied by an old free negro, who picked up a scanty living by telling fortunes and showing the way to the Punch Bowl. Her cabin went by name of the Witch's Hut—or Old Hat's cabin. A short distance from the cabin the road became impassable, and the travellers got out, and proceeded by the coachman bearing the lantern, struggled along on foot through the drifted snow and against the howling wind and sleet to where a faint light guided them to the house.

The pastor knocked. The door was immediately opened by a negro, whose sex from the strange anomalous costume it was difficult to guess. The tall form was rigged out first in a long, red, cloth petticoat, above which was buttoned a blue cloth apron. A man's old black beaver hat sat upon the strange head and completed this odd attire. "Well, Hat, how is your patient?" inquired the pastor. "He is recovered, preceding the magistrate."

"You will see, sir," replied the old woman. The two visitors looked round the dimly-lighted miserable room, in one corner of which stood a low bed, upon which lay extended the form of an old, feeble and gray-haired woman.

"How are you my poor soul, and what can I do for you now I am here?" inquired Old Hurricane, who in the actual presence of suffering was not utterly without pity.

"You are a magistrate?" inquired the dying woman.

"Yes, my poor soul."

"And qualified to administer an oath and take your deposition," said the minister.

"Will it be legal—will it be evidence in a court of law?" asked the woman, lifting her dim eyes to the major.

"Certainly, my poor soul certainly," said the latter, who, by the way, would have said anything to soothe her.

"Send every one but yourself from the room." "What, my good soul, send the parson out in the storm? That will never do! Won't it be just as well to let him go up in the corner yonder."

"No! You will repent it unless this communication is strictly private."

"But—my good soul, if it is to be used in a court of law?"

"That will be according to your own discretion."

"My dear parson," said Old Hurricane, going to the minister, "would you be so good as to retire?"

"There is a fire in the woodshed master," said Hat, leading the way.

"Now, my good soul, now! You want first to be put upon your oath?"

"Yes, sir."

"The old man drew from his great coat pocket a miniature copy of the Scriptures, and with the usual formalities administered the oath."

"Now then, my good soul, begin—the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth," you know. But first, your name?"

"Is it possible you don't know me, master?"

"Not I, in faith!"

"For the love of Heaven, look at me and try to recollect me sir! It is necessary some one in authority should be able to know me," said the woman, raising her haggard eyes to the face of her visitor.

The old man adjusted his spectacles and gave her a scrutinizing look, exclaiming at intervals: "Lord bless your soul! Is it aint it! Is it aint it! It can't be! Granny Grewel, she—the—she—midwife that disappeared from here some twelve or thirteen years ago!"

"Yes, master, I am Nancy Grewel, the ladies' nurse, who vanished from sight so mysteriously some thirteen years ago?" replied the woman.

"Heaven help our hearts!" replied the woman. "Is it you that have come back? And for what crime was it you ran away? Come—make us a clean breast of it, woman. You have nothing to fear in doing so, for you are past the arm of earthly law now!"

"I know it, master."

"And the best way to prepare to meet the Divine Judge is to make all the reparation that you can by a full confession!"

"I know it, sir,—if I had committed a crime; but I have committed no crime, neither did I run away!"

"What? what? what?—What was it then? Remember, witness, you are on your oath!"

"I know that, sir, and I will tell the truth; but it must be in my own way."

At this moment a violent blast of wind and rain against the walls, striking the witch's hut, as if it would have shaken it about their ears.

It was a proper overture to the tale that was about to be told. Conversation was impossible until the storm raved past and was heard dying in deep, reverberating echoes from the depths of the Devil's Punch Bowl.

"It is some thirteen years ago," began Granny Grewel, "upon just such a night of storm as this, that I was mounted on my old mule Molly, with my saddle-bags full of dried yams, and stilled waters and such, as I allus carried when I was out to see a lady or a gentleman. I was on my way a-going to see a lady."

"Well, master! I'm sent for to bed. I never was afraid of man, beast, nor spirit, and I never stopped at going out all hours of the night, through the most lonesome roads, if so be I was called upon so to do! Still I must say that just in that thick, lonesome woods at that dark, deep, hidden House in the hollow, I did feel queerish; 'cuss it was the dead hour of the night, and it was said how strange things were seen and heard, and I did not do one, in that dark, deep, lonesome place, I seen how even my mule Molly felt queer too, by the way she snuck up her ears, stiff as quills. So, partly to keep up my own spirits, and partly to 'courage her, says I, 'Molly,' says I, 'what are ye scared on?' Be a man, Molly! But Molly stepped out cautious, and pricked up her long ears all the same."

"Well, master, it was so dark I couldn't see a yard past Molly's ears, and the path was so narrow and the bushes so thick we would hardly get along! but just as we came to that little creek as they calls the Spout, cause the water jumps and jets along till it crotches into the Punch Bowl, and just as Molly was cautiously putting her forehead into the water, out starts two men from the bushes and seize poor Molly's bridle."

"Good heaven!" exclaimed Major Warfield.

"Well, master, before I could cry out one of them willains seized me by the scruff of my neck, and with his other hand upon my mouth, he says: 'Be silent, you old fool, or I'll blow your brains out!'"

"And then, master, I saw for the first time that their faces were covered over with black crepe. I couldn't a-scream if they'd laid me for my breath was gone and my senses were going along with 'em from the fear that was on me."

"Don't struggle; come along quietly and you shall not be hurt," says the man as had spoke before.

"Struggle! I couldn't a-struggled to a-saved my soul! I couldn't speak! I couldn't breathe! I liked to have a-dropped right offen Molly's back. One on 'em says, says he: 'Give her some brandy!'"

"And 'tother takes out a flask and puts it to my lips and says, says he: 'Here, drink this!'"

"Well, master, as he had me still by the scruff of the neck I couldn't do no other ways but open my mouth and drink it. And as soon as I took a swallow my breath come back and my speech."

"And oh, gentlemen," says I, 'of it's 'your money or your life,' you mean, I haint it about me! I need 'clare to the Lord-a-mighty I haint it! I was wrapped in an old cotton glove in a hole in the walling in the chimney-corner at home, and of you'll spare my life, you can go there and get it!'"

"My old blackhead," says they, 'we want neither one nor 'tother! Come along quietly and you shall receive no harm; But at the first cry, or attempt to escape—this shall stop you! And will that the willain held the muzzle of a pistol so high to my nose that I smelt brimstone, while they all bound a silk hankercher round my eyes, and then took poor Molly's bridle and led her along. I couldn't see, in course, and I das-

sint breathe for fear of the pistol. But I said my prayers to myself all the time."

"Well, master, they led the mule on down the path until we come to a place wide enough to turn, when they turned us round and led us back onto the road, and then round it and round and up and down, and cross ways and length ways, as if they didn't want me to find where they were taking me."

"Well, sir, when they'd walked about in this 'fused way, leading of the mule about a mile, I knowed we was in the woods again—the very same woods and the very same path—I knowed by the feel of the place and the sound of the bushes as we hit up against them each side, and also by the rumbling of the Spout as it tumbled along toward the Punch Bowl. We went down, and down and down, and lower and lower and lower, until we got right down in the bottom of that hollow."

"Then we stopped. A gate was opened. I pnt up my hand to raise the hankerchief and see where I was; but just at that minute I felt the muzzle of the pistol like a ring of ice right agin' my right temple, and the willain grinning into my ear: 'If you do—!'"

"But I didn't—I dropped my hand down as if I had been shot, and afore I had seen anything, either. So we went through a gate and up a gravelly walk—I know it by the crackling of the gravel under Molly's feet—and stopped at a horse-block where one of them willains lifted me off. I put up my hand again. 'Do if you dare,' says 'tother one, with the muzzle of the pistol at my head."

"I dropped my hand like lead. So they led me on a little way, and then up more steps. I counted them to myself as I went along. They were six. You see, master, I took all this pains to know the house again. Then they opened a door that opened in the middle. Then they went along a passage and up more stairs—there was ten and a turn, and then ten more. Then along was another passage, and up another flight of stairs just like the first. Then along another passage and up a third flight of stairs. They was silk-crepe. Well, sir, here we was at the top of the house. One of them willains opened a door on the left side, and 'tother said: 'There—go in and do your duty!' and pushed me through the door, and shut and locked it on me. Good gracious, sir, how scared I was! I slipped off the silk hankercher, and 'Vanced as I was, didn't forget to put it in my bosom."

"Then I looked about me. Right afore me on the hearth was a weny taper burning, that showed I was in a great big garret with sloping walls. At one end two deep dormer windows, and a black walnut bureau standing between them. At 'tother end a great tetter bedstead with dark curtains. There was a dark carpet on the floor. And with all there were so many dark objects and so many shadows, and the little taper burned so dimly that I could hardly tell 'tother from which, or keep from breaking my nose against things as I groped about."

"And what was in this room for to do? I couldn't even form an idee. But presently my black raven foot to hear a groan from behind the curtains I then another! and another! then a cry as of some child in mortal agony, saying: 'For the Love of Heaven, save me!'"

"I ran to the bed and dropped the curtains, and liked to have fainted at what I saw!"

"And what did you see?" asked the magistrate.

"Master, behind those dark curtains I saw a young creature toasting about on the bed, flinging her fair and beautiful arms about, and tearing wildly at the fine lace that framed her night-dress. But master, that wasn't what I almost made me faint—it was that her right hand was seved up in black crepe, and her whole face and head completely covered with black crepe, drawn down ana fastened securely around her throat, leaving only a small slit at the lips and nose to breathe through!"

"What! that creature, woman! remember that you are upon your oath!" said the magistrate.

"I know it, master! And as I hope to be forgiven, I am telling the truth!"

"Do on, then."

"Well, sir, s'lo was a young creature, scarcely past childhood, if one might judge by her small size and soft, rosy skin. I asked her to let me take that black crepe from her face and head, but she threw up her hands and exclaimed:

"Oh, no, no, no! for my life no!"
 "Well, master, I hardly know how to tell you what followed," said the old woman, hesitating in embarrassment.

"Go right straight on like a crew of Jaggerhaut, woman!"

"Remember—the whole truth!"
 "Well, master in the next two hours there were twins born in that room—a boy and a girl; the boy was dead, the girl living. And all the time I heard the measured tramping of one of them willius up and down the passage outside of that room. Presently the steps stopped, and there was a rap at the door. I went and listened, but did not open it."

"Is it all over?" the voice asked.
 "Before I could answer, a cry from the bed caused me to look round. There was the poor masked mother stretching out her white arms towards me in the most imploring way. I hastened back to her."

"Tell him—no—no," she said.
 "Have you got through?" asked the man at the door, rapping impatiently.

"No, no," said I as directed.
 "He resumed his tramping up and down, and I went back to my patient. She beckoned me to come close, and whispered—"

"Save my child! the living one. I mean! Hide her! Oh hide her from him! When he demands the babe, give him the poor little dead one—he cannot but that! And he will not know there was another. Oh I hide and save my child!"

"Master, I was used to queer doings, but this was a little the queerest. But if I was to conceal that second child in order to save it, it was necessary to stop its mouth, for it was squealing like a wild cat. So I took a vial of paregoric from my pocket and gave it a drop, and it went off to sleep like an angel. I wrapped it up warm and lay it along with my shawl and bundle in a dark corner. Just then the man rapped again."

"Come in, master," said I.
 "No bring me the babe," he said.

"I took up the dead infant. My mother kissed its brow, and dropped tears upon its little cold face. And I carried it to the man outside."

"Is it asleep?" the willain asked me.
 "Yes, master," said I, as I put it, well wrapped up, in his arms—"very sound asleep."

"So much the better," said the knave walking away.

"I bolted the door and went back to my patient. With her free hand she seized mine and pressed it to her lips, and then held up her left hand and pointed to the wedding ring upon her third finger."

"Draw it off and keep it," concealed the child under your shawl, and take her with you when you go save her, and your fortune shall be made."

"I declare, master, I hadn't time to think, before I heard one of them wretches rap at the door."
 "Come? get ready to go," he said.

"She also beckoned me. I hastened to her. With eager whisperings and imploring gestures she prayed me to take her ring and save her child."
 "But you," said I—"who is to attend to you?"

"I do not know or care! Save her!"
 "The rapping continued. I ran to the corner where I had left my things. I put on my bonnet, made a sort of sling around my neck of the silk handkerchief, opened the large part of it like a hammock and laid the little sleeping babe there. Then I folded my big shawl around my breast, and nobody any the wiser. The rapping was very impatient."

"I am coming," said I.
 "Remember!" whispered the poor girl.

"I will," said I, and went and opened the door. There stood the other willain, with his head covered with black caps. I dreamt of nothing but black-headed demons for six months afterwards."

"Are you ready?" says he.
 "Yes, your worship," says I.

"Come along, then."
 "And a bad-acting another silk handkerchief round my eyes, he led me along."

"Instead of my mule, a carriage stood near the horse-block."

"Get in," said he, holding the pistol to my ears by way of argument.

"I got in. He jumped up upon the driver's seat and we drove like the wind. In another direction from that in which we come, in course, for there was no carriage road there. The carriage

whirled along at such a rate it made me quite giddy. At last it stopped again. The man in the mask got down and opened the door.

"Where are you taking me?" says I.
 "Be quiet," says he, "or—" And with that he put the pistol to my cheek, ordered me to get out, take the baggage from my eyes, and walk before him. I did so, and was dully that we were in a part of the country that I was never at before. We were in a dark road through a thick forest. On the left side of the road in a clearing stood an old house; a dim light was burning in a lower window."

"Go on in there," said the willain, putting the pistol to the back of my head. As the door stood ajar, I went in, to a narrow dark passage, the man all the time at my back. He opened a door on the left side, and made me go into a dark room. Just then the unfortunate child that had been moving restlessly began to wail. Well it might poor, starved thing."

"What's that?" says the interloper, under his breath, and stopping short.

"It ain't nothing, sir," says I and 'hush-h-h' to the baby. But the poor little wretch raised a squall."

"What is the meaning of this?" says he.
 "Where did that child come from? Why the demon don't you speak?" And with that he seized me again by the scruff of the neck, and shook me.

"Oh, master! for the love of heaven, don't," says I, "this is only a poor unfortunate infant as his parents wanted to get outen the way, and send me to take care on. And I have had it wrapped up under my shawl all the time 'scent when I was in your house, when I put it to sleep in the corner."

"Haumph—and you had that child concealed under your shawl when I first stopped you in the woods?"

"In course, master," says I.
 "Whose is it?"

"Master," says I, "it's—it's a dead sceler!" for I hadn't another lie ready."

"He broke out into a rude, scornful laugh, and seemed not half to believe me, and yet not to care about questioning me too closely. His made me sit down then in the dark, and went out and turned the key on me. I wet my finger with the paregoric, and put it to the baby's lips to quiet its pains of hunger. Then I heard a whispering in the next room. Now, my eyesight never was good, but to make up for it I believe I had the sharpest ears that ever was, and could not think anybody could be heard that whispering but me. I saw a little glimmer of light through the cracks that showed me where the door was, so I crept up to it, and put my ear to the keyhole. Still they whispered so low that no ears could've heard them but my sharp ears. The first words I heard good, was a grumbling voice asking—

"How odd?"

"Fifty—more or less, but strong, active, a good nurse, and a very light mlatto," says my willain's voice.

"Hum—too odd," says the other.
 "But I will throw the child in."

"A low, crackling laugh the only answer.
 "You mean that would be only a bother."

"You mean that would be the same of them," said my willain, "so name the price you are willing to give."

"Cap'n, you and me have had too many transactions together to make any flummery about this. You want to get shot of them pair, I ain't no objections to turning an honest penny. So just make out the papers—bill of sale of the 'jest man Kate, or whatsoever her name may be, and the child, with any price you please, so it is only a make-believe price! and I'll engage to take her away, and make the most I can of them in the South—that won't be much, seeing it's only an old woman and child—scarcely a fair profit on the expense 'o takin' 'er out. Now, as money's no object to you, Cap'n—"

"Very well, have your own way, only don't let that woman escape and return, for if you do—"

"I understand, Cap'n; but I reckon you needn't threaten, for if you could how else—why I would return you the same favour," said the other, raising his voice and laughing aloud.

"Be quiet, fool, or come away faster here. And the two willains moved out of over my hearing."

"I should a' been uneasy, master, if it hadn't been the 'oman they were talking about was named Kate, and that wasn't my name, which were well known to be Nancy."

"Presently I heard the carriage drive away. And almost immediately after the door was unlocked, and a great, big, black-bearded and black-headed beast of a ruffian came in, and says he:

"Well, my woman, have you had any supper?"

"No," said I, "I hadn't, and I'd like to stay here any length of time, I'd be obliged to you to let me have some hot water and milk to make pap for this perishing baby."

"Follow me," says he.
 "And he took me into the kitchen at the back of the house, where there was a fire in the fireplace, and a cupboard with all that I needed. Well, sir, not to tire you, I made a nursing bottle for the baby, and fed it. And then I got something for my own supper, or rather, breakfast, for it was now near the dawn of day. Well, sir, I thought I would try to get out and look about myself to see what the neighbourhood looked like by daylight; but when I tried the door, I found myself locked up, a close prisoner. I looked out of the window, and saw nothing but a little black yard, closed in by the woods. I tried to raise the sash, but it was nailed down. The black-headed monster came in just about that minute, and seeing what I was a-doing of, says he:

"Stop that!"

"What am I stopped here for?" says I; "a free 'oman' says I, 'a'vented of going about her own business?" says I.

"But he only laughed a loud, crackling, scornful laugh, and went out, turning the key after him."

"A little after sunrise, an old, dried-up, pitiful looking hag of a woman came in, and began to get breakfast."

"What am I kept here for?" says I to her.
 "But she took no notice at all; nor could I get so much as a single word outen her. In fact, master, the little 'oman was deaf and dumb."

"Well, sir, to be short, I was kept in that place all day long, and when night came I was driven into a slay at the point of the pistol, and rattled along as fast as the horses could gallop over a road as I knew nothing of. We changed horses waked or twiced, and just about the dawn of day we came to a broad river with a vessel lying to, not far from the shore."

"As soon as the slay drew down on the sands, the willain a' had run away with me puts a pipe to his villainous mouth, and blows like mad. Somebody else blowed back from the vessel. Then a boat was put off and rowed ashore. I was forced to get into it, and was followed by my willain. We was rowed to the vessel, and I was drawn up the ladder on to the deck. And there, master, right after my own locking eyes, me and the baby was traded off to the captain! It was no use for me to 'splain or 'sposulate! I wasn't 'bleved. The willain as had stole me got back into the boat and went ashore. It was no use for me to howl and cry, though I did both, for I couldn't even hear myself for the swearing of the captain and the noise of the crew, as they was a gettin' of the vessel under way. Well, sir, we sailed down that river and out to sea."

"Now, sir, come to a strange province, which the very thoughts of it might convert a heathen! We had been to sea about five days when a dreadful storm riz. Oh, master! the ink blackness of the sky, the roaring of the wind, the raging of the sea, the leaping of the waves, and the rocking of that vessel—and every one in a whirl—see at ship all afloat with the blinding lightness of a thing to see, not to hear tell of! I tell you, master, that looked like the wrath of God! And then the cursing and swearing and howling of the captain and the crew, as they were a-takin' in of sail, was enough to raise one's hair on their head! I hugged the baby to my breast—and went to praying as hard as ever I could pray."

"Presently I felt an awful shock, as if heaven and earth had come together, and then everybody screaming, 'She's struck! She's struck!' I felt the vessel trembling like a live creature, and the water a pouring in everywhere. I hugged the babe and scrambled up the companion way to the deck. It was pitch dark, and I heard every man rushing towards one side of the vessel."

"A bright looking to save clear in themselves, crying out, and so crowd in and a builded. But, to save the boat, he was a better a off as ever. Higher a perishes. "Man that was the way he had done. The wretches were every would be firm on. "Day rise we could be vicious and pick the baby. "I w derstand could do to us, and made us and out bert. Grou were bot in about. "Whe the offic bundle of and put city, so turn. "U of being boy came, the cook and the other M'gwin to I should only go a little b the people about h to take o vent's ph "Well, with telling along in vault, and in washing struggled time to get this night pose I lie up moment fool enoying made it and other b would venture u "So of Groyson, slight me Cap. "Cap, reason I g I had dr were the "Well, son came with what passage to I f it of the boat. "In w

CHAPTER III.

THE QUEST.

Then did Sir Knight abandon dwelling,
And out be roe.

HURRICANE.

Pursuant to the orders of Major Warfield, the corpse of the old midwife was the next day after her decease brought over and quietly interred in the family graveyard of Hurricane Hall.

And then Major Warfield attended his household by giving orders to his housekeeper and his body-servant to prepare his wardrobe and pack his trunks for a long journey to the north.

"What can the Major be thinking of, to be set, exclaimed good little Mrs. Conditum, as she picked over her employer's shirts, selecting the newest and warmest to be done-up for the occasion.

"Lord A'mighty only knows; but 'pears to me master's never been right in his head-piece since I'llow eve night, when he took that ride to the Wield's Hut," replied Wool, who, with brush and sponge, was engaged in rejuvenating his master's outer-garments.

But let his family wonder as they would, Old Hurricane kept his own counsel—only just as he was going away, last evening, sought leave to investigate, and that to-day's investigation had not only been going north to invest capital in bank-stock, and so, quite unattended, he departed.

His servant, Wool, indeed, accompanied him as far as Tip-top, the little hamlet on the mountain at which he was to meet the eastern stage; but there, having seen his master comfortably deposited in the inside of the coach, and the baggage safely stowed in the boot, Wool was ordered to return with the sarrage. And Major Warfield proceeded on his journey alone. This also caused much speculation in the family.

"Who's going to make his punch and warm his bed and put his slippers on the hearth and hang his gown to be fire—that's what I want to know!" cried the indignant Wool.

"Oh, the waiters at the tavern where he stops can do that for him," said Mrs. Conditum.

"No, they can't, neither they don't know his ways! they don't know nuffin' 'bout him" / 'dare, I think our ole masse done gone off to do norf to get married, and was to bring home a young wife we'den't do!"

"Tut! tut! tut! such talk—that will never do!" exclaimed the deeply-shocked Mrs. Conditum.

"Werry well all / says a, 'Dom as like longest will see most!" said Wool, shaking his long white head. After which unobjectionable apothegm the conversation came to a stand.

Meanwhile, Old Hurricane pursued his journey—a lumbering, old-fashioned stage-coach ride—across the mountains, creeping a snail's crawl up one side of the precipice and clattering thunderously down the other at a headlong speed that pitched the back-seat passengers into the bosoms of the front ones, and threatened even to east the coach over the heads of the horses. Three days and nights of such rough riding brought the traveller to Washington City, where he rested one night, and then took the cars for New York. He rested another night in Philadelphia, resumed his journey by the first train in the morning, and reached New York about noon.

He crossed the noise, the hurry and confusion at the wharf almost drove this irascible old gentleman mad!

"No' confound you!"

"I'll see your neck stretched first, you villain!"

"Out of my way or I'll break your head, sirrah!" were some of his responses to the solicitous attentions of cabmen and porters. At length, taking up his heavy carpet-bag in both hands, Old Hurricane came began to lay about him, with such effect that he speedily cleared a passage for himself through the crowd. Then addressing a coachman who had not offended, by speaking first, he said:

"Here, sir! Here are my checks! Go get my luggage and take it to the Astor House. Hand the cork this cart, and tell him I want a good, room well warmed. I shall take a walk around the city before going. And hark ye! If one of my trunks is missing, I'll have you hanged, you rogue!"

"A flash of lightning, that made everything as bright as day again, showed me that they were a taking to the boat. I rushed after, calling to them to save me and the baby. But no one seemed to hear me; they were all too busy trying to save themselves and keep others out of the boat, and I cursing and swearing and hollering that there was no more room, that the boat would be swamped, and so on. This, and was, that, all who could crowd into the boat did so. And me and the baby and a poor sailor and the black cook were left behind to perish.

But, master, as it turned out, we as was left to try were the only ones saved. We watched after the boat with longing eyes, though we could only see it when the lightning flashed. And every time we saw it, it was further off. At last, master, a flash of lightning showed us the boat as far as ever we could see her, capped on it heather litter and either by the wind waves—its crew had perished.

"Master, as soon as the sea had swallowed up that wicked captain and crew, the wind died away, the waves fell, and the storm lulled—just as if it had done what it was sent to do and was satisfied. The wreck—where we poor forlorn ones stood—the wreck that had struck and trembled with every wave that struck it—and I had feared it would break up every minute, heave—still and firm on its sand-bar, as a house on dry land.

"Daylight came at last. And a little after sunrise we saw a sail bearing down upon us. We could not signal the sail, but by the mercy of Providence, she saw us and lay to, and sent a boat, and poked us up and took us on board—me and the baby, and the cook and the sailor lad.

"It was a foreign vessel, and we could not understand a word they said, nor they us. All we could do was by signs. But they were very good to us, dried our clothes and gave us breakfast, and made us lie down and rest. And then put about and continued their course. The sailor lad—Herbert Greyson—soon found out and told me they were bound for New York. As d, in fact, master, in about ten days we made that port.

"When the ship anchored below the Battery, the officers and passengers made me up a little bundle of clothes, and a little parcel of money, and put me ashore, and there I was in a strange city, so bewildered I didn't know which way to turn. While I was a-standing there, in danger of being run over by the omnibuses, the sailor-boy came to my side and told me that he and the cook was going to engage on board of another Morian vessel, and used me what I was going to do. I told him how I didn't know what I should do. Then he said he'd show me where I could go and stay all night, and so he took me into a little by-street to a poor-looking house, where the people took lodgers, and there he left me to go about his ship. As he went away he advised me to take care of my money, and try to get a servant's place.

"Well, master, I aint a gwino to bother you with telling you of how I toiled and struggled along in that great city—first living out as a servant, and afterwards renting a room and taking in washing and ironing—no! how I toiled and struggled—for ten—long—years, hoping for the time to come when I should be able to return to this neighborhood, where I was known, and escape the evil deeds of them wilkins. And for this cause I lived on toiling and struggling, and laying food enough to tell my story in the hopes of getting pity and help—but telling my story always made it worse for me! some thought me crazy and others thought me deceitful, which is not to be wondered at, for I was a stranger, and my adventures were indeed beyond belief.

"No one ever helped me but the lad, Herbert Greyson. Whoever he came from, he sought me out, and made a little present to me or Cap.

"Cap, master, was Capitola, the child. The reason I gave that name was because on that night I had drawn from the masked mother's hand the two names—Eugene—Capitola.

"Well, master, the last time Herbert Greyson came home, he gave me five dollars, and that, with what I had saved, was enough to pay my passage to Norfolk.

"I'll let my little Cap in the care of the people of the house—she was big enough to pay for her keep in work—and I took passage for Norfolk.

When I got there I fell ill, spent all my money, and was at last taken to the poor house. Six months passed away before I was discharged, money enough to pay my way on here.

"I reached here three days ago, and found a wheat field growing where my cottage first stood; I burnt, and all my old enemies dead, all except old Hat, who has received and given me shelter. Sure, my story is done—make what you can of it!" and the lawful, sinking down in her bed as if utterly exhausted.

Old Hurricane, whose countenance had expressed emotions as powerful as they were various while listening to this tale, now arose, stepped cautiously to the door, drew the bolt, and coming back, bowed his head and asked:

"What more of the child?"

"Cap, sir? I have not heard a word of Cap since I left her to try to find out her friends. But any one interested in her might inquire for her at Mrs. Simmon's, landress, No. 8 'Log Alley."

"You say the names upon that ring were—Eugene—Capitola?"

"Yes, sir, they were."

"Have you that ring about you?"

"No, master. I thought it was best in case of accidents to leave it with the child."

"I have you told her any part of this strange story?"

"No, master, nor hinted it; she was too young for such a confidence."

"You were right! Had she any mark about her person by which she could be identified?"

"Yes, master, a very strange one. In the middle of her left palm was the perfect image of a crimson hand, about half an inch in length. There was also another. Herbert Greyson, to please me, marked upon her fore-arm in Indian ink her name and birth-day—Capitola, Oct. 31st, 1832."

"Right! Now tell me, my good soul, do you know, from what you were enabled to observe, what house that was where Capitola was born?"

"I am on my oath! No, sir, I do not know—but—"

"You suspect?"

"The woman nodded.

"It was—," said old Hurricane, stooping and whispering a name that was heard by no one but the sick woman.

"She nodded again, with a look of intense meaning.

"Does your old hostess here, Hat, know or suspect anything of this story?" inquired Major Warfield.

"Not a word! No soul but yourself has heard it!"

"That is right! Still be discreet! If you would have the wicked punished and the innocent protected, be silent and wary. Have no anxiety about the girl! What man can do for her, will I do and quickly! And now, good creature, day is actually dawning. You must seek repose. And I must eat the parson in and return home. I will send Mrs. Conditum over with food, wine, and change of clothing, and every comfort that your condition requires," said old Hurricane, rising, and calling in the clergyman, with whom he soon after left the hut for home.

They reached Hurricane Hall in time for an early breakfast, which the astonished housekeeper had prepared, and for which their night's adventures had certainly given them a good appetite.

Major Warfield kept his word, and as soon as breakfast was over he dispatched Mrs. Conditum with a carriage filled with provisions for the couple of hours, but they were not needed. In a little while the housekeeper returned with the intelligence that the old man was dead. The false strength of mental excitement that enabled her to tell so long and dreadful a tale, had almost the last flaring up of the flame of life, that almost immediately went out.

"I am sorry, upon the whole, for now I shall have the game in my own hands!" muttered old Hurricane to himself—"Sir! Gabriel! To tell! better you had cast yourself down from the highest rock of this range and I ben dashed to pieces below, than have thus fallen into my power!"

"Breach of trust isn't a hanging matter in New York, year honor," laughed the factotum, as he tossed his hat and turned off towards the crowd collected around the baggage car.

Old Hurricane made a step or two, as if he would have pursued and punished the duplicity of the man; but finally thought better of it, picked up his portmanteau and walked up the street slowly, with frequent pauses and bewildered looks, as though he had forgotten his directions, or lost his way, and yet hesitated to inquire of any one for the obscure little alley in which he had been told to look for his treasure.

CHAPTER IV.
CAPITOLA.

Har sex a page's dress belted,
Obsoed, ed her abarats but could not hita.

"Please, sir, do you want your carpet-bag carried?" asked a voice near.

Old Hurricane looked around him with a puzzled air, for he thought that a young girl had made this offer, so soft and clear were the notes of the voice that spoke.

"It was I, sir, here I am at your and everybody's service, Sir!" said the same voice.

And turning, Old Hurricane saw sitting astride a pile of boxes at the corner store, a very ragged lad, some thirteen years of age.

"Good gracious!" thought Old Hurricane, as he gazed upon the boy, "this must be a crowd and heir-apparent to the king of shreds and patches!"

"Well, old gent, you'll know me next time, that's certain!" said the boy returning the look with interest.

It is probable that Old Hurricane did not hear this irreverent speech, for he continued to gaze with pity and dismay upon the ragamuffin before him. He was a handsome boy, too, notwithstanding the deplorable state of his wardrobe. Thick, clustering curls of jet black hair fell in tangled disorder around a forehead half veiled in tangled smooth as that of a girl; slender and quizzically mischievous dark gray eyes, that sparkled beneath the shade of long, thick, black lashes; a little turned-up nose, and red, pointing lips, completed the character of a countenance full of fun, frolic, spirit, and courage.

"Well, governor, if you've looked long enough, maybe you'll take me into service!" said the lad, half gathered at the corner.

"Dear I dear I dear I he looks as if he had never seen his life seen soap and water or a suit of whose clothes?" ejaculated the old gentleman, adding kindly—"Yes, I reckon I will give you the job, my son!"

"His son! Oh, crickey, do you hear that, fellows? His son! Oh, Lor! my governor's turned up at last. I'm his son, oh, general! But what did I tell you? I always had a sort of impression that I *must* have had a father in some former period of my life; and behold, here he is! Who knows but I might have had a mother also? But that isn't likely. Still, I'll ask him—How's the old woman, sir?" said the news-boy, jumping off the boxes and taking the carpet-bag in his hand.

"What are you talking about, you infatuated tatterdemalion? Come along! If it weren't for pity, I'd have you put in the pillory!" exclaimed Old Hurricane, shaking his cane at the offender.

"Thanky, sir! I've not had a pillow under my head for a long time."

"Silence, ragamuffin!"

"Just so, sir! A dumb devil is better than a talking one!" answered the lad, demurely, following his employer.

They went on some distance, Old Hurricane diligently reading the names of the streets at the end and after gazing around himself for a few minutes,

"Boy!"

"Yes, sir!"

"Do you know such a place as Rag Alley, in Hamilton street?"

"Rag Alley, sir?"

"Yes; a sort of narrow, dark, nasty place, with a row of old tumble-down tenements each side,

where poor wretches live all huddled up together, fifty in a house, eh?—I was told I couldn't drive such a place?"

"Do I know such a place? Do I know Rag Alley?"

"—Oh, my eye! Oh, he lie he lie!"

Unconscious assortment of variegated pieces?"

"Oh, oh, dear! I was laughing to think how well I know Rag Alley."

"Humph! you do look as if you were born and bred there."

"But, sir, I wasn't."

"Humph! how did you get into life, then?"

"I don't know, governor, unless I was raked up from a gutter by some old woman in the rag-picking line," said the news-boy, demurely.

"Humph! I don't think that quite likely. But now, do you any that you know where that alley is?"

"Oh, don't set me off again! Oh, ha, ho, he lie—yes, sir, I know."

"Well, then, show me the way, and don't be a fool!"

"I'd scorn to be it, sir. This is the way," said the lad, taking the lead.

They walked on several squares, and then the boy stopped, and pointing down a cross-street,

"There, governor, there you are!"

"There? Where?—Why that's a handsome street!" said Old Hurricane, gazing up in admiration at the opposite blocks of stately brown stone mansions.

"That's it, how's ever. That's Rag Alley, Hifalutin Terrace! Them tenements you talk of houses put up in their place," said the news-boy.

"Dear I dear I dear! what chance! And Hurricane, gazing in dismay at the crowds of tenants?"

"The tenants?—poor wretches! How do you with the other rubbish—What became of the tenants?"

"Ask of the winds that far around— With fragments strewed the sea-ty!"

I heard that spotted at a school exhibition once, governor," said the boy, demurely.

"Humph! well, well, the price is lost! What shall I do?—put advertisements in," the daily papers—apply at the chief police office, Yes. Then, speaking out, he called:

"Boy!"

"Yes, sir."

"Call me a coach."

"Yes, sir." And the lad was off like an arrow to do his bidding.

In a few moments the coach drove up. The news-boy, that was sitting beside the driver, jumped down, and said:

"Here it is, sir."

"Thank you, my son. Here is your fee," said Old Hurricane, putting a silver dollar into the lad's hand.

"What! Lor! I can't be! but it is! I must have made a mistake! What if he did, I don't care. Yes I do. Honor bright," exclaimed the news-boy, looking in wonder and desire some temptation upon the largest piece of money he had ever touched in his life.

"Your honor!"

"Well, boy," said the old gentleman, with his feet upon the steps of the coach.

"You've been and done and gone and give me a whole dollar by mistake!"

"And why should you think it a mistake, you impudent monkey?"

"Why not, your young rascal?—of course I did, beginning to ascend the steps," said Old Hurricane.

"I'm a great mud to!" said the news-boy, still gazing on the coin with satisfaction and desire; "I'm a mind to! but I won't! Taint fair—Gov."

"What now, you troublesome fellow?"

"Do stop a minute! Don't tempt me too hard! I was tempted too hard."

"What do you mean now, you ridiculous little ape?"

"I mean I know you're from the country, and don't know better, and I mean't impose upon, and your ignorance."

"My ignorance, you impudent villain!" exclaimed the old man, with rising wrath.

yet you sit up to snuff! you don't know nothing! Why, this is too much for totting a carpet-bag in with a honest lad like me, that's very well you impose on your innocence! Bless you, the usual price isn't more than a dime, or if you're rich and generous, a shilling, boy!"

"What the deuce do I care for the usual price, for the Lord's sake, go get yourself a decent suit of clothes. Drive on, coachman! a decent suit Hurricane, flinging an eagle upon the side-walk, and rolling off in his cab.

"Poor, dear, old gentleman! I wonder where he'll better go and sell the police! But then I don't know who he is, or where he's gone. But he cut out of his money, and he'll be flog away every him! I know what I'll do! I'll go to the stand and watch for the coach, with the poor, dear old fellow!" said the news-boy, picking up the gold coin, and putting it into his pocket. And then he started, but with an eye to his business, singing out:

"Herald! Tribune! Express! last account of the awful accident—steamer! etc., etc., etc."

He found the coachman already there. And his anxious inquiries as to the sanity of the old gentleman, that Jehu replied:

"Oh bless your soul, crazy? no! no more'n you or I. He's a real nut! a real Virginian, F. R. V., with money like the snide on the sea-shore. Keep the tin, lad—he knowed what he was a-doin' on!"

"Old it—It almost scares me to have so much money!" exclaimed the boy, half in delight, half and sleep in bed once more! And to-morrow a new suit of clothes! So here goes—"

"Herald!—Express! full account—the horrible murder—Bell street—Judge & Co., etc., etc., etc., crying his papers until he was out of hearing.

Never in his life had the news-boy felt so prosperous and happy.

CHAPTER V.
THE DISCOVERY.

"And at the magistrate's command They cut out the feathers band That bound her tresses short, And raised her hair from her head, And down her slender form there spread Black ringlets rich and red."

Old Hurricane meanwhile dined at the public table at the Astor, and afterwards went to his room, to rest, smoke and ruminate. And he finished the evening by supping and retiring to bed.

In the morning, after an early breakfast, he wrote a dozen advertisements, and called a coach daily papers for immediate publication. Then, to lose no time, he rode up to the Recorder's office to set the police upon the search.

As he was about to enter the front portal, he observed the doorway and passage blocked up with even a larger crowd than usual.

And seeing the coachman who had waited upon him the previous day, he inquired of him—

"What is the matter here?"

"Nothing, your honor, 'cept a boy tnk up for wearing girls' clothes, or a girl took up for wearing boys', I dunno which," said the man touching his hat.

"Let me pass then, I must speak to the chief of police," said Old Hurricane, showing his way into the Recorder's room.

"This is not the office of the chief, sir, you will find him on the other side of the hall," said a by-stander.

But before Old Hurricane had gathered the sense of these words, a slight whistle—the officer drew his steps thither. Up before the Recorder stood a lad new suit of gray casinet, his long rolling black ringlets, and his down cast and blushing face, Old

Hurricane innocent of

Feeling impulsive

absolutely

"What a look-down what I've had!"

"And a lad that boy's cloth-

"What one, gasp prisoner, may my boy's cloth-

"Yes, twigg'd his slits more!"

"A girl! Old Hurricane of his head-

Just the face with mischief of the old man, he s-

"Girl! a girl in a girl's eye or so to want to be friendless, wandering words to a-

"Order order. Old Hurricane, his lips and eyes ad and be-

"Yes, that brute and so seat, immo examination!

"What's tingled o-

"Send it!"

"Up!—To Bl course!"

"To the warden! Old Hurricane gray lend He felt saw that and was al-

"Governor had even a Governor!"

"Government! You Recorder's they'll com-

"Will t mean I mean the you to ply, they ginn—kell-

"But, y me, you'll and very n think your—The Tin-

"Attend The bit at the o-

board?"

"I should Capitoll Old Hurricane head,

There's a v into two shal be w-

And th drol! his

18

Hurricane immediately recognized as his acquaintance of the preceding day, the saucy young interloper.

"Feeling sorry for the friendless boy, the old man impulsively went up to him and patted him on the shoulder, saying:

"What! in a trundle, my lad? never mind—never look down! I'll warrant ye an honest lad from what I've seen myself! I'll see you through, my lad!"

"Lad! Lord bless your soul, sir, let's no more a lad than you or I. The young rascal is a girl in boy's clothes, sir!" said the officer who had the culprit in custody.

"What—what—what!" exclaimed Old Hurricane, gazing in consternation from the young prisoner to the accuser; "what—what! my news-boy, my many little prince of patches, a girl in boy's clothes!"

"Yes, sir—a young scoundrel. I actually witnessed him selling papers at the Fulton Ferry this morning! A little rascal!"

"A girl in boy's clothes! A girl!" exclaimed Old Hurricane, with his eyes nearly starting out of his head.

Just then the young culprit looked up in his face with an expression half melancholy, half mischievous, that appealed to the rugged heart of the old man. Turning round to the policeman, he started the whole office by roaring out:

"Girl is she, sir?—then, demmy, sir! whether a girl in boy's clothes, or men's clothes, or soldier's clothes, or sailor's clothes, or any clothes, or so clothes, sir! I treat her with the delicacy due to womanhood, sir! aye, and the tenderness owed to childhood! for she is but a bit of a poor, friendless, motherless, fatherless child, lost and wandering in your great Babylon! No more hard words to her, sir—or by the overlying—"

"Order," put in the calm and dignified Recorder.

Old Hurricane, though his face was still purple, his veins swollen and his eyeballs glaring with anger, immediately recovered himself, turned and bowed to the Recorder and said:

"Yes, sir, I will keep order, if you'll make that brute of a policeman reform his language." And so saying, Old Hurricane subsided into a seat, immediately behind the child, to watch the examination.

"What'll they do with her, do you think?" he inquired of a bystander.

"Send her to the workhouse."

"Up to—where?"

"To Blackwell's Island—to the workhouse, in course."

"To the workhouse—her, that child!"—the wretched Jim-m-m-me! Oh-h-h-h! groaned Old Hurricane, stooping and burying his shaggy, gray head in his great hands.

He felt his shoulder touched, and looking up saw that the little prisoner had turned around, and was about to speak to him.

"Governor," said the same clear voice that he had once at first supposed to belong to a girl—"Governor, don't you keep on letting out that way! You don't know nothing! You're in the Recorder's Court! If you don't mind your eye they'll commit you for contempt!"

"Will they? Then they'll do well lad! I say, I mean, I plead guilty to contempt. Send a child like you to the—! They don't do it! Simply, they can't do it!—Major Warfield of Virginia—tell you so, my boy—girl, I mean!"

"But, you innocent old lion, instead of freeing me, you'll find yourself shut up between four walls, and very narrow ones at that, I tell you! You'll think yourself in a coffin! Governor, they call it—'The Tomb!' whispered the child.

"Attention!" said the clerk.

The little prisoner turned and faced the court, and the "old lion" buried his shaggy gray head behind his hands, and groaned aloud.

"Now, then, what is your name, my lad—my name, I should say," inquired the clerk.

"Capitola, sir."

Old Hurricane pricked up his ears and raised his head, muttering to himself—"Cap-it-o-la! It's a very odd name, Can't surely be two like work of the same, Cap-it-o-la—is it shall be my name, after all? I shouldn't worry at all! I'll be true, and say nothing." And this wise resolution Old Hurricane again drew his head upon his hands.

"I say your name is Capitola—Capitola

what?" inquired the clerk, continuing the examination.

"Nothing, sir."

"Nothing! What do you mean?"

"I have no name but Capitola, sir."

"Who is your father?"

"Never had any that I know, sir."

"Your mother?"

"Never had a mother either, sir, as ever I heard."

"Where do you live?"

"About in spots, in the city, sir."

"Oh—oh—oh!" groaned Old Hurricane within his hands.

"What is your calling?" inquired the clerk.

"Selling newspapers, carrying portmanteaus and packages, sweeping before doors, clearing off snow, blacking boots, and so on."

"Little odd jobs in general, eh?"

"Yes, sir, anything that I can turn my hand to, and get to do."

"By—girl I should say—what tempted you to put yourself into male attire?"

"Sir?"

"In boy's clothes then?"

"Oh, yes—want, sir—and—danger, sir," said the little prisoner, putting her hands to a face crimson with blushes, and for the first time since her arrest upon the eve of snatching.

"Oh—oh—oh!" groaned Old Hurricane from his chair.

"Want? Danger! How is that?" continued the clerk.

"Your honor mightn't like to know."

"By all means. It is, in fact, necessary that you should give an account of yourself," said the clerk.

Old Hurricane once more raised his head, opened his ears, and gave close attention.

One circumstance he had particularly remarked—the language used by the poor child during her examination was much superior to the slang she had previously affected, to support her assumed character of newsboy.

"Well, well—why do you pause? Go on—go on, my good boy—girl I mean," said the Recorder, in a tone of kind encouragement.

CHAPTER VI.

A SHOOT, AND STORY.

"Ah! poverty is a weary thing, it burdens the brain."

It maddens even the little child To murmur and complain."

"It is not much I have to tell," began Capitola.

"It was brought up in Rag Alley and its neighborhood, by an old woman named Nancy Gre-well."

"Ah!" ejaculated Old Hurricane.

"She was a washerwoman and rented one scantily-furnished room from a poor family named Simmons."

"Oh!" cried Old Hurricane.

"Granny as I called her, was very good to me, and I never suffered cold, nor hunger, until about eighteen months ago, when granny took it into her head to go down to Virginia."

"Humph!" exclaimed Old Hurricane.

"When Granny went away, she left me a little money and some good clothes, and told me to be sure and stay with the people where she left me, for that she would be back in about a month. But, your honor, that was the very last I ever saw or heard of poor granny. She never came back again; and by that I know she must have died."

"Ah-h-h!" breathed the old man, puffing fast.

"The first month or two after Granny left, I did well enough. And then, when the little money was all gone, I eat with the Simmons's, and did little odd jobs for my food. But by and by Mr. Simmons got out of work, and the family fell into want, and they asked me to go out and beg for

me. I just couldn't do that; and so they told me I should look out for myself."

"Were there no customers of your grand-mother that you could have applied to for employment?" asked the Recorder.

"No, sir. My granny's customers were mostly boarders at the small taverns, and they were always changing. I did apply to two or three houses

where the landladies know granny; but they didn't want me."

"Oh-ah!" groaned Major Warfield, in the tone of one in great pain.

"I wouldn't have that old fellow's condolence for a good deal," whispered a spectator, "for, as sure as shooting, that gal's his unlawful child."

"Well—go-on. What next?" asked the clerk.

"Well, sir, though the Simmons's had nothing to give me except a crust now and then, they still let me sleep in the house, for the little job I could do for them. But at last Simmons got work on the railroad a way off somewhere, and they all moved away from the city."

"And you were left alone?"

"Yes, sir, I was left alone in the empty, unfurnished house. Still it was a shelter, and I was glad of it, and I drudged the time, when it would be rented by another tenant, and I should be turned into the street."

"Oh! oh! oh, Lord!" groaned the Major.

"But it was never rented again; for the word went around that the whole row was to be pulled down; and so I thought I had better to stay, at least as long as the rats did," continued Capitola with somewhat of her natural roguish humor twinkling in her dark, gray eyes.

"But how did you get your bread?" inquired the Recorder.

"Did not get it at all, sir. Bread was too dear! I sold my clothes, piece by piece, till I had an over the way, and bought corn meal, and picked up trash to make a fire, and cooked a little mush every day in an old tin that had been left behind, and so I lived on for two or three weeks. And then when my clothes were all gone—except the suit I had upon my back—and my meal was almost out, instead of making mush every day, I economized and made gruel."

"But my boy—my good girl, I mean—before you became so destitute, you should have found something or other to do," said the Recorder.

"Sir, I was trying to get jobs every hour in the day. I had done anything honest I could get around to all the houses Granny knew, but they didn't want a girl. Some of the good-natured landladies said, if I was a boy now, they could keep the opening openers, but as I was a girl, they had no work for me. I even went to the office to get papers to sell, but they told me that crying papers was not proper work for a girl. I even went down to the ferry-boats and watched for the passengers coming ashore, and ran and offered to carry their carpet-bags or portmanteaus; but some growled at me, and others laughed at me, and one old gentleman asked me if I thought he was a North American Indian, to strut up Broadway with a female behind him carrying his pack. And so, sir, while all the ragged boys I knew could get little jobs to earn bread, I, because I was a girl, was not allowed to carry a gentleman's parcel, or black his boots, or shovel the snow off a shop-keeper's pavement, or put in coal, or do anything that I could do just as well as they. And so because I was a girl, there seemed to be nothing but starvation or beggary before me."

"Oh, Lord! oh Lord! that such things should be!" cried Old Hurricane.

"That was bad, sir! but there was worse behind! There came a day when my meal—even the last dust of it, was gone! Then I kept life in me by drinking water, and by sleeping all I could. At first I could not sleep for the gnawing—gnawing—in my stomach; but afterwards I slept deeply, from exhaustion, and then I'd dream of feasts and the richest sort of food, and fasting such quantities! and really, sir, I seemed to taste it and enjoy it and get the good of it—almost as much as if it were all true! One morning after such a dream I was awakened up by a great noise, outside, I staggered upon my feet and crept to the window! and there, sir, were three workmen all outside, pulling down the house over my head!"

"Good Heaven!" ejaculated Old Hurricane, who seemed to constitute himself the chorus of this drama.

"Sir, they didn't know that I or any one was in the empty house! Right gave me strength to run down stairs and run out. Then I stopped. Oh! I stopped and looked up and down the street! What should I do? The last shelter was gone away from me!—the house where I had lived so many years, and that seemed like a friend to me, was falling before my very eyes! I thought I'd just go and pitch myself into the river, and cut my

"That was a very wicked thought," said the Recorder.

"Yes, sir, I know it was; and besides, I was dreadfully afraid of being suffocated in the dirty water around me!" said Capitola, with a sparkle of irresistible humor that effaced even through all her trouble. "Well, sir, dying that day. I found a five-cent piece in the street, and resolved not to smother myself in the mud, at it as long as it lasted. So I bought a look for a job. I looked up to the wharf for a moment, and when night came I went into a lumber-yard and hid myself behind a pile of planks that kept the wind off me, and I went to sleep and dreamed with friends all around me in a handsome house, with eat and drink, and wear!"

"Poor, poor child; but your dream may come true yet!" muttered Old Hurricane to himself. "Well, your Honor, next day I spent another penny out of my half-dime, and looked in vain for combings that had happened to be left on the week passed away. I tried to use my half-dime, but my penny was gone, and sleeping until the wherever I could—sometimes under the night stoop of a house, sometimes in an old broken carriage, and sometimes behind a pile of boxes on the sidewalk!"

"That was a dreadful exposure for a young girl," said the Recorder.

A burning flush flamed up over the young creature's cheek, as she answered:

"Yes, sir, that was the worst of all; that finally drove me to putting on boy's clothes."

"Let us hear all about it."

"Oh, sir—I can't—how can I? Well, being always exposed, sleeping out-of-doors, I was often in danger of bad boys and bad men," said Capicola, and dropping her head down upon her hands, and covering her crimson cheeks with her hands, for the first time she burst into tears and sobbed aloud.

"Come, come, my little man! my good little woman, I mean—don't take it to heart! You couldn't help it!" said Old Hurricane with rain-drops glittering even in his own stormy eyes.

Capicola looked up with her whole countenance flashing with spirit, and exclaimed, "Oh! but I took care of myself, sir! I did, indeed, your Honor! You mustn't either you or the old gentleman, dare to think but what I did."

"Oh, of course of course!" said a bystander, laughing.

Old Hurricane sprang up, bringing his feet down upon the floor with a resound that made the hall ring again, exclaiming:

"What do you mean by 'of course' of course, you villain? Demmy! I'll scarce do to kers ones of herself, you varlet; and if any man dares to hint otherwise, I'll ram his falsehood down his make him swallow both!"

"Order, order!" said the clerk.

Old Hurricane immediately wheeled to the right-about, faced and saluted the bench in military fashion, and then said:

"Yes, sir! I'll regard order! but in the meanwhile, if the court does not protect this child from insult, I must, order or no order!" and with that the old gentleman once more subsided into his seat.

"Governor, don't you be so noisy! You'll get yourself stepped up into a jug next! Why you need to talk about that they called Old Hurricane, because he was so stormy!" whispered Capitola, turning towards him.

"Humph! she's heard of me, then," muttered the old gentleman to himself.

"Well sir—I mean Miss—go on!" said the clerk addressing Capitola.

"Yes Sir. Well, your honor at the end of five days, being a certain Thursday morning, when I couldn't get a job of work for love nor money, and my last roll was eaten up by my last roll—and the gnawing of hunger by day, and the horrid perils of the night, I thought to myself 'If I were only a boy, I might carry packages, and shovel ice, and do lots of jobs by day, and sleep with-

out terror at night! And then I felt bitter against fate for not making me a boy! And so on and so on, thinking and thinking, I wandered on until I found myself in Rag Alley, where I broke bricks, plastered and lumber, that used to be sold my clothes for coal. And then, all of a sudden, a bright thought struck me, and I made up my mind to be a boy!"

"Made up your mind to be a boy!"

"Yes, sir, for it was so easy! I wondered how I came to be so stupid as not to have thought of it before! I just ran across to the old shop, and offered to swap my suit of girl's clothes, that was good, though dirty, for any, even the raggedest me or not, so they would only stay on me. The old fellow put his finger to his nose, as if he felt the police. So he took down an old, not very ragged suit, that he said would fit me, and opened a door, and told me to go in his daughter's and put 'em on."

"Well, sir, that was a very good idea, and I went into that little back parlor, and I came out a boy, with pants and jacket, with my hair cut short and a cap on my head! The peddler gave me a penny roll and a sixpence for my black rapiers."

"All seemed grist that came to his mill!" said Old Hurricane.

"Yes, Governor, he was a dealer in general. Well, the first thing I did was to hire myself to him, at a sixpence a day, and find myself, to shovel in his coal. That didn't take me but a day. So straight he paid me, and I slept in peace behind a stack of boxes. Next morning I was up before the sun, and down to the office of the little penny paper, the 'Morning Star.' I bought two dozen of 'em, and ran as fast as I could to the ferry-boats to sell to the early passengers. Well, sir, in an hour's time I had sold out, and pocketed just two shillings, and felt myself on the high road to fortune!"

"And so that was the way by which you came to put yourself in male attire?"

"Yes sir! and the only thing that makes me feel sorry, was to see what a fool I had been, not to turn to a boy before, when it was so easy! And I found plenty to do! I carried carpet-bags, held gentlemen's boots, and did everything an honest lad could turn his hand to! And so for more kept on so, only I forgot and let my hair grow, and instead of cutting it off, just tucked it up under a high brass, the wind blowed off my caps, and the policeman blowed on me!"

"I wasn't altogether her long hair, your honor; for I had seen her before, having known her when she lived with old Mrs. Grewell, in Rag Alley," interrupted the officer.

"You may sit down, my child," said the Recorder in a tone of encouragement.

CHAPTER VII.

METAMORPHOSIS OF THE NEWS-BOY.

With caution judge of probability. Things deemed unlikely, even impossible, Experience of habit proved to be true.

"What shall we do with her?" inquired the Recorder, *sotto voce*, of a brother magistrate who appeared to be associated with him on the bench.

"Send her to the Refuge," replied the other, in the same tone.

"What are they consulting about?" asked Old Hurricane, whose ears were not of the best.

"They are talking of sending her to the Refuge," answered a by-stander.

"Refuge? Is there a Refuge for destitute children in New York? Then Babylon is not so bad as I thought it. What is this Refuge?"

"It is a prison where juvenile delinquents are trained to habits of—"

"A prison! send her to a prison news!" burst forth Old Hurricane, rising and manning up to the Recorder.

"He stood hat in hand before him, and said: 'Your Honor, if a proper legal guardian ap-

pears to claim this young person, and holds him self in all respects responsible for her, may she not be at once delivered into his hands?"

"Assuredly," answered the magistrate, with the manner of one glad to be rid of the charge.

"Then, sir, I, Iron Warfield, of Hurricane's Hall, in Virginia, present myself as the guardian of this girl, Capitola Beck, whom I claim as my ward. And I will enter into a recognizance for my sum to appear and prove my right, if it should be disputed. For my personal responsibility, I refer you to the proprietors of the Astor, who have known me many years."

"It is not necessary, Major Warfield: we assume the fact of your responsibility and deliver up the young girl to your charge."

"I thank you, sir," said Old Hurricane, bowing low.

"Then hurrying across the room where sat the reporter for the press, he said:

"Gentlemen, I have a favor to ask of you—it is that you will altogether drop this case of the boy in girl's clothes—I mean the girl in girl's clothes—I declare, I don't know what I mean in its proper dress, but this I wish to request of you, gentlemen, that you will drop that item from your report, or if you must mention it, treat it with delicacy, as the good name of a young lady is involved."

"The reporters, with sidelong glances, winks, and smiles, gave him the required promise, and Old Hurricane returned to the side of his protégé."

"Capitola, are you willing to go with me?"

"Then come along, my coach is waiting," said Old Hurricane.

"Not hurrying to the Court, he took the hand of his charge, and led her forth amid the ill-suspect- ed jibes of the crowd."

"There's a hoary-headed old sinner!" said one.

"Sho's as like him as two peas," quoth another.

"Wonder if there's any more belonging to him of the same sort," inquired a third.

Leaving all this surcease into the coach, took the seat beside her, and gave orders to be driven out towards Har-en.

As soon as they were seated in the coach, the old man turned to his charge and said:

"Capitola, I shall have to trust to your girl's wit, to get yourself into your proper clothes again without exciting further notice."

"My boy, girl, I mean! I am not the governor of Virginia, though if every one had his rights I don't know but I should be! However, I am for Major Warfield!" said the old man, naively, for he had not the most distant idea that the title bestowed on him by Capitola, was a mere remnant of her news-boys' slang.

"Now, my lad—shew my lass, I mean, now shall we get you metamorphosed again?"

"I know goy—major, I mean. There is a shop of ready-made clothing at the Needle Woman's Aid' corner of the next square. I can get out there and buy a full suit."

"Very well! stop at the next corner, driver," called Old Hurricane.

The next minute the coach drew up before a warehouse of ready-made garments.

Old Hurricane jumped out, and leading his charge, entered the shop.

Luckily, there was behind the counter only one person—a staid, elderly, kind-looking woman.

"Here, ma'am," said Old Hurricane, stooping confidentially to her ear—"I am in a little embarrassment but I hope you will be willing to help me out for a consideration. I came to New York in pursuit of my ward—this young girl, whom I found in boy's clothes, and I wish to restore her to her proper dress. I am presenting her to my friends, of course. Therefore, I wish you to furnish her with a half a dozen complete suits of female attire, of the very best you have that will fit her. And also to give her the use of a room and of your own aid in changing her dress. I will pay you liberally."

Half suspicious and half scandalized, the worthy woman gazed with curiosity first in the face of the guardian, and then into that of the

ward, be and the honest licit said:

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ward: but finding in the extreme youth of the one and the advanced age of the other, and in the honest expression of both, something to ally her fears, if not to inspire her confidence, she said:

"Very well, sir. Come after me, young gentleman—a young lady, I should say." And calling in a boy to meet the shop, she conducted Capitola to an inner apartment.

Old Hurricane went out and dismissed his coach. When it was entirely out of sight, he had another that was passing by empty, and engaged it to take himself and a young lady to the Washington House.

When he re-entered the shop he found the shopwoman and Capitola returned and waiting for him.

Capitola was indeed transfigured. Her bright black hair parted in the middle, fell in ringlets each side her blushing cheeks; her dark gray eyes were cast down in modesty at the very same instant that her ripe red lips were puckered up with mischief. She was well and properly attired in a gray silk dress, with a merino shawl, and a black velvet bonnet.

The other clothing that had been purchased was done up in packages and put into the coach.

And after paying the shopwoman handsomely, Old Hurricane took the hand of his ward, handed her into the coach, and gave the order:

"To the Washington House."

The ride was performed in silence.

Capitola sat deeply blushing at the recollection of her late attire, and profoundly cogitating as to what could be the relationship between herself and the gray-haired man whose claim the licentiate had so promptly admitted. There seemed but one way of accounting for the great interest he took in her fate. Capitola came to the conclusion that the grim old lion before her was no more nor less than—her own father! for, alas, poor Cap. had been too long tossed about New York not to know more of life than at her age she would have known. She had indeed the *innocence* of his youth, but not its *simplicity*.

Old Hurricane, on his part, sat with his thick cane grasped in his two knobby hands, standing between his knees, his grizzled chin resting upon it, and his eyes cast down as in deep thought.

And so in silence they reached the Washington House.

Major Warfield then conducted his ward into the ladies' parlor, and went and entered his own and her name upon the books as "Major Warfield and his ward Miss Black," for whom he engaged two bedrooms and a private parlor.

Then leaving Capitola to be shown to her apartment by a chambermaid, he went out and ordered her luggage up to her room, and dismissed the coach.

Next he walked to the Astor House, paid his bill, collected his baggage, took another carriage and drove back to the Washington Hotel.

All this trouble Old Hurricane took to break the links of his action and prevent scandal. This filled up a long forenoon.

He dined alone with his ward in their private parlor.

Such a dinner poor Cap. had never even *smelt* before! How intensely she enjoyed it with all its surroundings—the comfortable room, the glowing fire, the clean table, the rich food, the obsequious attendants, her own gaited and beaming dress, the company of a highly respectable guardian—all, all, so different from anything she had ever been accustomed to, and so highly appreciated!

How happy she felt! How much happier from the contrast of her previous wretchedness! She suddenly freed from want, toil, fear, and all evils of destitute orphanage, and to find herself blest with wealth, leisure, and safety, under the care of a rich, good, and kind father! (for so Capitola continued to believe her guardian to be.) It was an incredible thing! It was like a fairy tale!

Nothing of what was passing in her mind was perceived by Old Hurricane, who frequently burst into uproarious fits of laughter, as he watched her.

At last, when the dinner and dessert were removed and the nuts, raisins, and wine placed upon the table, and the waiters had retired from

the room and left them alone, sitting one on each side of the fire, with the table and its luxuries between them, Major Warfield suddenly looked up and asked:

"Capitola, whom do you think that I am?"

"Old Hurricane, to be sure! I know you from Granby's description, the moment you broke out so in the police office," answered Cap.

"Humph! yes, you're right; and it was your granny that bequeathed you to me, Capitola."

"Then she is really dead?"

"Yes. There—don't cry about her. She was very old, and she died happy. Now, Capitola, if you please me, I mean to adopt you as my own daughter."

"Yes, father."

"No, no—you needn't call me father, you know, because it isn't true. Call me *uncle*! uncle!"

"Is that true, sir?" asked Cap., demurely.

"No, no, no; but it will *do* it will do! Now, Cap., how much do you know anything? Ignorant as a horse, I am afraid."

"Yes, sir, even as a *coll*."

"Can you read at all?"

"Cast accounts and write at the Sunday School."

"Can you keep your looks at a pinch, sir?"

"Humph! who taught you these accomplishments?"

"Herbert Greyson, sir."

"Herbert Greyson! I heard that name before here it is again. That Herbert Greyson?"

"He's second mate on the *Susan*, sir, that is expected in every day."

"Umph! Umph!—take a glass of wine, Capitola!"

"No, sir, I never touch a single drop."

"Why? why? good wine after dinner, my child, is a good thing, let me tell you."

"Ah, sir, my life has shown me too much misery that has come of drinking wine."

"Well, well, as you please. Why, where has the girl run off to?" exclaimed the old man, breaking off, and looking with amazement at Capitola, who had suddenly started up and rushed out of the room.

In an instant she rushed in again, exclaiming: "Oh, *he's come! he's come!* I heard his voice!"

"Who's come, you madcap?" inquired the old man.

"His, Herbert Greyson! Herbert Greyson! His ship is in, and he has come here! he *always* comes here—most of the sea-officers do!" exclaimed Cap., dancing around until all her black ringlets flew up and down. Then suddenly pausing, she came quietly to his side, and said, solemnly:

"Uncle! Herbert has been at sea three years! he knows nothing of my past misery and destination, nor of my ever wearing boy's clothes. Uncle, please don't tell him, especially of the boy's clothes!" And in the earnestness of her appeal, Capitola clasped her hands and raised her eyes to the old man's face. How soft those gray eyes looked when praying! but for all that, the very spirit of mischief still lurked about the corners of the plump, arch lips.

"Of course I shall tell no one. I am not so proud of you: masquerading as a publicist it. And as for this young fellow, I shall probably never see him!" exclaimed Old Hurricane.

CHAPTER VIII.

HERBERT GREYSON.

A kid, a true heart, a spirit high,
That cannot fear and will not bow,
Is speaking to his manly eye
And stamped upon his brow—HALLER.

In a few minutes Capitola came bounding up the stairs again, exclaiming, joyously—

"Here he is, uncle! here is Herbert Greyson! Come along! Herbert! You must come in and see my new uncle!" And she broke into the room, dragging before her astonished guardian a handsome, dark-eyed young sailor, who bowed, and then stood blushing at his enforced intrusion.

"I beg your pardon, sir," he said, "for bursting in upon you in this way; but—"

"I dragged him here willy-nilly," said Capitola. "Still, if I had had time to think, I should not have intruded."

"Oh, say no more, sir! You are heartily welcome!" exclaimed the old man, thrusting out his rugged hand and seizing the bronzed one of the youth. "Sit down, sit down! *Good Lord, how like he!*" he added, mentally.

Then, seeing the young sailor still standing blushing and hesitating, he struck his cane upon the floor and roared out:

"Denny, sit down, sit down! When Ira Warfield says sit down, he means sit down!"

"Ira Warfield!" exclaimed the young man, starting back in astonishment—one might almost say in consternation.

"Aye, sir! Ira Warfield! that's my name? Never heard any ill of it, did you?"

The young man did not answer, but continued gazing in amazement upon the speaker.

"Nor any good of it either, perhaps,—eh, uncle?" archly put in Capitola.

"Silence, you monkey old woman! Well, young man! well, what is the meaning of all this?" exclaimed Old Hurricane, impatiently.

"Oh, your pardon, sir! this was sudden. But you must know I had once a relative of that name—an uncle."

"And have still, Herbert? and have still had! Come, come, boy! I am not sentimental nor romantic, nor melo-dramatic, nor anything of that sort. I don't know how to stifle an attitude and exclaim—'Come to my bosom, sole remaining offspring of a dear, departed sister,' or any of the like stage-playing. But I tell you, lad, that I like your looks; and I like what I have heard of you from that girl and another old woman, now dead; and so— but sit down, *sit down!* Denny, sit down, and we'll talk over the waltzes and the wine! Capitola, take your seat, too?" ordered the old man, throwing himself into his chair. Herbert also drew his chair up.

Capitola resumed her seat, saying to herself, "Well, well, I am determined not to be surprised at anything that happens, being perfectly clear in my own mind that this is all nothing but a dream. But how pleasant it is to dream the: I have found a rich uncle and he has found a nephew, and that nephew is Herbert Greyson! I do believe that I had rather die in my sleep than wake from *this* dream."

"Herbert!" said Old Hurricane, as soon as they had gathered around the table, "Herbert, this is my ward, Miss Black, the daughter of a deceased friend. Capitola, this is the only son of my departed sister."

"How-um! we have had the pleasure of being acquainted with each other before!" said Cap., pinching up her lip, and looking demure. "But not of knowing who 'each other' was, you monkey! Herbert, fill your glass! Here's to our better acquaintance!"

"I thank you, sir, I never touch wine," said the young man.

"Never touch wine! here's another! here's a young prig! I don't believe you, yes, I do too! Denny, sir,—if you never touch wine's because you prefer *brandy!*—Waiter!"

"I thank you, sir. Order no brandy for me. If I never use intoxicating liquors, it is because I make a promise to that effect to my dying mother."

"Say no more—say no more, lad! Drink water, if you like. *It won't hurt you!*" exclaimed the old man, filling and quaffing a glass of champagne. Then he said:

"I quarrelled with your mother, Herbert, for marrying a man that I *hated*—yes, hated, Herbert! for he differed with me about the tariff and the 'Trinity! Oh, how I hated him, boy, until he died! and then I wondered in my soul, how I could even now, how I ever could have been so infuriated against a poor fellow now cold in his grave—as I shall be in time! I wrote to my sister, and expressed my feelings; but some how or other, Herbert, we never came to a right understanding again. She answered my letter after a considerable time, but she refused to accept a home for herself and child under my roof, saying that she thanked me for my offer, but that the house which had been closed against her husband ought never to become the refuge of the widow. After that we never corresponded, and I have no doubt, Herbert, that she, naturally enough, taught you to dislike me."

"Not so, sir! Indeed, you wrong her! She might have been loyal to my father's memory without being resentful to my mother's. She said that you had a noble nature, but it was often obscured by violent passions, but it was often she had me, should I ever meet you, to say kindness."

"And consented that it should be transferred to her orphan boy!" added Old Hurricane, with a No, sir, she said not so. "But she would not have disapproved a service offered to her son."

"I want nothing. I have a good berth in the Swan; and a kind friend in her captain."

"You have all your dear mother's pride, Herbert. And all his uncle's," put in Cap. "Hush, Maggie! But is the merchant service agreeable to you, Herbert?"

"Not perfectly, sir; but one must be content."

"Demmy, sir, my sister's son need not be content unless he has a mind to! And if you prefer the navy?"

"No, sir. I like the navy even less than the merchant service."

"Then what would suit you, lad. Come, you gather satisfied."

"Oh, the contrary, sir, I told you distinctly that I really wanted nothing, and that I must be satisfied."

"And I say demmy, sir, you shan't be satisfied, unless you like to! Come, if you don't like the navy, what do you say to the army, eh?"

"The young man, as his face lighted up with content."

"Then, demmy, if you like the army, sir, you shall enter it. Yes, sir. Demmy, the admiral, that they'll scarcely dare to refuse to send my nephew to West Point, when I demand it."

"Aye, youngster, to West Point. I shall see to it, when I pass through Washington on my way to Virginia. We start in the early train tomorrow morning. In the meantime, young man, you take leave of your captain, pack up your traps, and join us. You must go with me, and make Point."

"Oh what a capital old governor our uncle is!" exclaimed Cap., jumping up and clapping her hands.

"Sir, indeed you overwhelm me with this most unexpected kindness. I do not know as yet how to make me, whether or no, your travelling companion for a great part of the way, as I also start for Virginia to-morrow, to visit dear friends there, whose house was always mother's and mine, and who, since my bereavement, have been to me like a dear mother and brother. I have not even been to your kind roof, I must go there," said Herbert, gravely.

"And who are those dear friends of yours, then, they shall be rewarded for their kindness unto you, my boy."

"Oh, sir, yes, yes! you can indeed serve them! They are a poor widow and her only son living to support herself and boy. Now takes in some when she was living, during the last years of her life, they joined their slender means, and took a house and lived together. When my mother died, leaving me a boy of ten years old, this poor woman still sheltered and reared for me as for her own son, until ashamed of being a burthen to her, I ran away and went to sea."

"Noble woman! I will make her fortune!" exclaimed Old Hurricane, jumping up and walking up and down the floor.

"Oh, do, sir. Oh, do! dear uncle. I don't wish you to expend either money or influence upon my fortunes; but oh! do educate Traverser! The Sunday school teacher says that he is sure to work his way to distinction, although now he is altogether dependent on his Sunday school for his

learning. Oh, sir, if you would only educate the son he'd make a fortune for his mother!"

"Generous boy, to plead for your friends rather than for yourself! But I am strong enough, thank God, to help you all. You shall go to West Point. Your young friend shall go to school, and then to college," said Old Hurricane, with a burst of honest enthusiasm.

"And where shall I go, sir?" inquired Cap. "To the lunatic asylum, you imp!" exclaimed the old man; then turning to Herbert, he con- tinued: "Yes, lad, I will do as I say; for the poor but noble-hearted widow—"

"You'll marry her yourself, as a reward, won't you, uncle?" asked the incorrigible Cap. "Perhaps I will, you monkey, if it is only to bring somebody home to keep you in order!"

"said Old Hurricane; then turning again to Herbert, he resumed: "As to the widow, Herbert, I will place her above want."

"Over my head," cried Cap. "And now, Herbert, I will trouble you to ring for coffee, and after we had had that, I ring the bell, he resumed: "As to the widow, Herbert, I will place her above want."

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and the 'noble woman,' and so on; and her son, as the 'boy,' the 'youth,' the 'young Traverser,' 'Herbert's friend,' etc. I, for my part, had some curiosity to see weather you and Herbert would go on talking of them forever, without having to use their names."

"By George! and he did. It was the greatest oversight. But I'll write to him as I went into the house and ask him."

"No, no, no, just for the fun of the thing, he and how much he will talk of them without mentioning their names."

"Ha! ha! ha! so I will, Cap. I so I will, Be- me, a rose by any other name would smell as sweet, you know. And if she is 'Mrs. Tagfoot Waddie,' I shall still think so good a woman ex- cited as a Montmorencie!—Mind there, Wool!"

"This road is getting rough!"

"Over it now, Marster!" said Wool after a few heavy jolts—"Over it, Missus! and de rest of de folks is perfectly delighted."

Cap. looked out of the window, and saw before her a beautiful piece of scenery—first, just below them, the wild mountain stream of the Demon's Run, and beyond it the wild dell print of an enormous horse's hoof, in the midst of which gleaming redly among its richly tinted autumn woods, stood Hurricane Hall.

CHAPTER IX.

MARAH ROCKE.

"There sits upon her matron face a tender and a thoughtful grace, Though very still—for great distress Hath left this patient countenance."

Beidle an old, rocky road, leading from the town of Stanton, out to the forest-crowned hills beyond, stood alone, a little, grey stone cottage, mouldering stone walls, a few gnarled and twisted fruit trees long past bearing, stood around the house, that their leafless branches leant up an old paved walk to the front door, on each side of which were large windows.

In this poor cottage, remote from other neighbors, dwelt the friends of Herbert Greyson, the widow Rooke and her son Traverser.

No one knew who she was, or where she came. Some fifteen years before she had appeared in the town, clothed in rusty mourning and accompanied by a boy of about twenty, who she had settled there, supporting herself poorly, and had settled there, supporting herself and child by needle-work.

At the time that Doctor Greyson died and his widow and son were left perfectly destitute, and it became necessary for Mrs. Greyson to look out for an humble lodging where she could find the united advantages of cheapness, cleanliness, and at the cottage of the widow Rooke, whom she found only too glad to increase her meagre income by letting half her little house to such respectable tenants as the widow Greyson and her son.

And thus commenced between the two poor young women a friendship and an acquaintance that devoted love so seldom seen in this world of selfishness.

The household of the widow Rooke consisted of one candle and one table, around the little family as much social comfort was saved as would have gone to the wall. And when she found only too glad to increase her meagre income by letting half her little house to such respectable tenants as the widow Greyson and her son.

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small means, ran away, as he had said, and went to sea.

Every year had Herbert written to his kind foster-mother, and his dear brother, as he called Traverser. And at the end of every prosperous voyage, when he had a little money he had sent them funds; but not always did these letters or remissions reach the widow's cottage, and long seasons of intense anxiety would be suffered by her, for the fate of her sailor boy, as she always called Herbert. Only three times in all these years had Herbert found time and means to come down and see them—and that was long ago. It was many months over two years since they had once received a letter from him. And now the poor widow and her son were almost tempted to think that their sailor boy had quite forsaken them.

It is near the close of a late autumnal evening, that I shall introduce you, reader, into the interior of the widow's cottage.

You enter by the little wooden gate, pass up the mouldering paved walk between the old, leafless lilac bushes, and pass through the front door, right into a large, clean, but poor-looking, sitting-room and kitchen.

Everything was old, though neatly and comfortably arranged about the room: a faded homemade carpet covered the floor, a three-brace, crimson curtain hung before the window, a rickety, walnut table, dark with age, sat under the window against the wall; old walnut chairs were placed each side of it; old plated candlesticks, with the silver all worn off, graced the mantelpiece; a good fire—a cheap comfort in that well-wooded country—blazed upon the hearth; on the right side of the fireplace a few shelves contained some well-worn books, a flute, a few minerals and other little treasures belonging to Traverser; on the left hand there was a dresser containing the little delf ware teacup and plates and dishes of the small family.

Before the fire, a boy kneeling in his hand, sat Marsh Locke watching the kettle as it hung singing over the blaze, and the oven of biscuits that sat baking upon the hearth.

Marsh Locke was at this time about thirty-five years of age, and of a singularly refined and delicate aspect; with her knitting in her hand, her little form, slight and flexible as that of a young girl, was clothed in poor, but neat, black dress, relieved by a pure white collar around her throat; her jet black hair was parted plainly over her "low, sweet brow," brought down each side her thin cheeks, and gathered into a bunch at the back of her shapely little head; her face was oval, with regular features and pale olive complexion; serious lips, closed in pensive thought, and soft, dark-brown eyes, full of tender affections and sorrowful memories, and too often cast down in meditation beneath the heavy shadows of their long, thick eyelashes, completed often across the hard-working children of toil.

Marsh Locke was a very hard-working woman, sewing all day long and knitting through the twilight, and then again resuming her needle by candle light, and sewing until midnight, and yet living for herself and her son on a scanty income in large cities, in even worse work, so ill-paid in the country towns, and though the cottage hearth was never cold, the widow's meals were oftentimes scanty. Lately her son, Traverser, who occasionally earned a trifle of money by doing, with all his might, whatever his hand could find to do, had been engaged by a grocer in the town to deliver his goods to his customers during the illness of the regular porter; for which, as he was only a substitute, he received the very moderate sum of twenty-five cents a day.

This occupation took Traverser from home at daybreak in the morning, and kept him absent until eight o'clock at night. Nevertheless, the widow always gave him a hot breakfast before he went out in the morning, and kept a comfortable supper waiting for him at night.

It was during the last social meal that the youth would tell his mother all that had occurred in his world outside the home that day, and all that he expected to come to pass the next, for Traverser was wonderfully hopeful and sanguine.

And after supper the evening was generally spent by Traverser in hard study, beside his mother's sewing-stand.

Upon this evening, when the widow sat waiting for her son, he seemed to be detained longer than usual. She almost feared that the biscuits would be burned, or, if taken from the oven, he cold, before he would come to enjoy them; but just as she had looked for the twentieth time at the little black plated clock that stood between those old white candlesticks on the mantelpiece, the sound of quick, light, joyous footsteps was heard reechoing along the stony street, level, and the next instant entered a youth some seventeen years of age, clad in a handsome suit, whose coarse material and slummy make could not disguise his noble form or graceful air.

He was like his mother, with the same oval face, regular features, and pale olive complexion, with the same full, serious lips, the same lashes, and the same way, jet black hair—but there was a difference in the character of their faces; where her showed refinement and melancholy, his exhibited strength and cheerfulness—his loving brown eyes, instead of drooping and brightly and confidently full in the face—his lastly, his black hair curled crisply around a broad, high forehead, royal with intellect. Such was the boy that entered the room, and came joyfully forward to his mother, clasping his arm around her neck, saluting her on both cheeks, and then, laughingly claiming his childish privilege of kissing "the pretty little black mole on her throat."

"Will you never have outgrown your babyhood, Traverser?" asked his mother, smiling at his affectionate ardor.

"Yes, dear little mother! in everything but the privilege of fondling you! that feature of babyhood I never shall outgrow!" exclaimed the youth, kissing her again with all the ardor of his true and affectionate heart, and starting up to help her set the table.

He dragged the table out from under the window, spread the cloth, and placed the cups and saucers upon it, while his mother took the biscuits from the oven and made the tea; so that in ten minutes from the moment in which he entered the room, mother and son were seated at their frugal supper.

"I suppose, to-morrow being Saturday, you will have to get up earlier than usual to go to the store?" said his mother.

"No, ma'am!" replied the boy looking up brightly, as if he were telling a piece of good news. "I am not wanted any longer. Mr. Spicer's own man has got well again and returned to work."

"So you are discharged?" said Mrs. Locke, sadly.

"Yes, ma'am! but just think how fortunate that is! for I shall have a chance to-morrow of mending the fence, and nailing up the gate, and saving wood enough to last you a week, besides doing all the other little odd jobs that have been waiting for me so long; and then on Monday I shall get more work!"

"I wish I were sure of it!" said the widow, whose hopes had long since been too deeply crushed to permit her ever to be sanguine.

When their supper was over, and the humble service cleared away, the youth took his books and opened himself to study on the opposite side of the table at which his mother sat busied with her needle-work. And there fell a perfect silence between them.

The widow's mind was anxious and her heart heavy, many cares, never communicated to cloud the bright sunshine of her boy's soul, oppressed and the landlord threatened, unless the money could be raised to pay him, no seize their furniture and eject them from the premises. And how this money was to be raised she could not see at all. True, this meek Christian had often in her sad experience proved God's special blessing in His utmost need, and now she could not imagine, and her faith grew dim, and her hope dark, and her love cold.

While she was revolving these sad thoughts in her mind, Traverser suddenly thrust aside his books, and with a deep sigh, turned to his mother, and said:

"Mother, what do you think has ever become of Herbert?"

"I do not know. I dread to conjecture. It has now been nearly three years since we heard from him!" exclaimed the widow, with the tears welling up to her brown eyes.

"You think he has been lost at sea, mother, but I don't! I simply think his letters have been lost! And about to-night I can't fix my mind on my letters, or keep it off Herbert! He is running in my head all the time! He is fanciful, now, I should believe that Herbert was dead and his spirit was about me!—God heavens, mother! whose step is that?" suddenly exclaimed the youth, starting up and assuming an attitude of intense listening, as a firm and ringing step, attended by a peculiar whistling, approached up the street and entered the gate.

"It is Herbert! It is Herbert!" cried Traverser, starting across the room and tearing open the door with a suddenness that threw the entering guest forward upon his bosom, but his arms were torn around his neck, and he breathlessly exclaimed:

"Oh, Herbert! I am so glad to see you! Oh, Herbert! why didn't you come or write all the long time? Oh, Herbert! how long have you been ashore? I was just talking about you!"

"Dear fellow!—dear fellow! I have come to my knees; but now let me speak to my second mother," said Herbert, retreating Traverser's embraces, and then gently extricating himself and going to where Mrs. Locke stood up, pale, trembling and incredulous; she had not yet recovered the great shock of his unexpected appearance.

"Dear mother, won't you welcome me?" asked Herbert, going up to her. His words dissolved the spell that bound her; throwing her arms around his neck and bursting into tears, she exclaimed:

"Oh, my son! my son! my sailor boy! my other child! how glad I am to have you back once more! Welcome to—be safe you are welcome to—my own circulating blood welcome back to my heart?—but sit you down and rest by the fire! I will get your supper directly!"

"Sweet mother, do not take the trouble! I supped twenty miles back where the stage stopped."

"And will you take nothing at all?"

"Nothing, dear mother, but your kind hand to kiss again and again!" said the youth pressing that hand to his lips, and then allowing the widow to put him into a chair right in front of the fire.

Traverser sat on one side of him and his mother on the other, each holding a hand of his, and gazing on him with mingled incredulity, surprise and delight, as if, indeed, they could not realize his presence except by devouring him with their eyes.

And for the next half-hour all their talk was as wild and incoherent as the conversation of long-parted friends, suddenly brought together, is apt to be.

It was all made up of hasty questions, hurried one upon another, so as to leave but little chance to have any of them answered, and wild exclamations and disjointed sketches of travel, interrupted by frequent ejaculations; yet through all the widow and her son, perhaps through the quickness of their love as well as their intellect, managed to get some knowledge of the past three years of their "sailor boy's" life and adventures, and they entirely vindicated his constancy when they learned how frequently and regularly he had written, though they had never received his letters.

"And now," said Herbert, looking from side to side from mother to son, "I have told you all my adventures, I am dying to tell you something that concerns your mother."

"That concerns us!" exclaimed mother and son in one breath.

"Yes, ma'am! yes, sir! that concerns you both eminently; but first of all, let me ask how you are getting on at this present time?"

"Oh, as usual," said the widow, smiling, for she did not wish to damp the spirits of her sailor boy; "as usual, of course. Traverser has not been able to accomplish his darling purpose of entering the Seminary yet; but—"

"But I'm getting on quite well with my education for all that," interrupted Traverser; "for I belong to Dr. Gray's Bible class in the Sabbath school, which is a class of young men, you know! and the doctor is so good as to think that I have some mental gifts worth cultivating, so he does not confine his instructions to me to the Bible class alone, but permits me to come to him in his library, at Willow-Hights, for an hour, twice a week, when he examines me in Latin and Algebra, and sets me new exercises, which I study and write out at night; so that you see I am doing very well."

"Indeed, the doctor, who is a great scholar, and one of the trustees and examiners of the Seminary, says that he does not know any young man there, with all the advantages of the institution around him, who is getting along so fast as Traverser is, with all the difficulties he has to encounter. The doctor says it is all because Traverser is profoundly in earnest, and that one of these days he will be—"

"There, mother! don't repeat all the doctor's kind speeches! He only says such things to encourage a poor boy in the pursuit of knowledge under difficulties," said Traverser, blushing and laughing.

"—Will be an honor to his kindred, country and race," said Herbert, finishing the widow's incomplete quotation.

"It was something like that, indeed," she said, nodding and smiling.

"You do me proud," said Traverser, touching his forehead with comic gravity. "But," he inquired he, suddenly changing his tone and becoming serious, "was it not—it is not—noble in the doctor to give up an hour of his precious time twice a week, for no other cause than to help a poor, struggling fellow like me up the ladder of learning?"

"I should think it was; but he is not the first noble heart I ever heard of," said Herbert, with an affectionate glance that directed the compliment, "nor is he the last that you will meet with. I must tell you the good news now."

"Oh, tell it! Is it! have you got a ship of your own, Herbert?"

"No, nor is it about myself that I am anxious to tell you. Mrs. Locke, you may have heard that I had a rich uncle, whom I had never seen, because, from the time of my dear mother's marriage to that of her death, she and her brother, this very uncle, had been estranged."

"Yes," said the widow, speaking in a very low tone, and bending her head over her work; "yes, I have heard so; but your mother and myself seldom alluded to the subject."

"Exactly! mother never was fond of talking of him! Well, when I came on shore, and went, as usual, up to the old Washington House, who should I meet with all of a sudden, but this rich uncle. He had come to New York to claim a little girl whom I happened to know, and who happened to recognize me, and none me to him. Well, I knew him only by his name; and he knew me both by name and by my likeness to his sister, and received me with wonderful kindness, offered me a home under his roof, and promised to get me an appointment to West Point. Are you not glad?—say, are you not glad?" he exclaimed joyously clapping his hand upon Traverser's knee, and then turning around and looking at his mother.

"Oh, yes, indeed I am very glad, Herbert!" exclaimed Traverser, heartily grasping and squeezing his friend's hand.

"Yes, yes, I am indeed sincerely glad of your good fortune, dear boy," said the widow; but her voice was very faint, and her head bent still lower over her work.

"Ha! ha! ha! I knew you'd be glad for me; but now I require you to be glad for yourself. Now listen: When I told my honest old uncle—for he is honest, with all his countenances—when I told him of what friends you had been to me—"

"Oh, no! you did not! You did not mention us to him!" cried the widow, suddenly starting up and clasping her hands together, while engaged in an agony of outcry into the face of the speaker.

"Why not?—why in the world not? Was there anything improper in so doing?" inquired Herbert in astonishment, while Traverser himself gazed in amazement at the excessive and unaccountable agitation of his mother.

"Why, mother? Why shouldn't he have mentioned us? Was there anything strange or wrong in that?" inquired Traverser.

"No, oh, no; certainly not!—I forgot, it was so sudden," said the widow, sinking back in her chair and struggling for self-control.

"Why, mother, what in the world is the meaning of this?" asked her son.

"Nothing, nothing, boy; only we are poor folks, and should not be forced upon the attention of a wealthy gentleman," she said, with a cold, unnatural smile, putting her hand to her brow and striving to gain composure. Then, as Herbert continued silent and amazed she said to him:

"Go on—go on—you were saying something about my—about Major Warfield's kindness to you—go on," and she took up her work and tried to sew, but she was as pale as death, and trembling all over at the same time, that every nerve was acute with attention, to catch every word that might fall from the lips of her son.

"Well," recommenced the young sailor, "it was just saying that when I mentioned you and Traverser to my uncle, and told him how kind and disinterested you had been to me—you being like a mother, and Traverser like a brother, he was really moved almost to tears!—Yes, I declare I saw the rain-drops glittering in his tempestuous old orbs, as he walked the floor muttering to himself, 'Poor woman—good, excellent woman!'"

While Herbert spoke, the widow dropped her work without seeming to know that she had done so; her fingers it ticked so nervously that she had to hold both hands clasped together, and her eyes were fixed in intense anxiety upon the face of the youth, as she repeated:

"Go on—oh, go on! What more did he say when you talked of us?"

"He said everything that was kind and good. He said that he could not do too much to compensate you for the past."

"Oh! did he say that?" exclaimed the widow, breathlessly.

"Yes—and a great deal more!—that all that he could do for you or your son was but a sacred debt he owed you."

"Oh, he acknowledged it! he acknowledged it! I thank heaven! oh, thank heaven! Go on, Herbert! Go on!"

"He said that he would in future take the whole charge of the boy's advancement in life, and that he would place you above and forever; that he would, in fact, compensate for the past by doing you and yours full justice."

"Thank heaven! Oh, thank heaven!" exclaimed the widow, no longer concealing her agitation, but throwing down her work, and starting up and pacing the floor in excess of joy.

"Mother," said Traverser, meekly, going to her and taking her hand, "mother, what is the meaning of all this? Do come and sit down!"

She immediately turned and walked back to the fire, and resting her hands upon the back of the chair, bent up to them a face radiant with youthful beauty. Her cheeks were brightly flushed, her eyes were sparkling with light, her whole countenance resplendent with joy—she scarcely seemed twenty years of age.

"Mother tell us what it is," pleaded Traverser, who feared for her sanity.

"Oh, boys, I am so happy! at last! at last! after eighteen years of patient 'hoping against hope!' I shall go mad with joy!"

"Mother," said Herbert softly.

"Children, I am not crazy! I know what I am saying, though I did not intend to say it! And you shall know too. But first I must ask Herbert another question: 'Herbert, are you very sure that he—Major Warfield, knew who we were?'"

"Yes, indeed. Didn't I tell him all about you? Your troubles, your struggles, your disinterestedness, and all your history since ever I knew you shall know too. But first I must ask Herbert another question: 'Herbert, are you very sure that he—Major Warfield, knew who we were?'"

"Then you are sure he knew who he was talking about?"

"Of course, he did!"

"He could not have failed to do so, indeed! But, Herbert, did he mention any other important fact, that you have not yet communicated to us?"

"No, ma'am."

"Did he allude to any previous acquaintance with us?"

"No, ma'am, unless it might have been in the words I repeated to you—there was nothing else!—except that he bade me hurry to you and make you glad with his message, and return as soon as possible to let him know whether you accept his offers."

"Accept them! accept them! of course I do! I have waited for them for years!—oh! children! you gaze on me as if you thought me mad! I am not so! I nor can I now explain myself! for since he has not chosen to be confidential with Herbert, I can not be so prematurely! but you will know all, when Herbert shall have borne back my message to Major Warfield."

It was, indeed, a mad evening in the cottage. And even when the little family had separated and returned to bed the two youths lying together as formerly, could not sleep for talking; while the widow, on her lonely couch, lay awake for joy.

CHAPTER X.

THE ROOM OF THE TRAP-DOOR.

If you have hitherto concealed this slight, let it remain, in your silence still!

And while we are thus with thee to-night, give it an understanding, but to remember.

SHAKESPEARE.

Capitola meanwhile in the care of the Major, arrived at Hurricane Hall, much to the disappointment of good Mrs. Conditum, who was quite unprepared to expect the new inmate; and when Major Warfield said:

"Mrs. Conditum, this is your young lady, take her off to the best bedroom, where she can take off her bonnet and shawl," the worthy dame, thinking secretly: "The old fool as gone on! I married a young wife, sure enough; a mere child of a child!" made a very deep curtsy, and a very queer cough, and said:

"I'm mortified to inform, at the fire not being made in the best bedroom; but when I was not warned of your coming, Madam!"

"Madam! Is the old woman crazed? This child is no 'madam!' She is Miss Black, my ward, the daughter of a deceased friend," sharply exclaimed Old Herrience.

"Excuse me, Mrs. I did not know; I was unprepared to receive a young lady. Shall I attend you, Miss Black?" said the old lady in a mollified tone.

"If you please," said Capitola, and arose to follow her.

"Not expecting you, Miss, I have no proper room prepared—most of them are not furnished, and in some, the chimneys are foul; indeed, the only tolerable room I can put you in is the room with the trap-door—if you would not object to it?" said Mrs. Conditum, as with a candle in her hand, she preceded Capitola along the gloomy hall, and then opened a door that led into a narrow passage.

"A room with a trap-door?—that's a curious thing; but why should I object to it! I don't at all. I think I should rather like it," said Capitola.

"I will show it to you and tell you about it, and then if you like it, well and good! If not, I shall have to put you in a room that leaks, and has swallow nests in the chimney," answered Mrs. Conditum, as she led the way along the narrow passages, and up and down dark, back stairs, and through bare and deserted rooms, and along other passages until she reached a remote chamber, opened the door, and invited her guest to enter.

It was a large, shadowy room, through which the single candle shed such a faint, uncertain light, that at first Capitola could see nothing but black masses looming through the darkness.

But when Mrs. Conditum advanced and set the candle upon the chimney-piece, and Capitola's sight accompanied itself to the scene, she saw that upon the right of the chimney-piece stood a tall tester bedstead, curtained with very dark crimson serge; on the left hand, thick curtains of a same color draped the windows. Between these windows, directly opposite the bed, stood a dark mahogany dressing bureau, with a large looking-glass; a washstand in the left hand corner of the chimney-piece; and a rocking-chair

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ER X.

TRAP-DOOR.

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SHAKESPEARE.

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and tell you about it, and good! If not, I can that looks, and chimney," a wretched d the way along the and down dark, back the deserted rooms, and she reached a remote and invited her guest

room, through which she faint, uncertain could see nothing but in the darkness.

not advanced and set piece, and Capitola's of the scene, she saw chimney-piece stood a wood with very dark and, thick curtains of windows. Between the bed, stood a screen, with a large in the left hand- and a rocking-chair

and two plain chairs completed the furniture of this room, that I am so particular in describing, as upon the simple accident of its arrangement depended upon two occasions the life and honor of its occupant. There was no carpet on the floor, with the exception of a large old Turkey rug that was laid before the fireplace.

"Here, my dear, this room is perfectly dry and comfortable, and we always keep kindlings built up in the fireplace ready to light in case a guest should come," said Mrs. Condiment, applying a match to the waterpiper under the pineknots and logs that filled the chimney. Soon there arose a cheerful blaze that lighted up all the room, glowed on the crimson serge bed curtains and window-curtains, and flashing upon the large looking-glass between them.

"There, my dear; sit down, and make yourself comfortable," said Mrs. Condiment, drawing up the rocking-chair.

Capitola threw herself into it, and looked around and around the room, and then into the face of the old lady, saying:

"But what about the trap-door?—I see no trap-door!"

"Ah, yes—look!" said Mrs. Condiment, lifting up the rug and revealing a large *drop* some four feet square, that was kept up by a short iron bolt. "Now, my dear, take care of yourself, for this bolt slides very easily, and if, while you happened to be walking across this place, you were to push the bolt back, the trap-door would drop and you fall down"—inquired knows where?"

"Is there a cellar under there?"—began Capitola, gazing with interest upon the door.

"Lord knows, child; I don't! I did once make one of the negro men let it down, so I could look in it; but Lord, child! I saw nothing but a great, black, deep vacancy, without bottom or sides! It put such a horror over me that I have never looked down there since, and never want to, I'm sure."

"Ugh! for goodness sake what was the horrid thing made for?" ejaculated Capitola, gazing as if fascinated by the trap.

"The Lord only knows, my dear; for it was made long before ever the house came into the major's family. *But they do say*—" whispered Mrs. Condiment, mysteriously.

"Ah! what do they say?" asked Capitola, eagerly throwing off her bonnet and shawl, and settling herself to hear some thrilling explanation.

Mrs. Condiment slowly replaced the rug, drew another chair to the side of the young girl, and said:

"They do say it was—a trap for Indians."

"A trap for Indians?"

"Yes, my dear. You must know that this room belongs to the *oldest part of the house*. It was all built as far back as the old French and Indian war; but this room belonged to the part that dates back to the first settlement of the country."

"Then I shall like it better than any room in the house, for I date on old places with stories to them: Go on, please."

"Yes, my dear. Well, first of all, this place was a part of the grant of land given to the *Le Noir*. And the first owner, old Henri Le Noir, was ever heard of. Well, you see, he lived out here in his hunting-lodge, which is this part of the house."

"Oh, my! then this very room was a part of the old pioneer hunter's lodge?"

"Yes, my dear, and they do say that he had this place made as a trap for the Indians. You see, they say he was on terms of friendship with the Sacoepos, a little tribe of Indians that was nearly wasted away, though among the few that was left there were several braves! Well, he wanted to buy a certain large tract of land from this tribe, and they were all willing to sell it, except these half a dozen warriors, who wanted it for camping-ground. So when he does this awful great feat in his lodge, and invites his red brothers to come to it; and they come. Then he proposes that they stand upon his blanket and all swear eternal brotherhood, which he made the poor souls believe was the right way to do it. Then when they all sit close together as they could stand, with hands held up

something above their heads, all of a sudden the black villain sprang the bolt, the trap fell, and the six men went down—down, the Lord knows where."

"Oh, what is horrible! horrible!" cried Capitola, "but where do you think they fell to?"

"Well, you the Lord only knows. They say that it was a bottomless abyss, with no outlet but one crooked one miles long that reaches to the Demon's Punch Bowl. But if there is a bottom to that abyss, that bottom is strewn with human bones."

"Oh, horrible! most horrible!" exclaimed Capitola.

"For—" you are afraid to sleep here by yourself, if so, there's the dining room—"

"Oh, no! oh, no! I am not afraid. I have been in too much deadly peril from the living ever to fear the dead. No, I like the room, with its strange legend; but tell me, did that human soul escape without punishment from the tribe of the murdered victims?"

"Lord, child, how were they to know of what was done?" There wasn't a man left to tell the tale. Besides, the tribe was now brought down to a few old men, women, and children. So, when he showed a bill of sale for the land he wanted, he showed the six braves—their marks in six blood-red arrows, there was none to contradict him."

"How was his villainy found out?"

"Well, it was said he married, had a family, and prospered for a long while; but that the poor Sacoepos always suspected him, and bore a long grudge, and that when the sons of the murdered warriors grew up to be powerful braves, one night they set upon the house and massacred the whole family except the eldest son, a lad of ten, who escaped, and ran away and gave the alarm to the black-house, where there were soldiers stationed. It is said that after killing and scalping father, mother, and children, the savages threw the dead bodies down the trap-door. And they had just set fire to the house, and were dancing their wild dance around it, when the soldiers arrived and dispersed the party, and put out the fire."

"Oh, what bloody, bloody days!"

"Yes, my dear, and as I told you before, if that horrible pit has any bottom, that bottom is strewn with human skeletons!"

"It is an awful thought—"

"As I said, my dear, if you feel at all afraid, you can sit another room."

"A fright—what are those skeletons, supposing them to be there, cannot hurt me. I am not afraid of the dead—I only dread the living, and not them much either," said Capitola.

"Well, my dear, you will want a waiting-woman, anyhow, and I think I will send Pitapat to wait on you; she can sleep on a pallet in your room, and be so company."

"And who is Pitapat, Mrs. Condiment?"

"Pitapat? Lord, child, she is the youngest of the housemaids. I've called her Pitapat ever since she was a little one begun; to walk, when she used to steal away from her mother, Dorcas, the cook, and I would hear her little feet coming pitapat, pitapat up the dark stairs up to my room. As it was often the only sound to be heard in the still hours, I grew to call my little visitor P'apat."

"Then let me have Pitapat by all means. I like company, especially company that I can send away when I choose."

"Very well, my dear, and now I think you'd better smooth your hair and come down with me to tea, for it is full time, and the major, as you may know, is not the most patient of men."

Capitola took a brush from her travelling-bag, hastily arranged her black ringlets, and announced herself ready.

They left the room, and traversed the same labyrinth of passages, stairs, empty rooms and halls, back to the dining-room, where a comfortable fire burned and a substantial supper was spread.

Old Hurrione took Capitola's hand with a hearty grasp, and placed her in a chair at the side, and then took his own seat at the foot of the table.

Mrs. Condiment sat at the head and poured out the tea.

"Uncle," said Capitola, suddenly, "what is under the trap-door in my room?"

"What! have they put you in that room?" exclaimed the old man, hastily looking up.

"There was no other one prepared, sir," said the house-keeper.

"Besides, I like it very well, uncle," said Capitola.

"Humph! humph! humph!" granted the old man, only half satisfied.

"But uncle, what is under the trap-door?" persisted Capitola, "what's under it?"

"Oh, I don't know—an old cave that was once used as a dry cellar, until an underground stream broke through and made it too damp—so it I said. I never explored it."

"But, uncle, what about the—"

Here Mrs. Condiment stretched out her face and knelt upon the toes of Capitola so sharply as to make her stop short, while she dexterously changed the conversation by asking the major if he would not send Wool to Tip-Top in the morning for another bag of coffee.

Soon after supper was over, Capitola, saying that she was tired, bade her uncle good-night, and attended by her little black maid Pitapat, whom Mrs. Condiment had called up for the purpose, retired to her distant chamber. There were already collected her three trunks, which the liberality of her uncle had filled.

As soon as she had got in and locked the door, she detached one of the strongest straps from her largest trunk, and then turned up the ring in the trap-door. Then she withdrew the bolt, and holding on to one end of the strap, gently lowered the trap, and kneeling, gazed down into an awful black void—without boundaries, without light, without sounds, except a deep, faint, subterranean roaring as of water.

"Bring the light, Pitapat, and hold it over this place, and take care you don't fall in," said Capitola. Come, as I've got a pit's to my name and you've got a pit in yours, we'll see if we two can't make something of this third pit!"

"Deed I've 'fraid, Miss," said the poor little darkey.

"Afraid! what of?"

"Ghoses."

"Nonsense. I'll agree to lay every ghost you see!"

The little maid approached, candle in hand, but in such a gingerly sort of way, that Capitola seized the light from her hand, and stooping, held it down as far as she could reach, and gazed once more into the abyss.

But this only made the horrible darkness "visible"; no object caught or reflected a single ray of light—all was black, hollow, void and silent, except the faint, deep, distant roaring as of subterranean water!

Capitola pushed the light down as far as she could possibly reach, and then yielding to a strange fascination, dropt it into the abyss! It went down, down, down, down into the darkness, until far below it glimmered out of sight!

Then with an awful shudder Capitola pulled up and fastened the trap-door, laid down the rug and said her prayers and went to bed by the fire-light,—with little Pitapat sleeping on a pallet.

The last thought of Cap., before falling to sleep, was:

"It is awful to go to bed over such a horrible mystery; but I will be a hero!"

CHAPTER XI.

A MYSTERY AND A STORM AT HURRIONE HALL.

Did her address her prayers to heaven!
Learn if she there any be forgiven;
But here upon this earth be she forgiven!
There is no spot where she and I
Together for as how could breathe!—Byron.

Early the next morning Capitola arose, made her toilet, and went out to explore the outer walls of her part of the old house, to discover if possible, some external entrance into the unknown cavern under her room. It was a bright, cheerful healthy autumnal morning, well adapted to dispel all clouds of mystery and superstition. Hoops of crimson and golden lined laces, glimmering with hoar frost, lay drifted against the old walls, and when these were brushed away by the busy feet and hands of the young girl, they revealed nothing but the old mouldering foundation; and

a vestige of a collar-door or window was visible.
Capitola abandoned the fruitless search, and turned to go into the house. And saying to herself:

"I'll think no more of it! I dare say, after all, it is nothing but a very dark collar without window and with a well, and the story of the murders and of the skeletons, is all moonshine!" She ran into the dining-room, and took her seat at the breakfast table.

Old Hurricane was just then stirring away at his factotum Wool for some misdemeanor, the nature of which Capitola did not hear, for upon her appearance, he suffered his wrath to subside in a few reverberating low thunders, gave his ward a grumpy "good-morning," and sat down to his breakfast.

After breakfast Old Hurricane took his great-coat and cocked hat, and stomped forth upon the plantation to blow up his lazy overseer, Mr. Will Ezy, and his little negroes, who had loitered or frolicked away all the days of their master's absence.

Mrs. Condiment went away to mix a plum-pudding for dinner, and Cap. was left alone.

After wandering through the lower rooms of the house, the stately old-fashioned drawing-room, the family parlor, the dining-room, etc., Cap. found her way through all the narrow back passages and steep little stair-cases back to her own chamber.

The chamber looked quite different by daylight—the cheerful wood fire burning in the chimney right before her, opposite the door by which she entered; the crimson curtains belted on her right hand; the crimson draped windows, with the rich old mahogany bureau and dressing-glass between them, on her left; the polished, dark oak floor; the rich Turkey rug, concealing the trap-door; the comfortable rocking-chair; the new workstand, placed there for her use that morning, and her own well filled trunk standing in the corners, looked altogether too cheerful to associate with dark thoughts.

Besides, Capitola had not the least particle of gloom, superstition or marvellousness in her disposition. She loved old houses and old legends well enough to enjoy them; but was not sufficiently credulous to believe, or cowardly to fear them.

She had besides, a pleasant morning's occupation before her, in repacking her three trunks and arranging her wardrobe and her possessions, which were all upon the most liberal scale, for Major Warfield at every city where they did stop had given his poor little *protégée* a virtual carte blanche for purchases, having said to her:

"Capitola, I'm an old bachelor; I've not the least idea what a young girl requires; all I know is, that you have nothing but your clothes, and must want sewing and knitting needles, and must want sewing and comb and boxes and smelling-bottles and tooth-powder; and such. So come along with me to one of those Vanity Fairies that sell fancy stores, and get what you want; I'll foot the bill."

And Capitola, who firmly believed that she had the most sacred of charms upon Major Warfield, whose resources she also supposed to be unlimited, did not fail to indulge her taste for rich and costly toys, and supplied herself with a large ivory dressing-case, lined with velvet, and furnished with ivory-handled combs and brushes, silver boxes and crystal bottles; a paper mache work-box, with gold handle, and degree of ornament; a gold-mounted scissors and window; and an ebony writing-desk with silver-mounted crystal standishes; each of these—boxes and desk—were filled with all things requisite in the several departments. And now as Capitola unpacked them and arranged them upon the top of the bureau, it was with no small degree of appreciation. The rest of the forenoon was spent in arranging the best articles of her wardrobe in her bureau drawers.

Having locked the remainder in her trunks, and carefully smoothed her hair, and dressed herself in a brown merino, she went down stairs and sought out Mrs. Condiment, whom she found in the housekeeper's little room, and to whom she said:

"Now, Mrs. Condiment, if uncle has any needlework wanted to be done, any buttons to be sewed on, or anything of the kind, just let me

have it; I've got a beautiful work-box, and I am just dying to use it!"

"My dear Miss Black—"

"Please to call me Capitola, or even Cap. I never was called Miss Black in my life, until I came here, and I don't like it all!"

"Well then, my dear Miss Cap., I wish you would wait till to-morrow, for I just came in here in a great hurry to get a glass of brandy out of the cupboard to put in the sauce for the plum-pudding, as dinner will be on the table in ten minutes."

With a shrug of her little shoulders, Capitola left the housekeeper's room, and hurried through the central front hall and out at the front door, to look about and breathe the fresh air for a while.

As she stepped upon the front piazza she saw Major Warfield walking up the steep lawn, followed by Wool, leading a pretty, mottled, iron-gray pony, with a side-saddle on his back.

"Ah, I'm glad you're down, Cap. I come to look at this pretty pony! he is good for nothing as a working horse, and is too light to carry my weight, and so I intend to give him to you! You must learn to ride," said the old man, coming up the steps.

"Give him to me! I learn to ride! Oh! uncle! Oh, uncle! I shall go perfectly crazy with joy!" exclaimed Cap., dancing and clapping her hands with delight.

"Oh, well, a tumble or two in learning will bring you back to your senses, I reckon!"

"Oh, uncle! Oh, uncle! when shall I begin?"

"You shall take your first tumble immediately after dinner, when, being well-filled, you will not be so brittle and apt to break in falling!"

"Oh, uncle! I shall not fall! I feel I shall! I feel I've a natural gift for holding on!"

"Come, come, get in! get in! I want my dinner!" said Old Hurricane, driving his way in before him to the dining-room, where the dinner was smoking upon the table.

After dinner Cap., with Wool for a riding-master, took her first lesson in equestrianism.

She had the four great requisites for forming a good rider—a well-adapted figure, a fondness for the exercise, perfect fearlessness and presence of mind. She was not once in danger of losing her seat, and during that single afternoon's exercises, she made considerable progress in learning to manage her steed.

Old Hurricane, whom the genial autumn afternoon had tempted out to smoke his pipe in his arm chair on the porch, was a pleased spectator of her performances, and expressed his opinion that in time she would become the best rider in the neighbourhood, and that she should have the best riding-dress and cap that could be made at Tip-Top.

Just now, in lack of an equestrian dress, poor Cap. was parading around and around the lawn with her head bare and her hair flying, and her merino skirt exhibiting more ankles than grace.

It was while Old Hurricane still sat smoking his pipe and making his comments, and Capitola still ambled around and around the lawn, that a horseman suddenly appeared galloping as fast as the steep nature of the ground would admit, up towards the house, and before they could form an idea of who he was, the horse was at the block, Major Warfield.

"Why, Herbert, my boy! I back so soon! I didn't expect you for a week to come! This is indeed, indeed! So much the better! So much the better! Glad to see you, lad!" exclaimed Old Hurricane, getting up and heartily shaking the hand of his nephew.

Capitola came ambling up, and in the effort to spring from her saddle, tumbled off, much to the delight of Wool, who grinned from ear to ear, and of Old Hurricane, who, with an "I said so," burst into a roar of laughter.

Herbert Greyson sprang to assist her; but before he had reached the spot, Cap. had picked herself up, straightened her disordered dress, and now she ran to meet and shake hands with him.

There was such a sparkle of joy and glow of affection in the meeting between these two, that Old Hurricane, who saw it suddenly hushed his laugh, and granted to himself:

"Humph, humph, humph! I like that; that's better than I could have planned it myself; let that go on, and then, Gabe Le Noir, we'll see un-

der what name and head the old divided manor will be held!"

Before his mental soliloquy was concluded, Herbert and Capitola came up to him. He welcomed Herbert again with great cordiality, and then called to his man to put up the horse, and bade the young people follow him into the house, as the air was getting chilly.

"And how do you find your good friends, lad?" inquired Old Hurricane, when they had reached the sitting-parlor.

"Oh, very well, sir; and very grateful for your offered kindness; and, indeed, so anxious to express their gratitude, that—that I shortened my visit, and came away immediately to tell you."

"Right, lad, right! You come down by the coach?"

"Yes, sir; and got off at Tip-Top, where I hired a horse to bring me here. I must ask you to let one of your men take him back to Mr. Morry, at the Antler's Inn, to-morrow."

"Surely, surely, lad! Wool shall do it."

"And so, Herbert, the poor woman was delighted with the prospect of better times," said Old Hurricane, with a little glow of benevolent self-satisfaction.

"Oh, yes, sir! delighted beyond all measure!"

"How thing! poor thing! See, young folks, how easy it is for the wealthy, by sparing a little of their superfluous means, to make the poor and virtuous happy. And the boy, Herbert, the boy?"

"Oh, sir! delighted for himself, but still more delighted for his mother; for her joy was such as to astonish and even alarm me! Before that I had thought Marah Rocco a proud woman, but—"

"What—say that again!" exclaimed Major Warfield.

"I say that I thought she was a proud woman, but—"

"Thought you was a proud woman, sir?" roared Old Hurricane.

"Marah Rocco!" replied the young man, with wonder.

Major Warfield started up, seized the chair upon which he had sat, and struck it upon the ground with such force as to shatter it to pieces; then turning he strode up and down the floor with such violence that the two young people gazed after him in consternation and fearful expectancy. Presently he turned suddenly, strode up to Herbert Greyson, and stood before him.

His face was purple, his veins swollen until they stood out upon his forehead like cords, his eyes were protruded and glaring, his mouth clenched until the grizzly gray moustache and beard were drawn in, his whole huge frame was quivering from head to foot! It was impossible to tell what passion—whether rage, grief, or shame, the most possessed him, for all three seemed tearing his giant frame to pieces.

For an instant he stood speechless, and Herbert feared he would fall into a fit; but the old giant was too strong for that! For one short moment he stood thus, and in a terrible voice he asked:

"Young man! did you—did you know—the name that you dashed into my face, with the name of that woman?"

"Sir, I know nothing but that she is the best and dearest of her sex!" exclaimed Herbert, beyond all measure amazed at what he heard and saw.

"My best and dearest!" thundered the old man—"oh, what is she still a sycron, and are you a dunce? But that cannot be! No, say dry eyes whom you both would dupel! Ah, I see it all now! This is why you artfully concealed her name from me until you had won my promise. It shall not serve either you or her, sir! I break my promise—thus!"—bending and snapping his own cane, and flinging his fragments behind his back

"—there, sir! when you can make those dry ends of cedar grow together again, and bear good leaves, you may hope to reconcile Ira Warfield and Marah Rocco; I break my promise, as she broke—"

The old man suddenly sank back into the nearest chair, dropped his fragrant head and face into one, and flinging his fragments from head to foot, while the convulsive heaving of his chest, and the rising and falling of his huge shoulders, betrayed that his heart was nearly bursting with such suppressed sob as only can be forced from manhood by the fiercest anguish.

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"I find your good friends, Mr. Hurricane, when they had not been so very grateful for your interest, so anxious to extend—that I shortened my immediately to tell you."

"You come down by the off at Tip-Top, where I see here. I must ask you to take him back to Mr. in, to-morrow."

"What shall I do?"

"I think the poor woman was de- of better times?" said the glow of benevolent self.

"I went beyond all measure!"

"See, young folks, with, by sparing a little us, to make the wiser and Mr. Herbert, the boy?"

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and pity; and then their eyes met—those of Her- bert silently inquired:

"What can all this mean?" Those of Capita- la as mutely answered!

"Heavenly only knows." In his deep pity for the old man's terrible angu- ish, Herbert could feel no shame nor resentment for the false accusation made upon himself. Indeed, his noble and candid nature easily ex- plained all as the ravings of some heart-rending remembrance. Waiting, therefore, until the vio- lent convulsions of the old man's frame had some- what subsided, Herbert went to him, and with a low and respectful intonation of voice said:

"Uncle, if you think that there was any collision between myself and Mrs. Rocke, you wrong us both. You will remember that when I met you in New York, I had not seen or heard from her for years, nor had I then any expectation of ever seeing you. The subject of the poor widow came up between us accidentally, and if it is true that I omitted to call her by name, it must have been because we both then felt too tenderly by her to call her anything else but 'the poor widow, the poor mother, the good woman,' and so on—and all this she is still."

The old man, without raising his head, held out one hand to his nephew, saying in a voice still trembling with emotion:

"Herbert, I wronged you; I forgive me." Herbert took and pressed that rugged and hairy old hand to his lips, and said:

"Uncle, I do not in the least know what is the cause of your present emotion, but—"

"Emotion! Demmy, sir! What do you mean by emotion? Am I a man to give way to emotion? Demmy, sir, mind what you say!" roared the old lion, getting up and shaking himself free of all weaknesses.

"I merely meant to say, sir, that if I could possibly be of any service to you, I am entirely at your orders."

"Then go back to that woman and tell her never to dare to utter, or even to think my name again, if she values her life!"

"Sir, you do not mean it and as for Mrs. Rocke, she is a good woman! I feel it my duty to uphold her!"

"Good night! Good night! I'll command my- self! I'll not give way again. Good! Ah, lad, it is quite plain to me now that you are an innocent dups. Tell me now, for instance, do you know anything of that woman's life, before she came to reside at Staunton?"

"Nothing; but from what I've seen of her since, I'm sure she always was good."

"Did she never mention her former life at all?"

"Never; but, mind! I hold to my faith in her, and would stake my salvation on her integrity," said Herbert, warmly.

"Then you'd lose it, lad, that's all; but I have an explanation to make to you, Herbert. You must give me a minute or two of your company alone, in the library, before tea."

And so saying, Major Warfield arose and led the way across the hall to the library, that was immediately back of the drawing-room.

Throwing himself into a leather chair beside the writing table, he motioned for his companion to take the one on the opposite side. A fire was smoldering on the hearth before them, so dimly lighted the room that the young man arose again to pull the bell rope; but the other interrupted with:

"No, you need not ring for lights, Herbert: my story is one that should be told in the dark! Listen, lad; but drop your eyes, the while!"

"I am all attention, sir, eyes," the while!"

"Herbert! the poet says, that: "At thirty man suspects himself a fool, Knows it at forty and reforms his rule."

But boy, at the ripe age of forty-five, I succeeded in achieving the most sublime folly of my life! I should have taken a degree in wisdom, and been raised to a professor's chair in some College of Lunacy! Herbert, at the age of forty-five I fell in love with and married a girl of sixteen, out of a log cabin merely forsooth, because she had a pretty skin like the leaf of the white japonica, soft, gray eyes like a timid fawn, and those delicate cheeks flushed, and those soft eyes fell when I spoke to her, and the cooling voice trembled when she replied! because the delicate face brightened when I came, and faded when I turned away! because

"She wopt with delight when I gave her a smile, And trembled with fear at my frown," &c.

Because she adored me as a sort of god, I loved her as an angel, and married her!—married her secretly, for fear of the ridicule of my brother officers, but her in a pastoral log cabin in the woods below the lock-house, and visited her there by stealth, like Nanna did his nymph in the cave! But I was watched, my hidden treasure was discovered—and coveted by a younger and prettier fellow than myself—Perdition! I cannot tell this story in detail! One night I came home very late and quite unexpectedly, and found—this man in my wife's cabin! I broke the man's head and ribs and left him for dead. I tore the woman out of my heart and encircled his bleeding wounds!—this man was Gabriel Le Noir! Satan burn him forever!

This woman was Marah Rocke, God forgive her! I could have divorced the woman, but as I did not dream of ever marrying again, I did not care to drag my shame before a public tribunal. There! you know all! let the subject sink forever," said Old Hurricane, wiping great drops of sweat from his laboring brow.

"Uncle! I have heard your story and believe you of course! But I am bound to tell you, that without even having heard your poor wife's defence, I believe, and uphold her to be innocent! I think you have been as grossly deceived as she has been fearfully wronged! and that time and providence will prove this," exclaimed Herbert, fervently.

A horrible laugh of scorn was his only answer, as Old Hurricane arose, shook himself and led the way back to the parlor.

CHAPTER XII.

MARAH'S DREAM.

And now her narrow kitchen walls stretched away into stately halls; The weary wince to a spinnet turned, And music came an aural horned; A melody from her side she saw, And joy was duty and love was law.—WITTEN.

On the same Saturday morning that Herbert Grayson hurried away from his friend's cottage, purpose of accelerating the coming of her good fortune, Marah Rocke walked about the house with a step so light, with eyes so bright, and cheeks so blooming, that one might have thought that years had rolled backward in their course and made her a young girl again!

Traverse gazed upon her in delight. Reversing the words of the text, he said:

"We must call you no longer Marah, (which is bitter), but we must call you Naomi, (which is beautiful) mother!"

"Young flatterer!" she answered, smiling and slightly flushing. "But tell me truly, Traverse, am I very much faded; have care, and toil, and grief made me old?"

"You! old!" exclaimed the boy, running his eyes over her beaming face and graceful form with a look of non-comprehension that might have satisfied her, but did not, for she imme-

diately replied:

"Yes, do I look old! Indeed, I do not ask from vanity, child! Ah, it little becomes me to be vain; but I to wish to look well in some one's eyes!"

"I wish there was a looking-glass in the house, mother, that it might tell you, you should be called Naomi, instead of Marah!"

"Ah! that it is just what it needs to say to me in the old happy time,—the time in Paradise, before the serpent entered!"

"What! 'he, mother?'"

"Your father, boy, of course!"

That father, boy, of course! In some of his father's first time she had ever mention- ed him with such a dash of joy as she had done while her words referred darkly to the past, her eyes looked brightly to the future! All this, taken with the events of the preceding evening, greatly bewildered the mind of Traverse, and again was left with the wildest conjectures.

"Mother, you tell me about my father, and also what is beyond this promised kind- ness of Major Warfield that has made you so happy?" he asked.

"Not now, my boy! dear boy, not now! I must not, I cannot, I dare not yet! Wait a few days and you shall know all! Oh, it is hard to keep a secret from my boy! but then it is not only my secret, but another's! You do not think it hard of me for withholding it now, do you, Traverse?" she asked, affectionately.

"No, dear mother, of course I don't. I know you must be right, and I am glad to see you happy."

"Happy! Oh, boy, you don't know how happy I am! I did not think any human being could ever feel so joyful in this erring world, much less I! One cause of this excess of joy- ful feeling must be from the contrast I else it were dreadful to be so happy!"

"Mother, I don't know what you mean," said Traverse, uneasily, for he was too young to under- stand those paradoxes of feeling and thought, and there were moments when he feared for his mother's reason.

"Oh, Traverse, think of it! eighteen long, long years of estrangement, sorrow, and dreadful suspense! eighteen long, long, weary years of patience against anger, and loving against hatred, and hoping against despair! Your young mind cannot grasp it—your very life is not so long. I was seventeen then; I am thirty-five now. And after wasting all my young years of womanhood in loving, hoping, longing—to! the light of life has dawned at last."

"God save you, mother! said the boy, fer- vently, for her wild, unnatural joy continued to augment his anxiety.

"Ah, Traverse, I dare not tell you the secret now, and yet I am always letting it out; because my heart overflows from its fulness. Ah, boy, many, many weary nights have I lain awake from grief; but last night I lay awake from joy. Think of it!"

The boy's only reply to this was a deep sigh. He was becoming seriously alarmed.

"I never saw her so excited. I wish she would get calm," was his secret thought.

Then, with the design of changing the current of her ideas, he took off his coat, and said:

"Mother, my pocket is half torn out, and though there's no danger of my losing a great deal out of it, still I'll get you, please, to sew it in while I mend the fence."

"Sew the pocket! mend the fence! Well," smiled Mrs. Rocke, "we'll do so, if it will amuse you. The mended fence will be a convenience to the next tenant, and the patched coat will do for some poor boy. Ah, Traverse, you must be very good to the poor, in more ways than in giving them what we do not ourselves need, for we shall know what it is to have been poor," she concluded, in more serious tones than she had yet used.

Traverse was glad of this, and went out to his work feeling somewhat better satisfied.

This delirium of happiness lasted intermittently a whole week, during the last three days of which Mrs. Rocke was constantly going to the door and looking up the road, as if expecting some one.

The mail came from Tip-Top to Staunton only once a week, on Saturday mornings. Therefore, when Saturday came again, she sent her son to the post-office, saying:

"If they do not come to-day, they will surely write."

Traverse hastened with all his speed, and got there so soon that he had to wait for the mail to be opened.

Meanwhile, at home the widow walked the floor in restless, joyous anticipation, or went to the door and strained her eyes up the road to watch for Traverse, and perhaps for some one else's coming. At last she discerned her son, who came down the road, talking rapidly, smiling triumphantly, and holding a letter up to view.

She ran out of the gate to meet him, seized and kissed the letter, and then, with her face burning, her heart palpitating, and her fingers trembling, she hastened into the house, threw herself into the little low chair by the fire, and opened the letter. It was from Herbert, and read thus:

HURRICANE HALL, Nov. 30th, 1848.

MY DEAREST AND BEST MRS. ROCKE,—May God strengthen you to read the few bitter lines I have to write. Most unhappily, Major Warfield did not know exactly who you were, when he promised

so much. Upon learning your name he withdrew all his promises. At night, in his library, he told me all your early history. Having heard all, the very worst, I believe you as pure as an angel. So I told him. So I would uphold with my life, and seal with my death. Trust yet in God, and believe in the earnest respect and affection of your grateful and attached son.

Dear Mr. Gairvain.
 For heretofore I shall call you mother. Quietly she finished reading, pressed the letter again to her lips, reached it to the fire, saw it, like her hopes, shrivel to ashes, and then she arose, and with her trembling fingers clinging together, wiped up and down the floor.

There were no tears in her eyes, but oh, such a look of miserable woe on her pale, blank, despairing face.

Traverso watched her, and saw that something had gone frightfully wrong; that some awful revolution of fate or revulsion of feeling had passed over her in this dread hour.

Cautiously he approached her, gently he laid his hand upon her shoulder, tenderly he whispered:

"Mother!"
 She turned and looked strangely at him, then exclaimed:

"Oh, Traverso, how happy I was this day week, when I saw you!"

She burst into a flood of tears.

Traverso threw his arm around his mother's waist, and half-carried and half-bore her to her low chair, and sat her in it, and knelt by her side, and, embracing her fondly, whispered:

"Mother, don't weep so bitterly. You have no, an I nothing? Mother, I love you more than son ever loved his mother, or sister his sweetheart, or husband his wife. Oh, is my love nothing, mother?"

Only sobs answered him.
 "Mother," he pleaded, "you are all the world to me—let me be all the world to you. I can be all, mother—I can be all; try me. I will make every effort for my mother, and the Lord will bless us."

Still no answer but convulsive sobs.
 "Oh, mother, mother, I will try to do for you more than ever son did for mother, or man for woman before, dear mother, if you will not break my heart by weeping so."

The sobbing abated a little, partly from exhaustion and partly from the soothing influences of the boy's loving words.

"Listen, dear mother, what I will do. In the olden times of chivalry, young knights bound themselves by sacred vows to the service of some lady, and labored long and perilously in her honor; but her blood was spilt—for her, fields were won; but, mother, never yet did I knit in the battle-field, or my lady-love as I will, in the battle of life, or my dearest lady—my own mother."

She reached out her hand, and silently pressed his.

"Come, come," said Traverso—"lift up your head and smile! We are young yet, both you and I; for after all you are not much older than your son and we too will journey up and down the hills of life together—all in all to each other; and when at last we are old, as we shall be when you are seventy-seven and I am sixty—we will leave all our fortune that we shall have made to found a home for widows and orphans—as we were, and we will press out and go to heaven together. Now, indeed this poor, modern Hugar looked—now smiled at the oddity of her L'honneur's far-reaching thought.

In that poor household grief might not be indulged. Marah looked down her work basket and set down to finish a lot of shirts, and Traverso went out with his horse and saw, to look for a job at cutting wood for twenty-five cents a cord. Small beginnings of the fortune that was to found and endow asylums! but many a fortune has been commenced upon less!

Marah looked he managed to dismiss her boy with a smile—but that was the last effort of nature; as soon as he was gone and he found herself alone, she after that, walked up in her eyes and rolled down her pale cheeks; sigh after sigh heaved her bosom!

Ah! the transitory joy of the past week had been but the lightning's arrowy course scathing where it illuminated!

She felt as if this last blow, that had struck her

down from the height of hope to the depth of despair, had broken her heart—as if the power of reaction was gone, and she mourned as one who would not be comforted.

While she sat thus the door opened, and one who she was aware of his presence, Herbert Greydon entered the room and came softly to her side. Ere she could speak to him, his young head lowly over the hand that he took and pressed to his lips. Then he arose and stood before her. This was not unnatural or exaggerated—it was his way of expressing the reverential sympathy and compassion he felt for her strange, life-long martyrdom.

"Herbert, you here? why, we only got your letter this morning," she said, in tones of gentle inquiry, as she arose and placed a chair for him.

"Yes, I could not bear to stay away from you, at such a time; I came up in the same mail coach that brought my letter; but I kept myself out of Traverso's sight, for I could not bear to intrude upon you in the first hour of your disappointment," said Herbert, in a broken voice.

"Oh! that need not have kept you away, dear boy; I did not cry; I am used to trouble, you know; I shall get over this also—after a little while—and things will go on in the old way," said Marah, struggling to repress the rising emotion that however overcame her, for it quivering her head upon her "sister boy's" shoulder, she burst into a flood of tears and wept passionately.

"Dear mother, be comforted," he said; "dear mother, be comforted."

CHAPTER XIII.
 MARAH'S MEMORIES.

In the shade of the apple tree again
 She saw a rider draw his rein;
 And gazing down with a kind glance,
 She felt his pleased eyes tend her face.

WHITTIER.

"Dear Mr. M., I cannot understand your strong attachment to that bronzed and grizzled old man, who has treated you so barbarously," said Herbert.

"Is he bronzed and gray?" asked Marah, looking up with gentle pity in her eyes and tone.

"Why of course he is. He is sixty-three."

"He was forty-five when I first knew him, and he was very handsome then—at least I thought him the very perfection of manly strength, and beauty and goodness. True, it was the nature, and warm beauty of the Indian summer—for it was more than middle-aged; but it was very genial to the chilly, loveless morning of my own early life," said Marah, dropping her head upon her hand, and sliding into reminiscences of the past.

"Dear Marah, I wish you would tell me all about your marriage and misfortunes," said Herbert, in a tone of the deepest sympathy and respect.

"Yes he was very handsome," continued Mrs. Roche, speaking more to herself than her companion; "his form was tall, full and stately; his fine face was lighted up by a pair of strong, dark gray eyes, full of fire and tenderness, and was surrounded by waving masses of jet black hair and whiskers—they are gray now—you say, Herbert?"

"Gray and grizzled, and bristling up around his head like thorn-bushes round a rock in winter!" said Herbert, bluntly, for it enraged his honest but inexperienced boyish heart to hear this wronged woman speak so enthusiastically.

"Ah! it is winter with him now, but then it was glorious Indian summer. He was a handsome, strong and ardent man. I was a young, slight, pale girl, with no beauty; but the cold and colorless beauty of a statue; with no learning school; with no love to bless my lonely life—for I was a friendless orphan, without even parents or relatives, and living by sufferance in a cold and loveless home."

"Poor girl!" murmured Herbert, in almost audible tones.

"Our log-cabin stood beside the military road leading through the wilderness to the Fort, where he was stationed. And oh, when he came riding

by each day, upon his noble, coal-black steed, an I in his martial uniform, looking so vigorous, handsome and kindly, he seemed to me almost a god to worship. Sometimes he drew rein in front of the old oak tree that stood in front of our cabin, to breathe his horse or ask for a draught of water. I used to bring it to him. Oh! then, when he looked at me, his eyes seemed to send new warmth to my chilled heart; when he spoke, too, his tones seemed to strengthen me; while he staid, his presence seemed to protect me."

"Ay, such protection as a virtuous gives to doves—covering and avouching them," muttered Herbert to himself. Mrs. Roche too absorbed in her reminiscences to heed his interruptions continued:

"One day he asked me to be his wife. I do not know what I answered, or if I answered anything. I only know that when I understood what he meant, my heart trembled with instinctive terror at its own excessive joy! We were privately married by the chaplain at the Fort. There were no accommodations for the wives of officers there. And besides, my husband did not wish to announce our marriage, until he was ready to take me to his princely mansion in Virginia."

"Humph!" granted Herbert, inwardly for comment.

"But he built for me a pretty cabin in the woods below the fort, furnished it simply, and hired a half-breed Indian woman to wait on me. Oh, I was too happy! To my wintry spring of life summer came in cheerful light. There is a clause in some warm, rich and beautiful enjoys the husband to cherish his wife. I do not believe many people ever stop to think how much is in that word. He did; he cherished my little sin, child, feeble life, until I became strong, warm and healthful. Oh! even as the blessed sun warms and animates, and glorifies the earth, causing it to brighten with life and blossom with flowers, and bloom with fruit, so did my husband enrich, and cherish, and bless my life. Such happiness could not and did not last."

"Of course not," muttered Herbert to himself. "At first the fault was in myself. Yes Herbert, it was not a neat not look incredulous, or hope to cast all the blame on him! Listen, happy, grateful, adoring as I was, I was also shy, timid, and bashful—never proving the deep love I bore my husband except by the most perfect self-abandonment to his will. All this deep thought quiet devotion he understood as mere passive obedience void of love. As this continued he grew meaner, and often asked me if I cared for him at all, or if it were possible for a young girl like me to love an old man like himself."

"A very natural question," thought Herbert.

"Well, I used to whisper in answer, 'Yes, and still 'Yes.' But this never satisfied Major Warfield. One day, when he asked me if I cared for him the least in the world, I suddenly answered, that if he were to die I should throw myself across his grave, and lie there until death should release me! whereupon he broke into a loud laugh, saying, 'He thinks the lady doth protest too much,' I was already blushing deeply at the unwonted vehemence of my own words, although I had spoken only as I felt, my very truth; but his laugh and his jest so increased my confusion—

that—in fine, that was the first and last time I ever did protest! Like Lear's Cordelia, I was tongue-tied—I had not words to assure him. Sometimes I used to think how poor I was in resources to make him happy. Then came another annoyance—my name and fame were freely discussed at the fort."

"A natural consequence," sighed Herbert.

"The younger officers discovered my wood-land home, and often stole out to reconnoitre my cabin. Among them was Captain Le Noir, who, after he had discovered my retreat, picked the woodland sports his pretext, and haunted the vicinity of my cabin, often stopping at the door to beg a cup of water, which of course was never denied, or else to offer a bunch of partridge, or a brace of rabbits, or some other course was never accepted. One beautiful morning in June, finding my cabin door open and myself alone, he ventured unbidden across my threshold, and by his free conversation, and bold admiration, offended and alarmed me. Some days afterwards, in the mess-room at the

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port, being elevated by wine, he boasted among his men-mates of the intimate terms of friendly acquaintance, upon which, he falsely asserted that he had the pleasure of standing with 'Warfield's pretty little favorite,' as he insolently called me. When my husband heard of this, I learned for the first time of the terrific violence of his temper. It was awful! It frightened me almost to death. There was a duel, of course. Le Noir was very dangerously wounded—scared across the face for life, and was confined many weeks to his bed. Major Warfield was also slightly hurt, and laid up at the Fort for a few days, during which I was not permitted to see him.

"Is it possible that even *then* he did not see your danger, and acknowledge your marriage, and call you to his bed-side?" inquired Herbert, impatiently.

"No! no! if he had, all after suffering had been spared! No! at the end of four days he came back to me; but we met only for bitter reproaches on his part, and sorrowful tears on mine. He charged with coldness, upon account of the disparity in our years, and of preference for Captain Le Noir because he was a pretty fellow! I knew this was not true of me. I knew that I loved my husband's very foot-prints better than I did the whole human race besides; but I can not tell him so then. Oh, in these days, though my heart was so full, I had so little power of utterance! There he stood before me! he that had been so ruddy and so boyant, now so pale from loss of blood, and so miserable, that I could have fallen and grovelled at his feet in sorrow and remorse at not being able to make him happy!"

"There are some persons whom we can never make happy! It is not in them to be so!" commented Herbert.

"He made me promise never to see or to speak to Le Noir again—a promise eagerly given, but nearly impossible to keep. My husband spent as much time with me as he possibly could spare from his military duties, and looked forward with impatience to the autumn, when it was thought that he would be at liberty to take me home. He often used to tell me that we should spend our Christmas at his house, Hurricane Hall, and that I should play Lady Bountiful and distribute Christmas gifts to the negroes, and that they would thank me, and oh! with what joy I anticipated that time of honor and safety and careless ease, as an acknowledged wife, in the home of my husband! There, too, I fondly believed our child would be born. All his old tenderness returned for me, and I was as happy if not as wilfully joyful, as at first."

"'Twas but a lull in the storm," said Herbert.

"Aye! 'twas but a lull in the storm, or rather before the storm! I do think that from the time of that duel, Le Noir had resolved upon our ruin. As soon as he was able to go out, he haunted the woods around my cabin, and continually laid in wait for me. I could not go out even in the company of my maid Lura to pick blackberries and wild plums, or gather forest roses, or to get fresh water at the spring, without being intercepted by Le Noir and his offensive admiration. He seemed to be ubiquitous! He met me everywhere—except in the presence of Major Warfield. I did not tell my husband, but I feared that if I did he would have killed Le Noir and died for the deed."

"Humph! it would have been 'good riddance of bad rubbish' in both cases!" muttered Herbert, under his teeth.

"But instead of telling him, I confined myself strictly to my cabin. On a fatal day my husband, on leaving me in the morning, said that I need not wait up for him at night, for that he would be very late when he came, even if he came at all. He kissed me very fondly when he went away. Alas! alas! it was the last—last time! At night I went to bed disappointed, yet still so expectant that I could not sleep. I know not how long I had waited thus, or how late it was when I heard a tap at the outer door, and heard the bolt un-

drawn and a footstep enter, and a low voice asking: "Is she asleep?" and Lura's reply in the affirmative. Never doubting it was my husband, I lay there in pious and respectful expectation. He came in, and began to take off his coat in the

meas-room at the

dark. I spoke, telling him that there were matches on the bureau. He did not reply, at which I was surprised; but before I could even repeat my words, the outer door was burst vio-

lently open, hurried footsteps crossed the entry, a light flashed into my room, my husband stood in the door in full military uniform, with a light in his hand, and the aspect of an avenging demon on his brow, and—

"Honours or honours! the half-dressed man in my chamber was Captain Le Noir! I saw, and I was saved! you were saved!" gasped Herbert, white with emotion.

"Oh, I was saved, but not from sorrow—not from shame! I awoke from that deadly swoon to find myself alone, deserted, cast away! Oh! torn out from the warmth and light and safety of my home in my husband's heart, and hurried forth shivering, faint and helpless upon the bleak world! and all this in twenty-four hours? Ah! I did not lack the power of expression then! I happiness had never given it to me—anguish conferred it upon me! that one fell stroke of fate elct the rock of silence in my soul, and the fountain of utterance gushed freely forth. I wrote to him—his letters might as well have been dropped into a well. I wrote to him, but was separated away. I prayed him with tears to save pity on our unborn babe; but he laughed aloud in scorn, and called it by an opprobrious name! Letters, prayers, tears, were all in vain. He never acknowledged our marriage, he now declared that he never would do so; he discarded me, disowned my child, and forbade us ever to take his name!"

"Oh, Marah! and you but seventeen years of age! without a father or a brother or a friend in the world to take your part! without even means to employ an advocate!" exclaimed Herbert, covering his face with his hands and sinking back.

"Nor would I have used any of these agencies, had I possessed them! If my wicked and unmotherhood, my affections and my helplessness, were not advocates strong enough to win my cause, I could not have borne to employ others," said Marah, with none to pity or to help! It was monstrous to have abandoned you so!"

"No! hush; consider the overwhelming evidence against me! I considered it even in the tempest and whirlwind of my anguish, and never once blamed and never once was angry with my husband. For I knew—not *he*, but the terrible circumstantial evidence had ruined me!"

"Ay, but did you not explain it to him?"

"How could I, alas! when I did not understand it myself? How Le Noir knew that Major Warfield was not expected home that fatal night—how he got into my house, whether by conspiring with my little maid, or by deceiving her—or, lastly, how Major Warfield came to burst in upon him so suddenly, I did not know, and do not to this day!"

"But you told Major Warfield all that you have told me!"

"Oh, yes! again and again, calling Heaven to witness my truth! In vain! *He had seen with his own eyes*, he said. Against all I could say or do, there was but up a wall of scornful incredulity, on which I might have dashed my brains out to no purpose!"

"Oh, Marah! Marah! with none to pity or to save!" again exclaimed Herbert.

"Yes," said the meek creature, bowing her head, "and God pitied and helped me! First he sent me a son that grew strong and handsome in body, good and wise in spirit, and cheerful in soul; and I kept faith and hope and charity. He enabled me, through long years of unremitting and ill-regulated toil to live on, loving against anger, waiting against time, and hoping against despair."

"Why did you leave your western home and come to Staunton, Marah?" asked Herbert.

"To be where I could sometimes hear of my husband, without intruding on him. I took your widowed mother in because she was *his* sister, though I never told her she was, lest she should wrong and scorn me. He had done. When she died I cherished you, Herbert, first because you were *his* nephew, but now, dear boy, for your own sake, also."

"And I, while I live, will be a son to you, Madam! I will be your constant friend at Hurricane Hall. He talks of making me his heir,

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"And I, while I live, will be a son to you, Madam! I will be your constant friend at Hurricane Hall. He talks of making me his heir,

should he persevere in such blind injustice, the day I come into the property, I shall turn it all over to his widow and son. But I do not believe that he will persevere; I, for my part, still hope for the best."

"I also hope for the best, for whatever God wills is sure to happen, and his will is surely the best! Yes, Herbert, I also hope—*beyond the grave!*" said Marah Roche, with a wan smile.

The little clock that stood between the tall plated candlesticks on the mantel-piece struck twelve, and Marah rose from her seat saying: "Traverse, poor fellow, will be home to his dinner. Not a word to him, Herbert, please! I do not wish the poor lad to know how much he has lost, and above all, I do not wish him to be prejudiced against his father."

"You are right, Marah," said Herbert. "for if he were told, the natural indignation that your wrongs would arouse in his heart, would totally unfit him to meet his father in a proper spirit, in that event for which I still hope—a future and a perfect family union!"

Herbert Greyson remained a week with his friends, during which time he paid the quarterly rent, and relieved his adopted mother of that cause of anxiety. Then he took leave and departed for Hurricane Hall, on his way to Washington City, where he was immediately going to pass his examination and await his appointment.

CHAPTER XIV.
THE WASTING HEART.

Then she took up the burden of life again, saying only, "It might have been." Alas for them! Alas for us all, who vainly the dreams of youth recall, For of all sad words of lips or pen, The saddest are these—"It might have been!"

By the tacit consent of all parties, the meteor hope that had crossed and vanished from Marah Roche's path of life was never mentioned again. Mother and son went about their separate tasks. Traverse worked at jobs all day and studied at night, and went twice a week to recite his lessons to his patron, Dr. Day, at Willow Hill. Marah attended as usual all day, and prepared her boy's meals at the proper times. But day by day her cheeks grew paler, her form thinner, her step fainter. Her son saw this decline with great alarm. Sometimes he found her in a deep, troubled reverie, from which she would awaken with heavy sighs. Sometimes he surprised her in tears. At such times he did not trouble her with questions that he instinctively felt she could not or would not answer; but he came gently to her side, put his arms about her neck, stooped and laid her head against his breast, and whispered assurance of his "true love," and his boyish hopes of "getting on," or "making a fortune," and bringing "brighter days" for her!

And she would return his caresses, and with a faint smile reply that he "must not mind her, that she was only "a little low-spirited," that she would "get over it soon."

But as day followed day, she grew visibly thinner and weaker, dark shadows settled under her hollow eyes and to her sunken cheeks. One evening, while standing at the table washing up her little tea service, she suddenly sprang into her chair and fainted. Nothing could exceed the alarm and distress of poor Traverse. He hastened to fix her in an easy position, bathed her face and hands in vinegar and water—the only restoratives in their meagre stock—and called upon her every loving epithet to live and speak to him. The fit yielded to his efforts, and presently, with a few fluttering inspirations, her breath returned and her eyes opened. Her very first words were attempts to re-assure her dismayed boy. But Traverse could no more be flattered. His entreaties his mother to go at once to bed. And though the next morning when she awoke, she looked not worse than usual, Traverse left home with a heart full of trouble. But instead of turning down the street to go to his work in the town, he turned up the street towards the wooded hills beyond, now glowing in their gorgeous autumn foliage, and basking in the brilliant morning sun.

A half hour's walk brought him to a high and thickly-wooded hill, up which a private road led

through a thicket of trees to a handsome gray stone country seat, situated in the midst of the beautifully ornamented grounds, and known as Willow Heights, the residence of Doctor William Day, a retired physician of great repute, and a man of earnest piety. He was a widower with one fair daughter, Clara, a girl of fourteen, then absent at boarding-school. Traversa had never seen this girl, but his own great admiration was not without cause. Willow Heights, and its worthy proprietor. He opened the lightly ornate iron gate, and entered upon an avenue of willows, that led up to the house, a two-storied edifice of gray stone, with full-length front piazzas above and below.

Arrived at the door, he rang the bell, which was answered promptly by a good-humored looking negro boy, who at once showed Traversa to the library up stairs, where the good doctor sat at his books. Doctor Day was at this time about fifty years of age, tall and stoutly built, with a fine head and face, shaded by soft, bright flaxen hair and beard; thoughtful and kindly dark blue eyes, and an earnest, penetrating smile, that reached like sunshine the heart of any one upon whom it shone. He wore a cheerful looking flowered chintz dressing-gown corded around his waist; his feet were thrust into embroidered slippers; and he sat in his elbow-chair at his reading table, poring over a huge folio volume. The whole aspect of the man, and of his surroundings, was kindly and pleasant. The room opened upon the upper front piazza, and the windows were all up to admit the bright morning sun and genial air, at the same time that there was a glowing fire in the grate to temper its chilliness. Traversa's soft step across the carpeted floor was not heard by the doctor, who was only made aware of his presence by his stopping between the man's shine and his table. Then the doctor arose, and with his intense smile extended his hands, and greeted the boy with:

"Well, Traversa, lad, you are always welcome! I did not expect you until to-night, as usual, but as you are here, so much the better! Got your exercises all ready, eh? Heaven bless you, lad! What is the matter?" Inquired the good man suddenly, on first observing the boy's deeply troubled looks.

"My mother, sir! my mother!" was all that Traversa could at first utter.

"Your mother? My dear lad, what about her—in the ill?" Inquired the doctor, with interest.

"Oh, sir, I am afraid she is going to die!" exclaimed the boy in a choking voice, struggling hard to keep from betraying his manhood by bursting into tears.

"Going to die—oh! pool, pool, pool! she is not going to die, lad! I tell me all about it," said the doctor, in an encouraging tone.

"She has had so much grief, and care, and anxiety, sir—Doctor is there any such malady as a broken heart?"

"Broken heart?—pool, pool no, my child, no! never heard of such a thing in thirty years' medical experience! Even that story of a porter who broke his heart trying to lift a ton of stones is all a fiction. No such disease as a broken heart. But tell me about your mother!"

"It is of her that I am talking; she has had so much trouble in her life, and now I think she is sinking under it; she has been failing for weeks, and last night, while washing the tea-cups, she fainted away from the table!"

"Heaven help us, that looks badly," said the doctor.

"Oh, does it? does it? She said it was 'nothing much.' Oh, Doctor, don't say she will die! don't! if she were to die—if mother were to die, I'd give right up! I never should do a bit of good in the world, for she is all the motive I have in this life! To study hard—to work hard, and make her comfortable and happy, so as to make up for her all she has suffered, is my greatest wish and endeavor! Oh, don't say mother will die, it would ruin me!" cried Traversa.

"My dear boy, I don't say anything of the sort! I say, judging from your account, that her health must be attended to immediately. And—true I have retired from practice; but will go and see your mother, Traversa!"

"Oh, sir, if you only would! I came to ask you to do that very thing! I should not have presumed to ask such a favor for any cause but this of my dear mother's life and health, and—you will go to see her?"

"Willingly, and without delay, Traversa," said the good man, rising, immediately and hurrying into an adjoining chamber.

"Order the gig while I dress, Traversa, and I will take you back with me," he added, as he closed the chamber door behind him.

By the time Traversa had gone down, given the necessary orders, and returned to the library, the doctor emerged from his chamber, buttoned up in his gray frock coat, and booted, gloved, and capped for the ride.

"They went down together, entered the gig, and drove rapidly down the willow avenue, slowly through the iron gate and through the dark thicket, and down the wooden hill to the high road, and thence as fast as the sorry man could trudge towards town. In fifteen minutes the doctor pulled up his gig at the right hand side of the road, before the cottage gate.

They entered the cottage, Traversa going first in order to announce the doctor. They found Mrs. Rooke, as usual, seated in her low chair by the little fire, busily over her needle-work. She looked up with surprise as they came in.

"Mother, this is Doctor Day, come to see you," said Traversa.

She arose from her chair, and raised those soft and timid gray eyes to the stranger's face, where they met that sweet, intense smile that seemed to announce while it shone over her needle-work. "We have never met before, Mrs. Rooke, but we both feel too much interested in this good lad here to meet as strangers now," said the doctor, extending his hand.

"Traversa gives me every day fresh cause to be grateful to you, sir, for kindness that we can never repay," said Maria Rooke, pressing that beautiful hand, and then placing a chair, which the doctor took.

Traversa seated himself at a little distance, and as the doctor conversed with and covertly examined his mother's face, he watched the doctor's countenance, as if life and death hung upon the character of its expression. But while they talked of no one word was said upon the subject of sickness or medicine. They talked of Traversa. The doctor assured his mother that her son was a boy of fine talent, character and promise, that he had already made such rapid progress in his classical and mathematical studies, that he ought immediately to enter upon a course of reading for one of the learned professions.

The mother turned a smile full of love, pride and sorrow upon the fine, intellectual face of her boy, and said:

"You are like the angel in Cole's picture of life. You point the youth to the far-up temple of fame—"

"And leave him to get there as he can. Not at all, madam! Let us see. Traversa, you are now going on eighteen years of age; if you had your choice, which of the learned professions would you prefer for yourself—law, physic, or divinity?"

The boy looked up and smiled, then dropped his head and seemed to reflect.

"Perhaps you have never thought upon the subject. Well, you must take time—you must take time! so as to be firm in your decision which you have once decided," said the doctor.

"Oh, sir, I have thought of it long! and my choice has been long and firmly decided, ever I only free to follow it!"

"Speak, lad! What is your choice?"

"Why, don't you know, sir? Can't you guess? Why, your own profession, of course, sir! Certainly, sir, I could not think of any other!" exclaimed the boy, with sparkling eyes and flushed cheeks.

"That's my own lad!" exclaimed the doctor, enthusiastically, seizing the boy's hand with the palm for if the doctor had an admiration in the world it was for his own profession. "That's my own lad! My profession, the healing art! why, it is the only profession worthy the study of an immortal being! I saw sets people by the ears together! Divinity should never be considered as a profession—it is a divine mission! Physic! physic, my boy! The healing art! that's the profession for you! And I am very glad to hear you declare for it, too; for now the way is perfectly clear!"

Both mother and son looked up in surprise.

"Yes, the way is perfectly clear. Nothing is clearer! Traversa shall come and read medicine

in my office! I shall be glad to have the lad there. It will amuse me to give him instruction occasionally! I have a positive mania for teaching."

"And for doing good! Oh, sir, how have you deserved this kindness at your hands? and how shall we ever, ever repay it?" cried Mrs. Rooke, in a broken voice, while the tears filled her gentle eyes.

"Oh, pooh, pooh! a mere nothing, ma'am! a mere nothing for me to do, whatever it may prove to him. It is very hard, indeed, if I am to be crumpled under a cart-load of thanks for doing something for a boy I like, when it does not cost me a cent of money, or a breath of effort."

"Oh, sir, your generous refusal of our thanks does but deepen our obligation," said Maria, still weeping.

"Now, my dear madam, will you persist in making me confess that it is all selfishness on my part? I like the boy, I tell you! I shall like his bright, cheerful face in my office. I can make him very useful to me, also—"

"Oh, sir! if you can and will only make him useful to you—"

"Why, to be sure I can, and will! He can act as my clerk, keep my accounts, write my letters, drive out with me, and sit in the gig while I go to visit my patients in my office. I can make him very useful to me, also—"

"Still you visit and prescribe for the sick poor gratis!" asked Maria, feelingly.

"Pooh, pooh! I habit, madam, habit! 'ruling passion strong in death,' etc. I am't, for the life of me, keep from giving people bread pills! And now, by the way, I tell you! I shall like to see my patients in Staunton! Traversa, my lad—my young medical assistant, I mean—are you willing to go with me?"

"Oh, sir," said the boy, and here his voice broke down with emotion.

"Come along, then!" laughed the doctor; "you shall drive with me into the village as a commencement."

Traversa got his hat, while the doctor held out his hand to Mrs. Rooke, who, with her eyes full of tears, and her voice faltering with emotion, began again to thank him, when he good humoredly interrupted her by saying:

"Now, my good little woman, do—pray—hush! I'm a selfish fellow, you'll see! I do nothing but what pleases my own self, and makes me happy! Good-bye! God bless you, madam!" he cried, cordially shaking her hand. "Come Traversa," he added, hurriedly striding out of the door and through the yard, to the gate before which the old green gig and corral mare were still waiting.

"Traversa, I brought you out again to-day, more especially to speak of your mother and her state of health," said Doctor Day, very seriously, as they both took their seats in the gig and drove on towards the town. "Traversa, your mother is in no immediate danger of death, in fact, she has no disease whatever!"

"Oh, sir, you do not think her ill, then! I thought you did not, from the fact that you never felt her pulse, or gave her a prescription!" exclaimed Traversa, delightedly, for in one sentence the lad resembled his mother—he was sensitive and excitable—easily depressed and easily exhilarated.

"Traversa, I said from mother ill, not immediate danger of death, for that in fact she has no disease; but yet, Traversa, brace yourself up, for I am about to strike you a heavy blow! Traversa! Maria Rooke is—starving!"

"Starving! Heaven of Heaven! no! that is not so! it cannot be! My mother starving! Oh, horrible! horrible! But, doctor, it cannot be!—cannot be! Why, we have two meals a day at our house!" cried the boy, almost beside himself with agitation.

"Lad, there are other starvations beside the total lack of food! There are slow starvations and divers ones! Maria Rooke is starving slowly and in every way I mind, soul and body! Her body is weak, her heart from the want of proper nourishment, her heart from the want of human sympathy, her mind from the need of social intercourse. Her whole manner of life must be changed if she is to live at all!"

"Oh, sir, I understand you now! I feel, I feel that you speak the very truth! Something must be done! I must do something. What shall it be? Oh, advise me, sir!"

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"I must reflect a little, *Traverse*!" said the doctor, thoughtfully, as he drove along with very black reins.

"And, oh, how thoughtless of me! I forgot, indeed I did, sir, when I so gladly accepted your offer for me to read with you, I forgot if I spent every day reading in your office, my mother would surely miss the dollar and a half a week I made by doing little odd jobs in town."

"But I did not forget it, boy; rest easy upon that score; and now let me reflect how we can best secure your good little mother!" said the doctor, and he drove slowly and thoughtfully along for about twenty minutes before he spoke again, when he said:

"Traverse, Monday is the first of the month. You shall set in with me then. Come to me, therefore, on Monday, and I think by that time, I shall have thought upon some plan for your mother. In the meantime, you may make as much money at jobs here as a bottles or two of port wine and a turkey or two! Tell her, if she demurs, that it is the doctor's prescription, and that for fear of accidents, he always prefers to send his own physician!"

"Oh, Doctor Day, if I could only thank you
right!" cried *Traverse*.

"Pooh, pooh! I confess there is no time for it. Here we are at Spicer's grocery store, and I suppose you are again employed. Yea? Well, jump out then. You can still make half a day. Mind, remember on Monday next, December 1st, you enter my office as my medical student, and by that time I shall have some plan arranged for your mother. Good-by, my young man!" said the good doctor, as he drove off and left *Traverse* standing in the genial autumn sunshine, with his heart swelling and his eyes overflowing with excess of gratitude and happiness.

CHAPTER XV.

CAP'S COUNTRY CARES.

"A willful elf—an uncle's child.
That nift a pet and nift a pet,
Was still reproved, entreated, caressed,
Yet never tamed, though never spoiled."

Capitola at first was delighted and half incredulous at the change in her fortunes. The spacious and comfortable mansion of which she found herself the little mistress; the high rank of the veteran officer who claimed her as his ward and niece; the abundance, regularity, and respectability of her new life; the leisure, the privacy, the attendance of servants, were all so entirely different from anything to which she had previously been accustomed, that there were times when she doubted its reality, and distrusted her own identity or her sanity.

Sometimes, suddenly startled by an intense realization of the contrast between her past and her present life, she would mentally inquire:

"Can this be really I myself, and not another?"

"Z, the little houseless wanderer through the streets and alleys of New York? / the little new-girl in boys clothes? / the wretched little vagrant that was brought up before the Recorder, and was about to be sent to the House of Refuge for juvenile delinquency? Can this be I, Capitola, the little outcast of the city, who was taken into Miss Black the young lady, perhaps the heiress of a fine old country seat, inheriting a fine old military officer's uncle's leaving a handsome income of pocket-money settled upon me! having carriages, and men and servants to attend me! No; it cannot be! It's my dream! It's a dream! No! it is I. I'm crazy, that's what I am! Crazy! For now I think of it, the last thing I remember of my former life was being brought before the Recorder for wearing boy's clothes. Now I'm sure that it was upon that occasion that I went suddenly mad with trouble, and all the rest is a lunatic's fancy. This fine old country seat, of which I vainly think myself the mistress, is just the paper mad-house to which the magistrate have sent me."

"But this fine old military officer whom I call my uncle is the head-doctor. The servants who come at my call are the keepers."

"There is no figure out of my past life in my present one, except *Herbert Greyson*. But, pshaw! he is not the nephew of my uncle! he is only my old comrade *Herbert Greyson*," the

sailor lad, who comes here to the mad-house to see me, and out of compassion honors all my follies."

"I wonder how long they'll keep me here? Forever I hope. Until I get cured I'm sure! I hope they *won't* cure me. I vow I won't be cured. It's a great deal too pleasant to be mad, and I'll stay so. I'll keep on calling myself Miss Black, and this mad-house my country seat, and this head-doctor my uncle, and the keepers servants until the end of time—so I will. Catch me coming to my senses when it's so delightful to be mad. I'm too sharp for that. I didn't grow up in Rag Alley, New York, for nothing."

So, half in jest and half in earnest, Capitola soothed upon her change of fortune. Her education was commenced, but progressed rather irregularly. Old *Hurricane* bought her lessons in grammar, geography, and made her write copies, do sums, and read and recite lessons to him. Mrs. Condiment taught her the mysteries of editing and basting, back-stitching and felling, hemming and seaming. A pupil as sharp as herself each day mastered her tasks, and found herself each day more hours of leisure, with which she did not know what to do.

These hours were at first occupied with exploring the odd house, with all its attics, cupboards, cock-lofts and cellars; then in wandering through odd and ornamental grounds, that were, even in winter and in total neglect beautiful with their wild growth of vegetation; thence she extended her researches into the wild and picturesque country around.

She was never weary of admiring the great forests that climbed the heights of the mountains around their house; the great bleak precipices of gray rocks seen through the leafless branches of the trees; the rugged falling ground that lay before the house, and between it and the river; and the river itself, with its rushing stream and ragging rapids.

Capitola had become a skillful as she had first been a fearless rider. But her rides were confined to the domain between the mountain range and the river; she was forbidden to ford the one or to climb the other. Perhaps if such a prohibition had never been made, Cap. would never have thought of doing the one or the other; but we all know the diabolical incitation there is in forbidden pleasures for young human nature. And no sooner had Cap. been commanded, if she valued her seat had Cap. been commanded, if she valued her seat, than, as a natural consequence, she began to wonder what was in the valley behind the mountain, and what might be in the woods across the river? and she longed, above all things, to explore and find out for herself. She would have done so, notwithstanding the prohibition; but Wool, who always attended her rides, was sadly in the way; if she could only get rid of Wool, she resolved to go upon a limited exploring expedition.

One day a golden opportunity occurred. It was a day of unusual beauty when autumn scumetimes before passing away. In a word, it was Indian summer. The beauty of the weather had tempted Old *Hurricane* to ride to the country seat on particular business connected with his ward herself.

Capitola, left alone, amused herself with her tasks until the afternoon; then calling a boy, she ordered him to saddle her horse and bring him around.

"My dear, what do you want with your horse? There is no one to attend you; Wool has gone with his master," said Mrs. Condiment, as she met Capitola in the hall, habited for her ride.

"In the old house and deprived of my afternoon ride!" exclaimed Capitola, decidedly.

"But, my dear, you must never think of riding out alone!" exclaimed the dismayed Mrs. Condiment.

"Indeed I shall though!—and glad of the opportunity!" added Cap., mentally.

"But, my dear love, it is improper, imprudent, dangerous."

"Why so?" asked Cap.

"Good gracious, upon every account. Suppose you were to meet with ruins; suppose—oh, heaven!—suppose you were to meet with—**BLACK DONALD!**"

"Mrs. Condiment, once for all do tell me who this terrible *Black Donald* is? Is he the Evil One himself, or the Man in the Iron Mask, or the Individual that struck *Billy Patterson*, or—who is he?"

"Who is *Black Donald*? Good gracious, child, you ask me who is *Black Donald*!"

"Yes—who is he? where is he? what is he, that every child turns pale at the mention of his name?" asked Capitola.

"*Black Donald*! Oh, my child, may you never know more of *Black Donald* than I can tell you. *Black Donald* is the chief of a band of ruthless desperadoes that infest these mountain roads, robbing mail coaches, stealing negroes, breaking into houses, and committing every sort of depredation. Their hands are red with murder, and their souls black with darker crimes."

"Darker crimes than murder!" ejaculated Capitola.

"Yes, child, yes—there are darker crimes! Only last winter he and three of his gang broke into a solitary house where there was a lone woman and her daughter, and—it is not a story for you to hear, but if the people had caught *Black Donald* then, they would have burnt him at a stake. His life is forfeited by a hundred crimes. He is an outlaw, and a heavy price is set upon his head."

"And can no one take him?"

"No, my dear; at least, no one has been able to do so yet. His very haunts are unknown, but are supposed to be in concealed mountain caverns."

"How I would like the glory of capturing *Black Donald*!" said Capitola.

"You, child—your capture *Black Donald*? You are crazy."

"Oh, by stratagem, I mean, not by force! Oh, how I should like to capture *Black Donald*!—There's my horse. Good-by!"

And before Mrs. Condiment could raise another objection, Capitola ran out, sprang into her saddle, and was seen careering down the hill towards the river as fast as her horse could fly.

"My lord, but the major will be saying if he finds it out," was good Mrs. Condiment's dismayed exclamation.

Rejoicing in her freedom, Cap. galloped down to the water's edge, and then walked her horse up and down along the course of the stream until she found a good fording place. Then gathering up her riding-skirt and throwing it over the neck of her horse, she plunged boldly into the stream, and with the water splashing and foaming all around her, urged him onward until they crested the river and climbed up the opposite bank. A bridge-path lay before her, leading from the fording place through a deep wood. That path attracted her; she followed it, charmed alike by the solitude of the wood, the novelty of the scene, and her own sense of freedom. But one thought was given to the story of *Black Donald*, and that was a reassuring one.

"If *Black Donald* is a mail-robbet, then this little bridge-path is far enough of his beat."

And so saying, she galloped boldly, singing as she went, following the narrow path up hill and down dale through the wintry woods. Drawn on by the attraction of the unknown, and driven on herself by the continued repetition of one resolve, namely:

"When I get to the top of the next hill, and see what lies beyond, then I will turn back!"

She galloped on and on—on and on—on and on! until she had put several miles between herself and her home, until her horse began to exhibit signs of weariness and the level rays of the setting sun were striking rally through the leafless branches of the trees.

Cap. drew rein on the top of a high, wooded hill, and looked about her. On her left hand the sun was sinking like a ball of fire below the horizon; all around her everywhere were the wintry clouds; far away, in the direction whence she had come, she saw the tops of the mountains behind *Hurricane* Hill, looking like blue clouds against the southern horizon; the Hill itself and the river below were out of sight.

"I wonder how far I am from home?" said Capitola, uneasily; "somewhere between six and seven miles, I reckon. Dear me, I didn't mean to ride so far. I've got over a great deal of ground in these two hours. I shall not get back so soon; my horse is tired to death; it will take

me three hours to reach Hurricane Hall. Good gracious, it will be pitch dark before I get there. No, thank heaven, there'll be a moon. But won't there be a row, though? Well, I must turn about and lose no time. Come, Gyp! get up, Gyp! good horse! We're going home!"

And so saying Capitola seized her horse's head and urged him into a gallop.

She had gone on for about a mile and it was growing dark, and her horse was again slackening his pace, when she thought she heard the sound of another horse's hoofs behind her. She drew rein and listened, and was relieved of it.

Now, without being the least of a coward, Capitola thought of the loneliness of the woods, the lateness of the hour, her own helplessness, and—Black Donald! And thinking "discretion the better part of valor," she urged her horse once more into a gallop, for a few hundred yards; but the jaded beast soon broke into a trot, and subsided into a walk that threatened soon to come to a stand still.

The invisible puranon galloped on her. In vain she urged her steed with whip and voice; the poor beast would obey and trot for a few yards, and then fall into a walk.

The thundering footfalls of the pursuing horse were close in the ears.

"Oh, Gyp! it is possible that, instead of my capturing Black Donald, you are going to let Black Donald or somebody else catch me!" exclaimed Capitola, in mock despair, as she urged her wretched steed.

In vain! The pursuing horseman was beside her! A strong hand was laid upon her bridle! A mocking voice was whispering in her ear:

"Whither away so fast, pretty one!"

CHAPTER XVI.

CAP. S FEARFUL ADVENTURES.

Who passes by this road so late?
Companion of the Majorities!
Who passes by this road so late?
Say! Oh, say! Old FANCY SONG.

Of a naturally strong constitution and adventurous disposition, and lured from infancy to danger, Capitola possessed a high degree of courage, self-control, and presence of mind.

At the touch of that ruthless hand, at the sound of that gibing voice, all her faculties instantly collected and concentrated themselves upon the emergency. As by a flash of lightning she saw every feature of her imminent danger—the loneliness of the woods, the lateness of the hour, the recklessness of her fearful companion, and her own weakness. In another instant her resolution was taken and her course determined. So, when the stranger repeated his mocking question:

"Whither away so fast, pretty one?" she answered with animation:

"Oh, I am going home, and so glad to have company; for indeed I was dreadfully afraid of riding alone through these woods to-night!"

"Afraid, pretty one—what of?"

"Oh, of ghosts and witches, wild beasts, runaway negroes and—Black Donald!"

"Then you are not afraid of *me*?"

"Lord! no, indeed! I mean I *am*! why should I be afraid of a respectable-looking gentleman like you, sir?"

"And so you are going home—where is your home, pretty one?"

"On the other side of the river; but you need not keep on calling me 'pretty one,' it must be as tiresome to you to repeat it as it is to me to hear it."

"What shall I call you, then, my dear?"

"You may call me Miss Black, or if you are friendly, you may call me Capitola."

"CAPITOLA!" exclaimed the man, in a deep and changed voice, as he dropped her bridle.

"Yes, Capitola! what objections have you got to that? It is a pretty name, isn't it? but if you think it is too long, and if you feel very friendly, you may call me Cap."

"Well then, my pretty Cap, where do you live across the river?" asked the stranger, recovering his self-possession.

"Oh! at a run old place they call Hurricane Hall, with a run old military officer they call Hurricane," said Capitola, for the first time stealing a sidelong glance at her fearful companion.

It was not Black Donald—that was the first conclusion to which she rashly jumped. He appeared to be a gentlemanly ruffian about forty years of age, well dressed in a black riding suit; black hair and whiskers; heavy black eyebrows that met across his nose; drooping eyelashes, and eyes that looked out under the corners of his lids; altogether a sly, sinister, cross between fox and tiger. It warned Capitola to expect no mercy there! Alas! the girl's last words he seemed to have forgotten; to be thought for a moment, and then again he spoke:

"Well, my pretty Cap, how long have you been living at Hurricane Hall?"

"Ever since my guardian, Major Wardwell, brought me from the city of New York, where I received my education—in (the streets), she mortally added.

"Humph! why did you ride so fast, my pretty Cap?" he asked, eyeing her from the corner of his eyes.

"Oh, sir, because I was afraid, as I told you before; afraid of runaway negroes and wild beasts, and so on—but now with a good gentleman like you I don't feel afraid at all; and I'm very glad to be able to walk poor Gyp; because he's tired poor fellow!"

"Yes, poor fellow!" said the traveller, in a mocking tone, "he's tired; suppose you dismount, and let him rest. Come, I'll get off, too, and we'll sit down here by the roadside and have a friendly conversation."

Capitola stole a glance at his face. Yes, notwithstanding his light tone, he was grimly in earnest; that was not money to be expected from that sly, sinister, cruel face.

"Come, my pretty Cap, what say you?"

"I don't care if I *do*," she said, riding to the edge of the path, drawing rein, and looking down as if to examine the ground.

"Come, little beauty, must I help you off?" asked the stranger.

"N-n-no," answered Capitola, with deliberate hesitation, "no, this is not a good place to sit down and talk; it's all full of brambles."

"Very well; shall we go on a little farther?"

"Oh, yes; but I don't want to ride fast, because it will tire my horse."

"You shall go just as you please, my angel," said the traveller.

They rode on very slowly for a mile further, and then having arrived at an open glade, the stranger drew rein, and said:

"Come, pretty lark, hop down! here's a nice place to sit and rest."

"Very well, come help me off!" said Capitola, pulling up her horse—then, as by a sudden impulse she exclaimed, "I don't like *this* place either! It's just on the top of the hill! So windy! and just see how rocky the ground is! No! I'll not sit and rest *here*, and that I tell you!"

"I am afraid you are trifling with me, my pretty bird! take care! I'll not be trifled with!" said the man.

"I don't know what you mean by trifling with you, any more than the deal. But I'll not sit down there on those sharp rocks, and so I tell you. If you will be civil and ride along with me until we get to the foot of the hill, I know a nice place, where we can sit down and have a good talk, and I will tell you all my travels, and you shall tell me all yours."

"Ex-actly—and where is that nice place?"

"Why, in the valley at the foot of the hill!"

"Come! come on, then."

"Slowly! slowly!" said Capitola—"I won't let you see."

For a few rods up the hill, down the gradual declivity, she heard the creak of the valley.

They now were within a quarter of a mile of the foot of the hill, on the opposite side of which was Hurricane Hall—*safty!* The stranger drew rein, and said:

"Come, my spook! here we are at the bottom of the valley! now or never!"

"Oh, in case of course! you see I keep my promise," answered Capitola, pulling up her horse.

The man sprang from his saddle and came to her side.

"Please to be careful, now, don't let my riding skirt get hung in the stirrup," said Capitola, cautiously disengaging her drapery, rising in the saddle and giving the stranger her hand. In the

act of jumping out, she suddenly stopped and looked down, exclaiming:

"Good gracious! how very damp the ground is here at the bottom of the valley!"

"More objections, I suppose, my pretty one! but they won't serve you any longer. I am bent upon having a cozy chat with you, upon that very hint!" said the stranger, pointing to a little cleared space among the trees beside the path.

"Now, don't be cross; just see how damp it is there; it would spoil my riding-dress, and give me my death of cold."

"Humph," said the stranger, looking at her with a sly, grim, old resolve.

"I'll tell you what it is," said Cap., "I'm not witty nor amusing, nor will it *pay* to sit out in the night air to hear me talk; but since you wish it, and since you were so good as to guard me through these woods, and since I promised, why, damp as it is, I will even get off and talk with you!"

"That's my brilling!"

"But here are some benches. Is there nothing you can get to put there for me to sit on—no stump, nor dry stone?"

"No, my dear, I don't see any."

"Could you not turn your hat down and let me sit on that?"

"Ha, ha, ha! why, your weight would crush it as flat as a pancake!"

"Oh, /know," exclaimed Capitola, with sudden delight. "You just spread your saddle cloth down there, and that will make a beautiful seat, and I'll sit and talk with you as pleasantly as you must not want to stay long, because if I don't get home soon I shall catch a scolding."

"You shall not get a scolding on my account, pretty one!" said the man, going to his horse to get the saddle-cloth.

"Oh, don't take off the saddle; it will detain you too long," said Cap., impatiently.

"My pretty Cap, I cannot get the cloth without taking it off," said the man, beginning to unback the girl.

"Oh, you can't! you can draw it from under!" persisted Cap.

"Impossible, my angel!" said the man, lifting off the saddle from his horse and laying it carefully by the roadside.

Then he took off the gray, crimson saddle-cloth, and carried it into the little clearing and began carefully to spread it down.

Now was Cap.'s time! Her horse had recovered from his fatigue. The stranger's horse was in the path before her. While the man's back was turned, she raised her riding-whip, and with a shout, gave the front horse a sharp lash that sent him galloping furiously ahead. Then instantaneously putting whip to her own horse, she started into a run.

Hearing the shout, the lash, and the starting of the horses, the baffled villain turned and saw that his game was lost! He had been out-witted by a child! He gnashed his teeth and shook his fist in rage.

Turning, as she wheeled out of sight, Capitola—

"I'm sorry to say—put her thumb in the side of her nose, and whirled her fingers like a magic circle, in a gesture more expressive than elegant."

CHAPTER XVII.

ANOTHER STORM AT HURRICANE HALL.

At this time Sir Knight grew high in wrath, and lifting hands and eyes up both, Three times he smote on stomach stent, From whence, at length, heroic words broke out: "Hobnobs!"

The moon was shining full upon the river and the household beyond, when Capitola dashed into the water, and amid the sparkling and leaping of the foam, made her way to the other bank, and rode up the rugged ascent. On the outer side of the lawn wall, the moonbeams fell full upon the little figure of Pipatop, waiting there.

"Well, Pipatop, what takes you out so late as this?" asked Capitola, as she rode up to the gate.

"Oh, Mrs. Caterpillar, I've waitin' for you! Ole Marza is dreadful, he's jes' jist to burst the shingles off the roof with swearin'! So I come out to warn you, so you can get in the back way and go to your room so he won't see you, and I'll go and send Wool to put your horse away, and

then I'll
Marza has
to be
"Thank
how my
have been
ble the
gaint you"
"Yes, I
her mistre
"And in
going to
dismantle
Major War
the gate.
"Oh, M
you, so ha
"Who's o
the put
through th
where she
"Gatherin
ing back h
houses with
"There wa
ness. How
times to t
and occasi
his tremen
head and t
hoofs as th
boundarie
"These m
like a pur
through th
ed up and
"Cap, had
rible a char
and fury.
poral, and
"Good eve
"The old
strides, and
"Cap. stood
marking:
"Now I l
you went b
into the hea
"Miss' h, com
"Mrs! I
his cane with
"Miss' h, m
face me, the
the efferatory
to me!"
"Well, I c
her hat, I c
was impuden
good evenin'
"The old m
two or three
delinquent, I
floor with a r
"You've co
out prevairo
"Certainly
and walking
quietly."
"FIDDLE A
Where have
shaking with
"Look here
have a fit pres
"Wuzna n
Hurricane,
"Well, sinc
river, and thr
"And dista
and how dar
ture of my bo
grant that I p
and tried to i
proverb says—
beger of a pig's
bigger, disobe
ase, character
Hurricane tur
down the plaz
By this time
ly, holding up
riding back in
ralized her dr
long, indigant
silently away.
Old Hurricane
until he had ro

he suddenly stopped and
 very damp the ground is
 the valley!"
 suppose, my pretty one!
 a my longer. I am bent
 with you, upon that very
 pointing to a little clear-
 in the path.
 just see how damp it is
 y riding-down, and give
 stranger, looking at her
 solve.
 "I'm not
 to sit out in
 but since you wish
 so good as to guard me
 d since I promised, why,
 on get off and talk with
 see any."
 our hat down and let me
 ur weight would crush it
 exclaimed Capitola, with
 just spread your saddle
 all will make a beautiful
 with you so closely—on-
 stay long, because if I
 all catch a scolding."
 a scolding nor a gold
 "I'll be the man, going
 little cloth.
 e saddle; it will detain
 impatiently.
 not get the cloth with-
 the man, beginning to un-
 can draw it from un-
 "I said the man, lifting
 and laying it careful-
 ly, crimson saddle-cloth,
 title clearing and began
 "Her horse had recover-
 a stranger's horse was in
 the man's back was in-
 side-wind-whip, and with a
 as a sharp lash that sent
 there. Then instantane-
 own horse, she started
 death, and the starting of
 all turned and saw that
 had been overtaken by a
 cloth and shook his fist in
 out of sight, Capitola
 or sharp to the eye of
 or fir-
 xpre-
 R XVII.
 HURRICANE HALL.
 ew high in wrath,
 eyes up both,
 on stomach stout,
 horse works broke out
 Hurricane.
 full upon the river and
 on Capitola dashed into
 parking and leaping of
 to the other bank, and
 . On the other side of
 teams fell full upon the
 tinge there.
 kes you out so late as
 to ride up to the gate,
 "so wait!" for you! Olo
 I jes fit to burst the
 wearing! So I come
 in a stool in the back way
 won't see you, and I'll
 your horse away, and

then I'll bring you up some supper, and tell Old
 Nurse how you've been home ever so long, and
 give you to bed with a werry bad head-ache."
 "Thank you, Patty. It is perfectly astonishing
 my lying in to you. You really deserve to
 have been born in Bag Alley. But I won't trou-
 ble the Recording Angel to make another entry a-
 gainst you on my account."
 "Yes, Miss," said Phippat, who thought that
 her mistress was complimenting her.
 "And now, Patty, stand out of my way. I'm
 going to ride straight up to the horse-block,
 diamond, and walk right into the presence of
 Major Warfield!" said Capitola, passing through
 the gate.
 "Oh, Miss Caterpillar, don't! don't! he'll kill
 you, so he will!"
 "Who's afraid?" muttered Cap to herself,
 as she put her horse to his mettle, and rode gaily
 through the evengates, up to the horse-block,
 where she sprang down lightly from her saddle.
 Gathering up her train with one hand, and leas-
 ing back her head, she swept along toward the
 house with the air of a young princess.
 There was a violin calculated to test her firm-
 ness. Reader! did you ever see a raging lion
 try to and for the narrow limits of his cage,
 and occasionally striking the amphitheatre with
 his tremendous roar? or a furious bull tearing his
 head and tail, and plunging up the earth with his
 hoofs as he careered back and forth between the
 boundaries of his pen? If you have seen and not-
 ed these mad brutes, you may form some faint
 idea of the frenzy of Old Hurricane, as he storm-
 ed up and down the piazza of the front piazza.
 Cap had just escaped an angry danger of foot-
 rible a character to be frightened now by sound
 and fury. Composedly she walked up into the
 porch, and said:
 "Good evening, uncle."
 The old man stopped short in his furious
 strides, and glared upon her with his terrible eyes.
 Cap stood firm without blenching, merely re-
 marking:
 "Now I have no doubt that in the days when
 you went battling, that look used to strike terror
 into the heart of the enemy, but it doesn't into
 mine somehow."
 "Mrs!" roared the old man, bringing down
 his cane with a resounding thump upon the floor.
 "Miss! how dare you—the impudence to
 face me, much less the—the—the assurance—the
 effrontery—the audacity! the *dare* to speak to
 me!"
 "Well, I declare," said Cap, calmly untying
 her hat, "this is the first time I ever heard it was
 impudent in a little girl to give her uncle
 good evening."
 The old man sroated up and down the piazza
 two or three turns, then stopping short before the
 delinquent, he struck his cane down upon the
 floor with a ringing stroke, and thundered:
 "Yor-se wox-as! tell me instantly, and with
 out preparation, where you have been?"
 "Certainly, sir; going to and fro in the earth,
 and walking up and down in it!" said Cap,
 quietly.
 "FRAMES AND PUNES, that is no answer at all!
 Where have you been?" roared Old Hurricane,
 with a look of excitement.
 "Look here, uncle! if you go on that way you'll
 have a fit presently!" said Cap, calmly.
 "WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN!" thundered Old
 Hurricane.
 "Well, since you will know—just across the
 river, and through the woods and back again!"
 "And that's *forbid* you to do that, minion!"
 and how dare you pocket me? You, the crea-
 ture of my bounty! you, the miserable little va-
 grant that I picked up in the alleys of New York,
 and tried to make a young lady of; but an old
 proverb says—"You can't make a silken purse
 begu of a pig's ear!" How dare you, you little
 begu, dole out your pocket?—I—I—I—" Old
 Hurricane turned abruptly, and roged up and
 down the piazza.
 All this time Capitola had been standing quiet-
 ly, holding up her train with one hand and her
 riding hat in the other. At this last insult she
 raised her dark grey eyes to his face with one
 long, indignant, scornful gaze, then turning
 silently away, and entering the house, she left
 Old Hurricane to storm up and down the piazza
 until he had raged himself to rest.

Reader! I do not defend, far less approve, poor
 Cap! I only tell her story and describe her, as I
 have seen her leaving her to your standards in in-
 terpretation.
 Next morning Capitola came down into the
 breakfast-room with one idea prominent in her
 head, little head—to which she mentally gave ex-
 pression:
 "When I like that old man, he must not per-
 mit himself to go to me in that indolent strain,
 and so he must be made to know."
 When she entered the breakfast-room, she
 found Mrs. Condiment already at the head of the
 table, and Old Hurricane at the foot. He had
 quite got over his rage, and turned around blandly
 to welcome his ward, saying:
 "Good morning, the slightest notice of the
 salutation, Cap, smiled on to her seat."
 "Humph! did you hear me say, 'Good morn-
 ing,' Cap?"
 Without paying the least attention, Capitola
 reached out her hand and took a cup of coffee
 from Mrs. Condiment.
 "Humph! humph! humph! well, as you said
 yours was a dumb devil, is better than a speaking
 one!" said Old Hurricane, as he sat down and
 sipped into silence.
 Doubtless the old man would have done into
 another passion had that been possible; but
 in truth he had spent so much vitality in rage
 number one, that he had none left to sustain
 number two. Besides, he knew it would be
 necessary to try up Billy Ezy, his lazy overseer,
 before night and perhaps saved himself for that
 performance. He finished his meal in silence,
 and went out.
 Cap, finished hers; and, tempering justice with
 mercy, went up stairs to his room, and looked
 what she would do for his extra comfort; and
 found a job in newly lining his warm slippers, and
 the sleeves of his dressing-gown.
 They met again at the dinner-table.
 "How do you do, Cap?" said Old Hurricane,
 as he took his seat.
 "Capitola poured out a glass of water and drank
 it in a moment, and without looking at him."
 "Oh! very well; 't's dumb devil, do," ex-
 claimed Old Hurricane addressing himself to his
 dinner. When the meal was over they again
 separated. The old man went to his study to ex-
 amine his farm books, and Capitola back to her
 chamber to finish lining his warm slippers.
 Again at tea they met.
 "Well, Cap, is 't's dumb devil east out
 yet?" he said, sitting down.
 Capitola took a cup of tea from Mrs. Condi-
 ment and passed it on to him in silence.
 "Humph, not gone yet, eh?—poor girl! how it
 must try you!" said Old Hurricane.
 After supper the old man found his dressing-
 gown and slippers before the fire all ready for
 his use.
 "Cap, you monkey! you did this," he said,
 turning around. But Capitola had already left
 the room.
 Next morning at breakfast there was a repe-
 tition of the same scene. Early in the forenoon
 Major Warfield ordered his horses, and, attended
 by Wool rode up to Tip-Top. He did not return
 either to dinner or tea, but as that circumstance
 was not unusual it gave no one uneasiness. Mrs.
 Condiment kept his snapper warm, and Capitola
 had his dressing-gown and slippers ready.
 The next morning, when before the fire when the
 old man arrived, he came in quite gaily saying:
 "Now, Cap, I think I have found a *tailman*
 as last to east out that 'dumb devil.' I heard
 you wishing for a watch the other day. Now, as
 devils belong to eternity, and have no business
 with time, of course the sight of this little
 time-keeper must put yours to flight!" and so
 saying he laid upon the table, before the eyes of
 Capitola, a beautiful little gold watch and chain.
 She glanced at it, as it lay glittering and sparkling
 in the lamp-light, and then turned abruptly and
 walked away.
 "Humph! that's always the way the devils
 do! fly when they can't stand 'em!"

Capitola deliberately walked back, laid a paper
 over the little watch and chain, as if to cover its
 fascinating sparkle and glitter, and said:
 "Uncle, your bounty is large, and your pre-
 sent is beautiful, but there is something that
 Mrs. Condiment, dropped her head upon her bosom,
 a sudden blush flamed up over her face, and
 her drops glistened in her downward eyes; she
 put both hands before her burning face for a
 moment, and then dropping them, resumed:
 "Uncle! you rescued me from misery, and
 perhaps, perhaps early death! you have heaped
 your love and bounty upon me without measure!
 you have placed me in a home of abundance,
 honor and security! for all this, if I were not
 grateful, I should deserve no less than death!
 But, uncle, there is a sin that is worse, or at least
 more ungenerous, than ingratitude! it is to put a
 helpless fellow creature under heavy obligations,
 and then treat that grateful creature with un-
 deserved contempt and cruel unkindness!" Un-
 der more her voice was choked with sobs. "One
 more her reason or other, Capitola's tears per-
 haps because they were so Hurricane's tears moved
 Old Hurricane to his heart's centre; going to-
 wards her softly he said:
 "Now, my dear, now any child, now my little
 Cap, you *dare* it was all for your own good!
 Why, my dear, I never for one instant regretted
 bringing you to the house, or wouldn't part
 with you for a kingdom! Come now, my child,
 come to the heart of your old uncle."
 Now, the soul of Capitola naturally abhorred
 sentiment! If ever she gave way to serious emo-
 tion, she was sure to avenge herself by being more
 capricious than before. Consequently dinging
 herself out of the caressing arms of Old Hurricane
 she exclaimed:
 "Uncle! I won't be treated with both kicks and
 half-pennies by the same person—and so I tell
 you. I'm not a cur to be fed with roast-beef and
 beaten with a stick! nor, nor, nor, a Turk's slave
 to be caressed and oppressed as his master likes!
 —such abuse as you heaped upon me, I never
 heard—no, not even in Bag Alley."
 "Oh, my dear, my dear, for heaven's sake for-
 get Bag Alley!"
 "I won't! I vow! I'll go back to Bag Alley, for
 a very little more! Freedom and peace is even
 sweeter than wealth and honors!"
 "Ah, but I wouldn't let you, my little Cap."
 "Then I'd have you up before the nearest
 magistrate, to show by what right you detained
 me! Ah, ha! I wasn't brought up in New York
 for nothing!"
 "Whose will and all this because, for her own
 good, I gave my own niece and ward a little gentle
 admonition."
 "Gentle admonition! Do you call *that* gentle
 admonition! Why, uncle, you are enough to
 frighten most people to death with your fury!
 You are a perfect dragon! a griffin! a Mexican
 bear! a Bengal tiger! a Numidian lion! I declare
 if I don't write and ask some menagerie man to
 send a party down here to catch you for his show.
 You'd *dare*, I tell you!"
 "Yes! especially with you for a keeper to stir
 me up one in a while with a long pole!"
 "And that I'd engage to do—*cheep!*"
 The entrance of Mrs. Condiment with the tea-
 tray put an end to the controversy. It was, as
 yet, a drawn battle.
 "And what about the watch, my little Cap?"
 "Take it back, uncle, if you please."
 "But they won't have it back! it has got your
 initials engraved upon it—look here," said the old
 man, holding the watch to her eyes.
 "G. N. N. Those are not my initials," said
 Capitola, looking up with surprise.
 "Why, so they are not! the blessed fools have
 made a mistake!—but you'll have to take it, Cap-
 itola, you see. Keep it for the present," said Cap-
 itola, who was too honest to take a gift that she
 felt she did not deserve, and yet too proud to con-
 fess as much.
 Peace was proclaimed—for the present.
 Aunt 'twas but of a short continuance. Dur-
 ing these two days of coolness and enforced quiet-
 uude Old Hurricane had gathered a store of bad
 humors that required expenditure.
 So the very next day something went wrong
 upon the farm, and Old Hurricane came storming
 home, driving his overseer, poor, old, meek
 Billy Ezy and his man Wool, before him.

TER XVIII.

ON'S BOASTER.

It seemed half holy, and the more so, as he knew if his patron had as much as to know in which his mother might be. He was met at the door by maid, who told him to walk in to study, where his master

E. B. BROWN.

ay, Traverso took his way to op his tryst and enter upon n the good doctor's office. n to know if his patron had as much as to know in which his mother might be. He was met at the door by maid, who told him to walk in to study, where his master

quietly and opened the door to the room, to which the reader should, and the windows of paper front piazza.

was quite odd, the windows the blinds were open, and the golden rays of the glistering upon the fairy t of a young girl, who sat

in the room, and Traverso was just about to retreat, he re looked up from her book, with a smile, and came for-

man whom my father was Sit down, he has stepped in very soon."

unaccounted to the society resively bashful when sud- sence of this refined and how and a deep blush he

ess, she closed her book to entertaining him. your mother is an invalid,

am—Miss," stammered arment. Understand- bashful boy, and seeing rant, only troubled him, rs on the table before him,

fresh journals if you would Mr. Locke," and then she

replied the youth, taking purpose of covering his r any other.

was seventeen years of called Mr. Roche before I very first to equipment le, and she felt a boyish rness wish that his well- black was not quite so empered by an innocent t that no gentlemen in a fresher linen, brighter an himself.

us were spent in such as his lively companion ide of the fire-place—he was already deeply en- called him to observe t of office. He had r before, and had no

only a vague, dazzling n in floating white rtaunts of violets as she waver than the notes of

golden hair flowed in ring- lace, soft and bright ne. As her dark blue mile intense with mean- of her countenance.

as like her father's, only That intense smile doctor's face, an unpre- on the lovely young reised an ineffable fas- so unconscious became t that he was only brought the opening of the door, actor, who exclaimed:

"Ah! here already, Traverso! that is punctual!—This is my daughter Clara, Traverso! Clara, this is Traverso, you've heard me speak about it—But, I dare say, you've already become acquainted," concluded the doctor, drawing his chair up to the reading-table, sitting down and folding his dressing-gown around his limbs.

"Well, Traverso, how is the little mother?" he presently inquired. "I was just telling Miss Day, that she was much better, sir," said Traverso.

"Ah! ha! ah ha!" muttered the doctor to himself—"that's Eichen physio—roses Turkey and port wine! and moral medicine, bopel and mental medicine, sympathy."

"Well, Traverso," he said aloud, "I have been racking my brain for a plan for your mother—and to no purpose! Traverso, your mother should be in a home of peace, plenty and cheerfulness!—I can speak before my little Clara here!—I never have any secrets from her—Your mother wants good living, cheerful company, and freedom from toll and care! The situation of gentle- man's or lady's housekeeper in some home of abundance, where she would be esteemed as a member of the family would suit her! but where to find such a place! I have been inquiring with- out mentioning her name, of course—among all my friends, but not one of them wants a house- keeper, or knows a soul who does want one! I am at sea on the subject. I'm ashamed of myself for not succeeding better!"

"Oh, sir, do not do yourself so great an injustice," said Traverso.

"Well the fact is, after boasting so confidently that I would find a good situation for Mrs. Roche, to behold! I have provided myself as yet only a boaster!"

"Father," said Clara, turning upon him her sweet eyes.

"Well, my love?"

"Perhaps Mrs. Roche would do us the favor to come here and take charge of our household."

"Eh! what! I never thought of that! I never had a housekeeper in my life!" exclaimed the doctor.

"No, sir, because you never needed one before, but now we really do. Aunt Moggy has been a very faithful and efficient manager, although she is a colored woman; but she is getting very old."

"Yes, and deaf, and blind, and careless! I know she is! I have no doubt in the world she soons the coppers with the table napkins, and washes her face and hands in the soup tureen."

"Oh, father," said Clara.

"Well, Clara, at least she wants looking after."

"Father, she wants rest in her old age."

"No doubt of it! no doubt of it!"

"And father, I intend, of course, in time, to be your housekeeper; but, having spent all my life at a boarding-school, I know very little about domestic affairs, and I require a great deal of instruction; so I really do think that there is no one needs Mrs. Roche's assistance more than we do, and if she will do so the favor to come, we cannot do better than to engage her."

"To be sure! to be sure! Lord bless my soul! to think it never should have entered my stupid old head, until it was put there by Clara! Here I am, sitting in a high chair all over the country for a situation for Mrs. Roche, and wanting her all the time more than any one else! That's the way with us all, my boy! While we are looking away off yonder for the solution of our difficulties, the remedy is all the time lying just under our noses!"

"But so close to our eyes father that we cannot see it!" said Clara.

"Just so Clara! Just so! You are always ahead of me in ideas! Now, Traverso, when you go home this evening you shall take a note to your mother, setting forth our wishes—mine and Clara's; if she accedes to them she will make us very happy."

With a great deal of manly strength of mind Traverso had all his mother's tenderness of heart. It was with difficulty he could keep back his tears, or control his voice, while he answered:

"I remember reading, sir, that the young queen of England when she came to her throne wished to provide handsomely for an orphan companion of her childhood; and as I recollect that no office in her household suited the young person, she created one for her benefit. Sir, I believe you have made one for my mother."

"Not at all! not at all! If she doesn't come

to look after our housekeeping, old Moggy will be greasing our griddles with tallow candle ends next! If you don't believe me ask Clara to ask Clara!"

"Not believe him! If the doctor had affirmed that the moon was made of moody cheese, Traverso would have deemed it his duty to stoutly maintain that astronomical theory. He felt hurt that the doctor should use such a phrase.

"Yes, indeed we really do need her, Traverso," said the doctor's daughter.

"Traverso!" It had made him proud to hear her call him, but it made him deeply happy to hear her call him "Traverso." It had such a sisterly sound coming from this sweet creature. How he wished that she really were his sister! but then the idea of that fair, golden-haired, blue-eyed, white-robed angel being the sister of such a robust, rugged, sun-burned boy as himself! The thought was so absurd, extravagant, impossible, that the poor boy laughed an unconscious sigh.

"Why, what's the matter, Traverso? What are you thinking of so intently?"

"Of your great goodness, sir, among other things."

"But I let's hear no more of that. I please myself," said the doctor; "and now, Traverso, let's go to work decently and in order; but first let me settle this point. If your good little mother determines in our favor, Traverso, then of course you will live with us also, so I shall have my young medical assistant all at hand! That will be no more long, lonesome evenings, Clara, shall we, dear? And now, Traverso, I will mark out your course of study, and set you to work at once."

"Shall I leave the room, father?" inquired Clara.

"No, no, my dear: certainly not. I have not had you home so long as to get tired of the sight of you yet. No, Clara, no, you are not in our way—is she, Traverso?"

"Oh, sir, the idea—" stammered Traverso, blushing deeply to be so appealed to.

"In his way why, a pang had shot through his bosom at the very mention of her going."

"Very well, then—here, Traverso—here are your books, you are to begin with this one, keep this Medical Dictionary at hand for reference. Bless me! it will bring back my own student days to go over the ground with you, my boy."

Clara took her work-box and sat down to stitch a pair of dainty wristbands for her father's shirts. The doctor took up the morning papers.

Traverso opened his book and commenced his readings. It was a quiet but by no means a dull circle. Occasionally Clara and her father exchanged words, and once in a while the doctor looked over his pupil's shoulder, or gave him a direction.

Traverso studied *con amore* and with intelligent appreciation. The presence of the doctor's lovely daughter, far from disturbing him, calmed and steadied his soul into a state of infinite content. If the presence of the beautiful girl was over to become an agitating element, the hour had not yet come.

So passed the time until the dinner-bell rang. By the express stipulation of the doctor himself, it was arranged that Traverso should always dine with his family. After dinner an hour, which the doctor called a digestive hour, was spent in loitering about, and then the studies were resumed.

At six o'clock in the evening Traverso took leave of the doctor and his fair daughter and started for home.

"Be sure to persuade your mother to come, Traverso," said Clara.

"She will not need persuasion; she will be only too glad to come, Miss," said Traverso, with a deep bow, turning and hurrying away towards home. With "winged feet" he ran down the wooded hill and got into the highway and hastened on with such speed that in half an hour he was agog with joy and eagerness to tell her the good news.

CHAPTER XIX.

THE RESIGNED SOUL.

This day he dreamed and peace my lot! All else beneath the sun Thou knowest, best bestowed or not, And let thy will be done.

Poor Marah Roche had schooled her soul to resignation, had taught herself just to do the duty of each day as it came, and leave the future—where indeed it must always remain—in the hands of God. Since the doctor's delicate and judicious kindness had cherished her life, some little health and cheerfulness had returned to her. Upon this particular evening of the day upon which Traverso entered upon his medical studies, she felt very hopeful.

The little cottage fire burned brightly; the hearth was swept clean; the tea-kettle was singing over the blaze; the tiny tea-table, with its two cups and saucers, and two plates and two knives, was set; everything was neat, comfortable and cheerful for Traverso's return. Marah sat in her little low chair, putting the finishing touches to a set of linen shirts.

She was not anxiously looking for her son, for he had told her that he should stay at the doctor's until six o'clock; therefore she did not expect him until seven.

But so fast had Traverso walked that just as the minute hand pointed to half-past six, the latch was raised and Traverso ran in—his face flushed with joy.

The first thing he did was to run to his mother, fling his arms around her neck, and kiss her. Then he threw himself into his chair to take breath.

"Now, then, what's the matter, Traverso? You look as if somebody had left you a fortune."

"And so they have or as good as do so!" exclaimed Traverso, panting for breath.

"What in the world do you mean?" exclaimed Marah, her thoughts naturally flying to Old Hurricane, and suggesting his possible repentance or relin-

"Read that, mother, read that!" said Traverso, eagerly putting a note in her hand.

She opened it, and read:

WILLIAM HEINTE—Monday.

DEAR MAMM:—My little daughter Clara, fourteen years of age, has just returned from boarding school to pursue her studies at home. Among other things, she must learn domestic affairs, of which she knows nothing. If you will accept the position of housekeeper and matronly companion of my daughter, I shall make the terms such as shall reconcile you to the change. We shall also do all that we can to make you happy. Traverso will explain to you the details. Take time to think of it, but if possible let us have your answer by Traverso when he comes to-morrow. If you accede to this proposition you will give my daughter and myself sincere satisfaction.

Yours truly, WILLIAM DAY.

Marah finished reading, and raised her eyes, full of amazement, to the face of her son.

"Mother!" said Traverso, speaking fast and eagerly, "they say they really cannot do without you. They have troops of servants, but the old cook is in her dotage and does all sorts of strange things—such as frying buck-wheat cakes in lamp oil and the like."

"Oh, hush! what exaggeration!"

"Well, I don't say she does that exactly, but she isn't equal to her situation, without a housekeeper to look after her; and they want you very much indeed."

"And what is to become of your home, if I break up?" suggested the mother.

"Oh, that is the very best of it! The doctor says if you consent to come, that I must also live there, and that then he can have his medical assistant always at hand, which will be very convenient."

Marah smiled dubiously.

"I do not understand it; but one thing I do know, Traverso: there is not such a man as the doctor appears in this world more than once in a hundred years."

"Not in a thousand years, mother! and as for his daughter—oh, you should see Miss Clara, mother! Her father calls her Clara—Clara Day

—how the name suits her! She is so fair and bright! with such a warm, thoughtful, sunny smile that goes right to your heart! Her face is indeed like a clear day, and her beautiful smile is the sunshine that brights it up!" said the enthusiastic youth, whose admiration was as yet too simple and single-hearted and unselfish to tie his tongue.

The mother smiled at his earnestness—smiled without the least misgiving; for to her apprehension the youth was still a boy, to wonder at and admire beauty without being in the least danger of having his peace of mind disturbed by love. And as yet her idea of him was just.

"And, mother, of course you will go," said Travers. "Oh, I do not know. The proposition was so sudden and unexpected, and is so serious and important that I must take time to reflect," said Mrs. Rooke, thoughtfully.

"How much time, mother? Will until to-morrow morning do? It must, little mother, because I promised to carry your consent back with me. Indeed I did mother!" exclaimed the impatient boy.

Mrs. Rooke dropped her head upon her hand, as was her custom when in deep thought. Presently she said:

"Travy, I'm afraid this is not a genuine offer of a situation of house-keeper. I'm afraid that it is only a ruse to cover a scheme of benevolence, and that they don't really want me, and I should only be in their way.

"Now, mother, I do assure you, they do want you! I think of that young girl and elderly gentleman—can either of them take charge of a large establishment like that of Willow Heights?"

"Well argued, Travers; but I granting that they need a house-keeper, how do you know that I would suit them?"

"Why you may take their own words for that, mother."

"But how can they know? I am afraid they would be disappointed."

"Wait until they complain, mother."

"I don't believe they ever would."

"I don't believe they ever would have cause."

"Well, granting also that I should suit them."

The mother paused and sighed. Travers filled up the blank by saying:

"I suppose you mean if you should suit them, they might not suit you."

"No, I do not mean that! I am sure they would suit me! But there is one in the world, who may one day come to reason and take better umbrage at the fact that I should accept a subordinate situation in any household," murmured Mrs. Rooke, almost unconsciously.

"Then that 'one in the world,' whoever he, she, or it may be, had better place you above the necessity, or else hold his, her, or its tongue—Mother I think that gods thrown in our way by Providence had better be accepted, leaving the consequences to him!"

"Traverse, dear, I shall pray over this matter to-night, and sleep on it; and file to whom even the fall of a sparrow is not indifferent will guide me," said Mrs. Rooke; and here the debate ended.

The remainder of the evening was spent in laudation of Clara Day, and in writing a letter to Herbert Greyson, at West Point, in which all these laudations were reiterated, and in course of which Travers wrote these innocent words:—"I have known Clara Day scarcely twelve hours, and I admire her as much as I love you and oh, Herbert! if you could only rise to be a major general and marry Clara Day, I should be the happiest fellow alive!" Would Travers as willingly dispose of Clara's hand a year or two after this time? I trow not!

The next morning after breakfast Mrs. Rooke gave in her decision.

"Tell the doctor, Travers," she said, "that I understand and appreciate his kindness; that I will not break up my humble abode as yet; but I will look up my house and come a month, on trial; if I can perform the duties of the situation satisfactorily, well and good! I will remain; if not very then, having my home still in possession, I can return to it."

"Wise little mother! she will not set down the bridge behind her!" exclaimed Travers, joyfully, as he laid his mother good-bye for the day, and

hastened up to Willow Heights with her answer. This answer was received by the good doctor and his lovely daughter with delight as unforeseen as it was unasked for. They were pleased to have a good house-keeper; but they were far better pleased to offer a poor struggling mother a comfortable and even luxurious home.

On the next Monday morning, Mrs. Rooke having completed all her arrangements, and closed up her house, entered upon the duties of her new situation.

Clara gave her a large and airy bed chamber for her own use, communicating with a smaller one for the use of her son; besides this, as house-keeper, she had of course the freedom of the whole house.

Traverse watched with anxious vigilance to find out whether the efforts of his mother really improved the condition of the house-keeper; and was delighted to find that the coffee was clearer and finer flavored; the bread whiter and lighter; the cream richer; the butter fresher, and the beef-steak juicier than he had ever known them to be in the doctor's table; that on the dinner-table, from day to day, dishes succeeded each other in a well-ordered variety and well-dressed style—in a word, that in every particular, the comfort of the family was greatly enhanced by the presence of the house-keeper, and that the doctor and his daughter knew it.

While the doctor and the student were engaged in the library, Clara spent many hours of the morning in Mrs. Rooke's company learning the arts of domestic economy and considerably assisting her in the preparation of delicate dishes.

In the evening the doctor, Clara, Mrs. Rooke, and Travers gathered around the fire as one family. Mr. Rooke and Clara engaged in needle-work, and the doctor or Travers in reading aloud, for their amusement, some agreeable book. Sometimes Clara would richly entertain them with music—singing and accompanying herself upon the piano.

An hour before bedtime the servants were always called in, and general family prayer offered up.

This passed the quiet, pleasant profitable days. Travers was fast falling into a delicious dream, from which, as yet, no rude shock threatened to awake him. Willow Heights seemed to him Paradise, its inmates angels—and his own life—beatitude!

CHAPTER XX.

THE OUTLAW'S RENDEZVOUS.

Our plots fall short like darts which rush hands brow with an ill aim, and have too far to go; Nor can we long discoveries prevent! God is too much about the innocent!

SIR ROBERT HOWLAND.

"The Old Road Inn," described in the dying deposition of poor Nancy Greenwell, was situated some miles from Imbrienne Hall, by the side of a forsaken turn-pike in the midst of a thickly wooded, long and narrow valley, shut in by two lofty ranges of mountains.

Once this turnpike was lively with travel and this inn gay with custom; but for the last twenty-five years, since the highway had been turned off in another direction, both road and tavern had been abandoned, and suffered to fall to ruin. The road was washed and furrowed into deep and dangerous gullies, and obstructed by fallen timber; the house was disfigured by mouldering walls, broken chimneys and patched windows.

Had any traveller lost himself, and chanced to have passed that way, he might have seen a little, old, dried-up woman, sitting knitting at one of the windows. She was known by those who were old enough to remember her and her home, as Granny Raven, the daughter of the last proprietor of the inn. She was reputed to be dumb, but no one could speak with certainty of the fact. In truth, for as far back as the memory of the "oldest inhabitant" could reach, she had been feared, disliked and avoided, as one of unclean reputation; indeed, the ignorant and superstitious believed her to possess the "evil eye," and to be gifted with "second sight."

But of late years, as the old road and the old inn were quite forsaken, so the beldame was quite forgotten.

It was one evening, a few weeks after Captain's

fearful adventures in the forest, that this old woman carefully closed up every door and window in the front of the house, stopping every crevice through which a ray of light might gleam and turn that impossible phenomenon—a chance traveller, on the old road, the life within the habitation.

Having, so to speak, hermetically sealed the front of the house, she betook herself to a large back kitchen.

This kitchen was strangely and rudely furnished—having an extra broad fire place with the recesses on each side of the chimney filled with oaken shelves, laden with strong pewter plates, dishes and mugs; all along the walls were arranged rude, oaken benches; down the length of the room, was left, always standing, a long deal table, capable of accommodating from fifteen to twenty guests.

On entering this kitchen Granny Raven struck a light, kindled a fire, and began to prepare a large supper.

Nor unlike the ill-omened bird whose name she bore did this old beldame look in her sole clinging black gown, and flapping black cape and hood, and with her sharp eyes, hooked nose and protruding chin.

Having put a large sirloin of beef before the fire, she took down a pile of pewter plates and arranged them along the sides of the table; then to every plate she placed a pewter mug. A huge wheaten loaf of bread, a great roll of butter and several plates of pickles were next put upon the board, and when all was ready the old woman sat down to the patient turning of the spit.

She had not been thus occupied more than twenty minutes when a hasty, scuffling step was heard at the back of the house accompanied by a peculiar whistle, immediately under the window.

"That's 'Headlong Hal,' for a penny! He never can learn the cat's tread!" thought the crone, as she arose and withdrew the hob of the back door.

A little dark-skinned, black-eyed, black-haired, thin and wiry man came hurrying in, exclaiming:

"How now, old gal,—supper ready?"

She shook her head, pointed to the roasting beef, lifting up two hands with the ten fingers spread out twice, and then made a rotary motion with one arm.

"Oh—you mean it will be done in twenty turns; but hang me if I understand your dumb show half the time.—Have none of the men come yet?"

She put her fingers together, flung her hands widely apart in all directions, brought them slowly together again, and pointed to the supper table.

"Um!—that is to say they are dispersed about their business, but will all be here to-night?" she nodded.

"Where's the cap'n?"

She pointed over her left shoulder upwards—placed her two hands out broad from her temples—then made a motion as of lifting and carrying a basket, and displaying goods.

"Humph! humph! gone to Tip-Top to sell goods disguised as a peddler!"

She nodded. And before he could put another question, a low, soft *meow* was heard at the door.

"There's 'Stealthy Steve!'—he might walk with his unaided high-logs over a gravelly road, and you would never hear of his footfall," said the man, as the door noiselessly opened and shut, a soft-footed, low-voiced, subtle looking mulatto entered the kitchen, and gave good evening to its occupants.

"Has I'm devilish glad you've come, Steve, for hang me if I'm not tired to death trying to talk to this crone, who, to the charms of old age and ugliness, adds that of dumbness. Seen the cap'n?"

"No, he's gone out to hear the people talk, and find out what they think of him."

Hal burst into a loud and scornful laugh, saying—"I should think it would not require much seeking to discover!"

Here the old woman came forward, and, by signs, managed to inquire whether he had brought her "the tea."

Steve drew a packet from his pocket, saying solemnly:

"Yee, mother, when I was in Spicer's store I

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the forest, that this old woman every door and window in the house, stopping every crevice of light might gleam and phenomenon—a chance and of life within the habitation.

She, hermetically sealed the door, betook herself to a large

and rudely furnished fire place with the chimney filled with strong powder plates, with the walls were arranged; down the length of the standing, a long table, ranging from fifteen to twenty

when Granny Haven struck and began to prepare a

enred bird whose name she took in her close clinging black cape and hood, es, hooked nose and pro-

of powder plates and ar- sides of the table; then a power mug. A huge great roll of butter and were next put upon the ready of the old woman setting of the spit.

She occupied more than a busy, scuffling step was a house accompanied by immediately under the win-

black-eyed, black-haired, es hurrying in, exclaim-

upper ready?" pointed to the roasting and with the ten fingers can make a rotary motion

will be done in twenty I understand your dumb of the men

together, flog her hands reactions, brought them and pointed to the supper

they are dispersed about will be here to-night?"

left shoulder upwards— a broad from her temples of lifting and carrying a load. "Come to Tip-Top to sell ler!"

he could put another was heard at the door. "Level!" he might walk as over a gravelly road. "Far of his foolery!" said as cleverly opened and shut, snublike looking mulatto gave good evening to its

saw this lying with other things on the counter, and remembering you, quietly put it into my pocket."

The old crook's eyes danced; she seized the packet, patted the excellent beef on the shoulder, wrenched her head carefully at the delinquent one, and hobbled off to prepare her favourite beverage.

While she was thus occupied the whistle was once more heard at the door, followed by the entrance of the whole party—the man one having a full pocket would scarcely like to meet on a long road to a dark night. In form he was of Dutch proportions, short but stout; with a large, round head covered with stiff, sandy hair, broad, flat face; coarse features, pale, half-closed eyes, and an expression of countenance strangely made up of elements as opposite as they were forbidding—a mixture of stupidity and slyness, cowardice and ferocity, caution and cruelty. His name in the gang was Demou Dick, a soubriquet of which he was eminently deserving and characteristically fond.

"He came in sulkily, neither saluting the company nor returning their salutations. He pulled a chair to the fire, threw himself into it, and ordered the old woman to draw him a mug of ale.

"Dick's in a bad humor to-night," murmured Steve, softly.

"When was he ever in a good one?" roughly broke forth Hal.

"He—what?" said Steve, glancing at Dick, who, with a malicious expression, was listening to the conversation.

"There's the cap'n!" exclaimed Hal, as a ringing footstep sounded outside, followed by the abrupt opening of the door and entrance of the tender.

Setting down a large basket, and throwing off a broad-brimmed Quaker hat and broad-skirted overcoat, Black Donald stood roaring with laughter.

Black Donald, of his great stature, might have been a giant walked out of the age of fable into the middle of the nineteenth century. From his status alone he might have been chosen leader of this band of desperadoes. He stood six feet eight inches in his boots, and was stout and muscular in proportion. He had a well-formed, stately head, fine aquiline features, dark complexion, strong, auring, dark eyes, and an abundance of long curly black hair and beard that would have driven to despair a Broadway beau, broken the heart of a Washington belle, or made his own fortune in any city of America as a French count or a German baron! He had decidedly "the air of a noble and distinguished."

White he threw his broad brim in one direction and his broad coat in another, and gave way to peals of laughter, Headlong Hal, said:

"Cap'n, I don't know what you think of it; but I think it just as cheerful to laugh alone as to get drunk in solitude."

"Oh, you shall laugh! you shall all laugh! Wait until I tell you! But first, answer me: Does not my broad-skirted gray coat and broad-brimmed gray hat make me look about twelve inches shorter and broader?"

"That's so, Cap'n!"

"And when I turn my black beard and chin deep down in this dark neckcloth, and pull the broad brim low over my black hair, and eyes, I look as mild and respectable as William Penn."

"Yea, verily, friend Donald," said Hal.

"Well, in this neck gaise I went peddling to-day."

"Aye, Cap'n, we knew it; and you'll go once too often."

"I have gone just once too often."

"I knew it."

"We said so."

"The members of the band sprang to their feet and handed secret arms.

"Palnaw! put up your knives and pistols! There is no danger; I was not traced; our rendezvous is still a secret for which the government would pay a thousand dollars!"

"How, then, do you say that you went once too often, Cap'n?"

Dick, draw the ale. Hal, cut the bread. Steve, carve. Bestir yourselves, burn you! or you shall have no story!" exclaimed the captain, flinging himself into a chair at the head of the table.

When his orders had been obeyed, and the men were gathered around the table, and the first draught of ale had been quaffed by all, Black Donald asked:

"Where do you think I went peddling to-day?"

"Devil knows," said Hal.

"That's a secret between the Demon and Black Donald," said Dick.

"Hush! he's about to tell us," murmured Steve.

"Wooden heads! you'd never guess. I went—I went to—Do you give it up?" I went right straight into the lion's jaws—not only into the very clutches, but into the very teeth, and down the very throat of the lion! and have come out as safe as a mouse from the whale's belly!—in a word, I have been up to the county seat where the court is now in session, and sold cigar-cases, snuff-boxes and smoking caps to the grand and petty jury, and a pair of gold spectacles to the learned judge himself!"

"No!"

"No!"

"No!" exclaimed Hal, Steve and Dick in a breath.

"Yes! and moreover, I offered a pair of patent steel spring handcuffs to the sheriff, John Kemp, in person, and pressed him to purchase for himself, assuring him that he would have occasion for them, if ever he caught that grand rascal, Black Donald!"

"Ah! the atrocious villain, if I thought I should ever have the satisfaction of springing them upon his wrists, I'd buy them at my own proper cost!" said the sheriff, taking them in his hands, and examining them curiously.

"Ah! he's a man of Bellai, that same Black Donald!—he'd better buy the handcuffs, John," said Hal.

"Nay, friend, I don't know, and as for Black Donald, we have some hopes of taking the wretch at last!" said the simple gentleman.

"Ah, verily, John, that's a good hearing for peaceful travellers like myself," said Hal.

"Excellent! excellent! for when that fell marauder once swings from a gallows—"

"His neck will be broken, John!"

"Yes, friend; yes, probably; after which honest men may travel in safety. Ah! never have I adjusted a hempen crevas about the throat of any aspirant for such an honor, with less pain than I shall officiate at the last toilet of Black Donald!"

"If the esteh him!"

"Exactly, friend, if I catch him, but the additional reward offered by Major Winfield, together with the report that he often frequents our towns and villages in disguise, will stimulate people to renewed efforts to discover and capture him," said the sheriff.

"Ah! that will be a great day for Alleghany Aid when Black Donald is hanged. I shall make an effort to be present at the solemnity myself!"

"Do, friend," said the sheriff, "and I will see to getting you a good place for witnessing the proceedings."

"I have no doubt thee will, John—a very good place! and I assure thee, that there will not be one present more interested in those proceedings than myself," said Hal.

"Of course, that is very natural, for there is no one more in danger from these murderers than men of your itinerant calling. Good heavens! it was but three years ago a peddler was robbed and murdered in the woods around the Hidden House."

"Just so, John," said Hal; "and it's my opinion that often when I've been travelling along the road at night Black Donald hasn't been far off! But tell me, John, so that I may have a chance of earning that thousand dollars—what disguises does this son of Moloch take?"

"Why, friend, it is said that he appears as a Methodist missionary, going about selling tracts; and sometimes as a knife-grinder, and sometimes simulates your calling, as a peddler!" said the unsuspecting sheriff.

"I thought, however, it was time to be off, so I said 'thee had better let me sell thee those handcuffs, John. Allow me! I will show thee these beautiful 'magnifying' hold out thy wrists, if thee please, John."

"The unamplious officer, with a face brimful of interest, held out his wrists for experiment.

"I snatched the ornaments on them in a little less than no time, and took up my pack and disappeared before the sheriff had collected his faculties and found out his position."

"Ha, ha, ha! law, law, law! ho, ho, ho!" thought the outlaws, in every key of laughter—"and so our captain, instead of being pinnioned by the sheriff, turned the tables and actually manacled his honor!"

"Hup, hurrah! three times three for the men!" said, that manacled the sheriff!

"Hush, burn you! there's some one coming!" exclaimed the captain, rising and listening.

"It is Le Noir, who was to meet me here to-night on important business."

CHAPTER XXI.

GABRIELLE LE NOIR.

Naught's had! all's spent! When our desires are gained without content.

SHAKESPEARE.

"The colonel!" exclaimed the three men in a breath, as the door opened and a tall, handsome and distinguished-looking gentleman, wrapped in a black military coat, and having his black beaver pulled low over his brow, strode into the room.

All arose upon their feet to greet him as though he had been a prince.

With a haughty wave of his hand, he bade them resume their seats, and beckoning their leader, said:

"Donald, I would have a word with you."

"At your command, Colonel," said the outlaw, rising and taking a candle and leading the way into the adjoining room, the same in which fourteen years before old Granny Grewell and the child had been detained.

Setting the candle upon the mantelpiece, Black Donald stood waiting for the visitor to open the conversation, a thing that the latter seemed in no hurry to do, for he began walking up and down the room in stern silence.

"You seem disturbed, Colonel," at length said the outlaw.

"I am disturbed—more than disturbed! I am suffering!"

"Suffering, Colonel?"

"Aye!—suffering!—from what, think you?—the pangs of remorse?"

"Remorse! ha ha ha ha!" laughed the outlaw till all the rafters rang.

"Aye, man, you may laugh! but I repeat that I am tormented with remorse!—and for what do you suppose?—for those acts of self preservation that fanatics and fools would stigmatize as crimes? No, my good fellow, but for one 'unacted crime!'"

"I told your honor so!" cried the outlaw, triumphantly.

"Donald, when I go to church, as I do constantly, I hear the preacher, prating of repentance; but, man, I never knew the meaning of the word until recently!"

"And I can almost guess what it is that has enlightened your honor!" said the outlaw.

"Yes! it is that miserable old woman and babel Donald, in every vein of my soul, I repeat not having sinned them both forever while they were yet in my power!"

"Just so, Colonel; too dead never come back; or, if they do, are not recognized as property-holders in this world! I wish your honor had taken my advice, and sent that woman and child on a longer journey."

"Donald—I was younger then than now. I shrunk from bloodshed," said the man, in a husky voice.

"Bah! superstition. Bloodshed—blood is shed every day! 'We kill to live,' say the butchers. 'So do we.' Every creature preys upon some other creature weaker than himself—the big beasts eat up the little ones; artful men live on the simple; so be it! the world was made for the strong and cunning; let the weak and foolish look to themselves!" said the outlaw, with a loud laugh.

While he spoke, the visitor resumed his rapid, restless striding up and down the room. Presently he came again to the side of the robber, and whispered:

"Donald, that girl has returned to the neighborhood, brought back by old Warfield. My son met her in the woods a month ago, fell into conversation with her—heard her history, or as much of it as she herself knows. Her name is Capitola, and she is the living image of her mother. How she came under the notice of old Warfield—to what extent he is acquainted with her birth and rights and all that may be in his possession, I know not. All that I have discovered after the strictest inquiry that I was enabled to make, is this: that the old beggar-woman that died and was buried at Major Warfield's expense, was no other than Nancy Grewell, returned—thint the night before she died she sent for Major Warfield, and had a long talk with him, and that shortly afterwards the old scoundrel travelled to the North and brought home this girl."

"Humph! it is an ugly business, your honor, especially with your honor's little prejudices against—"

"Donald! this is no time for weakness! I have gone too far to stop—*Capitola mut dixit.*"

"That's so Colonel: the pity is that it wasn't found out fourteen years ago. It is so much easier to punch a baby's nose until it falls asleep than to stuff a young girl's strikes and cries! then the baby would not have been missed; but the young girl will be sure to be inquired after."

"I know that there will be additional risk; but there shall be the larger compensation, larger Donald, listen!" said the colonel, sleeping and whispering low—"the day that you bring me the undeniable proof that Capitola Le Noir is dead you finger one thousand dollars!"

"Ha-ha-ha!" laughed the outlaw, in angry scorn—"Capitola Le Noir is the sole heiress of a fortune—in land, negroes, coal-mines, iron-foundries, railway shares and bank stock, of half a million of dollars—and you ask me to get her out of your way for a thousand dollars! I'll do it! you know I will ha-ha-ha!"

"Why, the government doesn't value your whole carcass at more than I offer you for the temporary use of your hands, you villain!" frowned the colonel.

"No ill names, your honor! Between us they are like kicking guns—apt to recoil!"

"You forget that you are in my power."

"I remember that your honor is in mine! Ha-ha-ha! The day Black Donald stands at the bar, the honorable Colonel Le Noir will probably be beside him."

"Enough of this! Confound you, do you take me for one of your pals?"

"No, your worship! my pals are too poor to hire their work done; but then they are brave enough to do it themselves."

"Enough of this, I say! name the price of this new service!"

"Ten thousand dollars—five thousand in advance—the remainder when the deed is accomplished."

"Extortioner!—shameless, ruthless, extortioner."

"Your honor will fall into that vulgar habit of calling ill-names—it isn't worth while it doesn't needly employ me; what is certain is that I cannot work for less."

"You take advantage of my necessities."

"Not at all; but the truth is, Colonel, that I am tired of this sort of life, and wish to retire from active business. Besides every man has his ambition, and I have mine. I wish to emigrate to the glorious West, settle, marry, turn my attention to politics, be elected to Congress, then to the Senate, then to the Cabinet, then to the flatter myselfators and education have especially fitted me. Ten thousand dollars will give me a fair start. Many a successful politician, your honor knows, has started on less character and less capital!"

"To this impudent slander the colonel made no answer; with his arms folded, and his head bowed upon his chest, he walked moodily up and down the length of the apartment; and muttered, "Why should I hesitate?" he came to the side of the outlaw, and said:

"I agree to your terms; accomplish the work, and the sum shall be yours. Meet me here on tomorrow evening to receive the earnest-money. In the meantime, in order to make sure of the

girl's identity, it will be necessary for you to get find out her habits and her haunts—where she walks or rides—when she is most likely to be might be fatal." Be very careful! A mistake

"Your honor may trust me."

"And now good-bye; remember, to-morrow evening," said the colonel, as, wrapping himself closely in his dark cloak, and pulling his hat low over his eyes, he passed on by the back passage.

"Ha-ha-ha! Why does that man think it needful to look so villainous? If I were to go about in such a bend-it-like dress as that, every child I met would take me for—what I am," laughed Dinck Donpl, returning to his comrades.

During the next hour other members of the band dropped in, until some twenty men were collected together in the large kitchen around the long table, where the remainder of the night was spent in revelry.

CHAPTER XXII.

THE AMMOONER AND CAPITOLA.

Come boy of that come buy I come buy
Buy, jolly, or else the lasses cry;
I have lewens as white as snow;
Bills as black as ere was crow;
Gloves as sweet as daisies roses;
I have for lace, muslin for trices,
Ties and needles made of steel.
All you need from head to heel!"

"If I am not allowed to walk or ride out alone I shall 'gang flat,' I know I shall. Was ever such a dull lonesome, hum-drum place as this same Hurricane Hall?" complained Cap, as she sat sewing with Mrs. Condiment in the housekeeper's room.

"You don't like this quiet country life?" inquired Mrs. Condiment.

"No; no better than I do a quiet country grave-yard. I don't want to return to Aunt before my time, I tell you," said Cap, yawning dismally over her work.

"I HEAR YOU VIXEN!" roared the voice of an in and saying:

"If you want a ride, go and get ready quickly, and come with me; I am going down to the water-mill, please the Lord, to warn Hopkins off the premises, worthless villain! had my grain home yet? don't stay in my mill another mouth. The girl did not need a second bidding, but flew to prepare herself, while the old man ordered the horses.

In ten minutes wool Capitola and Major Warfield entered away.

"They had been gone about two hours, and it was almost time to expect their return, and Mrs. Condiment had just given orders for the tea-table to be set, when Wool came into the room and said there was a sailor at the hall-door, with some beautiful foreign goods, which he wished to show to the ladies of the house."

"A sailor, Wool, a sailor with foreign goods for sale? I am very much afraid he is one of these smugglers I've heard tell of; and I'm not sure about the right of buying from smugglers! However, I suppose there's no harm in looking at old lady, tampering with temptation."

"He do look like a smuggler, dat's a fact," said Wool, whose ideas of the small craft were purely imaginary.

"I don't know him to be a smuggler," and it's wrong to judge, particularly beforehand," said the old lady, nursing ideas of rich silks and satines imported free of duty, and sold at half price, and trying to deceive herself.

While she was thus thinking, the door opened, and Wool ushered in a stout, jolly-looking tar, tarpaulin hat, and carrying in his hand a large pack. He took off his hat and scraped his foot behind him, and remained standing before the housekeeper, with his head tied up in a red bandanna handkerchief, and his chin sunk in a red comforter that was wound around his throat.

"Sit down, my good man, and rest while you

show me the goods," said Mrs. Condiment, who whether he were scungler or not, was inclined to show the traveller a lawful kindness.

The sailor scraped his foot again, set down on a low chair, put his hat on one side, drew the pack before him, untied it, and first displayed a rich, golden-hued fabric, saying:

"Now, here, ma'am, is a rich China silk, I bought in the streets of Shanghai, where the long-legged chickens come from; come, now, I'll ship it off cheap."

"Oh, that is a great deal too gay and handsome for an old woman like me," said Mrs. Condiment.

"We'll, ma'am, perhaps there's young ladies in the fleet? Now this would rig out a smart young girl as gay as a clipper! Better take it, ma'am. I'll ship it off clean."

"Wool," said Mrs. Condiment, turning to the servant, "go down to the kitchen and call up the house-servants; perhaps they would like to buy something."

As soon as Wool had gone, and the good woman was left alone with the sailor, she stooped and said:

"I did not wish to enquire before the servant-men, but my good sir, I do not know whether it is right to buy from you."

"Why so, ma'am?" asked the sailor, with an inbred look.

"Why, I am afraid—I am very much afraid you risk your life and liberty in an unlawful trade."

"Oh, ma'am, on my soul these things are honestly come by, and you have no right to accuse me!" said the sailor, with a look of subdued indignation.

"I know I haven't, and meant no harm; but did these goods pass through the custom-house?"

"Oh, ma'am, now, that's not a fair question!"

"It is as I suspected. I cannot buy from you, my good friend; I do not judge you; I don't know that it is unlawful, and I cannot feel free to encourage any man in a traffic which he risks his life and liberty, poor fellow!"

"Oh, ma'am," said the sailor, evidently on the brink of bursting into laughter—"if I risk our lives, sure it's our own business, and if you've no scruples on your own account, you needn't have any on ours."

While he was speaking the sound of many shuffling feet was heard along the passage, and the room was soon half filled with colored people come in to deal with the sailor.

"You may look at these goods; but you must not buy anything."

"Lor, missions, why?" asked little Pitapat.

"Because I want you to lay out all your money with my friend Mr. Crosh, at Tip-Top."

"But after de good gemman has had de trouble?" said Pitapat.

"He shall have his supper and a mug of ale and go on his journey," said Mrs. Condiment.

The sailor arose and scraped his foot behind him in acknowledgment of this kindness, and began to unpack his wares and display them all over the room.

And while the servants in wonder and delight examined these treasures and inquired their prices, a fresh young voice was heard calling along the hall, and the next moment Capitola, in her given riding habit and hat, entered the room.

She turned her mischievous gray eyes about, if she were about to open a fancy bazaar.

"No, my dear Miss Capitola, it is a sailor with foreign goods for sale," answered the old lady.

"A sailor with foreign goods for sale!umph! yes! I know. Isn't he a smuggler?" whispered Capitola.

"Indeed, I'm afraid so, my dear! In fact he don't deny it!" whispered back the matron.

"Well, I think it's strange a man that smuggles can't be!"

"Well, I don't know, my dear; maybe he thinks it's no harm to smuggle, and he knows it would be a sin to lie. But where is your uncle, Miss Capitola?"

"Gone around to the stable to blow Jim up, for mounting on a lame horse; he swears Jim shall find another matter before to-morrow's sun sets. But now I want to talk to that bold buccaneer."

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le," said Mrs. Conditment, who, smugger or not, was inclined for all lawful kindness. "I'll put his foot again, at down on his hat on one side, draw the jacket off, and first displayed a fahrie, saying: "Ma'am, is a rich China silk, I'm from of Shanghai, where the long-arms from; come, now, I'll slip-

deal ten pay and handsome like me," said Mrs. Conditment. "Perhaps there's young ladies in a would rig out a smart young upper! Better take it, ma'am."

Conditment, turning to the kitchen and call up the slaps they would like to buy had gone, and the good with the sailor, she stooped to enquire before the servant. "I do not know whether it you."

"I am very much afraid you are in an unlawful trade." "See here, my dear, good soul, if you want to buy that 'India' silk that you are looking at so longingly, you may do it with a safe conscience. True, it never passed through the custom-house—because it was made in New York. I know all about it! All these 'foreign goods' are manufactured at the north and sent by agents all over the country. These agents dress and talk like sailors, and assume a mysterious manner for purpose to be suspected of smuggling—because they know well enough fine ladies will buy quicker and pay much more, if they only fancy they are cheating Uncle Sam in buying foreign goods from a smugger at half price!"

"So, then, you are not a smugger after all!" said Mrs. Conditment, looking almost regretfully at the sailor. "Why, ma'am, you know I told you you were smuggling me wares!"

"Well, but really, now, there was something about you that looked sort of suspicious." "What did I tell you I look put on on purpose," said Cap. "Well—he knows that if he wanted to pass for a smugger, it didn't take *her*," said Mrs. Conditment.

"No—that it didn't!" muttered the object of these commentaries. "Well, my good man, since you are, after all, an honest peddler, just hand me that silk, and I don't ask me an unreasonable price for it, because I'm a judge of silks, and I won't pay more than it is worth," said the old lady.

"Madam, I leave it to your own conscience. You shall give me just what you think it's worth." "Humph! that's too fair by half. I begin to think this fellow is worse than he seems!" said Capitoletta to herself. After a little hesitation a price was agreed upon, and the dress bought. Then the servants received permission to invest their little change in ribbons, handkerchiefs, etc. When the purchases were all made, and the peddler had done up his diminished pack and replaced his hat upon his head and was preparing to leave, Mrs. Conditment said: "My good man, it is getting very late, and we do not like to see a traveller leave our house at this hour; pray remain until morning, and then, after an early breakfast, you can pursue your way in safety."

"Say you sir! Show me your foreign goods; I'm very fond of smugglers myself!" "You are right, my dear young lady! You would give poor sailors some little chance to turn an honest penny."

"Certainly! brave fellows! Show me that splendid fabric that shines like cloth of gold!" "This, my young lady, is a real, genuine China silk; I bought it myself in my last cruise, in the streets of Shanghai, where the long-legged chickens—"

"And fast young men come from! I know the place. I've been all along there!" Interrupted Capitoletta, her gray eyes glittering with mischief. "This, you will perceive, young lady, is an article that cannot be purchased anywhere except—"

"From the manufactory of foreign goods in the city of New York, or from their travelling agents."

"Oh, my dear young lady, how you wrong me! This article came from—"

"The factory of Messrs. Hoons & Poens, corner of Cant and Come-it street, city of Gotham!" "Oh, my dear young lady—"

"Look here, my brave buccaneer, I know all about it. I told you I'd been along there!" said the girl; and turning to Mrs. Conditment, she said: "See here, my dear, good soul, if you want to buy that 'India' silk that you are looking at so longingly, you may do it with a safe conscience. True, it never passed through the custom-house—because it was made in New York. I know all about it! All these 'foreign goods' are manufactured at the north and sent by agents all over the country. These agents dress and talk like sailors, and assume a mysterious manner for purpose to be suspected of smuggling—because they know well enough fine ladies will buy quicker and pay much more, if they only fancy they are cheating Uncle Sam in buying foreign goods from a smugger at half price!"

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"Black Donald—who's he?" "Oh, my good man, he's the awfulest villain that ever went unhung!" "Black Donald! Black Donald! I never heard that name before in my life! Why is the fellow called Black Donald?"

"Oh, sir, he's called Black Donald for his black soul, black deeds and—and—also, I believe, for his jet black hair and beard."

"Oh, my countrymen, what a falling up was there!" exclaimed Capitoletta, at this anti-climax. "And how shall I keep from meeting this villain?" asked the peddler.

"Oh, sir, how can I tell you? You never can form an idea where he is or where he isn't! Only think, he may be in our very midst any time, and we not know it. Why, only yesterday the desperate villain handed out the very sheriff in the very courtyard! Yet I wonder the sheriff did not know him at once! For my own part, I'm sure I should know Black eyes on him!"

"Should you, ma'am?" "Yes, indeed, by his long, black hair and beard! They say it is a half a yard long. Now a man of such a singular appearance as that must be easily recognized!"

"The devil may not be, but Black Donald is." "What do you think of this outlaw, young lady?" asked the peddler, turning to Capitoletta. "Why, I like him!" said Cap. "Yes, I do! I like men whose very names strike terror into the hearts of commonplace people!"

"Oh, Miss Black?" exclaimed Mrs. Conditment. "Yes, I do, ma'am. And if Black Donald were only as honest as he is brave, I should quite *ador* him! So there! And if there is one person in the world I long to see, it is Black Donald."

"Do you really wish to see him?" asked the peddler, looking intently into the half earnest, half satirical face of the girl. "Yes, I do wish to see him above all things."

"And do you know what happened to the rash girl who wished to see the devil?" "No—what did?" "She saw him!" "Oh, if that's all, I dare it," and if wishing will bring me the sight of this notorious outlaw, let I wish it. I wish to see Black Donald," said Capitoletta. The peddler deliberately arose and put down his pack and his hat; then he suddenly tore off the scarf from his neck and the handkerchief from his head, lifted his chin and shook loose a great, rolling mass of black hair and beard; drew him self up, struck an attitude, called up a look, and exclaimed: "Behold Black Donald!"

"Help! murder! murder! help! Come to my aid! I've caught Black Donald!" He could have killed her instantly in any one of a dozen ways! He could have driven in her temples with a blow of his sledge-hammer fist; he could have broken her neck with the grip of his iron fingers; he was only wishing to shake her off without hurting her—a difficult task, for she slung, a dead weight, at the collar of his coat at the back of his neck.

"Oh, very well!" he cried, laughing aloud. "Such adhesiveness I never saw! You stick to me like a wife to her husband. So, if you won't let go, I shall have to take you along, that's all! So here I go, like Christian with his bundle of sin on his back."

And loosing the upper button of his pea-jacket so as to give him more breath, and putting down his peddler's pack to relieve himself as much as possible, the outlaw strode through the hall-door, down the steps, and down the evergreen avenue leading to the woods. Capitoletta, still clinging to the back of his coat-collar, with her feet drawn up, a dead weight, and still crying: "Help! murder! I've caught Black Donald, and I'll die before I'll let him go."

"You're determined to be an outlaw's bride, that's certain. Well! I've no particular objection," cried Black Donald, roaring with laughter as he strode on. "It was a thing to see, not hear"—that brave, rash, resolute impelling like a terrier, or a erai, or a briar, on to the back of that gigantic ruffian, whom, if she had no strength to stop, she was determined not to release.

"They had nearly reached the foot of the descent, when a great noise and hallooing was heard behind them. It was the negroes, who, having recovered from their panic, and armed themselves with guns, pistols, swords, pokers, tongs, and pitch-forks, were now in hot pursuit. And cries of "Black Donald!" "Black Donald!" "Black Donald!" filled the air.

"I've got him! I've got him! help! help! quick! quick!" screamed Capitoletta, clinging closer than ever. Though still roaring with laughter at the absurdity of his position, Black Donald strode on faster than before, and was in a fair way of escape, when lo! suddenly coming up the path in front of him, he met—

Old Hurricane! As the troop of miscellaneous-armed negroes running down the hill were still making love "hideous" with yell of "Black Donald!" "Black Donald!" and Capitoletta still clinging and hanging on at the back of his neck, continued to cry: "I've caught him! I've caught him! help! help! something like the truth flashed in a blinding way upon old Hurricane's perceptions.

Roaring forth something between a recognition and defiance, the old man threw up his fat arms, and as fast as age and obesity would permit ran up the hill to intercept the outlaw. There was no time for trifling now! The array of negroes were at his heels; a dead weight to his path; the girl clinging; the old veteran in his jacket behind. An idea suddenly struck him, which he wondered had not done so before—quickly unbuttoning and throwing off his garment he dropped both cap and jacket behind him on the ground.

And before Capitoletta had picked herself up, Black Donald, bending his huge head and shoulders forward and making a battering-ram of himself, ran with all his force and butted Old Hurricane in the stomach, pitched him into the horse-pond, leaped over the park-fence and disappeared in the forest. What a scene! what a row followed the escape and flight of the famous outlaw! Who could imagine, far less describe it!—a general storm in which every individual was a peculiar atmosphere! There stood the baffled Capitoletta, exhibiting her head from the pea-jacket, and with her eyes fairly flashing out sparks of anger, exclaiming: "Oh, wretches! wretches that you are! if you'd been worth your salt you could have caught him while I clung to him so!" There wailed Old Hurricane, splintering, splintering, half drowning in the horse-pond, making the most frantic efforts to rise and swear as he struggled to get out.

There stood the crowd of negroes brought to a sudden stand by a panic of horror at seeing the dignity of their master so outraged.

And most plienzed of all, there ran Wool around, and around the margin of the pond, in a state of violent perplexity how to get his master out without half-drowning himself.

"Blurr-urrrrr! fitch! fitch! Blurr-urrrrr!" spluttered and sneezed and strangled Old Hurricane, as he floundered to the edge of the pond. "Blurr-urrrrr! Help me out, you scoundrel! I'll break every bone in your—fitch!—body! Do you hear me—ca-nish!—villain you! fitch! fitch! ca-nish! shh!"

Wool with his eyes starting from his head, and his hair standing up with horrors of all sorts, plunged at last into the water and pulled his old master up upon his feet.

"Ca-nish! ca-nish! Blurr-urrr! fitch!—what are you gaping there for as if you'd raised the devil, you crowd of horn toads!" howled Old Hurricane, as soon as he could get the water out of his mouth and nose—"what are you standing there for!—after him! after him, I say! Scour the woods in every direction! His freedom to any man who brings me Black Donald, dead or alive!"

"Yes, sir," said that functionary, who was busying himself with squeezing the water out of his master's garments.

"Wool, let me alone! take the fleetest horse in the stable! ride for your life to the Court House! Tell Keepe to have saw bills posted everywhere, offering an additional five hundred dollars for the apprehension of this—th—th—!" for the want of a word strong enough to express himself, Old Hurricane suddenly stopped, and for lack of his stick to make a sentence emphatic, he seized his gray hair with both hands and growled aloud.

Wool waited no second bidding but flew to do his errand.

Capitola came to the old man's side, saying: "Uncle, hadn't you better hurry home—you'll take cold."

"Cold?—Cold! demmy! I never was so hot in my life!" cried the old man; "but demmy! tell Mrs. Conditment to have me a full suit of dry clothes before the fire in my chamber. Go, and there is nobody but you, and Conditment, and the housemaids to take care of me. Stop! look for my stick first; where did that black demon throw it?—demmy! I'd as well be without my legs!"

Capitola picked up the old man's cane and hat, and put the one on his head and the other in his hand, and then hastened to find Mrs. Conditment and tell her to prepare to receive her half-drowned patron. She found the old lady scarcely recovered from the effects of her recent fright, but ready on the instant to make every effort on behalf of Old Hurricane, who presently arrived dripping wet at the house.

Leaving the old gentleman to the care of his housekeeper, we must follow Black Donald. Fatless and coatless, with his long black hair and beard blown by the wind, the outlaw made tracks for his retreat—occasionally stopping to turn and get breath, and send a shout of laughter at his baffled pursuers.

That same night, at the usual hour, the gang met at their rendezvous, the deserted inn, beside the old road through the forest. They were in the midst of their orgies around the supper-table, when the well-known ringing step of the leader sounded under the back windows without, the door was burst open, and the captain, hatless, coatless, with his dark old locks flying, and every sign of haste and disorder, rushed into the room.

"Hil! hillo! what's up?" exclaimed every man, starting to his feet and laying his hand upon secret arms, prepared for instant resistance.

"For a moment Black Donald stood with his leonine head turned and looking back over his right shoulder, as if in expectation of pursuit, and then, with a loud laugh, turned to his men, exclaiming:

"Hol you thought me followed! So, I have been! but as close as bound to be!"

"In fact, Captain, you look as if you'd but escaped with your skin like mine!" said Hal.

"Faith! the captain looks well peeled!" said Stephen.

"Worse than that, boys! worse than that! Your chief has not only lost his pack, his hat and outworn battered, but the citadel itself is taken! Not only has he been captured, but captured! and all by a little mix of a girl!—Boys, your chief is in love!" exclaimed Black Donald, throwing himself into his seat at the head of the table, and quaffing off a large draught of ale.

"Hip! hip! hurrah! three times three for the Captain's love!" cried Hal, rising to propose the toast, which was honored with enthusiasm.

"Now tell us all about it, Captain. Who is she? where did you see her? is she fair or dark? tall or short? thin or plump; what's her name, and is she kind?" asked Hal.

"First guess where I have been to-day."

"You and your demon only know to-day."

"I guess they also know at Hurricane Hall, for it is there I have been!"

"Well, then, why didn't you go to perdition that was reflected in every countenance present."

"Why, because when I go there I intend to take you all with me and remain!" answered Black Donald.

"Tell us about the visit to Hurricane Hall," said Hal.

"Whereupon Black Donald commenced, and concealing the motive of his visit, gave his comrades a very graphic, and highly colored narrative of his adventures at Hurricane Hall, and particularly of his "passage at arms" with the little witch, Capitola, whom he described as:

"Such a girl! slender, petite, lithe, with bright, black ringlets dancing around a little face full of fun, frolic, mischief and spirit, and bright eyes quick and vivacious as those of a monkey, darting hither and thither from object to object."

"The Captain is in love, sure enough," said Steve.

"Bravo! here's success to the Captain's love—Steve's a brick!" shouted the men.

"Oh, she is," assented their chief, with enthusiasm.

"Long life to her! three times three for the pretty witch of Hurricane Hall!" roared the men, rising to their feet and raising their full mugs high in the air, before pledging the toast.

"That is all very well, boys; but I want more substantial compliments than words—Boys! I must have that girl!"

"Who doubts it, Captain?—of course you will take her set once if you want her," said Hal, confidently.

"But, I must have help in taking her."

"Captain, I volunteer," said Steve.

"And I, for another," said Steve.

"And you, Dick?" inquired the leader, turning towards the sullen man, whose greater atrocity had gained for him the name of Demon Dick.

"What is the use of volunteering when the captain has only to command," said this individual, sulkily.

"Ah! when the enterprise is simply the robbing of a mail-coach, in which you all have equal interest, then, indeed, your captain has only to command, and you to obey; but this is a more delicate matter of entering a lady's chamber and should only be entrusted to those whose feelings of devotion to the captain's person prompt them to volunteer for the service," said Black Donald.

"How elegantly our captain speaks! he ought to be a lawyer," said Steve.

"The captain knows I'm with him for every-thing," said Dick, sulkily.

"Very well, then! for a personal service like this, a delicate service requiring devotion, I should scorn to give commands! I thank you for your offered assistance, my friends, and shall count on you three, Hal, Stephen and Richard, for the enterprise," said the captain.

"A! I say!" said the three men, in a breath.

"For the time and place and manner of the seizure of the girl, we must reflect. Let us see! there is to be a fair in the village next week, during the session of the court. Old Hurricane will be at court as usual. And for one day, at least, his servants will have a holiday to go to the fair.

They will not get home until the next morning, the particular day and night when this shall be so. Then you three shall watch your opportunity, enter the house by stealth, conceal yourselves in the chamber of the girl, and at midnight, when all is quiet, gar her and bring her away."

"Excellent!" said Hal.

"And mind, no liberty except the simple act of carrying her off is to be taken with your captain's price," said the leader, with a threatening glare of his lion-like eye.

"Oh, no! no! not for the world! She shall be usured from ineat as though she were an angel and we saints," said Hal, both the others assenting.

"And now not a word more. We will arrange the further details of this business hereafter," said the captain as a peculiar signal was given at the door.

Waving his hand for the men to keep their places, Black Donald went out and opened the back passage admitting Col. Le Noir.

"Well," said the latter anxiously.

"Well, sir, I have contrived to see her; come into the front room and I will tell you all about it," said the outlaw, leading the way into the old parlor that had been the scene of so many of their conspiracies.

"Does Capitola Le Noir still live?" hoarsely demanded the colonel, as the two conspirators reached the parlor.

"Still live? yes; was but yesterday we agreed upon her death. Give a run time. Sit down, Colonel; take this seat; we will talk the matter over again."

"With something very like a sigh of relief, Colonel Le Noir threw himself into the offered chair. Black Donald drew another chair up and sat down beside his patron.

"Well, Colonel, I have contrived to see the girl as I told you," he began.

"But you have not done the deed; when will it be done?"

"Colonel my patron, be patient. Within twelve days I shall claim the last instalment of the ten thousand dollars agreed upon between us for this job."

"But why so long? since it is to be done, why not have it over at once?" said Colonel Le Noir, starting up and pacing the floor impatiently.

"Patience, my Colonel. The end may play with the mouse most delightfully before devouring it."

"What do you mean?"

"My Colonel, I have seen the girl under circumstances that has fired my heart with an uncontrollable desire for her."

"He-he-he!" scornfully laughed the colonel. "Black Donald the mail-robber, burglar, outlaw, the subject of the grand passion!"

"Why not, my Colonel. Listen, you shall hear, and then you shall judge whether or not you yourself might not have been fired by the fascinations of such a witch!" said the outlaw, who straightaway commenced and gave his patron the account of his visit to Hurricane Hall that he had already related to his comrades.

"The colonel heard the story with many a "pish," "tush" and "psaw," and when the mere had concluded the tale he exclaimed:

"Is that all?" Then we may continue our negotiations—I care not. Carry her off in my hand as you please with her! only at the end of all—tell her!" hoarsely whispered Le Noir.

"That is just what I intend, Colonel."

"That will do if the event be certain; but it must be certain. I cannot breathe freely while my brother's dearest lives!" whispered Le Noir.

"Well, Colonel, be content; here is my hand upon it. In six days Capitola will be in my power. In twelve days you shall be out of her."

"It is a bargain," said each of the conspirators in a breath, as they shook hands and parted—Le Noir to his home and Black Donald to join his comrades' revelry.

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CHAPTER XXIII.

THE BOY'S LOVE.

Endearing! endearing!
Why so endearing
Are those eyes and those eyes,
Through their stilling peering?
They love! they love!
Deeply, sincerely,
And more than ought else on earth
Thou lovest them dearly!—MORRISWALL.

While these dark conspiracies were hatching elsewhere, all was comfort, peace and love in the doctor's quiet dwelling.

Under Marah Roeko's administration the business of the household went on with the regularity of clock-work. Every one felt the advantage of this improved condition.

The doctor often declared that for his part he could not for the life of him think how they had ever been able to get along without Mrs. Roeko and Traversé.

Clara affirmed that however the past might have been, the mother and son were a present and future necessity to the doctor's comfort and happiness.

The little woman herself gained rapidly both in health and spirits and good looks. Under favorable circumstances, Marah Roeko, even at thirty-six, would have been esteemed a first-class beauty; and even now she was graceful and attractive to a degree that she herself was far from suspecting.

Traversé advanced rapidly in his studies, to the ardent pursuit of which he was urged by every generous motive that could fire a human bosom: affection for his mother, whose condition he was anxious to elevate; gratitude to his patron, whose great kindness he wished to justify, and admiration for Clara, whose esteem he was ambitious to secure.

He attended his patron in all his professional visits; for the doctor said that actual experimental knowledge formed the most important part of a young medical student's education.

The mornings were usually spent in reading, in the library; the middle of the day in attending the doctor in his professional visits, and the evenings were passed in the drawing-room with the doctor, Clara and Mrs. Roeko. And if the morning's occupation was the most earnest and the day's the most active, the evening's relaxation with Clara, and music, and poetry, was certainly the most delightful. In the midst of all this peace and prosperity, a malady was creeping upon the boy's heart and brain, that in his simplicity and inexperience he could neither understand nor conquer.

Why was it that these evening fireside meetings with the doctor's lovely daughter, once such unalloyed delight, were now only a keenly pleasing pain? Why did his face burn and his heart beat and his voice falter, when obliged to speak to her? Why could he no longer talk of her to his mother, or write of her to his friend Herbert Grayson? Above all, why had his favorite day-dream of having his dear friends Herbert and Clara married together grown so abhorrent as to sicken his very soul?

Traversé, himself could not have answered these questions. In his ignorance of life he did not know that all his strong, ardent, earnest nature was tending towards the maiden by a power of attraction seated in the deepest principles of being and of destiny.

Clara, in her simplicity did not suspect the truth; but tried in every innocent way to enliven the silent boy, and said that he worked too hard, and begged her father not to let him study too much.

Whereupon the doctor would laugh and bid her not be uneasy about Traversé—that the boy was all right and would do very well. Evidently the doctor, with all his knowledge of human nature, did not perceive that his protégé was in process of forming an unhealthy attachment for his daughter and heiress.

Mrs. Roeko, with her woman's tact and mother's forethought saw all. She saw that in the honest heart of her poor boy, unconsciously there was the lovely girl with whom he was thrown in such close, intimate, daily association, and who was certainly not indifferent in her feelings towards

him; but whom he might never, never hope to possess.

She saw this daily growing, and trembled for the peace of both. She wondered at the blindness of the doctor who did not see what was so plain to her own vision. Daily she looked to see the eyes of the doctor open, and some action taken upon the circumstances; but they did not open to the evil ahead, for the girl and boy! For morning after morning their hands would be together trying up the same vines, or clearing out the same flower bed; day after day at the doctor's orders Traversé attended Clara on her rides; night after night their mingling faces would be bent over the same sketch book, chess board, or music sheet.

"Oh! if the doctor can not and will not see, what shall I do? what ought I to do?" said the conscientious woman to herself, dreading above all things, and equally for herself and the doctor's daughter, the evils of an unhappy attachment, a experience believed to be the worst of sorrows, a misfortune never to be conquered or outlived.

"Yes! it is even better that we should leave the house, than that Traversé should become hopelessly attached to Clara; or worse than all, that he should repay the doctor's great bounty by winning the heart of his only daughter," said Marah Roeko to herself; and so "screwing her courage to the sticking place" she took an opportunity one morning early while Traversé and Clara were out riding, to go into the study to speak to the doctor.

As she looked up with a smile to welcome her as she entered; but her momentary eyes and serious face made him uneasy, and he hastened to inquire if she was not well, or if anything had happened to make her anxious, and at the same time he placed a chair, and made her sit in it.

"Yes I am troubled, Doctor, about a subject that I scarcely know how to break to you," she said, in considerable embarrassment.

"Mrs. Roeko you know I am your friend, anxious to serve you! Trust in me and speak out."

"Well, sir," said Marah, beginning to roll up the corner of her apron, in her embarrassment, "I should not presume to interfere, but you do not see, gentlemen, perhaps, seldom do until it is too late." She paused, and the good doctor turned his head about, listening first with one ear and then with the other, as if he thought by attentive hearing he might come to understand her incomprehensible words.

"Miss Clara has the misfortune to be without a mother, or an aunt, or any kindred relative—"

"Oh! yes! I know it, my dear madam; but then I am sure you conscientiously try to fill the place of a matronly friend and adviser to my daughter," said the doctor, striving after light.

"Yes, sir, and it is in view of my duties in this relation that I say—I and Traversé ought to go away."

"You and Traversé go away! My good little woman you ought to be more cautious how you shock a man at my time of life! Fifty is a very appetizing age to a full-blooded man, Mrs. Roeko! But now that I have got over the shock, tell me why you fancy that you and Traversé ought to go away?"

"Sir, my son is a well-meaning boy—"

"A high-spirited noble-hearted lad!" put in the doctor. "I have never seen a better!"

"But granting all that to be, what I hope and believe it is—*true*, still Traversé Roeko is not a proper or desirable daily associate for Miss Day."

"Why?" earnestly inquired the doctor.

"If Miss Clara's mother were living, sir, she would probably tell you that young ladies should never associate with any except their equals of the opposite sex," said Marah Roeko.

Clara's dear mother, were she on earth, would understand and sympathize with me, and esteem my Traversé as I do, Mrs. Roeko," said the doctor, with moist eyes and a tremulous voice.

"But oh, sir, exceedingly kind as you are to Traversé, I dare not, in duty, look on and see things going the way in which they are, and not speak and ask your consent to withdraw Traversé!"

"My good little friend," said the doctor, rising and looking kindly and benignantly upon Marah, "My good little woman, sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof!" Suppose you and I trust a little in Divine Providence, and mind our own business?"

"But sir, it seems to me a part of our business to watch over the young and inexperienced, that they fall into no snare."

"And also to treat them with a little wholesome neglect! that our over officiousness may plunge them into none!"

"I wish you would comprehend me, sir!" "I do and applaud your motives; but give yourself no further trouble! Leave the young people to their own honest hearts and to Providence. Clara, with all her softness, is a sensible girl! and as for Traversé, if he is one to break his heart from an unhappy attachment, I have been mistaken in the lad, that is all!" said the doctor, heartily.

Mrs. Roeko sighed, and saying—"I deemed it my duty to speak to you, sir; and having done so I have no more to say," she slightly outstaid and withdrew.

"He does not see! his great benevolence blinds him! In his wish to serve us he exposes Traversé to the most dreadful misfortune—the misfortune of becoming hopelessly attached to one far above him in station, whom he can never hope to possess!" said Marah Roeko to herself, as she retired from the room.

"I must speak to Traversé himself, and warn him against this snare," she said, as she afterwards ruminated over the subject.

And accordingly that evening, when she had retired to her chamber and heard Traversé enter the little adjoining room where he slept, she called him in, and gave him a seat, saying that she must have some serious conversation with him.

The boy looked uneasy, but took the offered chair and waited for his mother to speak.

"Traversé," she said, "A change has come over you recently that may escape all other eyes but those of your mother, she, Traversé, cannot be blind to anything that seriously affects her boy's happiness."

"Mother I scarcely know what you mean," said the youth in embarrassment.

"Traversé, you are beginning to think too much of Miss Day!"

"Oh mother!" exclaimed the boy, while a violent blush overspread and empurpled his face! "Then in a little while and in faltering tones he inquired—'Have I betrayed in any way, that I do?'"

"To no one but to me, Traversé, to me whose anxiety for your happiness makes me watchful; and now, dear boy, you must listen to me; I know it is very sweet to you, to sit in a dark corner and gaze on Clara, when no one, not even herself, witnesses your joy, and to be awake and think and dream of her when no eye but that of God looks down upon your heart; and to build castles in the air for her and for you; all this I know is very sweet; but, Traversé, it is a sweet poison, fatal if indulged in, fatal to your peace and integrity."

"Oh, my mother!—oh, my mother! what are you telling me!" exclaimed Traversé, bitterly.

"Unpalatable truth, dear boy, but necessary antidotes to that sweet poison of which you have already tasted too much."

"What would you have me to do, my mother?"

"Guard your acts and words, and even thoughts; forbear to look at, or speak to, or think of Clara, except when it is unavoidable—or if you do, regard her as she is—on, so far beyond your sphere as to be forever unattainable!"

"Oh, mother, I never once dreamed of such presumption as to think of—"

The youth paused, and a deep blush again overspread his face.

"I know you have not indulged presumptuous thoughts as yet, my boy, and it is to warn you against them, while yet your heart is in some measure within your own keeping, that I speak to you. Indulge your imagination in no more sweet reveries about Miss Day, for the end thereof will be bitter humiliation and disappointment. Remember also that in so doing you would indulge a sort of treachery against your patron, who in his bosom of his family, and admitted you to an almost brotherly intimacy with his daughter. Honor his trust in you, and treat his daughter with the distant respect due to a princess."

"I will, mother. It will be hard, but I will! Oh, an hour ago I did not dream how miserable I should be now!" said Traversé in a choking voice.

"Because I have pointed out to you the gulch towards which you were walking blindfold!"

"I know it. I know it now, mother," said Travers, as he arose and pressed his mother's hand and hurried to his own room.

The poor youth did his best to follow out the line of conduct prescribed for him by his mother. He devoted himself to his studies and to the active service of his patron. He avoided Clara as much as possible and, when obliged to be in her company, he treated her with the most respectful reserve.

Clara saw and wondered at his change of manner, and began to eart about in her own mind for the probable cause of his conduct.

"I am the young mistress of the house," said Clara to herself, "and I know I owe to every inmate of it consideration and courtesy; perhaps I may have been unconsciously lacking in those towards Travers, whose situation would naturally render him very sensitive to neglect. I must endeavour to convince him that none was intended." And resolving, Clara redoubled all her efforts to make Travers, as well as others, happy and comfortable.

But happiness and comfort seemed for the time to have departed from the youth. He saw her generous endeavor to cheer him, and while admiring her amiability, grew still more reserved.

This pained the gentle girl, who, taking herself seriously to task, said:

"Oh, I must have deeply wounded his feelings in some unconscious way and if so, how very cruel and thoughtless of me! I how could I have done it! I cannot imagine; but I know I shall not allow him to continue unhappy if I can prevent it. I will speak to him about it."

And then in the candor, innocence and humility of her soul, she followed him to the window where he stood in a moody silence, and said pleasantly:

"Travers, we do not seem to be so good friends as formerly. If I have done anything to offend you, I know that you will believe me w. e. I say that it was quite unintentional on my part and that I am very sorry for it, and hope you will forgive it."

"You, you, Miss Day! you say anything to displease—*anybody!* Any one become displeased with you!" exclaimed the youth, in a tremulous enthusiasm that shook his voice and suffused his cheeks.

"Then if you are not displeased, Travers, what is the matter, and why do you call me Miss Day instead of Clara?"

"Miss Day, because it is right that I should. You are a young lady—the only daughter and heiress of Doctor Day of Willow Heights, while, I am—"

"His friend," said Clara.
"The son of his housekeeper," said Travers, winking away.

Clara looked after him in dismay for a moment, and then sat down and bent thoughtfully over her needle-work.

From that day Travers grew more deeply in love and more reserved than before. How could it be otherwise, domesticated, as he was, with this lovely girl, and becoming daily more sensible of her beauty, goodness and intelligence? Yet he struggled against his inevitable attachment as a great treachery. Meantime he made rapid progress in his medical studies. It was while affairs were in this state that one evening the doctor entered the study holding the morning paper in his hand. Seating himself in his leather arm-chair, at the table, he said:

"I see, my dear Travers, that a full course of lectures is to be commenced at the medical college in Washington, and I think that you are sufficiently far advanced in your studies to attend them with great advantage—what say you?"

"Oh, sir!" said Travers, upon whom the proposition had burst unexpectedly—"I should indeed be delighted to, if that were possible."

"There is no *if* about it, my boy; if you wish to go you shall do so. I have made up my mind to give you a professional education, and shall not stop half-way."

"Oh, sir, the obligation—the overwhelming obligation you lay upon me!"

"Nonsense, Travers! It is only a capital investment in funds. If I were a usurer, boy, I could not put out money to a better advantage. You will repay me, by and by, with compound interest; so just consider all that I may be able to do for you as a loan to be repaid when you shall have achieved success."

"I am afraid, sir, that that time will never—"

"No you are not!" interrupted the doctor—"and so don't let modesty run into hypocrisy. Now put up your books and go and tell your good little mother to get your clothes all ready for you next coach."

Much surprise it created in the little household by the news that Travers was going immediately to Washington to attend the medical lectures. There was but two days to prepare his wardrobe for the journey. Mrs. Rocks went cheerfully to Clara, lent her willing and skillful aid, and at the end of the second day his clothes, in perfect order, were all neatly packed in his travelling trunk.

And on the morning of the third day Travers took leave of his mother and Clara, and for the first time left home to go out into the great world. Doctor Day accompanied him in the old green gig as far as Staunton, where he took the stage.

As soon as they had left the house Marsh Rocks went away to her own room to drop a few natural tears over the first parting with her son. Very lonely and desolate the mother felt as she stood weeping by the window, and straining her eyes to catch a distant view of the old green gig that had already rolled out of sight.

While she stood thus in her loneliness and desolation, the door silently opened, a footstep softly crossed the floor, a pair of arms was put around her neck, and Clara Day dropped her head upon the mother's bosom and wept softly.

Marsh Rocks pressed that beautiful form to her breast, and felt with dismay that the doctor's sweet daughter already returned her boy's silent love!

CHAPTER XXIV.

CAPITOLA'S MOTHER.

A woman like a dew-drop she was purer than the purest,
And her noble heart the noblest, yet, and her sure
And her eyes were dark and humid like the depth in
depth of justice,
Hid 'till the newbell, while her tresses, sunnier than the
wild grape's cluster,
Gushed in rove-tinted plenty down her cheek's rose-
shaded marble.

Then her voice's music—call it the waltz's bubbling,
The bird's warble.

—BROWNING.

"Cap?"

"Sir!"

"What the blazes is the matter with you?"

"What the blazes? You better say what the dust and ashes! I'm bored to death! I'm blue as tile, or such a rum old uncle as you!"

"Cap! how often have I told you to leave off this Bowery talk? *Run!* *Run!*" said Old Hurricane.

"Well, it is run then! Nothing ever happens here! The silence deafens me! the plenty takes away my appetite! the safety makes me low!"

"*Haunt!* you are like the Bowery boys in times of peace, 'spelling for a fight.'"

"Yes, I am! just decomposing above ground for want of having my blood stirred, and I wish I was back in the Bowery. Something was always appearing *there!* One day a fire, next day a fight, another day a fire and a fight together!"

"Umph! and you run with the engine!"

"Don't talk about it, uncle! it makes me home sick!—every day something glorious to stir one's blood! Here *nothing* ever happens, hardly!"

"It has been three days since I caught Black Donald; hold! Oh! I wish the barns would catch on fire! I wish thieves would break in and steal!"

"I wish Demon's Run would only *run* so a flood and play the demon for once! *Oh—yah—no!*"

said Cap., opening her mouth with a yawn, wide enough to threaten the *stocation* of her jaws.

"O Capitola," said the old man very gravely, "I am getting *terribly* weary about you. I know I am a rough old soldier, quite unfit to educate a young girl, and that Mrs. Condiment can't manage you, and—I'll consult Mr. Goodwin!" he concluded, getting up and putting on his hat, and walking out of the breakfast-room, where this conversation had taken place.

Cap. laughed to herself—"I hope it is not a

sin! I know I should die of the blues if I couldn't give vent to my feelings—And Isaac uncle!"

Capitola had scarcely exaggerated her condition. The monotony of her life affected her spirits; the very absence of the necessity of thinking and caring for herself, left a dull void in her heart and brain; and as the winter waned, the annual spring fever of lassitude and dejection to which matrimonial organizations like her own are subject, tended to increase the malady that Mrs. Condiment termed "a loveliness of spirits."

"As his wit's out, for truth as a Christian, I declare his responsibility and his helplessness in his wife's case, Old Hurricane went and said the matter before the Rev. Mr. Goodwin."

Having reached the minister's house, and found him alone and disengaged in the library, Old Hurricane first bound him over to strict secrecy, and then "made a clean breast of it;" told him where Capitola had been brought up, and under what circumstances he had found her.

The honest country clergyman was shocked beyond all immediate power of recovering himself—so shocked, in fact, that Old Hurricane, fearing he had gone too far, hastened to say:

"But mind, on my truth as a man, my honour as a soldier, and my faith as a Christian, I declare that that wild, reckless, desolate child has passed unscathed through the terrible ordeal of destitution, poverty, and exposure! She *has* sir! She is as innocent as the most dimly sheltered young heiress in the county! she is *virgin* and I'd cut off the tongue and ears of any man that said otherwise."

"I do not say otherwise, my friend! but I say that she has suffered a frightful series of perils."

"She has come out of them safe, sir! I know it by a thousand signs!—what I fear for her is the *future!* I can't manage her! She won't obey me, except when she likes it! She has never been taught obedience or been accustomed to subordination, and don't understand either! She rides and walks out alone in spite of all I can do or say! If she were a boy, I'd thrash her! But what can I do with a *girl!*"

"Look her up in her chamber until she is brought to reason," suggested the minister.

"Demmy, she'd jump out of the window and break her neck or hang herself in her garret or stave herself to death! You don't know what an unmanageable thing she is. Some birds, if caged, beat themselves to death against the bars of their prison! she is just such a wild bird as that!"

"Umph! it is a difficult case to manage; but you should not shrink from responsibility; you should be firm with her."

"That's just what I *can't* be with the witch, confound her! she is such a wag, such a droll, such a mimic; disobeys me in such a mocking, exulting, affective way! I could not give her pain if her soul depended on it."

"Then you should talk to her! try moral suasion!"

"Yes, if I could only get her to be serious long enough to listen to me! But you see, Cap. isn't *sentimental* and if I try to be, she laughs in my face!"

"But then she is so insensible to all the benefits you have conferred upon her—will not gratefully influence her?"

"Yes; so far as repaying me with a genuine affection, fervent care and careful attentions to my little comforts can go! but Cap. evidently thinks that the restriction of her liberty is too heavy a price to pay for protection and support! The little rogue! I think of her actually threatening in her good humour, way, to cite me before the nearest justice to show cause why I detained her in my house!"

"Well, you could easily do that, I suppose, and she could no longer oppose your authority."

"No, that is just what I *couldn't* do!—I couldn't show any legal right to detain Capitola."

"Umph, that complicates the case very much."

"Yes; and much more than you think for! I wish to keep Capitola until she is of legal age. I do not wish that she should fall into the hands of her perfidious guardian, until I shall be able to bring legal proof of his perjury."

"Then it appears that this girl has received foul play from her friends?"

"Foul play! I should think so! Gabriel Le Noir has very neatly put his neck into a halter,"

"Gabriel"

"Erase your woe forever or you leave"

"Yes, indeed"

"I'll sterner"

"sir, have years, or no, or widower"

"reputation and in the"

"Erase gives women as"

"irrepressible member of"

"quelled the penitence"

"a haegman"

"Sir, I say so"

"grat mistake"

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"eighteen y hold my"

"or form, him so lon"

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"Bir, sir"

"I am w saved her"

"has it. I you came"

"House was father of"

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"cool and in the negro"

"property w Eugene, w"

"die without negroes, o"

"brother G stock and"

"An equi"

"Yes; I death, Eug"

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"mere child neighbours"

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"mony a ero fourteen ye"

"It was minister."

"So thore they found"

"was change daughter o"

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"Good d heaven, sin"

"ished."

"He did just the m"

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"and prett was the onl"

"raw in my enriced o"

do of the blues if I couldn't
—and—leave uncle! I
exaggerated her condition,
who affected her spirits; the
beauty of thinking and ear-
that void in her heart and
ward, the annual spring
rejection to which marvellous
are subject, tended to
at Mrs. Condomint termed

the combined feelings of
a high anxiety in his ward's
and laid the matter be-
-

minister's house, and found
aged in the library, Old
in over to strict ecclasy,
a breast of it," told him
n brought up, and under
and found her
clergyman was shocked
wer of recovering himself
at Old Hurricane, fearing
this as a man, my honour
as a Christian, I declare
desolate child has passed
unriddle order of destitu-
tion! She has sir! She
most delicately sheltered
nearly she is sir! and I'd
re of my man that said

re, my friend! but I say
glorious series of perils."
then said, sir! I know
what I fear for her is
-go her! She won't obey
and she has never been
accustomed to subordi-
nated either! She rides
of all I can do or say I
sh her! But what can
Old Hurricane, in despair,
chamber until she is
led the minister,
out of the window and
herself in her garters!
You don't know what
is. Some birds, if a
death against the bars
at such a wild bird as

it cease to manage; but
on responsibility; you
-y be with the witch,
a wag, such a droll,
e in such a mocking,
I could not give her
n!"

her to her! try moral
her to be serious long
if you see, Cap. isn't
be, she laughs in my

meable to all the bene-
-her will not grati-

me with a genuine
and careful attention
of it! But, evidently
of her liberty is too
protection and support!
her actually threat-
ing, to cite me be-
low cause why I de-

do that, I suppose,
your authority."
I couldn't do—I
to detain Capitola.

tion the easy way
-on you think for I
is of legal age. I
will into the hands of
I shall be able to

is girl has received
-kirk so! Gabriel Le
-ck into a halter,"

"Gabriel Le Noir! Colonel Le Noir! Our
neighbour!" exclaimed the minister.

"Essay so—Parson! you have given me
your word as a Christian minister, to be silent
forever concerning this interview, or until I give
you leave to speak of it."

"Yes, Major, and I repeat my promise; but
indeed, sir, you astound me!"

"Listen! and at astonishment rise to con-
sternation. I will tell you who Capitola is. You,
sir, have been in this neighbourhood only ten
years, and consequently you know Gabriel Le
Noir only as the proprietor of Hidden House, a
widower with one grown son—"

"And as a gentleman of irreproachable
reputation, in good standing both in the church
and in the county."

"Exactly. A man that pays his pew-rent,
gives good dinners, and takes off his hat to
women and clergymen. Well, sir, this gentleman
of irreproachable character and morals—this
member of good standing in the community—this
citizen in good standing with the Church has
qualified himself for a twenty years' residence in
the penitentiary, even if not for the exaltation of
a hangman's halter."

"Sir, I am inexpressibly shocked to hear you
say so; and I must still believe that there is some
great mistake."

"Wait until I tell you: I, Ira Warfield, have
known Gabriel Le Noir as a villain for the last
eighteen years. I tell you so without scruple, and
hold myself ready to maintain my words in field
or forum, by sword or law. Well, having known
him so long, for such a knave, I was in no man-
ner surprised to discover some six months ago,
that he was also a criminal, and only needed
exposure to become a felon."

"Sir, sir, this is strong language!"

"I am willing to back it with 'life, liberty, and
sacred honor,' as the Declaration of Independence
has it. Listen: Some sixteen years ago, before
you came to take this pastoral charge, the Hidden
House was occupied by old Victor Le Noir, the
father of Eugene, the heir, and of Gabriel the
present usurper. The old man died, leaving a will
to this effect: the landed estate, including the
coal and iron mines, the Hidden House, and all
the negroes, stock, furniture, and other personal
property upon the premises, to his eldest son,
Eugene, with this proviso: that if Eugene should
die without issue, the landed estate, houses,
negroes, etc., should descend to his younger
brother Gabriel. To Gabriel he left his bank-
stock and business."

"An equitable will," observed the minister.

"Yes; but hear. At the time of his father's
death, Eugene was travelling in Europe. On re-
ceiving the news, he immediately returned homo
bringing with him a lovely young creature, a
mere child, that he presented to his astonished
neighbors as Madame Eugene Le Noir. I de-
clare to you there was no simultaneous outcry of
shame, that he should have trapped into mari-
nage a creature so infantile—for she was scarcely
fourteen years of age."

"It was indeed highly improper," said the
minister.

"So thought all the neighbourhood; but when
they found out how it happened, the approval
was changed to condemnation. She was the
daughter of a French patriot. Her father and
mother had both perished on the scaffold in the
cause of liberty; she was thrown helpless, friend-
less, and penniless upon the cold charity of the
world; Providence had sent her in the way of our
sensitive and enthusiastic young traveller. He
pitied her; he loved her; and was casting about
in his own mind how he could help without com-
promising her, when the news of his father's
illness summoned him home. Then, seeing no
better way of protecting her, after a little hesita-
tion on account of her tender years, he married
her, and brought her with him."

"Good deeds, we know, must be rewarded in
heaven, since on earth they are so often pun-
ished."

"He did not long enjoy his bride. She was
just the most beautiful creature that ever was
seen—with a promise of still more glorious beauty
in riper years. I have seen handsome women
and pretty women, but Madame Eugene Le Noir
was the only perfectly beautiful woman I ever
saw in my long life. My own aged eyes seemed
enraptured only to look at her. She adored Eu-

gene, too—any one could see that. At first she
spoke English in 'broken music,' but soon her
accent became as perfect as if she had been native
born—how could it have been otherwise when her
heart was and inspired was Love! She won all
hearts with her loveliness—Humph! her eye,
an old fool—worse, an Old Hurricane, betrayed
into disclosures of love and beauty, merely by the
remembrance of Madame Eugene Le Noir! Ah,
bright, exotic flower! she did not bloom long.
The bride had scarcely settled down into the wife,
when one night Eugene Le Noir did not come
home as usual. The next day his dead body
was found in the woods around the Hidden
House with a bullet in his brain. The murder-
er was never discovered. Gabriel Le Noir
came in haste from the military post where
he had been stationed. The Madame Eugene was
never seen abroad after the death of her husband.
It was reported that she had lost her reason—
a consequence that surprised no one. Eugene
having died without issue, and his young widow
being mad, Gabriel, by the terms of his father's
will, stepped at once into the full possession of
the whole property."

"Something of all this I have heard before,"
said the minister.

"Very likely; for these facts and *facts* were
the common property of the neighbourhood.
But what you have not heard before, and what is
not known to any now living, except the criminals,
the victims and myself, is, that three months
after the death of her husband, Madame Eugene
Le Noir gave birth to twins—one living, one
dead. The dead child was privately buried; the
living one, together with the nurse, that was the
sole witness of the birth, was abducted."

"Great Heaven, can this be true!" exclaimed
the minister, shocked beyond all power of self-
control.

"True as gospel! I have proof enough to
carry conviction to any honest breast—to satisfy
any cavalier—except a court of justice. You
whom you dragged me out in the snow-storm to
see—listen you!"

"Yes."

"She was the abducted nurse, escaped and
returned! It was to make a deposition to the
facts I am about to relate, that she sent you to
me, and related the whole dark history of the
crime comprised in the nurse's dying deposition.
They examined the instrument together, and
Old Hurricane again related, in brief, the inci-
dents of his hurried journey to New York; his
meeting and identifying Capitola, and bringing
her home in safety to his house."

"And then," said the old man, "you perceive
that this child whose birth was feloniously con-
cealed, and who was cast away to perish among
the wretched beggars, thieves, and street-walkers
of New York, is really the only living child of the
late Eugene Le Noir, and the sole inheritrix of
the Hidden House, with its vast acres of fields,
forests, iron and coal-mines, water-powers, steam
mills, furnaces and foundries—wealth that I
would not undertake to estimate within a million
of dollars—all of which is now held and enjoyed
by that scurrilous villain, Gabriel Le Noir!"

"And then," said the minister, gravely, "you have
of course—conducted proceedings on this part of
your proteges."

"Listen. I will tell you what I have done.
When I first brought Cap. home, I was moved
not only by the desire of wreaking vengeance upon
some atrocious miscreant who had done me an
unpardonable injury, but also by sympathy for the
little wretch who had won my heart at first sight.
Therefore you may judge I lost no time in prepar-
ing to strike a double blow which should ruin my
own mortal enemy, and reinstate my favorite in
her rights. With this view, immediately on my
return home, I sent for Breese, my confidential
attorney, and laid the whole matter before him."

"And he—"

"To my dismay he told me that though the
case was clear enough, it was not sufficiently
strong, in a legal point of view, to justify us in
bringing suit; for that the dying deposition of
evidence in the courts."

"You knew that before, sir, I presume."
"Of course I did; but I thought it was a law-
yer's business to get over such difficulties; and I

assure you, parson, that I flew into a passion, and
cursed court and county law, and lawyers, as
heart's content! I would have quarrelled with old
Breese, then and there, only *Breese won't get ex-
cited*. His very costly advice me to keep the
matter close, and my eye open, and gather all the
corroborative testimony I could find, and that in
the meantime he would reflect upon the best
manner of proceeding."

"I think, Major Warfield, that his counsel was
wise and disinterested. But tell me, sir, of the
girl's mother! Is it not astonishing, in fact, is
it not perfectly inconceivable, that so lovely a
woman as you have represented her to be, should
have consented to the concealment, if not to the
destruction of her own legitimate offspring?"

"Sir, to me, it is not inconceivable at all!
She was at once an orphan and a widow; a
stranger in a strange land; a poor, desolate,
broken-hearted child, in the power of the cunning-
est and most unscrupulous villain that the Lord
ever suffered to live! I wonder at nothing that
he might have deceived or frightened her into
doing!"

"Heaven forgive us! Have I known that man
for ten years, to hear this account of him at last!
But tell me, sir, have you really any true idea
of what has been the fate of the poor young
widow?"

"No—not the slightest. Immediately after
his brother's funeral, Gabriel Le Noir gave out
that Madame Eugene had lost her reason through
excessive grief, soon after which he took her
with him to the North, and upon his return
last week, reported that he had left her in a celebra-
ted Lunatic Asylum. The story was probable enough,
and received universal belief. Only *new* I do not
credit it, and do not know whether the widow be
living or dead; or if living, whether she be mad or
fair wits or *fool*!"

"Merciful Heaven, sir! you do not mean to
say—"

"Yes, I do mean to say; and if you would
like to know what is on my private mind I'll
tell you. I believe that Madame Eugene Le
Noir has been treacherously made away with
by the same infernal demon at whose instiga-
tion her husband was murdered and her child
stolen."

"The minister seemed crushed beneath the over-
whelming weight of this communication; he
passed his hand over his brow, and thence down
his face, and sighed deeply; for a few moments
he seemed unable to reply, and when he spoke it
was only to say:

"In this matter, Major Warfield, I can offer
you no counsel better than that of your confidential
attorney—follow the light that you have un-
doubtedly led you to the full elucidation of this affair,
and may heaven grant that you may find Colonel
Le Noir less guilty than you apprehend."

"Parson!—lumbag! When charity drives it
ought to be turned off by justice! I will follow
the little light I have! I suspect from the de-
scription, that the wretch who at Le Noir's instance
carried off the nurse and child, was no other than
the notorious Black Donald! I have offered an
additional thousand dollars for his apprehension,
and if he is taken he will be condemned to death,
make a last dying speech and confession, and
give up his accomplice, the accomplished Colonel
Le Noir among the rest!"

"If the latter really *was* an accomplice, there
could be no better way of discovering the fact
than to bring this Black Donald to justice; but I
greatly fear there is little hope of that."

"Aye, but there is? Listen! the long impu-
nity enjoyed by this desperado has made him dar-
ing to fatality! Why, I was within a hair's
breadth of capturing him *yesterday* a few days ago."

"That is possible!" asked the minister, with
a look of surprise and interest.

"Aye, was I! And you shall hear all about
it!" said Old Hurricane. And upon that he
commenced and told the minister the adventure
of Capitola with Black Donald at Hurricane
Hall.

The minister was amazed, yet could not for-
bear to say:

"It seems to me, however, that it was Capitola
who was within a hair's breadth of capturing this
notorious desperado!"

"Poor! she clung to him like the reckless
lunatic that she is; but lord, he would have car-

and, above all, admitted that I was a man. Mr. Goodwin!" exclaimed, exclaiming through their teeth, "I'll be to know what Mr. Goodwin!"

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but before he found on the room was evacuated except by himself and Capitola.

"Now, minion!" he began as soon as he found himself alone with the little rebel:

"I did not choose to mortify you before the servants, but once for all, I will have you to understand that I intend to be obeyed!" And Old Hurricane gathered his brows like a gathering storm.

"Sir, if you were really my uncle, or my father, or my legal guardian, I should have no choice, but to obey you; but the same fate that made me *destitute* made me *free*! a freedom that I will not exchange for any guided slavery!" said Cap., gaily.

"Fish! hush! hush! I say I will have no more of this nonsense! I say I will be obeyed," cried Old Hurricane, striking his cane down upon the floor—"and in proof of it I order you immediately to go and take off that gaudy dress and settle yourself down to your studies for the day."

"Uncle I will obey you and for as taking of this dress goes, for since you won't give me a seat in your carriage I shall have to put on my habit and ride Gyp," said Cap., coolly and humorously.

"What! do you dare to hint that you have the slightest idea of going to the fair against my will?"

"Yes, sir," said Cap., gaily—"sorry it's against your will, but can't help it! not need to be ordered about and don't know how to submit, and so I'm going!"

"Ungrateful girl! actually meditating disobedience on the horse I gave her!"

"Easy now, uncle—fair and easy! I did not sell my free will for a trifle. I would for a thousand Gyps! He was a free gift!" said Capitola, beginning an impatient little dance about the floor.

"Come here to me! Come—here—to-me!" exclaimed the old man, paterfamilias, rapping his cane down upon the floor with every syllable.

"Behold! danced up to him, and stood, half smiling, and half frowning and arranging the lace of her under sleeves.

"Listen to me, you witch! do you intend to obey me or not?"

"Not!" said Cap., good-humoredly, adjusting her cameo bracelet, and holding up her arm to see its effect.

"You will not! Then demny, Miss, I shall know how to make you!" thundered old Hurricane, bringing the point of his stick down with a sharp rap.

"Eh!" cried Capitola, looking up in astonishment.

"Yes, Miss, *that's* what I said! MARK you!"

"I should like to know how!" said Cap., returning to her cool good looks and her usual manner.

"You would, you would? Demny, I'll tell you! I have broken laughter spiritus than yours in my life. Would you know how?"

"Yes," said Capitola, indifferently, still busied with her bracelet.

"Stoop, and I will whisper the mystery."

Capitola bent her graceful head to hear.

"Why, then," said Capitola, speaking in a low, deep, and measured tone, and keeping her gaze fixed upon his astonished face, "the first time—I should find you asleep—I would take—a razor—and—"

"Out my throat! I feel you would, you terrible tormenter!" shrieked Old Hurricane.

"I have a head of smick, smack, smoo!" said Cap., bounding and laughing merrily as she ran out of the room.

In an instant she came bounding back, saying: "Uncle! I will meet you at the fair! *au revoir! au revoir!*" and kissing her hand, she danced away and ran off to her room.

"She'll kill me! I know she will! If she don't in one way she will in another! Whew! I'm perspiring at every pore. Well! Well, you second!" exclaimed the old man, jerking the bell-ropes as if he would have broken the wires.

"Yes, sir! here I am mare!" exclaimed that worthy, hastening in, in a state of perturbation, for he dreaded another storm.

"What! do you dare to do that to the stable man here, that if either of them allows her case to be brought out for the use of Miss Black, to have the flay them alive, and break every bone in their skins! Away with you!"

"Yes, sir!" cried the shocked and terrified White, hurrying off to convey his panic to the stable.

Old Hurricane's earnings being ready, he entered it and drove off to the fair.

Next, the house servants (with the exception of Pitapat, who was commanded to remain behind and wait upon her mistress) went off in a wagon.

When they were all gone, Capitola dressed herself in her riding-habit, and sent Pitapat down to the stable, to order one of the grooms to saddle Gyp, and bring her up for her.

Now when the little maid delivered this message, the unfortunate grooms were filled with dismay—they feared their tyrannical little mistress almost as much as their despotic old master, who in the next change of his capricious temper might punch their heads for crossing the will of his favorite, even though in doing so they had followed his directions. An immediate private consultation was the consequence, and the result was that the head groom came to Pitapat, told her that he was sorry, but that Miss Black's pony had fallen lame.

The little maid went back with this answer. When she had gone, the head groom, calling to his fellows, said:

"That young gal ain't a-gwine to be fooled either by ole mare or we! She'll be down here herself, next minute and have the horse walked out. Now we must have him lame a little. Light a match here, Jen, and I'll burn him foot."

This was immediately done. And, sure enough, while poor Gyp was still smarting with his burn, Capitola came, holding up her riding train and hurrying to the scene, and asking indignantly:

"Why dare to say that my horse is lame? Bring him out here this instant that I may see him."

The groom immediately took poor Gyp, and led him limping to the presence of his mistress.

At the sight Capitola was almost ready to cry with grief and indignation.

"It was not lame last evening. It must have been your carelessness, you good-for-nothing set of loungers! And if he is not well enough to take me to the fair to-morrow, at least, I'll have the whole set of you lamed for life!" she exclaimed, angrily, as she turned off and went up to the house—personal disappointment, as for Old Hurricane's triumph.

Cap's ill-humor did not last long. She soon exchanged her riding-habit for a morning wrapper, and took her needle-work and sat down to sew by the side of Mrs. Condiment, in the housekeeper's room.

The day passed as usual, only that just after sunset Mrs. Condiment, as a matter of precaution, went all over the house, securing windows and doors before nightfall. Then, after an early tea, Mrs. Condiment, Capitola and the little maid, Pitapat, gathered around the bright little wood fire, that the chilly Spring evening made necessary in the housekeeper's room. Mrs. Condiment was knitting, Capitola stitching a bosom for the

Major's shirts, and Pitapat winding yarn from a reel.

The conversation of the three females left alone in the old house naturally turned upon subjects of fear—ghosts, witches, and robbers.

Mrs. Condiment had a formidable collection of accredited stories of apparitions, warnings, dreams omen, etc., all true as gospel. There was a haunted house, she said, in their own neighborhood—The Building House. It was well authenticated that ever since the mysterious murder of Eugene Le Noir, unaccountable sights and sounds had been seen and heard in and about the dwelling.

A traveller, a brother officer of Colonel Le Noir, had slept there once, and "in the dead waste and middle of the night" had had his curtains drawn by a lady, pale and passing fair, dressed in white, with flowing hair, who, as soon as he attempted to speak to her, died. And it was well known that there was no lady about the premises.

Another time, old Mr. Ezy, himself, when out after coals, and coming through the woods near the house, had been attracted by seeing a window near the roof lighted up by a starlight blue flame; drawing near, he saw within the lighted room a female clothed in white, passing and repassing the window.

Another time, when old Major Warfield was out with his dogs, the chase led him past the haunted house, and as he swept by he caught a glimpse of a pale, wan, sorrowful face, which pressed against the window pane of an upper room, which vanished in an instant.

But might not that have been some young woman staying at the house? asked Capitola.

"No, my child, it is well ascertained that since the murder of Eugene Le Noir, and the disappearance of his lovely young widow, no white female has crossed the threshold of that fatal house," said Mrs. Condiment.

"Disappearance did you say? Can a lady of condition disappear from a neighborhood and no inquiry be made for her?"

"No, my dear, there was inquiry, and it was answered plausibly that Madam Eugene was insane and sent off to a lunatic asylum; but there are those who believe that the lovely lady was privately made away with," whispered Mrs. Condiment.

"How dreadful! I did not think such things happened in a quiet country neighborhood. Something like that occurred, indeed, in New York, within my own recollection, however," said Capitola—who straightway commented and related the story of Mary Rogers, and all other stories of terror that memory supplied her with.

As for poor little Pitapat, she did not presume to enter into the conversation, but with her ball of yarn suspended in her hand, her eyes started until they threatened to burst from their sockets, and her chin dropped until her mouth gaped wide open, she sat and swallowed every word, listening with a thousand-audience power.

By the time they had frightened themselves pretty thoroughly, the clock struck eleven, and they thought it was time to retire.

"Will you be afraid, Mrs. Condiment," asked Capitola.

"Well, my dear, if I am, I must try to trust in the Lord and overcome it, since it is no use to be afraid. I have fastened up the house well and I have brought in Growler, the bull-dog, to sleep on the mat outside of my bedroom door, so I shall say my prayers and then go to sleep. I dare say there is no danger, only it seems to me some like for us three women to be left in this big house by ourselves."

"Yes," said Capitola; "but as you say there is no danger; and as for me, if it will give you any comfort or courage to hear me say it, I am not afraid, though I sleep in that remote little room, and have no one but Patsy, who has more heart than a hare, is not near such a powerful protector as Growler."

And, bidding her little maid to take up the night-lamp, Capitola wished Mrs. Condiment good-night, and left the housekeeper's room.

CHAPTER XXVI.

THE PRISON AND THE PRISONER OF CAP.

"Who that had seen her form at night
For swiftness only turned,
Would not have thought in a thing so slight
Such a fiery spirit buried."

Very dreary looked the dark and silent passages as they went on towards Capitola's distant chamber.

When at last they reached it, however, and opened the door, the cheerful scene within quite ruminated Capitola's spirits. The care of her little maid had prepared a blazing wood fire that lighted up the whole room brightly, glowing on the crimson curtains of the bed and the crimson hangings of the windows opposite, and flashing upon the high mirror between them.

Capitola having secured her room in every way, stood before her dressing bureau and began to take off her collar, and other small articles of dress. As she stood there, her mirror, brilliantly lit up by both lamp and fire, reflected clearly the opposite bed, with its warm crimson curtains, white coverlet, and little Pitapat sitting from post to post, as she tied back the curtains or smoothed the sheets.

Capitola stood unclasping her bracelets, and smiling to herself at the reflected picture—the comfortable nest in which she was so soon to curl herself up to sleep. While she was smiling thus, she tilted the mirror downwards a little for her better convenience, and looking into it again:

"Horror! what did she see reflected there? Under the bed a pair of glittering eyes, watching her from the shadows.

A sick sensation of fainting came over her; but mastering the weakness, she tilted the glass a little lower, until it reflected all the floor, and looked again.

Horror on horror! there were three stalwart ruffians armed to the teeth, lurking in ambush under her bed.

The deadly inclination to swoon returned upon her; but with a heroic effort she controlled her fears, and forced herself to look.

Yes, there they were! It was no dream, no illusion, no nightmare—there they were, three powerful desperadoes, armed with bowie knives and revolvers, the nearest one crouching low and watching her with his wolfish eyes, that shone like phosphorus in the dark.

What should she do? The danger was extreme, the necessity of immediate action imminent, the need of perfect self-control absolute. There was Pitapat sitting about the bed in momentary danger of looking under it. If she should, their lives would not be worth an instant's purchase. Their throats would be cut before they should utter a second scream. It was necessary, therefore, to call Pitapat away from the bed, where her presence was as dangerous as the proximity of a lighted candle to an open powder-barrel.

But how to trust her voice to do this? A single quaver in her tones would betray her consciousness of their presence to the lurking robbers and prove instantly fatal.

Happily, Capitola's pride in her own courage came to her aid.

"Is it possible," she said to herself, "that, after all, I am a coward and have not even nerve and will enough to command the tones of my own voice. Be it on it! Cowardice is worse than death.

And summoning all her resolution she spoke up, gibbly:

"Patty, come here and unhook my dress."

"Yes, Miss, I will do as soon as I get your slippers from underneath of a bed."

"I don't want them! Come here this minute and unhook my dress, I can't breathe! Please take those country dressmakers, they think the tighter they screw one up the more fashionable they make one appear! Come, I say, and set my lungs at liberty."

"Yes, miss, in one minute," said Pitapat; and to Capitola's unspoken horror the little maid stooped down and felt along under the side of the bed, from the head post to the foot post, until she put her hands upon the slippers and brought them forth. Providentially, the poor little wretch had not for an instant put her stupid head under the bed, or used her eyes in the

search!—that was all that saved them from instant massacre.

"Here you is, Caterpillar! I know how your foot's stir" he as much out of breath will yet light gloves as your waist is long of your tight dress."

"Unhook me!" said Capitola, slipping up the glass lest the child should see what horrors were reflected there.

The little maid began to obey, and Capitola tried to think of some plan to escape their imminent danger. To obey the natural impulse—by which from the room would be instantly fatal!

They would be followed and murdered in the hall, before they could possibly give the alarm. And to whom could she give the alarm when there was not another creature in the house except Mrs. Commodore?

While she was turning these things over in her mind it occurred to her that "man's extremity is God's opportunity." Sending up a silent prayer to heaven for help at need, she suddenly thought of a plan—it was full of difficulty, uncertainty and peril, affording not one chance in fifty of success, yet the only possible plan of escape. It was to find some plausible pretext for leaving the room without exciting suspicion, which would be fatal. Controlling her tremors, and speaking cheerfully, she asked:

"Patty, do you know whether there were any of those nice quince tarts left from dinner?"

"Lord, yes, Miss, a heap on 'em. Old Mis' put 'em away in her cupboard."

"Was there any baked custard left?"

"Lors, yes, Miss Caterpillar! dere was nobody but we duns three, and think I could eat up all as was left?"

"I don't know but you might. Well, is there any pear sauce?"

"Yes, Miss, a big bowl full."

"Well, I wish you'd go down and bring me up a tart, a cup of custard and a spoonful of pear sauce. Sitting up so late makes me as hungry as a wolf. Come Patty, go along."

"Deed, Miss, Ise 'frail!" whispered the little maid.

"Afraid of what, you goose!"

"'Fraid of meeting a ghose in the dark places."

"Pooh! you can take the light with you. You can stay here in the dark well enough."

"Deed, Miss, Ise 'frail!"

"What! with the candle, you blockhead?"

"Lors, Miss, de candle w'dn't be no tection. I'd see de ghoses all de plainer wid de candle!"

"What a provoking, stupid dolt! you're a proper maid! afraid to do my bidding! afraid of ghosts, forsooth. Well! I suppose I shall have to go myself; plague on you for an aggravating thing! There! take the candle and come along!"

said Capitola, in a tone of impatience.

Pitapat took up the light, and stood ready to accompany her mistress. Capitola, humming a gay tune, went to the door and unlocked and opened it.

She wished to withdraw the key, so as to lock it on the other side and secure the robbers and insure the safety of her own retreat; but to do this without betraying her purpose and destroying her own life seemed next to impossible.

Still singing gaily she ran over in her mind with the quickness of lightning every possible means by which she might withdraw the key silently, and without attracting the attention of the watching robbers. It is difficult to say what she should have done, had not chance instantly favored her.

At the same moment that she unlocked and opened the door, and held the key in her hand, fearful of withdrawing it, Pitapat, who was hurrying after her with the candle, tripped and fell against a chair, with a great noise, under cover of which Capitola drew forth the key.

Sending and pushing Pitapat out before her, she closed the door with a bang; with the key-hole, and turned the key in the lock—the whole with loud and angry railing against poor Pitapat, who silently wondered at this unexplained change in her mistress's temper, but ascribed it all to hunger, muttering to herself:

"Ise often hern tell how people's cross when dere empty! Lors, knows ef I don't fetch up a whole huss o' vittles ebery night for Miss Caterpillar from this time tofere, so I will, 'deed me!"

So they went on through the long passages and empty rooms, Capitola carefully looking every

door behind her, until she got down stairs into the great hall.

"Now, Miss Caterpillar, ef you wants quint tart, an' pear sauce, and baked custard, and all dem, you'll jest has to go an' wake Old Mis' up; dere days in her cupboard an' she's got the keys," said Pitapat.

"Never mind, Patty, you follow me," said Capitola, going to the front hall-door, and beginning to unlock it and take down the bars and withdraw the bolts.

"Lors, Miss, what is yer doin' of?" asked the little maid, in wonder, as Capitola opened the door and looked out.

"I am going out a little way and you must go with me."

"Deed, Miss, Ise 'frail."

"Very well, then; stay here in the dark until I come back, but don't go to my room, because you might meet a ghose on the way!"

"Oh, Miss, I daron't stay here—indeed I daron't!"

"Then you'll have to come along with me, and so no more about it," said Capitola, shrilly, as she passed out from the door. The poor little maid followed, bemoaning the fate that bound her to an evil-willed mistress.

Capitola drew the key from the hall-door and locked it on the outside. Then, clasping her hands and raising her eyes to Heaven, she fervently ejaculated:

"Thank God I oh, thank God that we are safe!"

"Lors, Miss, was we in danger?"

"We are not now, at any rate, Pitapat. Come along," said Capitola, hurrying across the lawn towards the open fields.

"Oh, my goodness, Miss, where is yer acin' of?—don't less run so far from home dis lone-some, wicked, awful night o' de night," whimpered the distressed little darkey, fearing that her mistress was certainly crazed.

"Now, then, what are you afraid of?" asked Capitola, seeing her hold back.

"Lors, Miss, you know—everybody knows—Brack Dunder!"

"Patty, come close, listen to me; don't scream—Black Dunder and his men are up here at the house, in my chamber, under the bed," whispered Capitola.

Pitapat could not scream, for, though her mouth was wide open, her breath was quite gone. Shivering with fear, she kept close to her mistress's heels, as Capitola scampered over the fields.

A run of a quarter of a mile brought them to the edge of the woods, where, in its little garden, stood the overseer's house.

Capitola opened the gate, hurried through the little front yard, and rapped loudly at the door.

This started the house dogs into furious barking, and brought old Mr. Ezy, with his night-capped head, to the window to see what was the matter.

"It is I, Capitola, Mr. Ezy—Black Dunder and his men are lurking up at our house," said our young heroine, commencing in an eager and hurried voice, and giving the overseer an account of the manner in which she had discovered the presence of the robbers and left the room without alarming them.

The old man heard with many cries of astonishment, ejaculations of prayer, and exclamations of thanksgiving! And all the while his head bobbing in and out of the window, as he peered on his pantalons or buttoned his coat.

"And oh!" he said, at last as he opened the door to Capitola, "how providential that Mr. Herbert Greyson is arrove."

"Herbert Greyson! Herbert Greyson arrived! Where is he then?" exclaimed Capitola, in surprise and joy.

"Yes, certain. Mr. Herbert arrove about an hour ago, and thinking you all were asleep at the Hall, he just stopped in with us all night. I'll go and see, I doubt if he's gone to bed yet," said Mr. Ezy, withdrawing into the house.

"Oh, then, heaven! thank heaven!" exclaimed Capitola, just as the door opened and Herbert sprang forward to meet her with a—

"Dear Capitola! I am so glad to come to see you."

"Dear Herbert! just fancy you have said that a hundred times over, and that I have replied to the same words a hundred times—for we haven't a moment to spare," said Capitola, shaking his

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 ... as Capitola opened the
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 ... bert Greyson arrived;
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 ... they all were abed and
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 ... wing into the house.
 ... calm heaven!" exclaim-
 ... er crossed and Herbert
 ... with a—
 ... glad to come to see
 ... day you have said that
 ... that I have replied to
 ... time—for we haven't
 ... Capitola, shaking his

hands, and then, in an eager, vehement manner, resuming the discovery and escape from the robbers whom she had locked up in the house.
 "Go, now," she said, in conclusion, "and help Mr. Ezy to rouse up and arm the farm hands, and come immediately to the house! I saw in an agony lest my prolonged absence should excite the robbers' suspicion of my ruse, and that they should break out and perhaps murder poor Mrs. Condamint. Her situation is awful, if she did but know I'll. For the love of mercy hasten!"
 Not an instant more of time was lost. Mr. Ezy and Herbert Greyson, accompanied by Capitola and Patty, hurried at once to the negro quarters, roused up and armed the men with whatever was at hand, and enjoining them to be as stealthy as cats in their approach, set out swiftly for the Hall, where they soon arrived.
 "Take off all your shoes, and walk lightly in your stocking feet—do not speak—do not breathe—follow me as silent as death," said Herbert Greyson, as he softly unlocked the front door and entered the house.
 Silently and stealthily they passed through the middle hall, up the broad staircase, and through the long narrow passages and steep stairs that led to Capitola's remote chamber.
 There at the door they paused awhile to listen.
 All was still within.
 Herbert Greyson unlocked the door, withdrew the key, and opened it and entered the room, followed by all the men. He had scarcely time to close the door and lock it on the inside, and withdraw the key, before the robbers, finding themselves surprised, burst out from their hiding-place and made a rush for the passage; but their means of escape had been already cut off by the fortification of Herbert Greyson.
 A sharp conflict ensued.
 Upon first being summoned to surrender, the robbers responded by a hail-storm of bullets from their revolvers, followed instantly by a charge of bowie-knives. This was met by an avalanche of blows from pick-axes, pokers, pickforks, edge-hammers, spades and rakes, beneath which the mercenaries were quickly beaten down and over-whelmed.
 They were then set upon and bound with strong ropes brought for the purpose by Mr. Ezy.
 When they were thus secured hand and foot, Capitola, who had been a spectator of the whole scene, and exposed as much as any other to the rattle of the bullets, now approached and looked at the vanquished.
 Black Donald certainly was not one of the party, who were no other than our old acquaintances, Hal, Steve, and Dick of the band.
 Each burglar was conveyed to a separate apartment, and a strong guard set over him.
 Then Herbert Greyson, who had received a flesh wound in his left arm, returned to the scene of the conflict to look after the wounded. Several of the negroes had received gun-shot wounds of more or less importance. These were speedily attended to. Mrs. Condamint, who had slept securely through all the fight, was now awakened by Capitola, and cautiously informed of what had taken place, and assured that all danger was now over.
 The worthy woman, as soon as she recovered from the consternation into which this news had plunged her, at once set about succoring the wounded. Cots and mattresses were made up in one of the empty rooms, and bandages and bol-sams prepared.
 And not until all who had been hurt were made comfortable, did Herbert Greyson throw himself upon horseback, and ride off to the county-seat to summon the authorities, and to inform Major Warfield of what had happened.
 No one thought of retiring to bed at Hurricane Hall that night.
 Mrs. Condamint, Capitola and Patty sat watching by the bedside of the wounded.
 Bill Ezy and the men who had escaped injury mounted guard over the prisoners.
 Thus they all remained until sunrise, when the major, attended by the deputy-sheriff and half a dozen constables, arrived. The night ride of several miles had not sufficed to modify the fury into which Old Hurricane had been thrown by the news Herbert Greyson had aroused him from sleep to communicate. He reached Hurricane Hall in a state of excitement that his facium

Wool characterized as "boiling." But "in the very hottest, tempest and whirlwind of his passion," he remembered that to rail at the vanquished was wounded and bound was unmanly, and so he did not trust himself to see or speak to the prisoners.
 They were placed in a wagon, and under a strong escort of constables, were conveyed by the deputy-sheriff to the county seat, where they were securely lodged in jail.
 But Old Hurricane's emotions of one sort or another were a treat to see! He bemoaned the danger to which his "women-kind" had been exposed, and he exulted in the heroism of Capitola, catching her up in his arms and crying out:
 "Oh, my dear Cap, I my hero! my queen! and it was you against whom I was plotting treason! money that I vied you that have saved my house from pillage and my people from slaughter! Oh, Cap, what a jewel you are, my dear!"
 To all of which Capitola, exulting her curly hair from his embrace, cried out:
 "Father."
 Utterly refusing to be made a witness of, and firmly rejecting the grand triumph.
 The next day Major Warfield went up to the county seat to attend the examination of the three burglars, whom he had the satisfaction of seeing fully committed to prison to await their trial at the next term of the criminal court which would not sit until October, consequently the prisoners had the prospect of remaining in jail some months, which Old Hurricane declared to be "some satisfaction."
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CHAPTER XXVII.

SEEKING HIS FORTUNE.

A wide future smiles before him
 His heart will beat for fame.
 And he will learn to wrestle with fate
 The cause of a nation
 Written on the tablets of his heart
 To characters of fame—SABOTER

When the winter's course of medical lectures at the Washington College was over, late in the Spring, Traverso Locke returned to Willow Heights.
 The good doctor gave him a glad welcome, congratulating him upon his improved appearance, and manly bearing.
 Clara received him with blushing pleasure, and Marshall Locke with all the mother's love for her only child.
 He quickly fell into the old pleasant routine of his country life, resumed his arduous studies in the doctor's office, his work in the flower garden, and his morning rides and evening talk with the doctor's lovely child.
 Not the least obstacle was felt in the way of his association with Clara; yet Traverso grown stronger and wiser than his years would seem to promise, controlled both his feelings and his actions, and never departed from the most respectful reserve, or suffered himself to be drawn into dangerous familiarity to which their constant companionship might tempt him.
 Marshall Locke, with maternal pride, witnessed his constant self-control, and encouraged him to persevere. Often in the enthusiasm of her heart, when they were alone, she would throw her arm around him, and push the dark clustering curls from his forehead, and gazing fondly on his face, exclaim:
 "That is my noble hearted boy. Oh, Traverso, God will bless you. He only tries you now to strengthen you."
 Traverso always understood these vague words, and would return her embrace with all his boyish ardour, and say:
 "God bless me now, mother. He blesses me so much, in so many, many ways, that I should be worse than a heathen not to be willing to bear cheerfully one trial."
 And so Traverso would "reck his own road," and receive cheerful gratitude as a duty to God and man.
 Clara, also, now, with her feminine intuition, comprehended her reserved lover, honoured the motives, and rested satisfied with being so deeply

loved, trusting all their unknown future to heaven.
 The doctor's appreciation and esteem for Traverso were increased with every new unfolding of the youth's heart and intellect, and never did mistake make more pains with a favorite pupil, or father with a beloved son, than did the doctor to post Traverso on in his profession. The improvement of the youth was truly surprising.
 Thus passed the summer in healthful alternation of study and exercise.
 When the season waned, late in the autumn he went a second time to Washington to attend the winter's course of lectures at the Medical College.
 The doctor gave him letters recommending him as a young man of extraordinary talents and of excellent moral character, to the particular attention of several of the most eminent professors.
 His mother took the second parting with more cheerfulness, especially as the separation was alleviated by frequent letters from Traverso, full of the history of the present and the hopes of the future.
 The doctor did not forget from time to time to jog the memories of his friends, the professors of the medical college, that they might afford him protection every facility and assistance in the prosecution of his studies.
 Towards spring Traverso wrote to his friends that his hopes were sanguine of obtaining his diploma at the examination to be held at the end of the season. And when Traverso expressed this hope, they who knew him so well felt assured that he had made no vain boast.
 And so it proved for early in April Traverso Locke returned home with a diploma in his pocket.
 Success was the joyful sympathy that met him. The doctor shook him cordially by the hands, declaring that he was the first student he ever knew to get his diploma at the end of only three year's study.
 Clara, amid smiles and blushing, congratulated him.
 And Mrs. Locke, as soon as she had him alone, threw her arms around his neck and wept for joy. A few days Traverso gave up solely to enjoyment of his friends' society, and then growing restless, he began to talk of opening an office and hanging out a sign in Staunton.
 He consulted the doctor upon this subject.
 The good doctor heard him out, and then increasing his own chin and looking over the tops of his spectacles, with good humored satire, he said:
 "My dear boy, you have confidence enough in me by this time to bear that I should speak plainly to you."
 "Oh, Doctor Day, just say whatever you like," replied the young man, fervently.
 "Very well, then, I shall speak very plainly—to wit: you'll never succeed in Staunton—no, not if you had the genius of Galen and Esculapius, Abernethy, and Benjamin Rush put together."
 "My dear sir, why?"
 "Because, my son, it is written that 'a prophet hath no honor in his own city!' Of our blessed Lord and Saviour the contemplative Jews said, 'Is not this Jesus, the carpenter's son?'"
 "Oh, I understand you, sir," said Traverso, with a deep blush, "you mean that the people who used some years ago to employ me to put to their coat and sew their wood and run their errands, will never trust me to look at their tongues and feel their pulses and write prescriptions."
 "That's it, my boy; you're defied the diffi-culty. And now I'll tell you what you are to do, Traverso—you must go to the West, my lad."
 "Go to the West, sir! I leave my mother! leave my life—"
 He hesitated, and blushed.
 "Clara? Yes, my son; you must go to the West, leave your mother, leave me and leave Clara; it will be best for all parties. We managed to live without our lad, when he was away at his studies in Washington, and we will try to dispense with him longer if it be for his own good."
 "Ah, sir, but *then* absence had a limitation, and the hope of return sweetened every day that passed; but if I go to the West to settle it will be without the remotest hope of returning!"
 "Not so, my boy—not so; for just as soon as

Doctor Roeko has established himself in some thriving Western town, and obtained a good practice, gained a high reputation and made himself a home—which, as he is a fast young man in the best sense of the phrase, he can do in a very few years—he may come back here and carry to his Western home—his mother," said the doctor, with a mischievous twinkle of his eyes.

"Doctor Day, I owe you more than a son's honor and obedience. I will go wherever you think it best that I should," said Traverser earnestly.

"No more than I expected from all my previous knowledge of you, Traverser. And I, on my part, will give you only such counsel as I should give my own son, had Heaven blessed me with one. And now, Traverser, there is no better season for emigration than the spring, and no better point to stop and make observations at than St. Louis. Of course, the place of your final destination must be left for future consideration. I have influential friends at St. Louis to whom I will give you letters."

"Dear sir, to have matured this plan so well you must have been kindly thinking of my future this long time past," said Traverser, gratefully.

"Of course I counsel! Who has a better right! Now go and break this plan to your mother."

Traverser pressed the doctor's hand and went to seek his mother. He found her in his room and sat down while he talked to her. And when she had done so, he told her the doctor's plan. He had almost feared that his mother would meet this proposition with sighs and tears.

To his surprise and pleasure, Mrs. Roeko, received the news with an encouraging smile, telling him that the doctor had long prepared her to expect that her boy would very properly go and establish himself in the West; that she should correspond with him frequently, and as soon as he should be settled, come and keep house for him.

Finally she said that, anticipating this emergency, she had, during her three years' residence beneath the doctor's roof, saved three hundred dollars, which she should give her boy to start him.

"The tears rushed to the young man's eyes. "For your dear sake, mother, only for yours, may they become three hundred thousand in my hands," he exclaimed.

Preparations were immediately commenced for Traverser's journey.

As before, Clara gladly gave her aid in getting ready his wardrobe. As he was about to make his debut as a young physician in a strange city, his mother was anxious that his dress should be faultless, and therefore put the most delicate needle-work upon all the little articles of his outfit. Clara volunteered to mark them all. And one day, when Traverser happened to be alone with his mother, she showed him his hankkerchiefs, collars and linen beautifully marked in minute embroidered letters.

"I suppose, Traverser, that you being a young man, cannot appreciate the exquisite beauty of this work," she said.

"Indeed but I can, mother. I did not sit by your side so many years while you worked without knowing something about it. This is wonderful. The golden threads with which the letters are embroidered is finer than the finest silk I ever saw," said Traverser, admiringly, to please his mother, whom he supposed to be the embroiderer.

"Well there may be," said Mrs. Roeko, "for that golden thread which you speak is Clara's golden hair, which she herself has drawn out and threaded her needle with, and worked into the letters of your name."

Traverser suddenly looked up, his color went and came; he had no words to reply.

"I told you because I thought it would give you pleasure to know it, and that it would be a comfort to you when you are far away from me; for Traverser, I hope that by this time you have grown strong and wise enough to have conquered yourself, and to enjoy dear Clara's friendship aright."

"Mother," he said, sorrowfully, and then his voice broke down, and without another word he turned and left the room.

To feel how deeply and hopelessly he loved the doctor's sweet daughter—to feel sure that she perceived and loved his dream, despairing love—and to know that duty, gratitude, honor, commanded him to be silent, to tear himself away from her and make no sign, was a trial almost too great for the young heart's integrity. Scarcely could he prevent the internal struggle betraying itself upon his countenance. As the time drew near for his departure self-control grew difficult and almost impossible. Even Clara lost her joyous spirits, and despite all her efforts to be cheerful, grew so pensive that her father without seeming to understand the cause, gaily rallied her upon her dejection.

Traverser understood it and almost longed for the day to come when he should leave this scene of his love and sore trial.

One afternoon, a few days before he was to start, Doctor Day sent for Traverser to come to him in his study. And as soon as they were seated comfortably together at the table, the doctor put into the young man's hand a well-filled pocket-book, and when Traverser, with a deep and painful blush, would have given it back, he forced it upon him with the old argument.

"It is only a loan my boy. Money put out at interest. Capital well and satisfactorily invested. And now listen to me. I am about to speak to you of that which is much nearer your heart—"

Traverser became painfully embarrassed.

"Traverser," resumed the doctor, "I have grown to love you as a son, and to esteem you as a man. I have lived long enough to value solid integrity far beyond wealth or birth, and when that integrity is advanced and enriched by high talents, it forms a character of excellence not often met with in this world. I have proved both your integrity and your talents, Traverser, and I am more than satisfied with you; I am proud of you my boy."

Traverser bowed deeply, but still embarrassed.

"You will wonder," continued the doctor, "to what all this talk tends. I will tell you, Traverser. I have long known your unspoken love for Clara, and I have honored your scruples in keeping silent, when silence must have been so painful. Your trial is now over, my son. Go and open for yourself an honorable career in the profession you have chosen and mastered, and return, and Clara shall be yours."

Traverser, overwhelmed with surprise and joy at this incredible good fortune, seized the doctor's hand, and in wild and incoherent language tried to express his gratitude.

"There, there," said the doctor, "go and tell Clara all this, and bring the roses back to her cheeks, and then your parting will be the happier for this hope before you."

"I must speak. I must speak first," said the young man, in a choking voice. "I must tell you some little of the deep gratitude I feel for you, sir. O! when I forget all that you have done for me, 'may my right hand forget her cunning!' may God and man forget me! Doctor Day, the Lord helping me for your good sake, I will be all that you have prophesied and hope and expect of me. For your sake, for Clara's and my mother's, I will bend every power of my mind, soul and body to attain the eminence you desire for me. In a word, the Lord giving, my dear, will become worthy of being your son and Clara's husband."

"There, there, my dear boy, go and tell Clara all that," said the doctor, pressing the young man's hand and dismissing him.

Traverser awoke immediately to seek Clara, whom he found sitting all alone in the parlor.

She was bending over some delicate needle-work, that Traverser knew by instinct was intended for him.

Now, had Traverser foreseen from the first the success of his love, there might possibly have been the usual shyness and hesitation in declaring himself to the object of his affection. But although he and Clara had long loved and silently loved and understood each other, yet neither had dared to hope for so improbable an event as the doctor's favoring their attachment, and now, under the exciting influence of the surprise, joy and gratitude with which the doctor's unqualified blessing filled his heart, Traverser forgot all shyness and hesitation, and stepping quietly to Clara's side, and dropping gently upon one knee, he took her hand, and bowing his head upon it, said:

"Clara, my own, own Clara! your dear father has given me leave to tell you of last hour, much and how long I have loved you," and then he arose and sat down beside her.

The blush deepened upon Clara's cheek, tears filled her eyes, and her voice trembled as she murmured:

"Heaven bless my dear father! He is unlike every other man on earth."

"Oh, he is! he is!" said Traverser, fervently,—"and, dear Clara, never did a man strive so hard for wealth, fame, or glory, as I shall strive to become 'worthy to be called his son.'"

"Do Traverser, do dear Traverser. I want you to honor even his very highest merits upon your moral and intellectual capacities. I know you are 'worthy' of his high regard now, else he never would have chosen you as his son—but I am ambitious for you Traverser. I would have your motto be—'Excelsior! higher!' said the doctor's daughter.

"And you dear Clara, may I venture to hope that you do not disapprove of your father's choice or reject the hand that he permits me to offer you?" said Traverser; for though he understood Clara well enough, yet like all honest men, he wanted some definite and practical engagement.

"There is my hand, my dear Traverser," murmured the maiden in a tremulous voice. He took and pressed that white hand to his heart, loved hesitatingly and pleadingly in her face for an instant, and then drawing her gently to his bosom, sealed their betrothal on her pure lips.

Then they sat side by side, and hand in hand in a sweet silence for a few moments, and then Clara said:

"You have not told your mother yet. Go and tell her, Traverser; it will make her so happy, and, Traverser, I will be a daughter to her, while you are gone. Tell her that, too."

"Dear girl, you have always been as kind and loving to my mother as it was possible to be—how can you ever be more so than you have been?"

"I shall find a way," smiled Clara.

Again he pressed her hand to his heart and to his lips, and left the room to find his mother.

He had a search before he discovered her at last in the drawing-room, arranging it for their evening friends gathering.

"Come, mother, and sit down by me on this sofa, for I have glorious tidings for your ear. Dear Clara sent me from her own side to tell you."

"Ah! I still thinking, always thinking, madly thinking, of the doctor's daughter. 'Poor, poor boy' said Mrs. Roeko.

"Yes! I and always intend to think of her to the very end of my life, and beyond, if possible. But come, dear mother, and hear me explain," said Traverser; and as soon as Mrs. Roeko had taken the indicated seat, Traverser commenced and related to her the substance of the conversation between the doctor and himself in the library, in which the former authorized his address to his daughter, and also his own subsequent explanation and engagement with Clara.

Mrs. Roeko listened to all this, in unbroken silence, and when, at length, Traverser had concluded his story, she clasped her hands and raised her eyes, uttering fervent thanksgivings to the fountain of all mercies.

"You do not congratulate me, dear mother."

"Oh, Traverser, I am returning thanks to Heaven on your behalf. Oh, my son! my son! but that such things as these are, Providential, I should tremble to see you so happy. So I will not presume to congratulate. I will pray for you."

"Dear mother, you have suffered so much in your life, that you are incredulous of happiness. Be more hopeful and contenting. The Bible says: 'There remaineth now these three, Faith, Hope, and Charity.' You have Charity enough, dear mother; try to have more Faith and Hope, and you will be happier. And look; there is Clara coming this way; she does not know that we are here. I will call her. Dear Clara, come in and convince my mother; she will not believe in our happiness," said Traverser, going to the door and leading his blushing and smiling betrothed into the room.

"It may be that Mrs. Roeko does not want me for a daughter-in-law," said Clara, anxiously, as she approached and put her hand in that of Marah.

"Not want you, my own darling," said Marah.

Roeko, drawing you, my blushing betrothed, my own son!

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arding," said Marah

Roeko, putting her arm around Clara's waist, and
drawing her to it to her bosom. "I can't want you.
You know I am just as much in love with you as
Traverso himself can be. And I have longed for
you, my sweet, longed for you as an unattainable
blessing, ever since that day when Traverso first
let us, and you came and laid your bright head
on my bosom and went with me."

"And now if we must cry a little when Traverso
leaves us, we can go and take comfort in being
miserable together, with a better understanding of
our relations," said Clara, with an arch smile.

"Where are you all!—where is everybody—like a
poor left wandering about the lonely house like a
I am lost in Hades!" said the doctor's cheerful
voice in the passage without.

"Here father! here we are! a family party
wanting only you to complete it," answered his
daughter, springing to meet him.

The doctor came in smiling, pressed his daughter
to his bosom, shook Traverso cordially by the
hand, and kissed Marah Roeko's cheek. That
was his way of congratulating himself and all
others, on the betrothal.

The evening was passed in unalloyed happiness.
Let them enjoy it. It was their last of comfort
—that bright evening.

Over that happy night was already gathering a
cloud heavy and dark with calamity—calamity
that must have overwhelmed the stability of any
feith which was not as theirs was—stayed upon
God.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

A PANIC IN THE OUTLAWS' DEN.

Intoxication frames scenes unknown.
In wild, fantastic visions of mad ruin,
And what it fears creates!—HAWKAY ALONE,
Dark doubt and fears, of other spirits lower,
But touch not his, who every waking hour,
Has one dead hope and always feels its power
—CHABER

Upon the very same night, that the three rob-
bers were surprised and captured by the pre-
sence of mind of Capitola at Hurricane Hall,
Black Donald, disguised as a negro, was lurking
in the woods around the mansion, waiting for
the coming of the three men with their prize.

But as hour after hour passed, and they came
not, the desperado began heartily to curse their
slowness—for to no other cause was he enabled to
attribute the delay, as he knew the house, the
destined scene of the outrage, to be deserted by
all for the night, except by the three helpless
females.

As night waned and morning began to dawn in
the East, the chief grew seriously uneasy, at
the prolonged absence of his agents—a circum-
stance that he could only account for upon the
absurd hypothesis that those stupid brutes had
suffered themselves to be overtaken by sleep in
their ambushade.

While he was cursing their inefficiency, and
regretting that he himself had not made one of
the party, he wandered in his restlessness to
another part of the woods, on the opposite side of
the house.

He had not been long here before his atten-
tion was arrested by the tramping of approach-
ing horsemen. He withdrew into the shade of
the thicket, and listened while the travellers
went by.

The party proved to consist of Old Hurricane,
Herbert Greyson, and the sheriff's officers, on
their way from the town to Hurricane Hall, to
take the captured burglars into custody. And
Black Donald, by listening attentively, gathered
enough from their conversation, to know that his
men had been discovered and captured by the
heroism of Capitola.

"That girl again!" muttered Black Donald to
himself. "She is doomed to be my destruction,
or I here. Our fates are evidently connected!
Poor Steve! poor Dick! poor Hall! Little did I
think that your devotion to your captain would
I carry you into the very jaws of death!"
Pshaw! bang it! let boys and women whim. I
must act!"

And with this resolution Black Donald dog-
ged the path of the horsemen until he had
reached that part of the woods skirting the
road opposite the park gate. Here he hid him-
self in the bushes to watch events. Soon from

his hiding-place he saw the waggon approach,
containing the three men, heavily armed and
escorted by a strong guard of county constables
and plantation negroes, all well armed and
under the command of the Sheriff and Herbert
Greyson.

"Ha, ha, ha! they must dread an attempt on
our part of rescue, or they never would think of
putting such a formidable guard over three
wounded and handicapped men!" laughed Black
Donald to himself.

"Courage, my boys," he muttered. "Your
chief will free you from prison or share your
captivity! I wish I could trumpet that into your
ears at this moment, but prudence, the better
part of valor," forbids, for the same words that
would encourage you, would warn your captors
to greater vigilance." And so saying, Black
Donald let the procession pass, and then made
tracks for his retreat.

It was broad daylight when he reached the Old
Inn. The robbers, worn out with waiting and
watching for the captain and his men with the
paw-kick, had thrown themselves down upon the
kitchen floor, and now lay in every sort of
awful attitude, stretched out or doubled up in
heavy sleep. The old bedlams had disappeared
—doubtless she had long since sought her night
lair.

Taking a poker from the corner of the fire-
place, Black Donald went around among the
sleeping robbers and stirred them up, with vigor
and punches in the ribs and cries of:

"Wake up! dolt! brutes! blackheads! I wake
up! You rest on a volcano about to break out!
You sleep over a mine about to be exploded!
Wake up, sluggards! that you are! Your town is
taken! Your castle is stormed! The enemy is
at your throats with drawn swords! Ah, brutes!
I will you wake them! or shall I have to lay it
out harder?"

"What the demon!"
"How now!"

"What's this?" were some of the ejaculations
of the men, as they slowly and sulkily roused
themselves from their heavy slumber.

"The house is on fire; the ship's sinking; the
cars have run off the track; the boiler's burst;
and the devil's to pay," cried Black Donald,
accompanying his words with vigorous punches
and the poker into the ribs of the recumbent
men.

"What the foul fiend ails you, Captain? Have
you got the goat and drunk too much liquor on
your wedding night?" asked one of the men.

"No, Mac, I have not got the girl. On the
contrary, the girl, blame her, has got three of my
best men in custody. In one word, Hal, Dick
and Steve are safely lodged in the county jail."

"What!"
"Perdition!"
"My eye!"

"Here's a go!" were the simultaneous excla-
mations of the men as they sprang up on their
feet.

"In the fiend's name, Captain, tell us all about
it," said Mac, anxiously.

"I have no time to talk much, nor you to larry
long. It was all along of that blamed witch,
Capitola," said Black Donald, who then gave a
brief account of the adventure, and the manner
in which Capitola entraped and captured the
burglars, together with the way in which he him-
self came by the information.

"I declare one can't help liking that girl. I
should admire her, even if she should put a rope
about my neck," said Mac.

"She's a sly cat," said another, with emphasis.

"She's some punkins, now. I tell you," assent-
ed a third.

"I am more than ever resolved to get her into
my possession. But in the meantime, lads, we
must evacuate the old inn; it is getting too hot to
hold us."

"Yes, lads! I listen! I must talk fast, and act
promptly! The poor fellows up there in jail are
game, I know. They would not willingly peech;
but they are badly wounded; if one of them should
have to die, and be blessed with a psalm-singing
to tollend him—no knowing but what he may
be persuaded to confess. Therefore, let us quick-
ly decide upon some new rendezvous that will
be unsuspected, even by our poor caged birds.
If any of you have any place in your eye, speak."

"We would rather hear what you have to say, my
Captain," said Mac; and all the rest assented.
"Well, then, you all know the Devil's Punch
Bowl?"

"Aye, do we, Captain."

"Well, what you do not know I what nobly
knows but myself is this—that about half way
down the sawmill obiasm, in the side of the rock, is
a hole, concealed by a clump of evergreens; that
hole is the entrance to a cavern of enormous ex-
tent—let that be our next rendezvous. And now,
avant! fly! scatter! and meet me in the cavern
to-night, at the usual hour. Listen—carry away
all our arms, ammunition, disguises, and provisions
—so that no vestige of our presence may be left
behind. As for dummy, if they can make her
speak, the cutting out of her tongue was lost
labor—vanish!"

"But our pals in prison," said Mac.

"They shall be my care. We must be low for
a few days, so as to put the authorities off their
guard; then if our pals recover from their wounds,
and here proved game against Church and State,
I shall know what measures to take for their de-
liverance. No more talk now! prepare for your
fitting and fly!"

The captain's orders were obeyed, and within
two hours from that time no vestige of the rob-
bers' presence remained in the deserted old inn.
If any sheriff's officer had come there with a
search warrant, he would have found nothing sus-
picious, he would have seen only a poor old dumb
woman, busy at her spinning-wheel; and if he had
questioned her, would only have got smiles and
shakes of the head for an answer; or the exhibi-
tion of coarse country gloves and stockings of her
own knitting, which she would, in dumb-show, beg
him to purchase.

Days and weeks passed, and the three impris-
oned burglars languished in jail, each in a separ-
ate cell.

Bitterly each in his heart complained of the
leader that had, apparently, deserted them in their
direst need. And if neither betrayed him, it
was probably because they could not do so with-
out deeply humiliating themselves, and for no bet-
ter motive.

There is said to be "honor among thieves." It
is, on the face of it, untrue; there can be neither
honor, confidence nor safety among men whose
profession is crime. The burglars, therefore,
had no confidence in their leader, and secretly
and bitterly reproached him for his desertion of
them.

Meanwhile the annual camp-meeting season
approached. It was rumored that a camp-meet-
ing would be held in the wooded vale below Tip
Top, and soon this report was confirmed by an-
nouncements in all the county papers. And all
who intended to take part in the religious festival
or have a tent on the ground, began to prepare
provisions—cooking meat and poultry, baking
bread, cakes, pies, etc. And preachers from all
parts of the country were flocking into the
village to be on the spot for the commencement.

Mrs. Conditment, thought a member of another
church, loomed in her soul the religious excitement
—the warming up," as she called it, to be had
at the camp-meeting! But never in the whole
course of her life had she taken part in one, ex-
cept so far as riding to the preaching in the morn-
ing and returning home in the evening.

But Capitola, who was as usual in the interval
between her adventures bored half to death with
the monotony of her life at Hurricane Hall,—and
praying not against but wishing for—fire, floods
or thieves, or anything to stir her stagnant blood,
heard of the camp meeting, and expressed a wish
to have a tent on the camp ground and remain
there from the beginning to the end, to see all that
was to be seen; hear all that was to be heard;
and all that was to be felt; and learn all that was
to be known.

And as Capitola, ever since her victory over the
burglars, had been the queen regnant of Hurri-
cane Hall, she had only to express this wish to
have it carried into immediate effect.

Old Hurricane himself went up to Tip Top and
purchased the canvas and set two men to work
under his own immediate direction to make the
tent.

And as Major Warfield's campaigning experi-
ence was very valuable here, it turned out that
the Hurricane Hall tent was the largest and best
on the camp ground. As soon as it was set up

under the shade of a grove of oak trees, a wagon from Hurricane Hall conveyed to the spot the simple and necessary furniture, cooking materials and provisions. And the rano morning the family carriage, driven by Wool, brought out Major Warfield, Mrs. Conditment, Capitola and her little maid Fatty.

The large tent was divided into two compartments—one for Major Warfield and his man Wool—the other for Mrs. Conditment, Capitola

and Fatty. As the family party stepped out of the carriage, the novelty, freshness and beauty of the scene called forth a simultaneous burst of admiration. The little snow-white tents were dotted here and there through the woods, in beautiful contrast with the greenness of the foliage; groups of well-dressed and cheerful-looking men, women and children were walking about; over all smiled a morning sky of cloudless splendor. The preaching and the prayer-meetings had not yet commenced. Indeed, many of the brethren were hard at work in an extensive clearing, setting up a rude pulpit, and arranging rough benches to accommodate the women and children of the camp congregation.

Our party went into their tent, delighted with the novelty of the whole thing, though Old Hurricane declared that it was a thing new to his experience, but reminded him strongly of his camping days.

Wool assented, saying that the only difference was, there were no ladies in the old military camp. I have neither time nor space to give a full account of this camp-meeting. The services commenced the same evening. There were preachers of more or less fervor of piety and eloquence of utterance. Old Christians had their "first love" revived; young ones found their zeal kindled, and sinners were awakened to a sense of their sin and danger. Every Christian there said the season had been a good one.

In the height of the religious enthusiasm, there appeared a new preacher in the field. He seemed a man considerably past middle age, and broken down with sickness or sorrow. His figure was tall, thin and stooping, his hair white as snow, his face pale and emaciated, his movements slow and feeble, and his voice low and wistfully. He wore a solemn suit of black, that made his thin form seem of skeleton proportions, a snow-white neckcloth, and a pair of great round iron-rimmed spectacles, that added nothing to his good looks.

Yet this old, sickly and feeble man seemed one of fervent piety and of burning eloquence. Every one sought his society; and when it was known that Father Gray was to hold forth, the whole camp congregation turned out to hear him. It must not be supposed that in the midst of this great revival, the burglars imprisoned in the neighboring town were forgotten; no, they were remembered, prayed for, visited, and exhorted. And no one took more interest in the fate of these men than good Mrs. Conditment, who, having seen them all on that great night at Hurricane Hall, and having with her own kind hands plastered their heads and given them possets, could not drive out of her heart a certain compassion for their miseries.

No one, either, admired Father Gray more than did the little old housekeeper of Hurricane Hall, and as her table and her accommodations were the best on the camp-ground, she often invited and pressed good Father Gray to rest and refresh himself in her tent. And the old man, though a severe ascetic, yielded to her repeated solicitations, until at length he seemed to live there altogether.

One day Mrs. Conditment, being seriously exercised upon the subject of the imprisoned men, said to Father Gray, who was reposing himself in the tent:

"Father Gray, I wished to speak to you, sir, upon the subject of those poor wretched men, who are to be tried for their lives at the next term of the criminal court. Our ministers have all been to see them, and talked to them, but not one of the number can make the least impression on them, or bring them to any sense of their awful condition."

"Ah! that is dreadful," sighed the aged man. "Yes, dreadful, Father Gray! Now I thought if you would only visit them, you could surely bring them to reason."

"My dear friend, I would willingly do so, but I must confess to you a weakness, a great weakness of the flesh—I have a natural shrinking from men of blood. I know it is sinful, but indeed I cannot overcome it."

"But my, dear Father Gray, a man of your experience knows full well that if you cannot overcome that feeling, you should act in direct opposition to it. And, I assure you, there is no robber when he is double-ironed and locked up in a cell, and I should enter guarded by a pair of turnkeys."

"I know it, my dear lady, I know it; and I feel that I ought to overcome this weakness or do my duty in its despite."

"Yes, and if you would consent to go, Father Gray, I would not mind going with you myself, if that would encourage you any."

"Of course it would, my dear friend; and if you will go with me, and if the brethren think you to concur my repugnance, and visit these imprisoned men."

It was arranged that Father Gray, accompanied by Mrs. Conditment, should go to the jail upon the following morning; and accordingly they set out immediately after breakfast. A short ride up the mountain brought them to Tip Top, in the structure of grey stone, containing within its walls the apartments occupied by the warden. To these Mrs. Conditment, who was the leader in the whole matter, first presented herself, introducing Father Gray as one of the preachers of the camp-meeting, a very pious man, and very effective in his manner of dealing with hardened offenders.

"I have heard of the Reverend Mr. Gray, and his powerful exhortations," said the warden with a low bow; "and I hope he may be able to make some impression on these obdurate men, and induce them, if possible, to 'make a clean breast of it,' and give up the retreat of their hand. Each of them has been offered a free pardon on condition of turning State's evidence, and each has refused."

"Indeed; have they done so, case-hardened creatures?" mildly inquired Father Gray.

"Aye, have they! but you, dear sir, may be able to persuade them to do so."

"I shall endeavor—I shall endeavor," said the mildfold man.

The warden then requested the visitors to follow him, and led the way up stairs to the cells.

"I understand that the criminals are confined separately?" said Mr. Gray to the warden.

"No, sir; they were so confined at first, for better security; but as they have been very quiet, and as since those records that disturbed the camp-meeting have been sent to prison, and filled up our cells, we have had to put those three robbers into one cell."

"I'm afraid, I—" began the minister, hesitating, "Father Gray is nervous, good Mr. Jailer; I hope there's no danger from those dreadful men—all of them together—for I promised Father Gray that he should be safe, myself," said Mrs. Conditment.

"Oh, ma'am, undoubtedly; they are double-ironed," said the warden, as he unlocked a door cell, in which were the three prisoners. Steve, the mulatto, was stretched upon the floor in a deep sleep.

Hal was sitting on the side of the cot, twiddling his fingers.

Dick sat crouched up in a corner, with his head against the wall.

"Peace be with you, my poor souls," said the mild old man, as he entered the cell.

"You go to the demon!" said Dick, with a hideous scowl.

"Nay, my poor man, I came in the hope of saving you from that enemy of souls."

"Here's another! There's three comes reg'lar! here's the fourth! There's four comes reg'lar! gettin' used to it! It's gettin' to be certain! It's the only diversion we have in this blasted hole!" said Hal.

"Nay, friend, if you use profane language, I cannot stay to hear it," said the old man.

"*Yaw-aw-aw owl!*" yawned Steve, half rising and stretching himself. "What's the row? I was just dreaming our captain had come to deliver

us—*yaw-aw-aw-owl!* it's only another parson!" and with that Steve turned himself over and settled to sleep.

"My dear Mr. Jailer—do you think that these men are safe?—for if you do, I think we had better leave excellent Mr. Gray to talk to them alone—he can do them so much more good, if he has them all to himself," said Mrs. Conditment, who was, in spite of all her previous boasting, beginning to quail and tremble under the hideous glare of Demon Dick's eyes.

"N-o-o! n-o-o! n-o-o!" faltered the preacher, nervously taking hold of the coat of the warden. "You go along out of this! the whole on you. I'm not a wild beast in a cage to be stared at!" growled Demon Dick, with a baleful glare that sent Mrs. Conditment and the preacher, shuddering to the cell door.

"Mr. Gray, I do assure you, sir, there is no danger if the men are double ironed, and malignant as they may be, they can do you no harm. And if you would stay and talk to them you might persuade them to confession and to the community much service," said the warden.

"I—I—I'm no coward! But—but—but—" faltered the old man, tremblingly approaching the prisoners.

"I understand you, sir. You are indeed health, which makes you nervous."

"Yes, yes, Heaven forgive me; but if you Mr. Jailer, and this good lady here, will keep within cell, in case of accidents, I don't mind if I do remain and exhort these men, for a short time," said the old man.

"Of course will. Come, Mrs. Conditment, mum! there's a good body in the lobby, and I'll send for my old woman, and we can have a good talk with the worthy Mr. Gray is speaking to the prisoners," said the warden, conducting the housekeeper from the cell.

As soon as they had gone, the old man went to the door and peeped after them, and having seen that they went to the extremity of the lobby to a seat under an open window, he turned back to the cell, and going up to Hal, said in a low voice:

"Now, then, is it possible that you do not know me?"

Hal stopped twiddling his fingers and looked up at the tall, thin, stooping figure, the gray hair, the white eyebrows and the pale face, and said gruffly:

"No! May the demon fly away with me if I ever saw you before!"

"Nor you, Dick?" inquired the old man, in a mild voice, turning to the one addressed.

"No, I don't know you, nor do I want to see you now!"

"Steve! Steve!" said the old man, in a pitiful voice, waking the sleeper. "Don't you know me either?"

"Don't bother me," said that worthy, giving himself another turn and another settle to sleep.

"Dols! blockheads! brutes! do you know me now?" growled the visitor, changing his voice.

"Our Captain!"

"Our Captain!" they simultaneously cried.

"*Auch*, sink your souls! Do you want to bring the warden upon us?" growled Black Donnamorpha.

"Then all I have to say, Captain, is that you have left us here a blamed long time."

"And exposed you to sore temptation to peech on me! Couldn't help it, I da! I couldn't help it! I waited until I could do something to the *surfer!*"

"Now, may Satan roast me alive if I know what you have done to turn yourself into an old man? Burn my soul, if I should know you now, Captain, if it wasn't for your voice," grumbled Steve.

"Listen, then, you ungrateful, suspicious wretches! I did for you what no captain ever did of his men before. I had exhausted all manner of disciplines, so done that the authorities would almost have looked for me in people and in the position of vegetable diet, and kept myself in a cavern, until I grew as pale and thin as a burnt! Then I shaved off my hair, beard, mustaches and eyebrows! Yes, blame you, I sacrificed all who help together to your interest! Fate! hope those ing together hosts of sinners, and preachers, gave me the opportunity of appearing without exciting inquiry. I put on a gray wig, a black suit, us-

it's only another parson!"
 "I earned himself over and set-
 —do you think that these
 you do. I think we had bet-
 Gray to talk to them alone
 catch more good, if he has
 previous bonding, begin-
 ible under the hideous glare
 "I faltered the preacher,
 of the coat of the warden,
 if this I the whole on you,
 a sage to be stared at!"
 with a baleful glare that
 and the preacher, shudder-

ure you, sir, there is no
 oned ironed, and malig-
 nity can do you no harm,
 and talk to them you might
 fession, and the com-mand-
 ard! But—but—but—"—
 mblingly approaching the
 r. You are indeed health,
 give me; but if you Mr.
 here, will keep within
 I don't mind if I do re-
 me, for a short time,"

Come, Mrs. Condiment,
 in the lobby, and I'll
 and Mrs. Gray can have a
 by Mr. Gray is speaking
 warden, conducting the
 e.
 le, the old man went to
 them, and having seen
 renity of the lobby to a
 w, he turned back to the
 said in a low voice:
 eille that you do not

his fingers and looked
 figure, the gray hair,
 the pale face, and said
 fly away with me if I
 ired the old man, in a
 one addressed.
 nt to see you now!"
 the old man, in a pitiful
 "Don't you know me
 id that worthy, giving
 another settle to sleep,
 rates I do you know me
 r, changing his voice.

ultaneously cried.
 s! Do you want to
 "growled Black Don-
 onably be in a new
 Captain, is that you
 on time!"
 of temptation to peech
 I could help it! I
 hing to the purpose!"
 me alive if I know
 yourself into an old
 should know you now,
 r voice," amplified

grateful, grumbled
 and not explain ever did
 exhausted all manner
 orities would almost
 woman's gown! See,
 myself on a month's
 and kept myself in a
 and thin as a hermit!
 beard, mustaches you,
 I sacrificed all
 I fate hope those
 amp-meeting gather-
 and preachers, gave
 ing without exciting
 g, a blank suit, us-

sumed a feeble voice, stooping gall, and a devout
 minister, and—became a popular preacher at the
 camp-meeting!"
 "Captain your a brick! you are, indeed! I do
 not flatter you!" said Hal. It was a sentiment in
 which they all agreed.
 "I had no need of further machination," con-
 tinued the captain; "they actually gave me the
 game! I was urged to visit you here—forced to
 remain alone and talk with you!" laughed Black
 Donald.

"And now, Captain, my jewel! my treasure!
 my sweetheart! that I love with a love passing
 the love of woman!" how is your reverence go-
 ing to get us out?"
 "Listen!" said the Captain, diving into his
 pockets. "You must get yourselves out!—this
 prison is by no means strongly fastened, or well
 guarded. Here are files to file off your fetters;
 here are tools to pick the locks, and here are three
 loaded revolvers to use against any of the turn-
 keys who might discover and attempt to stop you.
 To-night, however, is the last of the camp-meet-
 ing, and the two turnkeys are among my hearers!
 I shall keep them all night! Now you know
 what to do. I must leave you. Dick, try to
 make an asseult on me that I may scream—but
 first conceal your tools and arms."

Hal hid the instruments, and Dick, with an
 awful roar, sprang at the visitor, who ran to the
 grating, crying:
 "Help! help!"

The warden came hurrying to the spot.
 "Take 'im out of this, then!" muttered Dick,
 sulkily, getting back into his corner.
 "Oh what a wretch!" said Mrs. Condiment.
 "I shall be glad when he's once hanged," said
 the jailer.
 "I—fear that I can do them but little good,
 and—and I would rather not come again, being
 sickly and nervous," faltered Father Gray.
 "No, my dear good sir. I for one shall not ask
 you to risk your precious health for such a set of
 wretches. They are Satan's own! You shall
 come home to our tent and be down to rest, and I
 will make you an egg-omlette that will set you up
 again," said Mrs. Condiment, tenderly, as the
 whole party left the cell.
 "That day the outrageous conduct of the im-
 prisoned burglars was the subject of conversation,
 even dividing the interest of the religious excite-
 ment.

But the next morning the whole community
 was thrown into a state of consternation by the
 discovery that the burglars had broken jail and
 fled, and that the notorious outlaw, Black Donald,
 had been in their very midst, disguised as an
 elderly field preacher.

CHAPTER XXIX.

THE HISTORY OVER DEATH.

"Glorious God to God!" he said.
 "Knowledge by suffering entered
 And life is perfected in death."
 E. B. BROWNING.

One morning, in the gladness of his heart,
 Doctor Day mounted his horse and rode down to
 Stanton, gaily refusing to impart the object of
 his ride to any one, and bidding Traversé stay
 with the women until he should return.

As soon as the doctor was gone, Traversé went
 into the library to arrange his patron's books
 and papers.
 Mrs. Rocke and Clara hurried away to attend to
 some little mystery of their own invention, for
 the surprise and delight of the doctor and Traver-
 sé. For the more secret accomplishment of their
 purpose, they had dismissed all attendances,
 and were at work alone in Mrs. Rocke's room.
 And here Clara's sweet, frank and humble dis-
 position was again manifested, for when Marah
 would arise from her seat to get anything, Clara
 would forestall her purpose, and say:

"Tell me—tell me to get what you want, just
 as if I were your child, and you will make me
 feel so well—and now!"
 "You are very good, dear Miss Clara, but—I
 would rather not presume to ask you to wait on
 me," said Marah, gravely.
 "Presume! what a word from you to me; please
 don't use it ever again, nor call me *Miss* Clara.
 Call me 'Clara' or 'child,' or *de mamma*," said the

doctor's daughter; then suddenly pausing, she
 blushed and was silent.
 Marah gently took her hand, and drew her into
 a warm embrace.

It was while the friends were conversing so
 kindly in Marah's room, and while Traversé was
 still engaged in arranging the doctor's books and
 papers, that one of the men-servants rapped at
 the library door, and without waiting permission
 to come in, entered the room with every mark of
 terror in his look and manner.
 "What is the matter?" inquired Traversé,
 anxiously rising.

"Oh, Mr. Traversé! the doctor's horse has
 just rushed home to the stables all in a foam,
 without his rider."

"Good Heaven!" exclaimed Traversé, starting
 up and seizing his hat; "follow me immediately;
 I'll hurry to the stables and saddle my horse, and
 bring him up instantly! I see must follow on the
 road the doctor took, to see what has happened!
 Stay! on your life, breathe not a word of what has
 occurred! I would not have Miss Day alarmed
 for the world!" he concluded, hastening down
 stairs attended by the servant.

To five minutes from the time he left the library,
 he was in the saddle, galloping towards
 Stanton, and looking attentively along the road,
 as he went. Alas! he had not gone far, when, in
 descending the wooded hill, he saw lying doubled
 up hopelessly on the right side of the path, the
 body of the good doctor.

With an exclamation between a groan and a cry
 of anguish, Traversé threw himself from his
 saddle and knelt beside the fallen figure, gazing
 in an agony of anxiety upon the closed eyes, pale
 features and contracted form, and crying:
 "Oh, heaven have mercy! Doctor Day! oh,
 Doctor Day!—can you speak to me?"

The weak and quivering eyelids opened and the
 faltering tongue spoke:
 "Traversé—get me home—that I may see—
 Clara before I die."

"Oh, must this be so! must this be so! Oh
 that I could die for you, my friend! my dear,
 dear friend!" cried Traversé, wringing his hands
 in such anguish as he had never known before.

Then feeling the need of self-control and the
 absolute necessity of removing the sufferer, Traver-
 sé repressed the swelling flood of sorrow in his
 bosom and cast about for the means of conveying
 the doctor to his house. He dreaded to leave him
 for an instant, and yet it was necessary to do so,
 as the servant whom he had ordered to follow him
 had not yet come up.

While he was bathing the doctor's face with
 water from a little stream beside the path, John
 the groom came riding along, and seeing his fallen
 master, with an exclamation of horror, sprang
 from his saddle and ran to the spot.

"John," said Traversé, in a heart-broken tone.
 "mount again and ride for your life to the house!
 I have a cart—yes! that will be the easiest con-
 veyance! I have a cart got ready instantly with a
 feather-bed placed in it, and the gentlest horse
 harnessed to it, and drive it here to the roadside
 of the head of this path. Hasten for your life!
 say not a word of what has happened lest it
 hurt me terribly the ladies! Quick! quick! on
 your life!"

Again, as the man was hurrying away, the doc-
 tor spoke, faintly murmuring:
 "For heaven's sake—do not let—poor Clara be
 shocked!"

"No, no, she shall not be; I warned him, dear
 friend! Is it so? do you feel?—can you tell where
 you are hurt?"

The doctor feebly moved one hand to his chest
 and whispered:
 "There, and in my back."

Traversé, controlling his own great mental
 agony, did all that he could to soothe and alleviate
 the sufferings of the doctor, until the arrival of
 the cart that stopped on the road at the head of
 the little bridge-path where the accident happened.
 Then John jumped from the driver's seat and
 came to the spot where he tenderly assisted the
 young man in raising the doctor and conveying
 him to the cart and laying him upon the bed.
 Notwithstanding all their tender care in lifting
 and carrying him, it was but too evident that he
 suffered greatly in being moved. Slowly as they
 proceeded, at every jolt of the cart, his corrupted
 brows and blanched and quivering lips told how
 much agony he silently endured.

Thus at last they reached home. He was care-
 fully raised by the bed and borne into the house
 and up-stairs to his own chamber, where, being
 addressed, he was laid upon his own easy couch.
 Traversé set off for other medical aid, adminis-
 tered a restorative, and proceeded to examine his
 injuries.

"It is useless, dear boy, useless all! you have
 medical knowledge enough to be as sure of that as
 I am. Cover me up, and let me compose myself
 before seeing Clara, and while I do so, go you and
 break this news gently to the poor child!" said
 the doctor, who, being under the influence of the
 restorative, spoke more steadily than at any time
 since his fall.

Traversé, almost broken-hearted, obeyed his
 benefactor, and went to seek his betrothed, pray-
 ing the Lord to teach him how to tell her this
 dreadful calamity and to support her under its
 crushing weight.

As he went slowly, wringing his hands, he en-
 deared meet Clara with her dress in disorder and her
 hair flying, just as she had risen from her room
 while dressing for dinner. Hurrying towards
 him, she exclaimed:

"Traversé, what has happened? for the good
 Lord's sake tell me quickly! the house is all in
 confusion! every one is pale with fright! no
 one will answer me! your mother just now ran
 past me out of the store-room, with her face as
 white as death! Oh, what does it all mean?"

"Clara, love, come and sit down, you are almost
 fainting—oh, Heaven support her!" murmured
 Traversé, as he led the poor girl to the hall sofa.
 "Tell me! tell me!" she said.

"Clara—your father—"
 "My father! Oh, no, no; do not say any harm
 has happened to my father! do not, Traversé, do
 not!"

"Oh, Clara, try to be firm, dear one!"
 "My father! oh, my father! he is DEAD!"
 shrieked Clara, starting up wildly to run—she
 knew not whither.

Traversé sprang up and caught her arm, and
 drawing her gently back to her seat, said:
 "No, dear Clara, no—not so bad as that! he
 is living."

"Oh, thank Heaven for so much! what is it,
 then, Traversé? He is ill!—oh, let me go to
 him."

"Stay, dear Clara! compose yourself first!
 You would not go to disturb him with this
 frightened and distressed face of yours—let me
 get you a glass of water," said Traversé, starting
 up and bringing the needed sedative from an ad-
 joining room.

"There, Clara, drink that, and offer a silent
 prayer to Heaven to give you self-control!"

"I will! oh, I must, for his sake. But, tell
 me, Traversé, is it—as I fear—as he expected
 —apoplexy?"

"No, dear love, no; he rode out this morning
 and his horse got frightened by the van of a circus
 company that was going into the town, and—"

"—And ran away with him and threw him!
 Oh, Heaven! oh, my dear father!"
 Clara once more clasping her hands wildly, and
 starting up.

Again Traversé promptly but gently detained
 her, saying:
 "You promised me to be calm, dear Clara, and
 you must be so before I can suffer you to see your
 father."

Clara sank into her seat and covered her face
 with her hands, murmuring in a broken voice:
 "How can I be? Oh, how can I be, when my
 heart is wild with grief and fright? Traversé!
 was he—was he—oh! I read to ask you! Oh!
 was he much hurt?"

"Clara, love, his injuries are internal. Neither
 he nor I yet know their full extent. I have sent
 for two old and experienced practitioners from
 Stanton. I expect them every moment. In the
 meantime, I have done all that is possible for his
 relief."

"Traversé," said Clara, very calmly, control-
 ling herself by an almost superhuman effort;
 "Traversé, I will be composed; you shall see that
 I will; take me to my dear father's bedside; it
 is there that I ought to be!"

"That is my dear, brave, dutiful girl! Come,
 Clara! I'll reply the young man, taking her hand
 and leading her up to the bed-chamber of the
 doctor. They met Mrs. Rocke at the door, who
 tearfully signed them to go in as she left it.

When they entered and approached the bedside, Traversé saw that the suffering but heroic father must have made some superlative effort before he could have reduced his haggard face and posed, to meet his daughter's eyes and spare her feelings.

She, on her part, was no less firm. Kneeling beside his couch, she took his hand and met his eyes composedly, as she asked:

"Dear father, how do you feel now?"

"Not just so easy, love, as I had laid me down here for an afternoon's nap, yet in no more pain than I can very well bear."

"Dear father, what can I do for you?"

"You may bathe my forehead and lips with cologne, my dear," said the doctor, not so much for the sake of the reviving perfume, as because he knew it would comfort Clara, to feel that she was doing something, however slight, for him.

Traversé stood upon the opposite side of the bed, fanning him.

In a few moments Mrs. Rocks re-entered the room, announcing that the two old physicians from Stanton, Doctor Dawson and Doctor Williams, had arrived.

"Show them up, Mrs. Rocks; Clara, love, retire while the physicians remain with me," said Doctor Day.

Mrs. Rocks left the room to do his bidding. And Clara followed and sought the privacy of her own apartment, to give way to the overwhelming grief which she could no longer resist.

As soon as she was gone the doctor also yielded to the force of the suffering that he had been able to endure silently in her presence, and writhed and groaned in agony, that wrung the heart of Traversé to the blood.

Presently the two physicians entered the room, and approached the bed with expressions of sincere grief at beholding their old friend in such a condition, and a hope that they might speedily be able to relieve him.

To all of which the doctor, repressing all exhibitions of pain, and holding out his hand in a cheerful manner, replied:

"I am happy to see you in a friendly way, old friends. I am willing also that you should try what you—what you can do for me—but I warn you that it will be useless. A few hours, or days of inflammation, fever, and agony; then the ease of mortification; then dissolution."

"Tut, tut," said Williams, cheerfully, "we never permit a patient to pronounce a prognosis upon his own case."

"Friend, my horse ran away, straggled and fell upon me, and rolled over me; it getting up; the viscera is crushed within me; breathing is difficult; speech, painful; motion, agonizing; but you may examine and stesify yourselves," said Dr. Day, still speaking cheerfully, though with great suffering.

His old cries proceeded gently to the examination, which resulted in their silently and perfectly coinciding in opinion with the patient himself.

Then, with Dr. Day and Traversé, they entered into a consultation, and agreed upon the best palliatives that could be administered; and begging that if in any manner, professionally or otherwise, they could serve their suffering friend, at any hour of the day or night, they might be summoned, they took leave.

As soon as they had gone, Clara, who had given way to a flood of tears, and regained her composure, rapped for admittance.

"Presently, dear daughter, presently," said the doctor, who then beckoning Traversé to stoop low, said:

"Do not let Clara sit up with me to-night; I foresee a night of great anguish, which I may not be able to repress, and which I would not have her witness. Promise you will keep her away."

"I promise," faltered the almost broken-hearted youth.

"You may admit her now," said the doctor, composing his convulsed countenance as best he could, lest the sight of his suffering should distress his daughter.

Clara entered and resumed her post at the side of the bed.

Traversé left the room to prepare the palliatives for his patient.

The afternoon waned. As evening approached,

the fever, inflammation and pain arose to such a degree, that the doctor could no longer forbear betraying his excessive suffering, which he said to Clara:

"My child, you must now leave me and retire to bed. I must be watched by Traversé alone, to-night."

And Traversé, seeing her painful hesitation, between the extreme reluctance to leave him, and her wish to obey him, approached and murmured:

"Dear Clara, it would distress him to have you stay; he will be much better attended by me alone."

Clara still hesitated; and Traversé, beckoning his mother to come and speak to her, left her.

Mrs. Rocks approached her and said:

"It must be so, dear girl, for you know that there are some cases in which sick men should be watched by men only, and this is one of them. I myself shall sit up to-night in the next room, within call."

"And may I not sit there beside you?" pleaded Clara.

"No, my dear love; as you can do your father no good, he desires that you should go to bed and rest. Do not distress him by staying!"

"Oh, and am I to go to bed—and I myself my dear father lies here suffering?—I cannot! Oh, I cannot!"

"My dear, yes, you must; and if you cannot sleep, you can sit awake and pray for him."

Here the doctor, whose agony was growing unendurable, called out:

"Go, Clara, go at once, my dear."

She went back to the bedside and pressed her lips to his forehead, and put her arms around him and wept.

"Oh, my dear father, may the blessed Saviour take you in his pitying embrace and give you ease to-night. Your poor Clara will pray for you as she never prayed for herself!"

"May the Lord bless you my sweet child," said the doctor, lifting one hand painfully and laying it in benediction on her fair and graceful head.

Then she arose and left the room, saying to Mrs. Rocks, as she went:

"Oh, Mrs. Rocks, only last evening we were so happy!—But if I have received no good things at the hand of God, why should we not receive evil? Yes, my child; but remember nothing is real, unless it comes from His good hand," said Mrs. Rocks, as she attended Clara to the door.

His daughter had no sooner gone out of hearing than the doctor gave way to his irrepresible groans.

At a sign from Traversé Mrs. Rocks went and took up her position in the adjoining room.

Then Traversé subdued the light in the sick chamber, arranged the pillows of the couch, administered a sedative, and took up his post beside the bed, where he continued to watch and attend the patient with unwearied devotion.

At the dawn of day, when Clara rapped at the door, he was in no condition to be seen by his daughter.

Clara was put off with some plausible excuse. After breakfast, his friends the physicians called and spent several hours in his room. Clara was told that she must not come in while they were there. And so, by one means and another, the poor girl was spared from witnessing those dreadful agonies which, had she seen them, must have so bitterly increased her distress.

In the afternoon, during a temporary mitigation of pain, Clara was admitted to see her father. But in the evening as his sufferings again increased, she was again, upon the same pretext, excluded from his chamber.

Then passed another night of suffering, during which Traversé never left him for an instant. Towards morning the fever and pain abated, and he fell into a sweet sleep. About sunrise he awoke quite free from suffering. Alas! it was the ease that he had predicted—the ease of dissolution.

"It is gone forever now, Traversé, my boy, thank God my last hours will be sufficiently free from pain to enable me to set my house in order. Before calling Clara in, I would talk to you alone. You will remain here until all is over?"

"Oh, yes, sir! I would do anything on earth—anything for you. I would lay down my life this hour, if I could do so to save you from this bed of death."

"Nay, do not talk so; your young life belongs to others. Clara and your mother. 'God should fall, than the budding germ. I do not see it hard to die, dear Traversé. Though the journey has been very pleasant, the goal is not unwelcome. Earth has been very sweet to me, but Heaven is sweeter."

"Oh! but we love you so! we love you so! you have so much to live for!" exclaimed Traversé, with an irreligious burst of grief.

"Poor boy, life is too hospitable before you to make you a comforter by a deathbed. Yes, Traversé, I have much to live for, but more to die for. Not voluntarily would I have left you, though I know that I leave you in the hands of the Lord, and with every blessing and promise of his beautiful providence. Your love will console my child. My conscience in you makes me easy in committing her to your charge."

"Oh, Doctor Day, may the Lord so direct my path eternally, as I shall discharge this trust," said Traversé, earnestly.

"I know that will be true—I wish you to remain here with Clara, your mother for a few weeks, until the child's violence of grief shall be over. Then you had better pursue the plan we laid out. Leave your good mother to take care of Clara, and go you to the West, to get into practice there, and at the end of a few years return to me, my dear Clara. Traversé, there is one promise I would have of you."

"I give it before it is named, dear friend," said Traversé, fervently.

"My child is but seventeen; she is so gentle that her will is subject to that of all she loves, especially to yours. She will do anything in conscience that you ask her to do. Traversé, I wish you to promise me that you will not press her to marriage until she shall be at least twenty years old. And—"

"Oh, sir, I promise! Oh, believe me, as perfect for Clara is so pure and so constant, as well as so confiding in her faith and so solicitous for her good, and the privilege of visiting her and writing to her, I could wait many years, if needful."

"I believe you, my dear boy. And the very promise I have asked for you is much for your sake as for hers. No girl can marry before she is twenty without serious risk of life, and almost no so in one season why there are such numbers of sickly and faded young wives. If Clara's constitution should be broken down by matrimony, you would be as unfortunate in having a sickly wife, as she would be in losing her health."

"Oh, sir, I promise you, that no matter how much I may wish to do so, I will not be tempted to make a wife of Clara, until she has attained the age you have prescribed. But at the same time, I must assure you that such is my love for her, that if accident should now make her an invalid for life she would be as dear—as dear as dear account; and if I could not marry her for a wife, I should marry her only for the dear privilege of waiting on her night and day!—Oh, believe this of me, and leave your dear daughter with an easy mind to my faithful care!" said Traversé, filling his eyes.

"I do, Traversé! I do!—and now to other things."

"Are you not talking too much, dear friend?"

"No, no, I must talk while I have time. Was about to say that long ago, my will was made. Clara, you know, is the heiress of all I possess. Yes, as soon as you become her husband, I will reserve her fortune with her. I have for him to whom I can entrust the higher charge of my daughter's person, happiness and honor. I can also entrust her fortune."

"Dear sir, I am glad, for Clara's sake, that she has a fortune; as for me, I hope you will not work for dear Clara all the days of my life."

"I do believe it. But this will was made,

Traversé, my child, is so gentle that her will is subject to that of all she loves, especially to yours. She will do anything in conscience that you ask her to do. Traversé, I wish you to promise me that you will not press her to marriage until she shall be at least twenty years old. And—"

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Traversé, my child, is so gentle that her will is subject to that of all she loves, especially to yours. She will do anything in conscience that you ask her to do. Traversé, I wish you to promise me that you will not press her to marriage until she shall be at least twenty years old. And—"

but I would do anything on your side. I would lay down my life for you, if you would do so to save you from death.

So your young life belongs to me, and your mother. "God bless the ripened ear that bears the grain. I do not care for Traverses. Though the pleasant, the goal is not as true very sweet to me, as yours."

"You so! we love you so! live for!" exclaimed Traverses, bursting with grief.

"I will be a father to you by a death-bed before you live for, but more to die I would I have left you, leave you in the hands of your blessing and promise of heaven. Your love will be a consolation to you makes a father to you, as I shall discharge this duty most faithfully."

"I wish you to read your mother for a few days, to see the violence of grief you can endure before you go to the West, and at the end of a few days, Traverses, there was a named, dear friend."

"I wish you to be gentle to all she loves, and to do anything in her power to do. Traverses, I wish you will not press her to do more than she shall be at least twenty years."

"Oh, believe me, my affection and so constant, as faith and so solicitous the assurance of her sitting her and writing her as usual."

"I wish you to be gentle to all she loves, and to do anything in her power to do. Traverses, I wish you will not press her to do more than she shall be at least twenty years."

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Traverses, three years ago, before any of us anticipated the present relation between you and my daughter, and while you were both still children. Therefore, I appointed my wife's brother, Clara's only male relative, Colonel Le Noir, as her guardian. It is true, we have never diverged; for our paths in life widely diverged; for when Clara seen him within her recollection; for when her mother's death, which took place in her infancy, he has never been at our house. But he is a man of high reputation and excellent character. I have already requested Doctor Williams to write for him, so that I expect he will be here in a very few days. When he comes, Traverses, you will tell him that it is my desire that my daughter shall continue to reside in her present house, retaining Mrs. Rocks as her maternal companion. I have also requested Doctor Williams to tell him the same thing, so that in the mouths of two witnesses my words may be established."

"Now, Traverses, he never in his life before heard the name of Colonel Le Noir; and therefore was in no position to warn the dying father who placed so much confidence in the high reputation of his brother-in-law, that his trust was miserably misplaced—that he was leaving his fair mercies of an unscrupulous villain and a consummate hypocrite. So he merely promised to deliver the message with which he was charged by the dying father, for his daughter's guardian, and added that he had no doubt that Clara's uncle would consider that message a sacred command and obey it to the letter."

"As the sun was well up, the doctor consented that Mrs. Rocks and his daughter should be admitted."

"Marah brought with her some wine-when, that her patient drank, and from which he received temporary strength."

"Clara was pale but calm; one could see at a glance that she the poor girl was prepared for the worst, and had served her gentle heart to bear it with patience."

"Come hither my little Clara," said the doctor, as soon as he had been revived by his wherby. Clara came and kissed his brow, and sat beside him with her hands clasped in his."

"My little girl, what did our Saviour die for? First to redeem us, and also to teach us by his burial and resurrection that death is but a falling asleep in this world and an awakening in the next. Clara, after this, when you think of your father, do not think of him as lying in the grave; for more than he will be there in his vacated body, no more than he will be in the trunk with his cast-off clothes. As the coat is the body's covering, so the body is the soul's garment, and it is the soul that is the innermost and real man; it is my soul that is me; and that will not be in the earth but in Heaven! therefore do not think of me gloomily as lying in the grave, but cheerfully as living in Heaven—as living there with God and Christ and his saints, and with your mother, Clara, the dear wife of my youth, who has been waiting for me these many years. Think of me as being happy in that blessed society. Do not fancy that it is your duty to grieve, but on the contrary know that it is your duty to be as cheerful and happy as possible. Do you heed me, my daughter?"

"Oh, yes, dear father!" said Clara, heroically repressing her grief.

"Seek for yourself, dear child, a nearer union with Christ and God. Seek it, Clara, until the spirit of God shall bear witness with your spirit that you are as a child of God! so shall you, as you come to lie down, be able to say of your life and death, as I do now, with truth of mine—the journey has been pleasant, but the goal is blessed!"

The doctor pressed his daughter's hand, and dropped suddenly into an easy sleep.

Mrs. Rocks drew Clara away, and the room was very still.

Sweet, beautiful and lovely as is the death-bed of a Christian, we will not linger too long beside it. All day the good man's bodily life ebbed gently away. He spoke at intervals as he had strength given him, words of affection, comfort, and counsel to those around him. Just as the setting sun was pouring his last rays into the chamber, Doctor Day laid his hand upon his child's head and blessed her. Then,

closing his eyes, he murmured softly: "Lord Jesus, into thy hands I resign my spirit," and with that sweet, deep, intense smile that had been so lovely in life, now so much lovelier in death, his pure spirit winged its flight to the realms of eternal bliss!

CHAPTER XXX.

THE ORPHAN.

"Let me do, father, I fear, I fear to test in earth's terrible strife!"

"Not so, my child, for the crown must be won in the battle-field of life."—LIFE AND DEATH.

"He has gone to sleep again," said Clara, with a sigh of relief.

"He has gone to Heaven, my child," said Marah Rocks, softly.

"The orphan started, gazed wildly on the face of the dead, turned ghastly pale, and with a low moan and suffocating sob, fell fainting into the motherly arms of Mrs. Rocks."

Marah beckoned Traverses, who lifted the in-sensible girl tenderly in his arms, and preceded by his mother, bore her to her chamber and laid her upon the bed.

Then Marah dismissed Traverses to attend to the duties owed to the remains of the beloved departed, while she herself stood with Clara, using every means for her restoration.

Clara averted her eyes at length, but in reviving to life she returned to grief. Dreadful to witness was the sorrow of the orphan girl. She had controlled her grief in the presence of her father, and while his hushed in life, only to give way now to its overwhelming force. Marah remained with her, holding her in her arms, weeping with her, praying for her, doing all that the most tender mother could do to soothe, console and strengthen the bleeding young heart.

The funeral of Doctor Day took place the third day of his decease, and was attended by all the gentry of the neighboring town and the county, in their own carriages, and by crowds who thronged on foot to pay the last tribute of respect to their beloved friend.

He was interred in the family burial ground, situated on a wooded hill up behind the homestead, and at the head of the last resting-place was afterwards erected a plain obelisk of white marble, with his name and the date of his birth and death, and the following inscription:

"HE IS NOT DEAD, BUT IS SLEEPING."

"When dear Clara comes to weep at her father's grave, these words will send her away comforted, and with her faith renewed," had been Traverses' secret thought, when giving directions for the inscription of this inspiring text.

On the morning of the day succeeding the funeral, while Clara, exhausted by the violence of her grief, lay prostrate upon her chamber couch, Mrs. Rocks and Traverses sat conversing in that once pleasant, now desolate, morning reading room.

"You know, dear mother, that by the doctor's desire, which should be considered sacred, Clara is still to live here, and you are to remain to take care of her. I shall defer my journey West, until everything is settled to Clara's satisfaction, and I must also have an interview and a good understanding with her guardian, for whom I have a message."

"Who is this guardian of whom I have heard you speak more than once, Traverses?" asked Marah.

"Dear mother, will you believe me that I have forgotten the man's name? It was an uncommon name that I had never heard before in my life, and in the presence of grief upon my mind, the exact identity escaped my memory; but that does not signify much, as he is expected hourly, and when he announces himself, either by card or word of name, I shall know, for I shall recognize the name in some moment I see it written or hear it spoken."

"Let me see—it was something like De Moines, De Vaun, De Sauls—or something of that sort. At all events, I am sure I shall know it again the instant I see or hear it. And now, dear mother, I must ride up to Staunton to see some of the doctor's poor sick, that he left in my charge for as long as I stay here. I shall be back by three o'clock. I

need not ask you to take great care of that dear suffering girl up stairs," said Traverses, taking his hat and gloves for a ride.

"I shall go and stay with her as soon as she wakes," answered Mrs. Rocks.

And Traverses, satisfied, went his way. He had been gone perhaps an hour, when the sound of a carriage was heard below in the front of the house, followed soon by a loud rapping at the hall door.

"It is dear Clara's guardian," said Marah Rocks, rising and listening.

Soon a servant entered and placed a card in her hand, saying:

"The gentleman is waiting in the hall below, and asked to see the person that was in charge here, ma'am. So I fetch the card to you."

"You did right, John. Show the gentleman up here," said Marah; and as soon as the servant had gone she looked at the card, but felt to make it out. The name was engraved, in Old English text, and in such a complete labyrinth, thicket and network of ornate flourishes, that no one who was not familiar at once with the name and the style could possibly have distinguished it.

"I do not think my boy would know this name at eight?" was Marah's thought, as she twisted the card in her hand, and stood waiting the entrance of the visitor, whose step was now heard coming up the stairs. Such the door was thrown open, and the stranger entered.

Marah, habitually shy in the presence of strangers, dropped her eyes before she had fairly taken in the figure of a tall, handsome, dark complexioned, distinguished-looking man somewhat past middle age, and arrayed in a rich military cloak, and carrying in his hand a military cap.

The servant who admitted him had scarcely retired, when Marah looked up, and her eyes and those of the stranger met—and—

"MARAH ROCKS!"

"COLONEL LE NOIR!"

Burst simultaneously from the lips of each. Le Noir first recovered himself, and holding out both hands, advanced towards her with a smile as if to greet an old friend.

But Marah, shrinking from him in horror, turned and retired to the farthest window, where leaving her head against the ash, she moaned:

"Oh, my heart! my heart! it will the will to whom my lamb must be committed!"

As she moaned these words, she was aware of a soft step at her side and a low voice murmuring:

"Marah Rocks, yes! the same beautiful Marah that as a girl of fifteen, twenty years ago, turned my head, led me by her fatal charms into the very jaws of death! the same lovely Marah with her beauty only ripened by time and exalted by sorrow."

With one enraptured, indignant look, but without a word of reply, Mrs. Rocks turned and walked composedly towards the door with the intention of quitting the room.

Colonel Le Noir saw and forestalled her purpose by springing forward, turning the key, and starting before the door.

"Forgive me, Marah, but I must have a word with you before we part," he said, in those soft, sweet, persuasive tones he knew so well how to assume.

Marah remembered that she was an honourable matron and an honored mother, that as such, fears and tremors and self-distrust in the presence of a villain, would not well become her; so calling up all the gentle dignity latent in her nature, she resumed her seat, and signing to the visitor to follow her example, she said composedly:

"Speak on, Colonel Le Noir,—remembering, if you please, to whom you speak."

"I do remember, Marah! remember but, will?"

"They call me Mrs. Rocks who converse me, sir."

"Marah, why this resentment? Is it for that you can still be angry? Have I not true to my attachment all these years, and you throughout the world to find this receipt lost?"

"Colonel Le Noir, if this is all you had it was scarcely worth while to have detain said Mrs. Rocks, calmly.

"But it is not all, my Marah. Yes, I,

mine by virtue of the strongest attachment man ever felt for woman. Marah Rocks, you were feeling worthy to be called a passion—"

"—Colonel Le Noir, how dare you blaspheme this house of mourning by such sinful words! You forget where you stand and to whom you speak."

"I forgot nothing, Marah Rocks, nor do I violate this sanctuary of sorrow,—here he sunk his voice below his usual low tones.—"When I speak of the passion that maddened my youth and withered my manhood—a passion whose intensity was its excuse for all extravagances, and whose enduring constancy is its final, full justification."

"Before he had finished this sentence, Marah Rocks had calmly arisen and pulled the bell-rope. "What mean you by that, Marah?" he inquired. Before she replied, a servant, in answer to the bell, came to the door and tried the latch; and, finding it locked, rapped.

"With a blush that mounted to his forehead, and with a half-suppressed imprecation, Colonel Le Noir went and unlocked the door, and admitted the man."

"John," said Mrs. Rocks, quietly, "show Colonel Le Noir to the apartment prepared for him, and wait his orders."

And, with a slight nod to the guest, she went calmly from the room.

Colonel Le Noir, unmindful of the presence of the servant, stood gazing in angry mortification after her. The flush on his brow had given way to the fearful pallor of rage or hate, as he muttered inaudibly:

"Insolent beggar! contradiction always confirms my half-formed resolutions: years ago I swore to possess that woman, and I will do it, if it be only to keep my oath and humble her insolence. She is very handsome still; she shall be my slave."

Then, perceiving the presence of John, he said: "Lead the way to my room, sirrah, and then go and order my fellow to bring up my portmanteau."

John devoutly pulled his forelock as he bowed low, and then went out, followed by Colonel Le Noir.

Marah Rocks meanwhile had gained the privacy of her own chamber, where all her firmness deserted her.

Throwing herself into a chair, she clasped her hands and sat with blanched face and staring eyes, like a marble statue of despair.

"Oh, what shall I do? what shall I do while this miscreant remains here?—this villain whose very presence desecrates the roof and dishonours me? I would instantly leave the house but that I must not abandon poor Clara."

"I cannot claim the protection of Traverse, for danger: nor indeed would I even permit my son could receive insult."

"Nor can I warn Clara of the unprincipled character of her guardian, for if she knew him as he is, she would surely treat him in such a way as to get his omnicity—his dangerous, fatal party are legally at his disposal. Oh, my dove, my dove! that you should be in the power of this villain. What shall I do, oh, Heaven!"

Marah dropped on her knees and finished her soliloquy with prayer. Then, feeling composed and strengthened, she went to Clara's room.

She found the poor girl lying awake and quietly weeping.

"Your guardian has arrived, love," she said, sitting down beside the bed and taking Clara's hand.

"Oh, must I get up and dress to see a stranger?" sighed Clara, wearily.

"No, love, you need not stir until it is time to dress for dinner; it will answer quite well if you meet your guardian at table," said Marah, who had particular reasons for wishing that Clara should first see Colonel Le Noir with other company, to have an opportunity of observing him well and possibly forming an estimate of his character (as a young girl of her fine instincts take a sure to these deceptive blandishments he knew so well how to bring into play.

"That is a respite! Oh, dear Mrs. Rocks, you don't know how I dread to see any one!"

"My dear Clara, you must combat grief by prayer, which is the only thing that can overcome it," said Marah.

Mrs. Rocks remained with her young charge as long as she possibly could, and then she went down stairs to oversee the preparation of the dinner.

It was at the dinner-table that Marah, with the quiet and gentle dignity for which she was distinguished, introduced the younger members of the family to the guest, in these words: "Your ward, Miss Day, Colonel Le Noir."

The colonel bowed deeply, and raised the hand of Clara to his lips, murmuring some sweet soft, tolerance, sympathy, and melancholy pleasure, from which Clara, with a gentle bend of her head, withdrew to take her seat.

"Colonel Le Noir, my son, Doctor Rocks," said Marah, presenting Traverse.

The colonel stared superciliously, bowed with ironical depth, said he was "much honored," and turned his back on the young man, placed himself at the table.

During the dinner he exerted himself to be agreeable to Miss Day and Mrs. Rocks, but Traverse he affected to treat with supercilious neglect, or ironical defenses.

Our young physician had too much self-respect to permit himself to be in any degree affected by so that it did not trouble Traverse, that Le Noir should behave in this manner, so that Clara should be enabled to form some correct idea of his disposition.

When dinner was over, Clara excused herself and retired to her room, whither she was soon followed by Mrs. Rocks.

"Well, my dear, how do you like your guardian?" asked Marah, in a tone as indifferent as she could make it.

"I do not like him at all," exclaimed Clara, through their tears; "I do not like him at all, not wish to use such strong language, or to grow angry when I am in such deep grief; but my dear father could not have known this man, or he never would have chosen him for my guardian! do you think he would, Mrs. Rocks?"

"My dear, your excellent father must have thought well of him, or he would never have intrusted him with so precious a charge. Whether your father's confidence in this man will be justified as far as you are concerned, time will show. By your father, you should treat him with respect, but so far as respecting any trust in him goes, consult your own instincts."

"I shall and I thank heaven that I have not got to do and live with Colonel Le Noir!" said Clara, fervently.

Mrs. Rocks sighed. She remembered that the arrangement that permitted Clara to live at her own home with her chosen friends was but a executor, unless he chose to consider it so.

Their conversation was interrupted by the entrance of a servant with a message from Colonel Le Noir, expressing a hope that Miss Day felt better from her afternoon's repose, and desiring the favor of her company in the library.

Clara returned an answer pleading indisposition, and begging upon that account to be excused.

At tea, however, the whole family met again. As before, Colonel Le Noir exerted himself to mark respect. This conduct offended Miss Day to such a degree that she, being a girl of truth in thought, word and deed, could only exhibit towards the guest the most freezing politeness that was consistent with her position as hostess, and she longed for the time to come that little circle from the unwelcome presence of this arrogant intruder.

"How can he imagine that I can be pleased with his deference and courtesy and elaborate compliments, when he permits himself to be so rude to Traverse? I hope Traverse will tell him to him the propriety of reformatory his manners, while he remains under a roof of which Traverse is the destined master!" said Clara to herself, as she arose from the table, and with a cold bow, turned to retire from the room.

"And will not my fair ward give me a few hours of her company this evening?" inquired Colonel Le Noir, in an insinuating voice, as he took and pressed the hand of the doctor's orphan daughter.

"Excuse, my sir; but except at meal times, I have not left my room since"—here her voice broke down—she could not speak to him of her bereavement, or give way, in his presence, to her holy sorrow. "Besides, sir," she added, "Doctor Rocks, I know, has expressed to you his desire for an early interview."

"My fair young friend, Doctor Rocks, as you style the young man, will please to be so considerate as to tarry the leisure of his most humble servant," replied the colonel, with an ironical bow in the direction of Traverse.

"Perhaps, sir, when you know that Doctor Rocks is charged with the last uttered will of my dear father, and that it is of more importance than you are prepared to anticipate, you may be man'ly as I all by granting this 'young man' an early audience," said Clara.

"The will of my late brother-in-law was regularly drawn up and executed and in the hands of his confidential attorney at Stanton."

"Yes, sir, so it is; but I refer to my father's last dying wishes, his verbal directions entrusted to his confidential friend, Doctor Rocks," said Clara.

"Last verbal directions, entrusted to Doctor Rocks. Humph! humph! this would require corroborative evidence," said the colonel.

"Such corroborative evidence can be had, sir," said Clara coldly; "and as I know that Doctor Rocks has already requested an interview for the sake of an explanation of these subjects, I must also join my own request to him, and assure you that by giving him an early opportunity of coming to an understanding with you, you will greatly oblige me."

"Then, undoubtedly, my sweet young friend, your wishes shall be commands—Eh! you—sir! Doctor—What's your name!—meet me in the library at ten o'clock to-morrow morning," said Le Noir, insolently.

"I have engagements, sir, that will occupy me between the hours of ten and three—before or after that period I am at your disposal," said Traverse, coldly.

"Furious!" it seems to me that I am placed at yours!" replied the colonel, lifting his eyebrows; "but as I am so placed by the orders of my fair little tyrant here, so be it!—at nine to-morrow I am your most obedient servant!"

"At nine then, sir, I shall attend you," said Traverse, with a cold bow.

Clara slightly courted and withdrew from the room, attended by Mrs. Rocks.

Traverse, as the only representative of host, remained for a short time with his unaccountable guest, who, totally regardless of his presence, threw himself into an arm chair, lighted a cigar, took up a book, and smoked and read.

Whereupon Traverse, seeing this, withdrew to the library to employ himself with finishing the arranging and tying up of certain papers, left to his charge by Doctor Day.

CHAPTER XXXI.

THE ORPHAN'S TRIAL.

"We met ere yet the world had come To roil upon the springs of youth, And the holy eyes of home, And in the first warm breath of youth, We parted as they never part, And ere we had doomed to be forgot; (b) by what agony of love, Forget me not!—forget me not!"

At nine o'clock the next morning Traverse went to the library to keep his tryst with Colonel Le Noir.

Seated in the doctor's leather chair, with his head thrown back, his nose erect, and his right hand jewelled hand caressing his mustached chin, the colonel awaited the young man's communication.

With a slight bow, Traverse took a chair and drew it up to the table, seating himself and after a little hesitation, commenced, and in a modest and self-respectful manner announced that he was

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of the leisure of his most hon-
of the colonel, with an ironical
of Traverser.

When you know that Doctor
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ar, also, sir, very decidedly her own," said Traverser.

"Um—doubtless they are—and also yours
and your worthy mother's."
"Sir, Miss Day's will in this matter is certainly
mine. Apart from the consideration of her
pleasure, my wishes need not be consulted. As soon
as I have seen Miss Day made comfortable, I
leave for the far west," said Traverser, with much
dignity.

"Um—and leave mamma here to guard the
golden prize until your return, eh?" sneered the
colonel.

"Sir, I do not—*wish* to understand you,"
said Traverser with a flushed brow.
"Possibly not, my excellent young friend,"
said the colonel, ironically; then raising from his
chair and elevating his voice he cried—"But if
sir, understand you and your mother and your
pretty *chérie*, perfectly! Very ingenious inven-
tion these 'last verbal instructions.' Very pretty
plan to *entrap* an *heir*; but it shall not avail
you these 'last verbal instructions.' Very pretty
plan to *entrap* an *heir*; but it shall not avail

my, my sweet young friend,
commands—Eh! you—
your name I—meet me in
lock to-morrow morning."

"Sir, sir, that will occupy me
ten and three—before or
n at your disposal," said

to me that I am placed at
and lifting his eyebrows;
of the orders of my fair little
at nine to-morrow I am
sent!"

"I shall attend you," said
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and withdrew from the
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As he sat, he withdrew to
and with finishing the
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XXXI.

THE TRIAL.
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to be forgot;
get me not!"

—ANONYMOUS.
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his tryst with Colonel

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urse took a chair and
ing himself, and after
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announced that he was

charged with the last verbal instructions from the
doctor to the executor of his will.

Colonel Le Noir left off caressing his chin for
an instant, and with a wave of his dainty hand,
silently intimated that the young man should
proceed.

Traverser then began and delivered the dying
directions of the late doctor, to the effect that his
daughter Clara Day should not be removed from
her paternal mansion, but that she should be
suffered to remain there, retaining as a manly
companion, her old friend Mrs. Marsh Roche.

"Um! I must be very ingenious, upon my word,"
commented the colonel, still caressing his chin.
"I have now delivered my whole message, and
have only to add that I hope, for Miss Day's
sake, there will be no difficulty thrown in the way
of the execution of her father's last wishes, which
are, also, sir, very decidedly her own," said Traverser.

"Um—doubtless they are—and also yours
and your worthy mother's."
"Sir, Miss Day's will in this matter is certainly
mine. Apart from the consideration of her
pleasure, my wishes need not be consulted. As soon
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with his uncounted
ardless of his presence,
n chair, lighted a cigar,
and read.

As he sat, he withdrew to
and with finishing the
of certain papers, left to

willing to add to her distress by recounting the
degras' "ul' scenes that had just taken place in the

"Oh! these delays! these delays! Heaven
give me patience! Yet I do not know if I
should be so uneasy! It is only a form! Of
course he will regard my father's wishes."

"I do not see well how he can avoid doing so,
here, and I shall request the doctor's attendance
upon this afternoon. Dear Clara, keep up your
spirits! A few hours, now, and all will be well,"
said Traverser, as he drew on his gloves and took
his hat to go on his morning round of calls.

An early dinner was ordered, for the purpose
of giving ample time in the afternoon for the
reading of the will.

Owing to the kindly forbearance of each mem-
ber of this little family, their meeting with their
guest at the table was not so awkward as it might
have been rendered. Mrs. Roche had concealed
the results that had been offered her. Traverser
So that each, laboring only their own private in-
juries to resent, felt free in forbearing. Nothing
of this sort of prudence on the part of indi-
viduals rendered their meeting around one board
possible.

While they were still at the table, the attorney,
Mr. Sauter, with Doctors Williams and Dawson,
arrived and was shown into the library.

And very soon after the dessert was put upon
the table, the family left it, and, accompanied by
Colonel Le Noir, adjourned to the library. After
the usual salutations, they arranged themselves
along each side of an extension table, at the head
of which the attorney placed himself.

In the midst of a profound silence the will was
opened and read. It was dated three years be-
fore.

The bulk of his estate, after the paying a few
legacies, was left to his esteemed brother-in-law,
Gabriel Le Noir, in trust for his only daughter,
Clara Day, until the latter should attain the age
of twenty-one, at which period she was to come
into possession of the property. Then followed
the distribution of the legacies. Among the rest
the sum of a thousand dollars left to his young
friend Traverser Roche, and another thousand to
his esteemed neighbour, Marsh Roche. Gabriel
Le Noir was appointed sole executor of the will,
trustee of the property, and guardian of the
heirress.

At the conclusion of the reading Mr. Sauter
folded the document and laid it upon the table.

"The will of the late Doctor Day has been
read in your presence. I presume you all heard
it, and that there can be no mistake as to its pur-
port. All that remains now is to act upon it. I
shall claim the usual privilege of twelve months
before administering upon the estate or paying
the legacies. In the meantime, I shall assume
the charge of my ward's person, and convey her
to my own residence, known as the Hidden
House, Mrs. Roche," he said, turning towards
the latter, "your presence and that of your young
charge is no longer required here. Be so good as
to prepare Miss Day's travelling trunks, as we set
out from this place to-morrow morning."

Mrs. Roche started, looked wildly in the face
of the speaker, and seeing that he was deter-
mined earnest, turned her appealing glance
towards Traverser and Doctor Williams.

As for Clara, her face, previously blanched
with grief, was now flushed with indignation.
In her sudden distress and perplexity, she knew
not at once what to do. Whether to utter a pro-
test or continue silent—whether to leave the room
or remain. Her embarrassment was relieved by
Traverser, who stooping, whispered to her:

"Be calm, love; all shall be well. Doctor
Williams is about to speak."

And at that moment indeed Doctor Williams
arose, and said:

"I have, Colonel Le Noir, to endorse a dying
message from Doctor Day, entrusted to my young
friend here to be delivered to you, to the effect
daughter, Miss Clara Day, should be permitted
to reside during the term of her minority in this
her paternal home, under the care of her pre-
sent manly friend, Mrs. Marsh Roche, Doctor
Roche and myself are here to bear testimony to
these, the last wishes of the departed—which

wishes, I believe, also express the desires of his
heirress."

"Oh! yes! yes!" said Clara, earnestly. "I
do very much desire to remain in my own home
among my own familiar friends. My dear father
only consulted my comfort and happiness when
he left these instructions."

"There can be, therefore, no reason why Miss
Day should be disturbed in her present home,"
said Traverser.

Colonel Le Noir smiled grimly, saying:
"I am sorry, Doctor Williams, to differ with
you, or to distress Miss Day. But if, as she
says her lamented father consulted her pleasure,
in those last instructions, he certainly consented
nothing *else*—not the proprieties of conventional-
ism, the opinion of the world, nor the future wel-
fare of his daughter. Therefore, as a man of
sense and moment, never could have made such a
singular arrangement, I am forced to the conclu-
sion that he could not, at the time of leaving
these instructions, have been in his right mind. Con-
sequently, I cannot venture to act upon any
'verbal instructions,' however well attested, but
shall be guided in every respect by the will,
executed while yet the testator was in sound body
and mind."

"Doctor Roche and myself are both physicians
competent to certify that, at the time of leaving
these directions, our respected friend was per-
fectly sound in mind at least," said Doctor
Williams.

"That, sir, I repeat, I contest. And acting
upon the authority of the will, I shall proceed to
take charge of my ward as well as of her estate.
And as I think this house, under all the circum-
stances, a very improper place for her to remain,
I shall convey her without delay to my own home,
Mrs. Roche. I believe I requested you to see to
the packing of Miss Day's trunks."

"Oh, heaven, shall this now be permitted?"
ejaculated Marsh.

"Mrs. Roche, I will not go unless absolutely
forced to do so, by a decree of the court. I shall
request Doctor Williams to make an appeal for me to
the Orphan's Court," said Clara, by way of en-
couraging her friend.

"My dear Miss Day, that, I hope, will not be
required. Colonel Le Noir acts under a misappre-
hension of the circumstances. We must enter
into more explanations with him. In the mean-
time, my dear young lady, it is better that you
should obey him, for the present, at least, so far
as retiring from the room," said Doctor Williams.

Clara immediately arose, and requesting Mrs.
Roche to accompany her, withdrew from the
library.

Doctor Williams then said:
"I advised the retirement of the young lady,
having a communication to make, the hearing
of which in a mixed company, might have cost
her an innocent blush. But first I would ask
you, Colonel Le Noir—what are those circum-
stances to which you allude which render Miss
Day's residence here, in her paternal man-
sion, with her old and faithful friends, so im-
proper?" inquired Doctor Williams, courteously.

"The growing intimacy, sir, between herself
and a very objectionable party—this young man
Roche!" replied Colonel Le Noir.

"Ah, and is that all?"
"It is enough, sir!" said Colonel Le Noir,
jotily.

"Then, suppose I should inform you, sir, that
this young man, Dr. Roche, was brought up
and educated at Doctor Day's cost, and under
his own immediate eye?"

"Then, sir, you would only inform me that
an eccentric gentleman of fortune had done—
what eccentric gentlemen of fortune *will* some-
times do—educated a pauper."

At this appropriate epithet, Traverser, with
flushed face, started to his feet.

"Sit down, my boy, sit down; leave me to deal
with this man," said Doctor Williams, forcing
Traverser back into his seat. Then turning to
Colonel Le Noir, he said:

"But, suppose, sir, that such was the estima-
tion in which Doctor Day held the moral and in-
tellectual worth of his young protegee, that he
actually gave him his daughter?"

"I cannot suppose an impossibility, Doctor
Williams," replied Colonel Le Noir, haughtily.

"Then, sir, I have the pleasure of startling

you a little by a prodigy, that you denominate an impossibility! Clara Day and Traverso Rocks approbation of the young lady's father!"

"Impossible! proposer!" I shall countenance no such ridiculous absurdity!" said Colonel Le Noir, growing red in the face.

"Miss Day, Doctor Rocks, Mrs. Rocks and myself are witnesses to that fact."

"The young lady and the young man are parties immediately concerned—they cannot be received as witnesses in their own case; Mrs. Rocks is too much in their interest for her evidence to be taken; you, sir, I consider the dupe of these cunning conspirators—mother and son," replied Colonel Le Noir, firmly.

"But," said Doctor Williams, almost out of patience, "I do not depend upon the words of Miss Day and her friends, although I hold their veracity to be above question; I had Doctor Rocks's dying words to the same effect. And his reason why Clara should remain here in the care of her future mother-in-law."

"Then, sir, that the doctor should have spoken reason for believing him to have been deranged in his last moments! You need give yourself no farther trouble! I shall act upon the authority of this instrument which I hold in my hand," replied Colonel Le Noir, haughtily.

"Then, as the depositary of the dying man's last wishes, and as the next of kin of his injured daughter, I shall make an appeal to the Orphans' Court," said Doctor Williams, coldly.

"You can do as you please about that; but in the meanwhile, acting upon the authority of the will, I shall, to-morrow morning set out with my ward for my own home."

"There may be time to arrest that journey," said Doctor Williams, arising and taking his hat to go.

In the passage he met Mrs. Rocks. "Dear Doctor Williams," said Mrs. Rocks, earnestly, "pry come up to poor Clara's room, and speak to her, if you can possibly say anything to comfort her; she is weeping herself into a fit after her dreadful bereavement, torn away from her home and friends."

"But, but! no use in weeping! All will yet be right!"

"You have persuaded that man to permit her to remain here, then?" said Clara, gladly.

"Persuaded him? no, nor even undertaken to do so! I never saw him before to-day; yet I never venture to say, from what I have now seen of him, that he never was persuaded by any agent except his own passions and interests, to say any set whatever. No, I have endeavored to show him that we have law as well as justice on our side, and even now I am afraid I shall have to take the case before the Orphans' Court before I can convince him. He purposes removing Clara to-morrow morning. I will endeavor to see the Judge of the Orphans' Court to-night, take out a habeas corpus, ordering Le Noir to bring his ward into court, and serve it on him as he passes through Staunton on his way home."

"That is there no way of preventing him from taking Clara away from the house to-morrow?"

"No good way. No, Madam, it is best that all things should be done decently and in order. I advise you, as I shall also advise my young friends, Traverso and Clara, not to injure their own cause by unwise impudence or opposition. We should go before the Orphans' Court with the very best aspect."

"Come, then, and talk to Clara. She has the most painful antipathy to the man who claims the custody of her person, as well as the most distressing reluctance to leaving her dear friends; and all this in addition to her recent heavy affliction, almost overwhelms the poor child!" said Mrs. Rocks, weeping.

"I will go at once and do what I can to soothe her," said Doctor Williams, following Mrs. Rocks, who led him up to Clara's room.

"They found her prostrate upon her bed, crushed with grief."

"Come, come, my dear girl, this is too bad! It is not like the usual noble fortitude of our Clara," said the old man, kindly taking her hand.

"Oh, Doctor, forgive—forgive me! but my

source must have been very small, for I fear it is all gone. But then, indeed, everything comes then the approaching departure and expected long absence of Traverso! All that was grievous enough to bear; and now to be torn away from the has always been a mother to me, and by a man from whom every true, good instinct of my nature would lead me to shrink. I, who have always had full liberty in the house of my dear father, to be secluded Clara, bursting into fresh tears of indignation and grief.

Clara, my dear, dear girl! this impatience and rebellion is so unlike your gentle nature, that I cannot recognize you for the mild and dignified daughter of my old friend! Clara, if I should think your dear father would be anything, I see you thus!" said the old man in gentle rebuke, that immediately took effect upon the meek and conscientious maiden.

"Oh! I feel—I feel that I am doing very wrong, but I cannot help it. I sincerely know and terror, yes, terror, for every instinct of my nature teaches me to distrust and fear that man, in whom my father must have been greatly disappointed before he could have intrusted him with the guardianship of his only child!"

"I think that is likely," said the old man, "yet, my dear, even in respect to your dear father's memory, you must try to bear this trial patiently."

"Oh, yes! I know I must! Dear father, if you can look down and see me now, forgive your poor Clara, her anger and her impatience. She will try to be wiser and her impatience. She will and to bear even this great trial, with the spirit worthy of your daughter!" said Clara, with her own heart, then speaking up, she said, "You shall have no more reason to reprove me, Doctor Williams."

"That is my brave girl! That is my dear Clara Day! And now, when your guardian directs you to prepare yourself for your journey, obey him—go with him without making any objection. I purpose to arrest your journey at Staunton with a habeas corpus that he dare not resist, and which shall compel him to bring you into the Orphans' Court. There our side shall be heard, and the decision will rest with the judge."

"And all will be well! Oh, say that, sir! I give me the courage to act with becoming docility," pleaded Clara.

"I have not a doubt in this world that it will all be right! for however Colonel Le Noir may choose to disregard the last wishes of your father, not the least idea that and young Rocks, I have over! on the contrary, I feel persuaded that his will confirm them by sending you back here to your beloved home."

"Oh, may heaven grant it," said Clara. "Yes, yes, be cheerful, my dear; trust in Providence, and expect nothing short of the best must see the judge at his house this night! Good-night, my dear! keep up a good heart!" said the old man, cheerfully, pressing her hand and taking his leave.

Mrs. Rocks accompanied him to the hall-door. "My dear Madam, keep up your spirits also for the sake of your young charge! Make her go to bed early! To-morrow, when she thinks she is about to be torn from you forever, remind her in her ear that I shall meet the carriage at Staunton with a power that shall turn the horses' heads."

And so saying, the worthy old gentleman departed.

As Marah Rocks looked after him, she also saw with alarm that Colonel Le Noir had mounted his horse and galloped off in the direction of Staunton, as if impelled by the most urgent haste. She returned to the bedside of Clara, and left her no more that night. As the colonel did not return to supper, they, the family party, had their tea in Clara's room.

Late at night Mrs. Rocks heard Colonel Le Noir come into the house and enter his chamber.

Poor Clara slept no more that night; anxiety despite all her efforts, kept her wide awake. Yet, though anxious and wretched, yet by prayer and

endeavor she had brought her mind into a patient and submissive mood, so that when a servant knocked at her door in the morning with a message from Colonel Le Noir that she should be ready to set forth immediately after breakfast, she lay she arose and commenced her toilet.

All the family met for the last time around the board. The party was constrained. The meal onel Le Noir informed his ward that his travelling carriage was waiting, and that her baggage was wet and mangled, and asked her to put on her bonnet. Clara turned to obey her servants.

Traverso went to her side, and whispered: "Take courage, dear love; my horse is saddled; her that men like it or not; nor lose sight of his *habeas corpus*."

"Nor even then, dear Traverso! nor even then! You will attend me to the court and be ready to Clara me back to this dear, dear home!" murmured Clara in reply.

"Yes," said the dear girl. There, be cheerful," whispered the young man, as he pressed her hand and released it.

Colonel Le Noir had been a silent but frowning spectator of this little scene, and now that Clara was leaving the room, attended by Mrs. Rocks, he said: "You will be so kind as to stop here a moment, Mrs. Rocks, and you also, young man." The mother and son paused to hear what he should have to say.

"I believe it is the custom here, in discharging domestics, to give a month's warning, or in lieu of that, to pay a month's wages in advance. There, woman, is the money. You will oblige me son and all your other trumpets, together with your are put in charge of an agent, who will be here this afternoon, clothed with authority to eject all loiterers and intruders."

While the Colonel spoke, Marah Rocks gazed at him in a panic from which she seemed unable to rouse herself, until Traverso gravely took her hand, saying: "My dear mother, let me conduct you in the presence of this man, who does not know how to behave himself towards women. Leave me to talk to him, and do you, dear mother, go to Miss Day, who I know is waiting for you."

Marah Rocks mechanically complied, and allowed Traverso to lead her from the room. When he returned, he went up to Colonel Le Noir, and standing before him and looking him full and sternly in the face, said, as loudly: "Colonel Le Noir, my mother will remain here until that has been pronounced, she does not stir at your or any man's bidding."

"Willst! out of my way!" sneered Le Noir, endeavoring to pass him.

Traverso prevented him, saying: "Sir, in consideration of your age, which should prove you venerable, your position which should prove you honorable, and of this sacred loss of mourning in which you stand, I have endeavored to meet all the incidents you have offered me with forbearance. But, sir, I am here to defend my mother's rights and to protect her from insult. And I tell you plainly that you more word or look of insult levelled at Marah Rocks, and neither your age, position, nor this disengagement at the hands of her son."

Le Noir, who had listened in angry scorn, with many an ejaculation of contempt, now at the conclusion which so galled his pride, broke out furiously, with: "Sir, you are a bully! If you were a gentleman I would call you out!"

And I should not come if you did, sir. Duplicity is not Christian, barbarous, and abominable in the sight of God and all good men. For the do not again insult my mother, for if you do, shall hold it a Christian duty to teach you better and walking from the room.

He mounted his horse, and stood ready to attend Clara to Staunton.

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brought her mind into a patient mood, so that when a servant on the morning with a "mess" Le Noir that she should be immediately after breakfast, she would obey him, and without desert for the last time around the house was constrained. The meal on rising from the table Clara held his hand, and his travelling bag, and that her baggage was nestled her to put on her bonnet, to take leave of her servants, obey. Traverser went to her

near love; my horse is saddled; place upon the carriage, whetted as it not; nor lose sight of until we meet Williams with

our Traverser nor even then I to the court and be ready to clear, dear home!" murmured

girl. There, be cheerful, man, as he pressed her hand

I am a silent but frowning scene, and now that Clara attended by Mrs. Locke, he saying:

as to stop here a moment, also, young man."

ustom here, in discharging month's warning, or in lieu of his wages in advance, money. You will oblige me to-day, together with your company—as the premises in agent, who will be here with authority to eject all

ke, Marah Locke gazed at Clara, she seemed unable to average gravely took her

me conduct you from the to does not know how to women. Leave me to you, dear mother, go to waiting for you."

leatly complied, and attended up to the room. Clara went up to Colonel Le Noir and looking him in the eye, she said, as sternly:

mother will remain here if the Orphan's Court pronounced, she does not bidding. "Oh!" sneered Le Noir, saying:

Colonel Le Noir ground his teeth in impatient rage, muttering: "Take care, young man, I shall live to be revenged upon you yet for these affronts!" And his dastard heart burned with the fiercer malignity that he had not dared to meet the eagle eye or encounter the strong arm of the upright and stalwart young man. Grasping his teeth with ill-suppressed fury, he strode into the hall just as Mrs. Locke, and Clara in her travelling dress, descended the stairs.

Clara threw her arms around Mrs. Locke's neck, and weeping, said: "'Good-by! dear, best friend! good-by! Heaven grant it may not be for long. Oh, pray for me that I may be sent back to you!" "May the Lord have you in His holy keeping, my child! I shall pray until I hear from you!" said Marah, kissing and releasing her.

Colonel Le Noir then took her by the hand, led her out, and put her into the carriage. Before entering, Clara had turned to take a last look at her old home; all friends and servants, noticed the sorrowful, anxious, almost despairing look of her pale face, which seemed to ask:

"Ah, shall I ever, ever return to you, dear old home, and dear familiar friends?" In another instant, she had disappeared within the carriage—which immediately rolled off.

As the carriage was heavily laden, and the road was in a very bad condition, it was a full hour before they reached the town of Stanton. As the carriage drew up for a few moments before the door of the principal hotel, and Colonel Le Noir was in the act of stepping out, a sheriff's officer, accompanied by Dr. Williams, approached, and served upon the Colonel a writ of *Habeas Corpus*, commanding him to bring his ward, Clara Day, into court.

Colonel Le Noir laughed scornfully, saying: "And do any you imagine this will serve your purposes? Had I the most that it can do will be to delay my journey for a few hours, until the decision of the judge, which will only serve to confirm my authority beyond all future possibility of questioning."

"We will see that," said Dr. Williams. "Drive to the court-house," ordered Colonel Le Noir. And the carriage, attended by Traverser Locke, Dr. Williams, and the sheriff's officer, each on horseback, drove thither.

And now, reader, I will not trouble you with a detailed account of this trial. Clara, clothed in deep mourning, and looking pale and terrified, was led into the court-room on the arm of her guardian. She was followed closely by her friends Traverser Locke and Dr. Williams, each of whom whispered encouraging words to the orphan.

As the court had no pressing business on its hands, the case was immediately taken up, the will was read and attested by the attorney, who had drawn it up, and the witnesses who had signed it. Then the evidence of Dr. Williams and Dr. Locke was taken concerning the last verbal instructions of the deceased. The case occupied about three hours, at the end of which the judge gave a decision in favor of Colonel Le Noir.

This judgment carried consternation to the heart of Clara and all her friends. Clara herself sank nearly fainting in the arms of her old friend, the venerable Dr. Williams. Traverser, in bitterness of spirit, approached and bent over her.

I do not dispute its judgment—I yield myself up to Colonel Le Noir." "You do well, young lady," said the judge. "I am pleased, Miss Day, to see that you understand and perform your duty; believe me, I do not think that I can to make you happy," said Colonel Le Noir.

Clara replied by a gentle nod; and then, with a slight blushing mantle her pure cheek, she advanced a step, and placed herself immediately in front of the judge, saying: "But there is a word that I would speak to you honor."

"Say on, young lady," said the judge. And as she stood there in her deep mourning dress, with her fair hair unbound and floating softly around her pale, sweet face, every eye in that court was spell-bound by her almost unearthly beauty. Before proceeding with what she was about to say she turned upon Traverser a look that brought him immediately to her side.

"Your honor," she began, in a low, sweet, clear tone, "I owe it to Doctor Locke here present, who has been sadly misrepresented to you, to say (what under less serious circumstances your girl's heart would shrink from avowing so publicly) that I was his betrothed wife—sacredly betrothed to him by almost the last act of my dear father's life. I hold this engagement to be so holy that no earthly tribunal can break or disturb it. And while I bend to your honor's decision, and yield myself to the custody of my dear father's law for the period of my minority, I declare to all who may be interested, that I hold my hand and heart irrevocably pledged to Doctor Locke, and that, as his betrothed wife, I shall consider myself bound to correspond with him regularly, and to receive him as often as he shall seek my society, until my majority, when I will do all that I possess will become his own. And these words I force myself to speak, your honor, both in justice to my dear lost father and his friend Traverser Locke, and also to myself, that hereafter no one may venture to accuse me of clandestine proceedings, or distort my actions into improperities, or in any manner call in question the conduct of my father's daughter."

And, with another gentle bow, Clara retired to the side of her old friend. "You are likely to have a troublesome charge in your ward," said the sheriff aptly to the colonel, who shrugged his shoulders by way of reply.

His heart of Traverser was torn by many conflicting passions, emotions, and impulses; there was indignation at the decision of the court; grief for the loss of Clara, and dread for her future!

One instant he felt a temptation to denounce the guardian as a villain and to charge the judge with being a corrupt politician, whose decisions were swayed by party interests. The next moment he felt an impulse to catch Clara up in his arms, fight his way through the crowd and carry her off. But all these wild emotions, passions and impulses he succeeded in controlling.

Too well he knew that rage, do violence, or commit extravagance as he might, the law would take its course all the same. While his heart was torn in this manner Colonel Le Noir was urging the departure of his ward. And Clara came to her lover's side and said gravely and sweetly:

"The law, you see, has decided against us, dear Traverser! I let stand gracefully to a decree that we cannot annul; it cannot, at least, alter our sacred relations; nor can anything on earth alter our steadfast faith in each other; let us take comfort in that, and in the thought that the years will surely roll round at length and bring the time that shall be our own."

"Oh, my angel-girl! my angel-girl! your patriotism puts me to the blush, for my heart is crushed in my bosom and my firmness quite gone!" said Traverser, in a broken voice. "You will gain firmness, dear Traverser," said the patient; "you should have heard me last night! I was so impatient that doctor Williams had to lecture me. But it would be strange if one did not learn something by suffering. I have been trying all night and day to school my heart to submission, and I hope I have succeeded, Traverser. Bless me and bid me good-bye."

verso; "the Lord abundantly bless you!" "And you?" said Clara. "Good-bye; good-bye!" "Good-bye." And thus they parted. Clara was hurried away and put into the carriage by her guardian.

Altho' no one but the Lord knew how much it had cost that poor girl to maintain her fortitude during that trying scene. She had controlled herself for the sake of her friends. But now, when she found herself in the carriage, her long-strained nerves gave way—she sank exhausted and prostrated into the corner of her seat, in the utter collapse of woe.

But leaving the travellers to pursue their journey, we must go back to Traverser. Willow Heights to convey the sad tidings of his disappointment to his mother's ear.

Marah Locke was so overwhelmed with grief at the news, that she was several hours incapable of action.

The arrival of the house-agent was the first event that recalled her to her senses. She arose herself to action, and assisted by Traverser, set to work to pack up her own and his wardrobe, and other personal effects.

And the next morning Marah Locke was re-established in her cottage. And the next week having equally divided their little capital, the mother and son parted. Traverser, by her express desire, keeping to his original plan, to cut out for the Far West.

CHAPTER XXXII.

OLD HURRICANE STORIES.

"At this str might flamed up with t'ret His great chest heaved, his eyes flashed fire, The crimson that suffused his face, To desperate purple now gave place."

Who can describe the frenzy of Old Hurricane upon discovering the fraud that had been practiced upon him by Black Donald?

It was told him the next morning in his tent, at his breakfast table, in the presence of his assembled family, by the reverend Mr. Goodwin.

Upon first hearing it, he was incapable of any thing but blank staring, until it seemed as though his eyes must start from their sockets!

Then his passion, "not loud but deep," found utterance only in emphatic thumps of his walking stick upon the ground.

Then as the huge emotion worked upwards, it broke out in groans, and inarticulate exclamations.

Finally it burst forth as follows: "Ugh! ugh! ugh! Fool! dolt! blockhead! brute that I've been!—I wish somebody would punch my wooden head!—I didn't think the demon himself could have deceived me so! Ugh!—Nobody but the demon could have done it. And he is the demon! the very demon himself! he does not disguise his transformations himself. Ugh! ugh! ugh! that I should have been such a donkey."

"Sir, compose yourself, we are all liable to suffer deception," said Mr. Goodwin.

"Sir," broke forth Old Hurricane, in fury—"that wretch has sat at my table! has drank wine with me! has slept in my bed!!! Ugh! ugh! ugh!!!"

"Believing him to be what he seemed, sir, you extended to him the rights of hospitality; you have nothing to blame yourself with!"

"Demmy, sir, I did more than that!—I have coddled him up with negusses! I've pampered him up with possets and put him to sleep in my own bed! Yes, sir! and more!—look there at Mrs. Condiment, sir, the way in which she whipped that villain was a sight to behold," said Old Hurricane, jumping up and stamping around the tent in fury.

"Oh, Mr. Goodwin, sir, how could I help it when I thought he was such a precious saint?"

"Yes, sir, when 'his Reverence' would be tired of delivering a long-winded mid-day discourse, Mrs. Condiment, sir, would take him into her own tent, make him lie down on her own cot, and set my niece to bathing his head with cologne and her maid to fanning him, while she

...nel Le Noir's coachman. And how one day last month his carriage, and went two or three miles out of the country beyond Stanton, and then came home, Jehon in the carriage this lovely woman was dressed in the deapest of all the way. They 'speels' had his lost all her friends, by

My life on it, another vic- she had better be lead than in atrocious villain and comar- said Old Hurricane, passing on of his favorite horses, one of in the stud, he found galled on a seropon his flow into a lower- ing his unfortunate groom by with the blood fury could suggest, valued whole bones, to vacate y, and never dare to act fact ain, as he valued his life, an meekly accepted and immo- cating to himself: man or woman left on his word, all well that his temperance ably forgot all about it, as really sealed at the supper fall, towards which the old

Major Warfield sat at supper in mate of the Hidden House, reasons for keeping Cap. in labor, lest she should insist as being "coitable." that Capitoles should not nating the interest. ing fact, he retired to her chamber and, but presently appeared e room door with a large len with meat, partly jelly rought in and placed upon

face of earth do you mean of "rotulus into my room k I. I an ostrich or a cor- ible to entertain a party of e, in astonishment, turn- d, where she stood bathing

s, whether you don't see an oc- vres don't you see to be wittles, arter finding it to be able can be Dere day is! am alone, Miss Ceter- ark, firmly.

"Patty," she said, "you my wittles!" said Miss Caterpillar, if it was wittin' arter, you ought to know dere's wittles digged to you, Patty, but I do not like the bed-room, so take the in the passage table until name back smiling and

you horn de news?"

new neighbor—a bootiful a picture in a silk-dogged oovy skin, and sky-blue y hair, like de princess in, all in deep mournin', in all alone down there on a awful, ole haunted along of old Colonel Le night, and the ghost as a night, just for all the 's de ogre's castle!" this rignature about? ancing?" out in brewed truffel livin' at de Hidden

"Patty!" "I shall certainly be a ranager," said Capitoles, "Miss, don't you do no ill to me! I heard his

'tresten all de men and maids, how if day telled you any thing 'bout de new neighbor, how he'd skin dem alive!"

"Won't he skin you?" asked Cap. "No, Miss, not 'less you form ag'in me, case he didn't tell me not to tell you, case you see he didn't think he knowed! But, lastways, I know from what I heard, ole Marse wouldn't love you to know nothin' 'bout it, no, not for de whole world!"

"He does not want me to call at the Hidden House! That's it! Now, why doesn't he wish me to call there? I shall have to go in order to find out, and so I will," thought Cap.

CHAPTER XXXIII.

CAP'S VISIT TO THE HIDDEN HOUSE.

And such a night! she took the road in at her poor sister was about in. The wind blew as 't had blown its heat! The railing shovers rose on the blast! The speedy gleam of the darkness swallowed! Loud deep and long the thunder belowed! That night a child might understand! The deed had business on his hand. —Bonns.

A week passed before Capitoles carried her resolution of calling upon the inmates of the Hidden House, into effect. It was in fact a hot, dry, oppressive season, the last few days of August, when all people, even the restless Capitoles, preferred the coolness and repose of indoors. But that she should stay at home more than a week was not a social and physical impossibility. So on Thursday afternoon, when Major Warfield set out on horseback to visit his mill, Capitoles ordered her horse to be saddled and brought up that she might take an afternoon's ride.

"Now, please, my dear child, don't go far," said Mrs. Condiment, "for besides that your uncle does not approve of your riding alone, you must hurry back to avoid the storm."

"Storm, Mrs. Condiment, why, those your dear old heart, there has not been a storm these four weeks!" said Capitoles, almost indignant that such an absurd objection to a long ride should be raised.

"The more reason, my child, that we should have a very severe one when it does come, and I think it will be upon us before sunset; so I advise you to hurry home."

"Why, Mrs. Condiment! there's not a cloud in the sky!"

"So much the worse, my dear. The blackest cloud that ever gathered is not so ominous of mischief as this dull, coppery sky and still atmosphere; and if forty years' observation of weather signs goes for anything, I tell you that we are going to have the awfullest storm that ever gathered in the heavens! Why, look out of that window! the very birds and beasts know it, and instinctively seek shelter!—look at that flock of crows flying homel see how the dumb beasts come trooping towards their sheds! Capitoles, you had better give up going altogether, my dear."

"There! I thought all this talk tended to keeping me wiser hours! but I can't stay, Mrs. Condiment! Good-bye, Condiment, I can't!"

"But, my dear, if you should be caught out in the storm!"

"Why, I don't know but I should like it! What harm could it do me? I'm not edible in the white, I rather prefer being caught in the storm!" said Cap. over her shoulder.

"Well, well, there's no need of that; you may ride as far as the river's bank and back again in time to escape, if you choose," said Mrs. Condiment, who saw that her troublesome charge was bent upon the frolic.

And Cap., seeing her horse approach, led by one of the grooms, ran up the stairs, donned her riding-habit, and gloves, ran down again, sprang into her saddle, and was off, galloping away towards the river before Mrs. Condiment could add another word of warning.

Major Warfield came skurrying home from the mill, grasping his bridle with one hand, and huddling his hat on with the other.

Meeting poor old Ezy in the shrubbery, he stormed out upon him with:

"What are you lounging there for, you old idiot! you old sky-gazing lunatic! don't you see I suppose we are going to have an awful blow! under shelter. Oh, I say, or,—" he rode towards Bill Ezy, but the old man exclaimed:

"Yes, sir! yes, sir! in coorse, sir!" stuck his head, and ran off in good time.

Major Warfield quickened his horse's steps, rode to the house, dismounted and threw the reins to the stable boy, exclaiming:

"My heart is dripping with perspiration—rub him down well, you know, or I'll impale you!"

Striding into the hall, he threw down his riding-whip, pulled off his gloves, and called:

"Wool! Wool, you scoundrel, close every door and window in the house; call all the servants together in the dining-room; we're going to have one of the worst tempests that ever rased."

"Wool flow to do his bidding."

"Mrs. Condiment, mum," said the old man, striding into the sitting-room—"Mrs. Condiment, mum, tell Miss Black to come down from her room until the storm is over; the upper chambers of this old house are not safe in a tempest. Well, mum, why don't you go and send Titapat?"

"Major Warfield, sir, I'm very sorry, but Miss Black has not come in yet," said Mrs. Condiment, anxiously upon account of Capitoles.

"Not come in yet! Demmy, mum! do you tell me she has gone out!" cried Old Hurricane, in a voice of thunder, gathering his brows into a dark frown, and striking his cane angrily upon the floor.

"Yes, sir, I am sorry to say she rode out about an hour ago and has not returned," said Mrs. Condiment, ennobling all her firmness to meet Old Hurricane's roused wrath.

"Ma'am! you venture to stand there before my face and tell me composedly that you permit a storm as this! I roared Old Hurricane.

"Sir, I could not help it," said the old lady. "Demmy, mum, you should have helped it. A woman of your age to stand there and tell me that she could not prevent a young creature like Capitoles from going out alone in a storm!"

"Major Warfield could you have done it?" "Me? Demmy, I should think so, but that is not the question. You—"

He was interrupted by a blinding flash of lightning, followed immediately by an awful peal of thunder and a sudden fall of rain.

Old Hurricane sprang up as though he had been stoff his chair, and trotted up and down the room exclaiming:

"And she! she out in all this storm! Mrs. Condiment, mum, you deserve to be ducked! Yes, mum, you do! Wool! Wool! you diabolical villain!"

"Yes, marse, yes, sir, here I is!" exclaimed that officer in repitulation, as he appeared in the doorway. "De windows and doors, sir, is all fastened close, and de maids are all in de dining-room as you ordered, and—"

"Hang the maids, and the doors and windows, too! who the demoo cares about them? How to ride, you know, permit your young mistress to ride, in the face of such a storm, too! Why didn't you go with her, sir?"

"Deed Marse—"

"Don't 'deed marse' me, you atrocious villain! Saddle a horse quickly, inquire which road your mistress took, and follow and attend her home in 30 min, after which, I intend to break every bone in your skin, alive! So—"

Again he was interrupted by a dazzling flash of lightning, accompanied by a deafening roll of thunder, and followed by a flood of rain.

Wool stood appalled at the prospect of turning out in such a storm, upon such a fruitless errand.

"Oh, you may stare, and roll up your eyes! but I mean it, you varlet! So be off with you!—I don't care if you should be drowned in the rain, or blown off the horse, or struck by lightning, I hope you may be, you know, and I shall be rid of one villain! Off, you varlet, or—"

Old Hurricane lifted a bronze statuette to hurl at Wool's delinquent head, but that functionary

dodged and ran out in time to escape a blow that might have put a period to his mortal career.

But let no one suppose that honest Wool took the road that night. He simply ran down stairs and hid himself comfortably in the lowest regions of the house, there to surry until the storm, social and atmospheric, should be over.

Meanwhile the night deepened—the storm raged without, and Old Hurricane raged within.

The lightning flashed, bl'ace upon bl'ace, with blinding glare. The thunder broke crash upon crash, with deafening roar. The wind gathered all its force, cannoned the old walls as though it would batter down the house. The rain fell in floods. In the midst of all, the Demon's Hun, swollen to a torrent, was heard like the voice of a roaring lion, seeking whom he might devour."

Old Hurricane strode up and down the floor, groaning, swearing, threatening, and at every fresh blast of the storm without, breaking forth into fury.

Mrs. Condiment sat crouched in a corner, praying fervently every time the lightning blazed into the room, longing to go and join the men and maids in the next apartment, yet fearing to stir from her seat lest she should attract Old Hurricane's attention, and draw down upon herself the more terrible thunder and lightning of his wrath. But to escape Old Hurricane's violence was not in the power of mortal man or woman. Soon after very stillness exasperated him, and he broke forth upon her with:

"Mrs. Condiment, mum, I don't know how you can bear to sit there so quietly and listen to this storm, knowing that the poor child is exposed to it!"

"Major Warfield, would it do any good for me to jump up and trot up and down the floor, and go on as you do, even supposing I had the strength?" inquired the meek old lady, thoroughly provoked at his injustice.

"I'd like to see you show a little more feeling. You are a perfect barbarian. Oh Cap, my darling, where are you now? Heavens! what a blast was that! enough to shake the house about our ears! I wish it would—blame if I don't."

"Oh, Major, Major, don't say such awful things, nor make such awful wishes," said the appalled old lady, "you don't know what you might bring down upon us."

"No, not care; if the old house should tumble in, it would bury under a precious lot of good-for-nothing people, unfit to live. Heavens! what a flash of lightning! Oh, Cap, Cap, my darling, where are you in this storm? Mrs. Condiment, mum, if any harm comes to Capitoles this night, I'll have you indicted for manslaughter."

"Major Warfield, if it is all on Miss Black's account that you are reving and raging, I think it is quite vain of you; for any young woman caught out in a storm would know enough to get into shelter; especially would Miss Black, who is a young lady of great courage and presence of mind, as we know. She has surely gone into some house to remain until the storm is over," said Mrs. Condiment, coolly.

This speech, so well intended, exasperated Old Hurricane more than all the rest. Stopping and striking his cane upon the floor, he roared forth:

"Hang it, mum! hold your foolish old tongue! You know nothing about it. Capitoles is exposed to more serious danger than the elements. He is all of all sorts surround her. She should never, rain or shine, go out alone. Oh, the little villain! little wretch! the little demon! if even I get her safe in this house again, won't I lock her up and keep her on bread and water until she learns to behave herself!"

Here again a blinding flash of lightning, a deafening peal of thunder, a terrific blast of wind and flood of rain suddenly arrested his speech.

"Oh my Cap! my dear Cap! I needn't threaten you! I shall never have the chance to be cruel to you again—never. You will perish in this terrible storm, and then—and then my tough old heart will break, it won't—It will. Cap. But, Demmy, before it does, I will break the neck of every man and woman in this house, old and young. Hear it, Heaven and Earth, for I'll do it!"

All things must have an end. So, as the hours passed on, the storm having spent all its fury, gradually grumbled itself into silence.

Old Hurrione also raged himself into a stage of exhaustion complete, that when the midnight hour struck he could only drop into a chair and murmur:

"Twelve o'clock, and no news of her yet!" And then unwillingly he went to bed, attended by Mrs. Condiment and Pitapat instead of Wool, but who was, in fact, fast asleep on the floor of a dry cellar.

Meanwhile, where did this midnight hour find Capitola?

CHAPTER XXXV.

THE HIDDEN HOLLOW.

On every side the aspect was the same, All ruined, desolate, forlorn and savage, No haunt or foot within the precincts same To testify or ravage! Here Echo never echoed the human tongue; Here wraithy erime hunt Heaven could not pardon, And its danc'd gait!

HOOB'S HAUNTED HOUSE.

Cap. was a bit of a Don Quixote. The stirring incidents of the last few months had spoiled her; and now she had just rode out in quest of adventures.

The Old Hidden House, with its mysterious traditions, its gloomy surroundings, and its haunted reputation, had always possessed a powerful attraction for one of Cap's adventurous spirits, which, and of whose inmates, such terrible stories had been told or hinted, had always been an secret desire and purpose of Capitola.

And now the presence there of a beautiful girl near her own age was the one last item that tipped the balance, making the temptation to ride thither outweigh every other consideration of duty, prudence, and safety.

She rambled the banks of the "Demon's Run," and took the left-hand road down the street, until she reached the left point of the Horse Shoe Mountain, and then going up around the until she had got immediately in the rear of the round bend of the "Horse Shoe," behind Hurrione Hall.

"Well," said Cap., as she drew rein here, and looked up at the lofty ascent of gray rocks, and concealed in Hur. Jenno Hill, "to have had to come such a circuit, around the outside of the 'Horse Shoe,' and no farther than at the back of our old There's as many doubles and twists in these These! Gyp, you needn't turn back again and pull at the bridle, to tell me that there is a storm coming up and that you want to go home! I have no more respect for your opinion than I have for Mrs. Condiment's. Besides, you carry a damsel-errand in quest of adventures, Gyp! I along, Gyp! You needn't turn up your head and pull at the bit! You've got to go! I am bound this night to see the outside of the Hidden House, and the window of the haunted chamber at the very least," said Cap., throwing her eyes up defiantly towards the darkening sky, and putting whip to her unwilling horse.

As the path wound down into the valley the woods were found deeper, thicker and darker. It occupied all Cap's faculties to push her way

through the overhanging and interlacing branches of the trees.

"Good gracious," she said, as she neared her left arm rather vigorously to push aside the obstructing forest containing the castle of the delver her! I'm sure it wouldn't have been more difficult."

Still deeper fell the path, thicker grew the forest and darker the way.

"Gyp, I'm under the impression that we shall have to turn back yet," said Cap. dolefully, stopping in the midst of a thicket as dense that it completely blocked her farther progress in the same direction. Just as she came to this very disagreeable conclusion she espied an opening on her left, from which a brittle path struck out. With an exclamation of joy, she impulsively turned her horse's head and struck into it. This path was very rocky, but in some degree clearer than the other, and she went on quickly, singing to herself, until gradually her voice began to be

"It must be the Devil's Punch Bowl I am approaching," she said to herself, as she slowly grew deafening, and the path became so rugged could scarcely keep her horse upon his feet in

least looked for it, the great natural curiosity—the Devil's Punch Bowl—burst upon her view.

It was an awful abyss, scooped out as it were from the very bowels of the earth, with its steep sides rent open in dreadful chasms, and far down its fearful depths a boiling whirlpool of black

water. Urging her reluctant steed through a thicket of stunted thorns and over a chaos of shivered rocks, Capitola approached as near as she dared could to the brink of this awful pit. So absorbed was she in gazing upon this terrible phenomenon that she did not notice in the brown green mouldering colors, fell so naturally in with the hue of the surrounding scenery as easily

to escape observation. She did not even observe that the sky was entirely overcast, and that she was roused from her profound reverie by a voice near her asking:

"Who are you that dares to come without a guide to the Devil's Punch Bowl?"

Capitola looked around, and came nearer screaming then she ever had been in her life, upon seeing the apparition that stood before her. Was it man or woman, beast, or demon? She could not tell. It was a very tall, spare form, with a black cloth poncho tied around the waist, a blue coat lined down with a red handkerchief, slinding the dark-est old face she had ever seen in her life.

"Who are you, I say, who comes to the Devil's Punch Bowl without leave or license?" repeated

the old creature, shifting her cane from one hand to the other.

"I am Harriet, the Seeress of Hidden Hollow!" replied the apparition, in a melodramatic manner that would not have so dignified the Queen of Tragedy herself. "You have heard of me?"

"Yes, but I always heard you called Old Hat, the Witch," said Cap.

"The world is profane—give me your hand," said the bewitch, reaching out her own to take that of Capitola.

"Stop! Is your hand clean? It looks very black."

"Cleaner than yours will be when it is stained with blood, young maiden."

"But!—if you insist on telling my fortune, tell me a pleasant one, and I will pay you double."

laughed Capitola.

"The Index are not to be mocked. Your destiny will be that which the stars decree. Do prove to you that I know this, I tell you that you are not what you have been."

"You've lit it this time, old lady, for I was a baby once, and now I am a young girl," said Cap. laughing.

"You will not continue to be that which you are now!" pursued the hag, still attentively reading the lines of her subject's hand.

"Tight again! for if I live long enough, shall be an old woman."

"You bear a name that you will not bear long."

"I think that quite a safe prophecy, as I haven't the most distant idea of being an old maid."

"This little hand of yours—this dainty woman's hand—will be—red with blood."

"Now, do you know, I don't doubt that either? I believe it altogether probable that I shall have to cook my husband's dinner and kill the chickens for his soup."

"Gif, beware! you desire the holy stars!—and already they are adverse to you!" said the hag, with a threatening glance.

"Ha-ha-ha! I love the beautiful stars, but do not fear them. I fear only Him who made the stars!"

"Poor butterfly, sister and beware!—you are destined to lumber that little hand in the life-earnest of one who loves you the most of all on earth. You are destined to ride by the destruction of one who would shed his heart's best blood for you," said the bewitch, in an awful voice.

Capitola's eyes flashed. She advanced her horse a step or two nearer the witch, and raised her riding whip, saying:

"I protest if you were only a man, I should lay this lash over your wicked shoulders until my arms ached! How dare you?"

Faith don't wonder that in the honest old times such puns as these were so common in the ducking pond! Good gracious, that must have made a hissing and spluttering in the water though!"

"Blasphemy! pay and be gone!"

"Pay you! I tell you I would if you were only a man! but it would be sinful to pay a wretched old witch in the only way you deserve to be paid!" said Cap., flourishing her riding whip with her fore a creature tall enough and strong enough to have doubled up her eight form together and hurled it into the abyss.

"Gold! Gold!" said the hag, curtsy, holding out black and talon-like fingers, which she worked convulsively.

"Gold! gold indeed! for such a wicked fortune! not a penny!" said Cap.

"Hol your riding; you do not like to part with the yellow metal that has bought the souls of all your horses!"

"Don't!—you shall see! There! if you want gold, go fish it from the depth of the whirlpool," said Cap., taking her purse and casting it over the precipice.

"Away! Begone!" she cried, shaking her long arm at the girl. "Away! Begone! the fate pursues you the badge of blood is stamped upon your palm!"

"Fie—fite—fime!" said Cap.

"Scornful beware! the curse of the crimson hand is upon you!"

"I smell the blood of an Englishman!" continued Cap.

"Derider of the fates, you are fore-doomed to crime!"

"For he alive or be dead, I'll have his brain for butter my bread!" concluded Cap.

"I won't," said Cap., "because you see, if I were to for the horrible, I can beat you hollow at that!"

"Avenge it and quit my sight! Let the earth inherit thee!"

"The bones are microscopic! Thy blood is cold! Thy brain speculation in three eyes which those dead glare with!"

"Begone! you're doomed! doomed! doomed!" shrieked the witch, retreating into her hut.

Cap laughed and stroked the neck of her horse, saying:

"Gyp, my son, that was old Nick's wife who was with us just this instant; and now, indeed, Gyp, if we were to see the Hidden House this afternoon, we must get on."

As so saying, she followed the path that would half around the Punch Bowl, and out along the side of a little mountain-torrent called leaped from rock to rock, with many a sinuous turn, as it wound through the thicket that in-

time to be that which you
the flag, still attentively
subject's hand,
or if I live long enough,
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that you will not hear long,
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mediately surrounded the Hidden House—until it finally jostled through a subterranean channel into the Devil's Punch Bowl.
Capitola was now, unconsciously, upon the very spot where, seventeen years before, the old manse had been forcibly stopped and compelled to attend the unknown lady.

As Capitola pursued the path that wound lower and lower into the dark valley, the gloom of the thicket deepened. Her thoughts ran on all the horrible traditions connected with the Hidden House and Hollow—the murder and robbery of the poor peddler; the mysterious assassination of Eugene Le Noir; the sudden disappearance of his youthful widow; the strange sights and sounds reported to be heard and seen about the mansion; the spectral light at the upper gable window; the white form seen flitting through the chamber; the pale lady that in the dead of night drew the curtains of a great window; that once had slept there and above all, Capitola thought of that sinful, strange girl, who was an inmate of that sinful and accursed house. And while these thoughts absorbed her mind, suddenly, in a turning of the path, she came full upon the gloomy building.

CHAPTER XXXV.
THE HIDDEN HOUSE.

The very stains and fractures on the wall, Assuming features solemn and terrific, Hint some tragedy of that old mad
Locketed up in interdyptic
Probably hidden in the soil with a dead;
flat to one gloomy window peering inebri-
The white some secret inscription said,
That chamber is the ghostly! Hoop.

The Hidden House was a large, irregular edifice, of dark red sandstone to its walls covered closely with the clinging ivy, that had been clipped away only from a few of the doors and windows, and its roof overshadowed by the top branches of gigantic oaks and elms that clustered around and nearly concealed the building.

It might have been a long forsaken house for any sign of human habitation that was to be seen about it. All was silent, solitary and gloomy. As Capitola drew up her horse to gaze upon its sombre walls, she wondered which was the window at which the spectral light and ghostly face had been seen. She soon believed that she had found it.

At the highest point of the building, immediately under the sharp angle of the roof, in the pale and nearest view, was a solitary window. The ivy that clung tightly to the stone, covering every portion of the wall at this end, was densely away from that high-placed, dark and lonely window by which Capitola's eyes were strangely fascinated.

While thus she gazed in wonder, interest and curiosity, though without the least degree of expectations dread, a vision flashed upon her sight, that sent the blood from her ruddy cheek in her brave heart, and shook the foundations of her unbelief!

For while she gazed, suddenly that dark window was illuminated by a strange, unearthly light that streamed forth into the gloomy evening air, and touched with its flame the quivering leaves and twigs of every tree in its brilliant light. In the midst of this lighted window appeared a white female face wild with woe! And then the face suddenly vanished and the light was swallowed up in darkness!

Capitola remained transfixed!
"Great Heaven!" she thought, "can these things really be! Have the ghostly traditions of this world, truth in them at last? When I heard this story of the haunted window I thought some one had surely imagined or invented it! Now I have seen for myself! but if I were to tell what I have seen not one in a hundred would believe me!"

While these startling thoughts disturbed her usually well balanced mind, a vivid flash of lightning, accompanied by a tremendous peal of thunder and a heavy fall of rain, roused her into renewed activity.
"Gyp, my boy, the storm is upon us sure enough! We shall catch it all around! get well drenched, beaten and buffeted here, and well abused when we get home. Meantime, Gyp, which is the

worst, the full fury of the tempest, or the mysterious terrors of the haunted house?"

Another blinding flash of lightning, a stunning crash of thunder, a flood of rain and a tornado of wind decided her.

"We'll take the haunted house, Gyp, my friend. That spectral lady of the lighted window looked bad, but the ghosts may be hospitable." So he up, "Dobbin," said Capitola, and springing horse with one hand, and holding on her cap with the other, she went on against wind and rain, until she reached the front of the old house.

Not a creature was to be seen; every door and window was closely shut. Dismounting, Capitola led her horse under the shelter of a thickly leaved old oak tree, secured him, and then holding up her watered skirt with one hand and holding on her cap with the other, she went up some unnumbered stone steps to an old stone portico, and seizing the heavy iron knocker of a great black oak double door, she knocked loudly enough to awaken all the dormant wits.

She waited a few minutes for an answer, but receiving none, she knocked again more loudly than before. Still there was no reply. And growing impatient, she seized the knocker with both hands and exerting all her strength, made the iron ring again.

This brought a response. The door was unlocked and angrily jerked open a short, square formed, beetle brood, stern-looking man, stiffly clothed in a black stuff gown, and having a stiff muslin epa upon her head.

"Who are you? What do you want here?" harshly demanded this woman, whom Capitola immediately recognized as Dorcy Knight, the stern housekeeper of the Hidden House.

"Who am I? What do I want? Old Nick fly away with you, it's plain enough to be seen, who I am and what I want. I am a young woman, caught out in the storm, and I want shelter!" said Cap., indignantly. And her words were answered by a fierce burst of the tempest in lightning, thunder and rain.

"Come in then, but when you ask favors learn to keep a civil tongue in your head," said the woman sternly, leaving the guest by the hand and pulling her in, and shutting and locking the door.

"Favors! pshaw on you for a hearse! I asked no favor! Every storm-beaten traveller has a right to shelter under the first roof that offers, and none but a curmudgeon would think of asking it a favor! And as for keeping a civil tongue to my head, I'll do it when you set me the example!" said Cap.

"Who are you?" again demanded the woman.
"Oh! I see you are no Arabian in your notions as to hospitality! These pagans entertain a guest without asking him a single question; and though he were their bitterest foe, they consider him, while he rests beneath their roof, sacred from intrusion."

"That's because they are pagans," said Dorcy.
"But as I am a Christian, I'd thank you to let me know how it is that I have received under *his* roof."

"My name," said our heroine impatiently, "is Capitola Black! I live with my uncle, Major Warfield, at Hurricane Hall. And now I should thank your ladyship to send some one to put away my horse, while you yourself accommodate me with dry clothes."

"Who our saucy little heroine spoke, the whole aspect of the dark-browed woman changed.
"Capitola—Capitola," she muttered, gazing earnestly upon the face of the unwelcome guest.

"Yes! Capitola! that is my name, you never heard anything against it, and you?"
For all answer the woman seized her hand, and while the lightning flashed, and the thunder rolled, and the rain beat down, she drew her the whole length of the hall before a back window that overlooked the neglected garden, and regardless of the electric fluid that incessantly blazed upon them, she held her there and scrutinized her features.

"Well! I like this! upon my word I do!" said Cap., composedly.
Without replying, the strange woman seized her right hand, forcibly opened it, gazed upon the palm, and then flinging it back with a shudder, exclaimed:

"Capitola, what brought you under this roof? Away! Begone! Mount your horse and fly while there is yet time."

"What! expose myself again to the storm? I won't, and that's flat," said Cap.

"Oh! girl! there are worse dangers in the world than any to be feared from thunder, lightning, rain or wind."

"Very well, then, when I meet them it will be time enough to deal with them meanwhile the stormy night and soaked clothing are very palpable evils, and as I seek no good end to be gained by my longer enduring them, I will just beg you to stop scolding—*as I have had enough of that from another old wretch—and be so good as to permit me to change my clothes.*"

"It is needless! You shall not stay here," cried the woman, in a harsh voice.

"And I tell you I *will!*" You are not the head of the family, and I do not intend to be turned out by you."

While she spoke, a servant crossed the hall, and the woman, whisking Capitola around until her back was turned, and her face concealed, went to speak to the new comer.

"When will your master be here?" Capitola heard her inquire.

"Not in-night; he saw the storm rising and did not wish to expose himself; he sent me on to say that he would not be here until morning; I was caught as you see! I am dripping wet," replied the man.

"Go, change your clothes at once, then, Davy."
"Who is that stranger?" asked the man, pointing to Capitola.

"Some young woman of the neighborhood, who has been caught out in the tempest. But you had better go and change your clothes than to stand here gossiping," said the woman, harshly.

"I say," said the man, "the young woman is a God-send to Miss Clara; nobody has been to see her yet; nobody ever visits this house unless they are driven to it; I don't wonder the colonel and our young master pass as much as ten months in the year away from home, spending all the summer at the watering-places, and all the winter in New York or Washington!"

"Hold your tongue! what right have you to complain? You always attend them in their travels!"

"True; but you see for this last season, they have both been staying here, old master to watch the heiress, young master to court her, and as I have no interest in *that* game, I find the time hang heavy on my hands," complained the man.

"It will hang heavier if you take a long fit of illness by standing in wet clothes," muttered the woman.

"Why, so 'twill, missing so here goes," answered the man, hurrying across the hall and passing out through the door opposite that by which he entered.

Dorcas returned to her guest.
"Eying her closely for a while, she at length inquired:

"Capitola, how long have you lived at Hurricane Hall?"

"So long," replied Cap., "that you must have heard of me. I, at least, have often heard of Mother Dorcy Knight!"

"And heard no good of her."
"Well, no, to be candid with you, I never did," said Cap.

"And much harm of her?" continued the woman, keeping her stern black eyes fixed upon those of her guest.

"Well, yes—since you ask me. I have heard pretty considerable harm!" answered Cap., no longer daunted.

"Where did you see her before you came to Hurricane Hall?" asked Dorcas.
"Where I learned to fear God, to speak the truth, and to shame the devil!" replied Cap.

"—And to force yourself into people's houses against their will!"
"There you are again! I tell you that when I learn from the head of this household that I am unwelcome, then I will retreat, and not until then! And now I demand to be presented to the master."
"To Colonel Le Noir?"
"Yes."
"I cannot curse you with the curse of a granted prayer! Colonel Le Noir is away."
"Why do you talk so strangely!" inquired Capitola.
"It is my whim. Perhaps my head is light."
"I should think it was, exceedingly so. Well—as the master of the house is away, be good enough to present me to the mistress?"

"What mistress? there is no mistress here!" replied Dorcas, looking around in strange trepidation.

"I mean the young lady, Colonel Le Noir's ward. In lieu of my other lady, *sir*, I suppose, may be considered the mistress of the house!"

"Numph! well, young girl, as you are fully resolved to stow your ground, I suppose there is nothing to do but to put up with you!" said Dorcas.

"And put up my horse," added Cap.

"He shall be taken care of! But mind, you must depart early in the morning," said Dorcas, sternly.

"Once more, and for the last, Mother Corbans, assure you I do not acknowledge your authority to dismiss me," retorted Capitoile, "so show me the presence of your mistress!"

"Purree, like all the rest! Follow me!" said the housekeeper, leading the way from the hall towards a back parlor.

CHAPTER XXXVI.

THE INMATE OF THE HIDDEN CHAMBER.

There is a light around her brow,
A holiness in those deep eyes,
That show, though wandering earthward now,
Her spirit's home is in the skies —Moooa.

Pushing upon the door, Dorcas Knight exclaimed:

"Here is a young lady, Miss Black, from Hurstlane Hall, come to see you, Miss Day."

And having made this announcement, the woman retired and shut the door behind her.

And Capitoile found herself in a large, dark, gloomy, windowless room, whose tall, narrow windows afforded but little light, and whose immense fire-place and blackened furniture seemed to belong to a past century.

The only occupant of this sombre apartment was a young girl, seated in pensive thought beside the central table. She was clothed in deep mourning, which only served to throw into fairer relief the beauty of her pearly skin, golden hair, and violet eyes.

The vision of her mourning robes and melancholy beauty so deeply impressed Capitoile, that, almost for the first time in her life, she hesitated, from a feeling of diffidence, and said gently:

"Indeed, I fear that this is an unwarranted intrusion on my part, Miss Day."

"You are very welcome," replied the sweetest voice Capitoile had ever heard, as the young girl arose and advanced to meet her. "But you have been exposed to the storm. Please come into my room and change your clothes," continued the young hostess, as she took Cap's hand and led her into an adjoining room.

The storm was still raging; but these apartments being in the central portion of the strong old house, were but little exposed to the sight or sound of its fury.

There was a lamp burning upon the mantelpiece, by the light of which the young girl furnished her visitor with dry clothing, and assisted her to change—saying as she did so:

"I think we are about the same size, and that my clothes will fit you; but I will not offer you mourning habiliments; you shall have this lilac silk."

"I am very sorry to see you in mourning," said Capitoile, earnestly.

"It is for my father," replied Clara, very softly.

As they spoke the eyes of the two young girls met. They were both good physiognomists and intuitive judges of character. Consequently, in the full meeting of their eyes, they read, understood, and appreciated each other.

The pure, grave and gentle expression of Clara's countenance, touched the heart of Capitoile.

The bright, frank, honest face of Cap. recommended her to Clara.

The very opposite traits of their equally truthful characters attracted them to each other.

Clara conducted her guest back into the windowed parlor, where a cheerful fire had been kindled to correct the dampness of the air. And here they sat down unmindful of the storm that

came much subdued through the thickness of the walls. And, as young creatures, however tried and sorrowful, will do, they entered into a friendly chat. And before an hour had passed Capitoile thought herself well repaid for her sufferings from the storm and the rebuff in having formed the acquaintance of Clara Day.

She resolved, let Old Hurricane rage as he might, henceforth she would be a frequent visitor to the Hidden House.

And Clara, for her part, felt that in Capitoile she had found a frank, spirited, faithful neighbor who might become an estimable friend.

While they were thus growing into each other's favor, the door opened and admitted a gentleman of tall and thin figure, and white and cascated hair and beard. He could not here be more than twenty-six, but prematurely broken by vice, he seemed forty years of age. He advanced, bowing, towards the young woman.

As Capitoile's eyes fell upon this new comer it required all her presence of mind and power of self-control to prevent her from starting or otherwise betraying herself—for in this stranger she recognized the very man who had stopped her upon her night ride! She did, however, succeed in banishing from her face every expression of consciousness. And when Miss Day cautiously presented him to her guest, saying merely:

"My cousin, Mr. Craven Le Noir, Miss Black."

—Capitoile arose and curtsied as composedly as if she had never set eyes on his face before.

He, on his part, evidently remembered her, and sent one stealthy, keen, and scrutinizing glance into her face, but finding that unimportant, he bowed with stately politeness, and seemed satisfied that she had not identified him as her assailant. Craven Le Noir drew his chair to the fire, seated himself, and entered into an easy conversation with Clara and her guest.

Whenever he addressed Clara there was a certain tenderness in his tone and glance that seemed very displeasing to the fair girl, who received all these delicate attentions with coldness and reserve.

These things did not escape the notice of Capitoile, who mentally concluded that Craven Le Noir was a lover of Clara Day, but a most unacceptable one.

When supper was announced, it was evidently hailed by Clara as a great relief. And after the meal was over, she arose and excused herself to her cousin, by saying that her guest, Miss Black, had been exposed to the storm, and was doubtless very much fatigued and that she would show her to her chamber.

Then taking a night lamp she invited Capitoile to come, and conducted her to an old-fashioned upper chamber, where a cheerful fire was burning on the hearth. Here the young girl sat down before the fire and improved their acquaintance by an hour's conversation, after which Clara arose, and saying:

"I sleep immediately below your room, Miss Black. If you should want anything, rap on this floor, and I shall her you and get up."

She wished her guest a good night's rest, and retired from the room.

Cap. was disinclined to sleep; a strange, superstitious feeling which she could neither understand nor throw off, had fallen upon her spirits.

She took the night-lamp in her hand and went up to examine her chamber. It was a large, dark oak-panelled room, with a dark carpet on the floor, and dark green curtains on the windows and the bedstead. Over the mantelpiece hung the portrait of a most beautiful black-haired and black-eyed girl of about fourteen years of age, but upon whose infantile brow fell the shadow of some fearful woe. There was something awful in the double pair "on that face, so young," that bound the gazer in an irresistible and most painful spell. And Capitoile remained standing before it transfixed, until the striking of the hall clock aroused her from her enchantment. Wondering who the young creature could have been, what had been her history, and above all what had been the nature of that fearful woe that darkened like a curse her angel-brow, Capitoile turned almost sorrowfully away, and began to prepare for bed.

She undressed, put on the dearest nightclothes prayers—*looked under the bed*—a precaution taken ever since that night upon which she had discovered the burglars—and finding all right, she blew

out her candle and lay down. She could not sleep—many persons of nervous or morbid temperament cannot do so the first night in a strange bed. Cap. was very mercurial, and the bed and room in which she lay were very strange; for the first time since she had had a home to call her own, she was unexpectedly staying all night away from her friends, and without their having any knowledge of her whereabouts; she was conjecturing, half in fear and half in fury, how Old Hurricane was taking her escapade, and what he would say to her in the morning! She would wonder to find herself in such an unforeseen position as this—wondering whether this were the guest-chamber in which the ghost appeared to the officer, and these were the very curtains that the pale lady drew at night. While her thoughts were thus running over the whole range of circumstances around her singular position, sleep overtook Capitoile, and speculation was lost in brighter visions.

How long she had slept and dreamed she did not know, when something gently awakened her. She opened her eyes calmly to meet a vision that, brave as she was, nearly froze the blood in her warm veins!

Her chamber was illumined with an intense blue flame that lighted up every portion of the apartment with a radiance bright as day; and in the midst of this effulgence moved a figure clothed in white—a beautiful, pale, deep of complexion, whose large, motionless black eyes, deep-set in her deathlike face, and whose long, unbroken black hair, fallen upon her white roiment, were the only marks of color about her marble form.

Paralyzed with wonder, Capitoile watched this figure as it glided about the chamber. The apparition approached the dresser, then, as if to take something thence, and then glided towards the bed—to Capitoile's unexpressible horror—drew back the curtains and bent down and gazed upon her!

Capitoile had no power to scream, to move, to utter her name, or to avert her awful eyes that light upon her brow, and closed her eyes.

When she opened them again the vision had departed and the room was dark and quiet.

There was no more sleep for Capitoile. She heard the clock strike four, and was pleased to find that it was so near day. Still the time seemed very long to her who lay there wondering, conjecturing and speculating on the strange adventure of the night.

When the sun arose, she left her restless bed, bathed her excited head, and proceeded to dress herself. When she had finished her toilet, with the exception of putting on her trinkets, she suddenly missed a ring that she prized more than she did all her possessions put together—it was a plain gold band, bearing on the inner side the inscription—*Capitoile—Eugene*—and which she had been enjoined by her old nurse never to part from but with life. She had, in her days of destitution, suffered the extreme of cold and hunger—had been upon the very brink of death from starvation or freezing, but without ever dreaming of sacrificing her ring. And now for the first time it was missing. While she was still looking anxiously for the lost jewel the door opened, and Dorcas Knight entered the room, bearing on her arm Capitoile's riding dress, which had been well dried and ironed.

"Miss Capitoile, here is your habit; you had better put it on at once, as I have ordered breakfast an hour sooner than usual, so that you may have an early start."

"Upon my word, you are very anxious to get rid of me; but not more so than I am to depart!" said Capitoile, still pursuing her search.

"Your friends are not to know where you are, must be very unclesy about you. But what are you looking for?"

"A ring—a plain gold circle with my name and that of another inscribed on it, and which I would not lose for the world! I hung it on a pin, on this pin cushion, last night before I went to bed—I would swear I did not lose it! It is missing," answered Cap. still pursuing her search.

"If you lost it in this room, it will certainly be found," said Dorcas Knight, putting down the habit and helping in the search.

"I am not so sure of that. There was some one in my room last night."

down. She could not sleep, nervous, or mercurial tone to the first night in a strange chamber, and the bed and were very strange; for she had had a home to call her while staying all night away without their having any special cause; she was conjectured to be the Old Hurricane, and what he was wondering! She was wondering in an unforseen position as in the mysterious hidden chamber there were the greatest of the office very curious that the t. Who her thoughts of the whole range of singular position, sleep speculation was lost in

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know where you are, you. But what are with my name and, and which I would on to a pin, on before I went to bed now it is missing,"

er search. It will certainly be putting down the a. There was some

"Some one in your room!" exclaimed Dorcas in dismay.

"Yes, a dark haired woman, all dressed in white."

Dorcas Knight gave two or three angry grunts, and then harshly exclaimed:

"Nonsense! Woman, indeed! There is no such woman about the house! There are no females here except Miss Day, myself, and you—not even a waiting-maid or cook."

"Well," said Cap., "if it was not a woman, it was a ghost, for I was wide awake and I saw it with my own eyes."

"Fudge; you've heard that foolish story of the haunted room, and you have dreamed the whole thing."

"I tell you I didn't. I saw it. Don't I know?"

"I say you dreamed it! There is no such living woman here; and, for a ghost, that is all folly? And I must beg, Miss Black, that you will not distress Miss Day by telling her this strange dream of yours. She has never heard the ridiculous story of the haunted room, and as she lives here in solitude, I would not like her to hear of it."

"Oh, I will say nothing to disquiet Miss Day. But it was no dream. It was real, if there is any reality in this world."

There was no more said. They continued to look for the ring, but in vain. Dorcas Knight, however, assured her guest that it should be found and returned, and that—breakfast waited. Whereupon Capitola went down to the parlor, where she found Clara awaiting her presence to give her a kindly greeting.

"Mr. Le Noir never gets up until very late, and so we do not wait for him," said Dorcas Knight, as she took her seat at the head of the table, and signed to the young girls to gather around it.

After breakfast, Capitola, promising to come again soon, and inviting Clara to return her visit took leave of her entertainers and set out for home.

"Thank heaven I have got her off in time and safety?" muttered Dorcas Knight, in triumph.

CHAPTER XXXVII.

CAP.'S RETURN.

Must I give way and room for your rash cholera? Shall I be frightened when a madman stares? Do show your axes how choleric you are! And make your bodamen trouble! I'll not blench. —SHAKESPEARE.

It happened that about sunrise that morning, Wool broke in the cellar, and remembered that upon the night previous his master had commanded him to rally forth in the storm and seek his young mistress, and had forbidden him on pain of broken bones, to return without bringing her safe. Therefore, what did the honest soul do but steal out to the stables, saddle and mount a horse, and ride back to the house just as Mrs. Condit had come out into the poultry-yard to get eggs for breakfast.

"Missus Compliment, ma'am, Ise been out all night in search of Miss Caterpillar, without finding of her. Is she come back, ma'am?"

"Lor I no, indeed, Wool. I'm very anxious, and the Major is taking on dreadful. But I hope she is safe in some bonse. But, poor Wool, you must have had a dreadful time out all night in the storm, looking for her."

"Awful, Missus Compliment, ma'am, awful!" said Wool.

"Indeed I know you had, my poor creature. Come in and get some warm breakfast," said the kind old lady.

"I daren't, Missus Compliment. Old marse forbid me to show my face to him until I fetch Miss Caterpillar home safe," said Wool, turning his horse's head as if to go. In doing so, he saw Capitola galloping towards the house, and with an exclamation of joy, pointed her out to the old lady, and rode on to meet her.

"Oh, Miss Caterpillar, Ise so glad I've found you. Ise done been out looking for you all night long!" exclaimed Wool, as he met her.

Capitola pulled up her horse, and surveyed the speaker with a comical expression, saying:

"Been out all night looking for me!" Well, I must say you seem in a fine state of preser-

vation for a man who has been exposed to the storm all night. You have not a wet thread on you!"

"Lor, Miss, it rained till one o'clock, and then the wind riz and blowed till six, and blowed me dry!" said Wool, as he sprang off his horse, and helped his young mistress to alight.

Then, instead of taking the beasts to the stable, he tied them to a tree, and hurried into the house, and up stairs to his master's room, to apprise him of the return of the lost sheep, Capitola.

Old Hurricane was lying awake, tossing, groaning, and grumbling with anxiety.

On seeing Wool enter, he deliberately raised up and seized a heavy iron candlestick, and held it ready to hurl at the head of that worthy, whom he thus addressed:

"Ah, you have come, you atrocious villain. You know the condition? If you have dared to show your face without bringing your young mistress—"

"Please, marse, I wur out looking for her all night!"

"Have you brought her!" thundered Old Hurricane, rising up.

"Please, marse, yes, sir. I done found her and brought her home safe."

"Send her up to me," said Old Hurricane, sinking back with a sigh of infinite relief.

Wool flew to do his bidding.

In a few minutes Capitola entered her uncle's chamber.

Now Old Hurricane had spent a night of almost intolerable anxiety upon his favorite's account, bewailing her danger and praying for her safety; but no sooner did he see her enter his chamber safe and sound, and smiling, then in indignation quitted mastered him, and jumping out of the bed in his night-gown, he made a dash straight at Capitola.

Now, had Capitola run, there is little doubt but that, in the blindness of his fury, he would have sought and beat her then and there. But Cap. saw him coming, drew up her tiny form, folded her arms, and looked him directly in the face.

This stopped him, but like a mettlesome old horse, suddenly pulled up in full career, he snuffed, and roared, and plunged with fury, and foamed, and spluttered, and sputtered before he could get words out.

"What do you mean, you vixon, by standing there and popping your great gray eyes out at me? Are you going to bite, you tigger? What do you mean by facing me at all?" he roared, shaking his fist within an inch of Capitola's little pug nose.

"I am here, because you sent for me, sir," was Cap.'s unanswerable rejoinder.

"Here because I sent for you! humph! humph! humph! and come dancing and smiling into my room, as if you had not kept me awake all the live-long night—yes! driven me within one inch of a brain fever! Not that I cared for you, you limb of old Nick! not that I cared for you, except to wish with all my heart and soul that something or other had happened to you, for my sake! Where did you spend the night, you inanity?"

"At the old Hidden House, where I went to make a call on my new neighbor, Miss Day, and where I was caught in the storm."

"I wish to heaven you had been caught in a mad-trap and had all your limbs broken, you—you—!" ejaculated Old Hurricane, turning short, and going up and down the room. Presently he stopped before Capitola, and rapping his cane down upon the floor, demanded:

"Who did you see at that accursed place, you—you—'unfated maniac?"

"Miss Day, Mr. Le Noir, Mrs. Knight, and a man-servant—name unknown," coolly replied Cap.

"And the head demon, where was he?"

"None, if by the head demon you mean Old Nick, I think it quite likely, from present appearances, that he passed the night at Hurricane's fall."

"I mean—Colonel Le Noir!" exclaimed Old Hurricane, as if the name choked him.

"Oh! I understood that he had that day left home."

"Umph! Oh! Ah! that accounts for it! that accounts for it!" muttered Old Hurricane to him-

self—then, seeing that Capitola was wistfully regarding his face, and attending to his muttered phrases, he broke out upon her with:

"Get out of this—this—this—" he meant to say "get out of this house," but a sure instinct warned him that if he should speak thus, Capitola, unlike the other members of his household, would take him at his word.

"Get out of this room, you vagabond!" he vociferated.

And Cap., with a curtsy and a kiss of her hand, danced away.

Old Hurricane stamped up and down the floor, gesticulating like a demoniac, and vociferating:

"She'll get herself barked, kidnapped, murdered, or what not! I'm sure she will! I know it! I feel it! It's no use to order her not to go; she would be sure to disobey! and go ten times as often! for the very reason that she was forbidden what the demon shall I do?—Wool! Wool! Wool, you brimstone villain, come here!" he roared, going to the bell-rope and pulling it until he broke it down.

Wool ran in with his hair bristling, his teeth chattering, and his eyes starting.

"Come here to me, you varlet! Now listen: You are to keep a sharp lookout after your young mistress. Whenever she rides after her, and you to mount a horse and ride after her, and keep your eyes open, for if you only once lose sight of her, you know, do you know what I shall do to you, eh?"

"N—n—no, marse," stammered Wool, pale with apprehension.

"I shall cut your eyelids off to improve your vision! Look to it, sir, for I shall keep my word! And now come and help me to dress," concluded old Hurricane.

Wool, with chattering teeth, shaking knees, and trembling fingers, assisted his master in his morning toilet, meditating the while whether it were not better to avoid impending dangers by running away.

And, in fact, between his master and his mistress, Wool had a hot time of it. The weather, after the storm had cleared the atmosphere, was delightful, and Cap. rode out that very day. Poor Wool kept his eyeballs metaphorically "skinned," for fear they should be treated literally so—held his eyes wide open, lest Old Hurricane should keep his word, and make it impossible for him ever to shut them.

When Cap. stole out, mounted her horse and rode away, in five minutes from the moment of starting she heard a horse's hoofs behind her, and presently saw Wool gallop to her side.

At first Cap. bore this good-humoredly enough, only saying:

"Go home, Wool, I don't want you. I had much rather ride alone."

To which the groom replied:

"It is old Marse's orders, Miss, as I should say to you."

Capitola's spirit rebelled against this; and suddenly turning upon her attendant, she indignantly exclaimed:

"Wool, I don't want't you, sir! I insist upon being left alone! and I order you to go home, sir!"

Upon this Wool burst into tears and roared.

Much surprised, Capitola inquired of him what the matter was.

For some time, Wool could only reply by sobbing, but when he was able to articulate he blubbered forth:

"It's un'f to make anybody go put his head underneath of a meat-ex!"

"What is the matter, Wool?" again inquired Capitola.

"How'd you like to have your eyelids cut off?" howled Wool, indignantly.

"What?" inquired Capitola.

"Yes, I axes how'd you like to have your eyelids cut off?"—Case that's what old marse'treats me to do long o' me, if I don't follow arter you and keep you in sight!—And now you forbid's me to do it, and—and—and I'll go and put my neck right underneath of a meat-ex!"

Now Capitola was really kind-hearted, and well knowing the despotic temper of her guardian, she plied Wool, and after a little hesitation, she said:

"Wool, so your old master says if you don't keep your eyes on me, he'll cut your eyelids off!"

"Ye—ye—yes, Miss," sobbed Wool.

"Did he say if you don't listen to me he'd cut your ears off?"

"N—no, Miss."

"Did he swear if you didn't talk to me he'd cut your tongue out?"

"N—no, Miss."

"Well, now, stop howling, and listen to me. Since at the peril of your eyelids you are obliged to keep me in sight, I give you leave to ride just within view of me; but no nearer, and you are never to let me see or hear you, if you can help it, for I like to be alone."

"I'll do anything in this world for peace, Miss Caterpillar," said poor Wool.

And upon this basis the affair was finally settled. And no doubt Capitola owed much of her personal safety to the fact that Wool kept his eyes open!

While these scenes were going on at Hurricane Hall, momentous events were taking place elsewhere, which require another chapter for their development.

CHAPTER XXXVIII.

ANOTHER MYSTERY AT THE HIDDEN HOUSE.

"Mark! what a shriek was that of fear intense, Of horror and amazement!
What fearful struggle in the door, and thence,
With many doubts, to the casement!"

An hour after the departure of Capitola, Colonel Le Noir returned to the Hidden House, and learned, from his man David, that upon the preceding evening a young girl, of whose name he was ignorant, had sought shelter from the storm and passed the night at the mansion.

Now Colonel Le Noir was extremely jealous of receiving strangers under his roof—never during his short stay at the Hidden House, going out into company, lest he should be obliged in return to entertain visitors. And when he learned that a strange girl had spent the night beneath his roof, he frowningly directed that Dorcas should be sent to him.

When his morose manager made her appearance, he harshly demanded the name of the young woman whom she had dared to receive beneath his roof.

Now, whether there is any truth in the theory of magnetism or not, it is certain that Dorcas Knight, stern, harsh, resolute woman that she was toward all others, became as submissive as a child, in the presence of Colonel Le Noir.

At his command she gave him all the information he required, not even withholding the fact of Capitola's attempt at having seen the apparition of the pale-faced lady in her chamber, together with the subsequent discovery of the loss of her ring.

Colonel Le Noir sternly reprimanded his domestic manager for her neglect of his orders, and dismissed her from his presence.

The remainder of the day was passed by him in moody thought. That evening he summoned his son to a private conference in the parlor—an event that happily delivered poor Clara Day from their presence at her bedside.

That night Clara, dreading lest at the end of their interview they might return to her society, retired early to her chamber, where she sat reading until a late hour, when she went to bed and found transient forgetfulness of trouble in sleep.

She did not know how long she had slept when she was suddenly and terribly awakened by a woman's shriek sounding from the room immediately overhead, in which, upon the night previous, Capitola had slept.

Starting up in bed, Clara listened.

The shriek was repeated—prolonged and piercing, and was accompanied by a muffled sound of struggling that shook the ceiling overhead.

Instinctively springing from her bed, Clara threw on her dressing gown and flew to the door, but as she reached the latch to open it, she heard a bolt slipped on the outside and found herself a prisoner in her own chamber.

Appalled, she stood and listened.

Frequently there came a sound of footsteps on the stairs and a heavy muffled noise as of some dead weight being dragged down the staircase, and along the passage.

Then she heard the hall door cautiously opened and shut. And finally she distinguished the sound of wheels rolling away from the house.

Unable longer to restrain herself, she rapped and leapt upon her own door, crying aloud for deliverance.

Presently the bolt was withdrawn, the door jerked open, and Dorcas Knight, with a face of horror stood before her.

"What is the matter? Who was that screaming? In the name of mercy what has happened?" cried Clara, shrinking in abhorrence from the ghastly woman.

"Hush! it is nothing! there was two tomcats screaming and fighting in the attic, and they fought all the way down stairs, rolling over and over each other. I've just turned them out," flattered the woman, shivering as with an ague fit.

"What—what was that—that went away in the carriage?" asked Clara, shuddering.

"The Colonel, gone to meet the early stage at Tip Top, to take him to Washington. He would have taken leave of you last night, but when he came to your parlor you had left it."

"But—but there it blood upon your hand, Dorcas Knight!" cried Clara, shaking with horror.

"I know—The cats scratched me as I put them out," stammered the stern woman, trembling almost as much as Clara herself.

These answers failed to satisfy the young girl, who shrank in terror and loathing from that woman's presence, and sought the privacy of her own chamber, murmuring:

"What has happened? What has been done, oh, heaven! Oh, heaven, have mercy on us! some dreadful deed has been done in this house, to-night!"

There was no more sleep for Clara. She heard the clock strike every hour from one to six in the morning, when she arose and dressed herself and went from her room, expecting to see upon the floor and walls, and upon the faces of the household, signs of some dreadful tragedy enacted upon the previous night.

But all things were as usual—the same dark, gloomy and neglected magnificence about the rooms and passages, the same reserved, silent and silent aspect about the persons.

Dorcas Knight presided as usual at the head of the breakfast table, and Craven Le Noir sat at the foot. Clara sat in her accustomed seat at the side, midway between them.

Clara shuddered in taking her cup of coffee from the hand of Dorcas, and declined the wing of fowl that Craven Le Noir would have put upon her plate.

Not a word was said upon the subject of the mystery of the preceding night, until Craven Le Noir, without venturing to meet the eyes of the young girl, said:

"You look very pale, Clara!"

"Miss Day was frightened by the cats last night," said Dorcas.

Clara answered never a word. The ridiculous story essayed to be palmed off upon her credulity in explanation of the night's mystery, had not gained an instant's belief.

She knew that the cry that had startled her from sleep, had burst in strong agony from human lips.

That the helpless weight she had heard dragged down the stairs and along the whole length of the passage, was some dead or insensible human form.

That the blood she had seen upon the hand of Dorcas Knight, was—oh, heaven, her mind shrank back appalled with horror, at the thought which she dared not entertain! She could only shudder, pray, and trust in God.

CHAPTER XXXIX.

CAP TAKES THE CAPTIVE.

Hold daughter! I do spy a kind of hope,
Which grows as I descend an execution
As that is desperate, which we would prevent
And if thou dost, I'll give thee remedy!
Hold, thou! thou go hence, be merry, give consent
To marry Ernest Wednesday in to-morrow!
—SHAKESPEARE.

As the autumn weather was now very pleasant, Capitola continued her rides, and without standing upon ceremony, repeated her visit to the Hidden House. She was as usual followed by

Wool, who kept at a respectful distance, and who during his mistress's visit remained outside in attendance on the horses.

Capitola luckily was in no danger of encountering Colonel Le Noir, who since the night of the mysterious tragedy had not returned home; but had gone to and settled in his winter quarters at Washington City.

But she again met Craven Le Noir, who contrary to his usual custom of accompanying his father upon his annual migrations to the metropolis, had upon this occasion remained home in close attendance upon his cousin, the wealthy orphan.

Capitola found Clara the same sweet, gentle and patient girl, with this difference only—that her youthful brow was now overshadowed by a heavy trouble which could not wholly be explained by her state of orphanage, or her sorrow for the dead—it was too full of anxiety, gloom and terror, to have reference to the past alone.

Capitola saw all this, and trusting in her own powers, would have sought the confidence of the poor girl, with the view of soothing her sorrows and helping her out of her difficulties; but Miss Day, amid upon all other topics was strangely reserved upon this subject, and Capitola, with all her eccentricity, was too delicate to seek to intrude upon the young mourner's sanctuary of grief.

But a crisis was fast approaching which rendered further concealment difficult and dangerous, and which threw Clara for protection upon the courage, presence of mind and address of Capitola.

Since Clara Day had parted with her betrothed and taken up her residence beneath her guardian's roof, she had regularly written both to Traverser at St. Louis, and to his mother at Staunton.

But she had received no reply from either mother or son. And months had passed filling the mind of Clara with anxiety upon their account.

She did not for one moment doubt their constancy, alas! it required but little perspicacity on her art to perceive that the letters on either side must have been intercepted by the Le Noirs—father and son!

Her greatest anxiety was lest Mrs. Roelke and Traverser, failing to hear from her, should imagine that she had forgotten them. She longed to assure them that she had not! But how could she do this?—It was perfectly useless to write and send the letter to the post-office to write and send the letter to the post-office for such a letter so sent would be sure to find its way—not into the mail bags, but—into the pocket of Colonel Le Noir.

Finally, Clara resolved to entrust honest Cap. with so much of her story as would engage her interest and co-operation, and then confide in her care the letter to be placed in the post-office. Clara had scarcely come to this resolution ere, as we have said, an imminent crisis obliged her to seek the further aid of Capitola.

Craven Le Noir had never abated his unaccepting attentions to the orphan heiress. Day by day, on the contrary, to Clara's unsuspecting distress, those attentions grew more pointed and alarming.

At first she had received them coldly and repelled them gently; but as they grew more ardent and devoted she became colder and more reserved, until at length by maintaining a freezing hauteur, at variance with her usually sweet temper, she sought to repel the declaration that was ever ready to fall from his lips.

But notwithstanding her evident abhorrence of his suit, Craven Le Noir persisted in his purpose which he was master.

And so, one morning, he entered the parlor and finding Clara alone, he closed the door, seated himself beside her, took her hand and made a formal declaration of love and proposal of marriage, urging his suit with all the eloquence of which he was master.

Now Clara Day, a Christian maiden a recently bereaved orphan, and an orphan heiress, had too profound a regard for her duties toward God, her father's will, and her betrothed husband's rights, to treat this attempted invasion of her rights in any other than the most deliberate, serious and dignified manner.

"I am very sorry, Mr. Le Noir, that it has at length come to this. I thought I had conducted myself in such a manner as loyalty to those who any such purpose as this which you have just

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Le Noir, that he has
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honored me by disclosing. Now, however, that
the subject may be set at rest forever, I feel
bound to announce to you that my hand is already
plighted," said Clara, gravely.

"But my father and dear love, your little
hand cannot be plighted without the consent of
your guardian, who would never condescend the
imprudent pretensions which I understand to be
made by the low young man to whom, I
presume, you allude. That engagement was a
very foolish affair, my dear girl, and only to be
nullified upon the ground of your extreme child-
ishness at the time of its being made. You must
forget the whole matter, my sweetest love, and
prepare yourself to listen to a suit more worthy of
your social position," said Craven Le Noir, at-
tempting to steal his arm around her waist.

Clara coldly repelled him, saying:
"I am at a loss to understand, Mr. Le Noir,
what act of levity on my part has given you the
assurance to offer me this affront!"

"Do you call it an affront, fair cousin, that I
lay my hand and heart, and fortune, at your
feet?"

"I have called your act, sir, by its gentlest
name. Under the circumstances, I might well
have called it an outrage!"

"And what may be those circumstances that
convert an act of adoration—into an outrage,
my sweet cousin?"

"Sir, you know them well! I have not con-
cealed from you or my guardian that I am
the affianced bride of Doctor Roeko, nor that con-
tract was plighted with the full consent of my
dear father," said Clara, gravely.

"Tut, tut, tut, my charming cousin, that is
mere child's play—a school girl's romantic waltz;
do not dream that your guardian will ever permit
you to throw yourself away upon that low-red
fellow!"

"Mr. Le Noir, if you permit yourself to ad-
dress me in this manner, I shall feel compelled to
retire. I cannot remain here to have my honored
father's will and memory, and the rights of my
betrothed, insulted in my person!" said Clara,
rising to leave the room.

"No—stay! forgive me, Clara! pardon me,
gentlest girl, if, in my great love for you, I grow
impatient of any other claim upon your heart,
especially from such an unworthy quarter!"
Clara, you are a mere child, full of generous, but
romantic sentiments, and dangerous impulses!
You require extra vigilance and firm exercise of
authority on the part of your guardians to save
you from certain self-destruction? And some
day, sweet girl, you will thank us for preserving
you from the horrors of such a mésalliance," said
Craven Le Noir, gently detaining her.

"I tell you, Mr. Le Noir, that your manner of
speaking of my betrothal is equally insulting to
myself, Doctor Roeko, and my dear father, who
never would have plighted our hands had he con-
sidered our prospective marriage a mésalliance."

"Nor do I suppose he ever did plight your
hands—while in his right senses?"

"Oh, sir! this has been discussed before! I
beg of you to let the subject drop for ever, re-
membering that I hold myself sacredly betrothed
to Traverse Roeko, and ready—when, at my legal
majority, he shall claim me—to redeem my
plighted faith by becoming his wife."

"Clara! this is madness! it must not be en-
dured, nor shall it! I have hitherto sought to
win your heart by showing you the great extent of
my love! but be careful how you scorn that
love, or continue to taunt me with the mention
of an unworthy rival! For though I use gentle
means, should I find them fail of their purpose,
I shall know how to avail myself of harsher ones."
Clara disclaimed reply, except by permitting her
clear eye to pass over him from head to foot with
an expression of consuming scorn that scathed
him to the quick.

"I tell you to be careful, Clara Day! I come
to you armed with the authority of your legal
guardian, my father, Colonel Le Noir, who will
forestall your foolish purpose of throwing your-
self and your fortune away upon a beggar, even
though to do so, he strain his authority and co-
erce you into taking a more suitable companion,"
said Craven Le Noir, rising impatiently, and
pacing the floor. But no sooner had he spoken
these words than he saw how greatly he had
injured his cause, and repented them. Going
to Clara and intercepting her as she was about to

leave the room, he gently took her hand, and
dropping his eye to the floor with a look of
humility and penitence, he said:

"Clara, my sweet cousin, I know not how
sufficiently to express my sorrow at having been
thus led into harshness towards you—towards you,
whom I love more than my own soul, and whom
it is the fondest wish of my heart to call—wife!
I can only excuse myself for this, or any future
extravagance of manner, by my excessive love for
you, and the jealousy that maddens my brain at
the bare mention of my rival. That is it, sweet
girl! Can you forgive me whom love and jealousy
has hurried into frenzy?"

"Mr. Le Noir, the Bible enjoins me to forgive
injuries. I shall endeavor, when I can, to for-
give you; though for the present, my heart is still
burning under the sense of wrongs done towards
myself and the woman I love and esteem, and
the only way in which you can make me forget
what has just passed, will be—*never to repeat the
offense.*" And with these words, Clara bent her
head and passed from the room.

Could she have seen the malignant scowl and
gesture with which Craven Le Noir followed her
departure, she would scarcely have trusted his
expressions of penitence.

Lifting his arm above his head, he fiercely
shook his fist after her, and exclaimed:

"Go on, insolent girl, and imagine that you
have humbled me! but the tunc shall be changed
by the day month for before that time, what
departures she would give the husband over his
and her property, shall be mine over you and
your possessions! 'Till we shall see who shall
be insolent! Then we shall see whose proud
blue eyes shall day after day dare to look up and
rebuke me! Oh! to get you into my power, my
but I want your possessions! which is quite as
strong an incentive."

Then he fell into thought. He had an ugly
way of scowling and biting his nails when deeply
brooding over any subject, and now he walked
slowly up and down the floor with his head upon
his fist, his brows drawn over his nose, and his
four fingers between his teeth, gnawing away
like a wild beast, while he muttered:

"She is not like the other one! she has more
sense and strength! I she will give us more trouble.
We must continue to try! means a little longer!
It will be difficult, for I am not accustomed to
cool my passions even for a purpose! yet—
penitence and love are the only cards to be played
to this insolent girl for the present. *After-
wards!*"

Here his soliloquy muttered itself into silence,
his head sunk deeper upon his breast, his brows
gathered lower over his nose, and he walked and
gnawed his nails like a hungry wolf.

The immediate result of his cogitation was that
he went into the library and wrote off a letter to
his father, telling him all that had transpired be-
tween himself and Clara, and asking his further
counsel.

He dispatched this letter, and waited an an-
swer.

During the week that ensued before he could
hope to hear from Colonel Le Noir, he treated
Clara with marked deference and respect.

And Clara on her part did not tax his forbearance
by appearing in his presence oftener than
she could possibly avoid.

At the end of the week the expected letter
came. It was short and to the purpose. It ran
thus:

WASHINGTON, Dec 14, 18—
MY DEAR CRAVEN:—You are losing time. Do
not hope to win the girl by the means you pro-
pose. She is too acute to be deceived, and too
firm to be persuaded. We must not hesitate to
use the only possible means by which we can
coerce her into compliance. I shall follow the
leading by the first stage-coach, and, before the
beginning of the next month, Clara Day shall be
your wife.

Your affectionate father, GANNAL LE NOIR.
C. Le Noir, Esq., Hidden House.

When Craven Le Noir read this letter, his thin
white face, and deep-set eyes lighted up with
triumph. But Craven Le Noir hurried before he
went into the woods. He had not calculated
upon Capitola.

The next day Colonel Le Noir came to the

Hidden House. He arrived late in the after-
noon.

After refreshing himself with a bath, a change
of clothing, and a light luncheon, he went to the
library where he passed the remainder of the
evening in a confidential conference with his
son. Their supper was ordered to be served up
to them there, and for that one evening Clara
had the comfort of taking her tea alone.

The result of this conference was that the
next morning, after breakfast, Colonel Le Noir
sent for Miss Day to come to him in the library.

When Clara, nerves her gentle heart to re-
sist a sinful tyranny, entered the library, Col-
onel Le Noir arose and courteously handed her
to a chair; and then, seating himself beside her,
said:

"My dear Clara, the responsibilities of a guard-
ian are always very onerous, and his duties not
always very agreeable, especially when his ward
is the sole heiress of a large property, and the
object of pursuit by fortune-hunters and man-
to-covers, males and females. When such is the
case, the duties and responsibilities of the guard-
ian are augmented a hundred-fold."

"Sir, this cannot be so in my case; since you
are perfectly aware that my destiny is—humanly
speaking—already decided," replied Clara, with
gentle firmness.

"As *how*, I pray you, my fair ward?"
"You cannot possibly be at a loss to under-
stand, sir. You have been already advised that
I am betrothed to Dr. Roeko, who will claim me
as his wife, upon the day that I shall complete
my twenty-first year."

"Miss Clara Day, no more of that, I beseech
you. It is folly, perversity, frenzy! But
it is to the wisdom of legislators, the law very
properly invests the guardian with great latitude
of discretionary power over the person and prop-
erty of his ward—to be used, of course, for that
ward's best interest. And thus, my dear Clara,
it is my duty, while holding this power over you,
to exercise it for preventing the possibility of
your ever, either now or at any future time,
throwing yourself away upon a mere adventurer.
To do this, I must provide you with a suitable
husband. My son, Mr. Craven Le Noir, has long
loved and wooed you. He is a young man of
good reputation and fair prospects. I entirely
approve his suit; and as your guardian, I com-
mand you to receive him for your destined hus-
band."

"Colonel Le Noir, this is no time for bated
breath and whispered humbleness. I am but a
simple girl of eventful, but I understand your
purpose and that of your son just as well as
though I were an old man of the world! You
are the fortune-hunters and manœuvurers! It
is the fortune of the wealthy heiress and friend-
less orphan that you are in pursuit of! But
that fortune, like my hand and heart, is already
promised to one I love; and to speak very plainly
to you, I would die ere I would disappoint him,
or wed your son!" said Clara, with invincible
firmness.

"*Die, girl!*—there are worse things than death
in the world," said Colonel Le Noir, with a
threatening glare.

"I know it! and one of the worst things in
the world will be a union with a man I could
neither esteem, nor even endure!" exclaimed
Clara.

Colonel Le Noir saw that there was no use in
further disguise. "Throwing off, then, the last
restraints of good breeding, he said:
"And there are still more terrible evils for a
woman than to be the wife of one she can neither
esteem nor endure!"

Clara shook her head in proud scorn.
"There are evils, to escape which, such a
woman would go down upon her banded knees to
be made the wife of such a man!"

Clara's gentle eyes flashed with indignation.
"Infernal!" she cried. "You slander all
womanhood in my person!"

"The evils to which I allude are—comprised
in—a life of dishonor!" hissed Le Noir, through
his set teeth.

"This is to my father's daughter?" exclaimed
Clara, growing white as death at the insult.
"Aye, my girl! it is time we understood each
other! You are in my power, and I intend to
coerce you to my will!"

These words, accompanied as they were by a

look that left no doubt upon her mind that he would carry out his purpose to any extremity, so appalled the maiden's soul that she stood like one suddenly struck with cataplexy.

The insupportable wretch then approached her and said:

"I am going now to the county seat to take out a marriage license for you and my son. I shall have the carriage at the door by six o'clock this evening, when I desire that you will be ready to accompany us to church, where a clerical friend will be in attendance to perform the marriage ceremony.—Clara Day, if you would save your honor, look to this!"

All this time, Clara had neither moved, nor spoken, nor breathed. She had stood cold, white, and still, as if turned to stone.

"Let no vain hope of escape delude your mind. The doors will be kept locked; the servants are all warned not to suffer you to leave the house. Look to it, Clara, for the rising of another sun shall see my purpose accomplished!"

And with these words the atrocious wretch left the room. His departure took of the dreadful spell that had paralyzed Clara's life; her blood began to circulate again; breath came to her lungs, and speech to her lips.

"Oh, Lord," she cried, "Oh, Lord, who delivered the children from the fiery furnace, deliver thy poor handmaiden now from her terrible foe!"

While thus she prayed, she saw upon the writing-table before her a small pen-knife. Her cheeks flushed and her eyes brightened as she seized it.

"This is it!" she said, "this small instrument is sufficient to save me! Should the worst come—I know where to find the carotid artery, and even such a slight puncture as my finger's hand could make would set my spirit free. Oh! my father! oh, my father! your little thought when you taught your Clara the mystic of anatomy, to what a fearful use she would put your lessons.—And would it be right?—Oh, would it be right? One may desire death; but can anything justify suicide?—Oh, Father in Heaven, guide me! guide me!" cried Clara, falling upon her knees and sobbing forth this prayer of agony.

Soon approaching footsteps drew her attention. And she had only time to rise and put back her damp, dishevelled hair from her tear-stained face, before the door opened, and Dorcas Knight appeared, and said:

"Here is the young woman come again!"

And rudely entering in Capitola, she closed the door and retreated.

"I declare M. v. Day," said Cap., laughing, "you have the best accomplished, polite and agreeable servants here that ever I met with! I think with what a courteous welcome this woman received me.—Here you are again!" she said. "You'll come once too often for your good, and that I tell you." I answered that every time I came it appeared to be once too often for her liking. She rejoined—The Colonel has come home, and she don't like company, so I advise you to make your call a short one." I assured her that I should measure the length of my visit by the breadth of my smile.—You look anxious, Clara! what is the matter? You look worse than death!" exclaimed Capitola, retiring for the first time the pale, wild, despairing face of her companion.

Clara clasped her hands as if in prayer, and raised her eyes with an appealing gaze into Capitola's face.

"Tell me, dear Clara, what is the matter? how can I help you? what shall I do for you?" said one heroine.

Before trusting herself to reply, Clara gazed wistfully into Capitola's eyes, as though she would have read her soul.

Cap. did not blanch, nor for an instant waver her own honest, gray eyes; she let Clara gaze straight down through those clear windows of the soul into the very soul itself, where she found only truth, honesty, and courage.

The certainty seemed to be satisfactory, for Clara soon took the hand of her visitor, and said: "Capitola, I will tell you. It is a horrid, horrid story, but you shall know all. Come with me to my chamber."

Cap. pressed the hand that was so confidently placed in hers, and accompanied Clara to her room, where, after the latter had taken the pre-

caution to lock the door, the two girls sat down for a confidential talk.

Clara, like the author of Robin Hood's Barn, began at the beginning" of her story, and told everything—her betrothal to Traverso Rocks; the sudden death of her father; the decision of the Orphan's Court; the departure of Traverso for the far West; her arrival at the Hidden House; the interruption of all her epistolary correspondence with her betrothed and his mother; the awful and mysterious occurrence of this heinous crime had been committed; and finally of the long, unwelcome suit of Craven Le Noir, and the present attempt to force him upon her as a husband.

Cap. listened very calmly to this story, showing very little sympathy, for there was not a bit of sentimentality about her Cap.

"And now," whispered Clara, while the pallor of horror overspread her face, "by threatening me with a fate worse than death, they would drive me to marry Craven Le Noir!"

"Yes, I know I would," said Cap., as if speaking to herself, but by her tone and manner clothing these simple words in the very keenest sarcasm.

"What would you do, Capitola?" asked Clara, raising her tearful eyes to the last speaker.

"Merry Mr. Craven Le Noir, and thank him, too!" said Cap. Then suddenly changing her tone, she exclaimed:

"I wish—oh! I wish I wish it was only me in your place—that it was only me they were trying to marry against my will!"

"What would I do?" asked Clara earnestly.

"What would I do? Oh! I wouldn't! I make them know the difference between their Sovereign Lady and Sam the Lascivious! If I had been in your place, and the dastard Le Noir had said to me what he said to you, I do believe I should have stricken him dead with the lightning of my eyes! But what shall you do, my poor Clara?"

"Alas! alas! see here! this is my last resort!" replied the unhappy girl, showing the little pen-knife.

"Put it away from you! put it away from you!" exclaimed Capitola, earnestly; "suicide is never, never, never justifiable! God is the Lord of life and death! He is the only judge whether a mortal's sorrows are to be relieved by death, and when He deems not Himself released you, He means that you shall live and endure. That proves that suicide is never right, let the Roman pagans have said and done what they pleased. So no more of that. There are enough other ways of escape for you."

"Ah! what are they? You would give me help by teaching me how to escape!" said Clara, fervently.

"The first and most obvious means that suggests itself to my mind," said Cap., "is to—run away!"

"Ah! that is impossible! The servants are warned; the doors are all locked; I am watched!"

"Then the next plan is equally obvious; consent to go with them to the church, and when you get there, denounce them, and claim the protection of the clergyman!"

"Ah! dear girl, that is still more impracticable. The officiating clergyman is the friend; and even if I could consent to act a deceitful Craven, and upon getting there, denounce him, instead of receiving the protection of the clergyman, I should be restored to the hands of my legal guardian, and he brought back here to some of despair."

Capitola did not at once reply, but fell into deep thought, which lasted many minutes. Then, speaking more gravely than she had spoken before, she said:

"There is but one plan of escape left! you only remaining chance, and that full of danger!"

"Oh! why should I fear danger? What evil can befall me so great as that which now threatens me?" said Clara.

"This plan requires on your part great courage, self-control, and presence of mind."

"Teach me, teach me, dear Capitola. I will be an apt pupil!"

"I have thought it all out, and will tell you my plan. It is now eleven o'clock in the fore-

noon, and the carriage is to come for you at six this evening, I believe?"

"Yes! yes!"

"Then you have seven hours in which to save yourself. And this is my plan: First, Clara, you must change clothes with me, giving me your habit and veil. Then leaving me here in your place, you are to pull the veil down closely over your face and walk right out of the house. No one will speak to you, for they never do to me. When you have reached the door, spring upon my horse and put whip to him for the villages of Tip-Top. My servant, Wool, will ride after you, but not speak to you or approach near enough to discover your identity—for he has been ordered by his master to keep me in sight, and he has been forbidden by his mistress to intrude upon her privacy. You will reach Tip-Top by three o'clock, when the Staunton stage passes through. You may then reveal yourself to Wool, give my horse into his charge, get into the coach and start for Staunton. Upon reaching the coach, put yourself under the protection of your friends, the two old physicians, and get them to prosecute your guardian for cruelty and flagrant abuse of power. Be cool, firm, and alert, and all will be well!"

Clara, who had listened to this little Napoleon in petticoats with breathless interest, now clasped her hands in a wild ecstasy of joy as she exclaimed:

"I will try it! Oh, Capitola, I will try it! Heaven bless you for the counsel!"

"Be quick, then, change your dress, provide yourself with a purse of money, and I will give you particular directions how to make a short cut for Tip-Top! Ha, ha, ha! when they come for the bride she will be already rolling on the tarpaulin between Tip-Top and Staunton."

"But you! Oh, you, my generous deliverer!"

"I shall dress myself in your clothes and stay here in your place to keep you from being missed, so as to give you full time to make your escape."

"But you will place yourself in the enraged lion's jaws. You will remain in the power of two men who know neither justice nor mercy, who loathe their lives or their hair for neither God nor man. Oh, Capitola, how can I take an advantage of your generosity, and leave you here in such extreme peril? Capitola, I cannot do it."

"Well, then, I believe you must be anxious to marry Craven Le Noir."

"Oh, Capitola!"

"Well, if you are not, hurry and get ready; there is no time to be lost."

"But you! but you, my generous friend!"

"Never mind me. I shall be safe enough. I am not afraid of the Le Noirs. Bless their wigs, I should like to see them make me blanch On the contrary, I desire above all things to be pitted against those two. How I shall enjoy their disappointment and rage. Oh! it will be a rare frolic."

While Capitola was speaking she was also busily engaged doing. She went softly to the door and turned the key in the lock, to prevent any one from looking through the key-hole, murmuring as she did it:

"I wasn't brought up among the detective policemen for nothing."

Then she began to take off her riding-habit. Quickly she dressed Clara, superintending all the details of her disguise as carefully as though she were the costumer of a new delinquent. When Clara was dressed, she was as neatly of the same size and shape of Capitola, that even behind no one would have suspected her identity.

"There, Clara, take your light hair out of the way; pull your cap over your eyes; rather your veil down close; draw up your spine; throw back your head; walk with a little spry way and swagger, as if you did not care a damn for anybody, and—there! I believe your friends could tell you from me," exclaimed Capitola, so delighted, as she completed the disguise and the instructions of Clara.

Then Capitola dressed herself in Clara's deep mourning robes. She then took the two girls and set down to compose themselves for a few minutes, while Capitola gave new and particular directions for Clara's course and conduct, so as to ensure, as far as human foresight could do it, the safe

is to come for you at six
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ould do it, the safe

termination of her perilous adventure. By the
time they had ended their talk the hall clock
struck twelve.

"There, it is full time you should be off. Be
calm, be cool, be firm, and God bless you, Clara.
Dear girl, if I were only a young man, I would de-
liver you by the strength of my own arm, without
subjecting you to inconvenience or danger," said
Cap., gallantly as she led Clara to the chamber
door, and carefully gathered her thick veil in close
folds over her face, so as entirely to conceal it.

"Oh, may the Lord in Heaven bless and pre-
serve and reward you, my brave, my noble, my
heroic Capitola!" said Clara, fervently, with the
tears rushing to her eyes.

"Bosh," said Cap. "If you go doing the senti-
mental you won't look like me a bit, and that will
spoil all. There, keep your veil close, for it's
windy, you know; throw back your head, and
swing yourself along with a swagger, as if you
didn't care a h—l for anybody, and—there you
are," said Cap., pushing Clara out and shutting
the door behind her.

Clara paused an instant to offer up one short
fervent prayer for her success and Capitola's
safety, and then following her instructions, went
on.

Nearly all girls are clever imitators, and Clara
readily adopted Capitola's light, springy aware-
walk, and met old Dorcas Knight in the hall,
without exciting the slightest suspicion of her
identity.

"Haumph," said the woman; "so you are going,
I advise you not to come back again."

Clara threw up her head with a swagger, and
went on.

"Very well, you may scorn my words, but if you
know your own good, you'll follow my advice,"
said Dorcas Knight harshly.

Clara threw up her head and passed out.
Before the door Wool was waiting with the
horses. Keeping her face closely veiled, Clara
went to Capitola's pony. Wool came and helped
her into the saddle, saying:

"Xer does nite, Miss Cap., to keep your face
kivered; it is awful windy, ain't it though? I
ku scarcely keep the hat from blowing offen my
head."

With an impatient jerk after the manner of
Capitola, Clara signified that she did not wish to
converse. Wool dropped obediently behind,
mounted his horse, and followed at a respectful
distance, until Clara turned her horse's head and
took the bridle-path towards Tip-Top. This
move filled poor Wool with dismay. Riding to-
wards her he exclaimed:

"Deed, Miss Cap., yer mus' seuss me for
scartin' now. War de mischief yer a goin' to?"
For an answer Clara, feigning the temper of
Capitola, suddenly wheeled her horse, elevated
her riding whip, and galloped upon Wool in a
threatening manner.

Wool dodged and backed his horse with all
possible expedition—exclaiming in consternation.
"Dar I Miss Cap., I won't go for to ax you any
more questions—no—not if yer rides straight
to Old Nuck or Black Donald!"

Whereupon receiving this apology in good part
Clara again turned her horse's head and rode on
her way.

Wool followed, bemoaning the destiny that
kept him between the two fierce fires of his old
master's despotism and his young mistress's ca-
pries, and muttering:

"I know old marse and dis young gal ain goin'
to be the death of me. I knows it jes' as well as
nuffin at all. I 'clare to man, if it aint nuff to
make anybody go heaven themselves right into a
frist mill and be ground up at once!"

Wool spoke no more until they got to Tip Top,
when Clara, still closely veiled, rode up to the
stage office just as the coach, half filled with
passengers, was about to start. Springing from
her horse, she went up to Wool and said:

"Here, man, take this horse back to Hurricane
Hall. Tell Major Wrench that Miss Black re-
mains at the Hidden House in imminent danger.
Ask him to ride there and bring her home. Tell
Miss Black, when you see her, that I reached Tip-
Top safe and in time to take the coach. Tell her
I will never cease to be grateful. And now, here
is a half eagle for your trouble. Good-by, and
God bless you. I have also put the piece in his
hand and look her place in the coach, which im-
mediately started.

As for Wool!!!—From the time that Clara
had thrown aside her veil and began to speak to
him, he had stood staring and staring—his con-
science growing and growing—until it had
seemed to have petrified him into stone—from
which state of petrification he did not recover
until he saw the stage coach roll rapidly away,
carrying off—whom?—Capitola, Clara, or the
Evil one?—Wool could not have told which! He
presently ascended the people about the stage
office by leaving his horses and taking to his
heels after the stage coach, vociferating:

"Murder! murder! help! stop thief! stop
thief! stop the coach! stop the coach!"

"What is the matter, man?" said a customer,
trying to head him.

But Wool incessantly ran over that offender,
throwing him down and keeping on his headlong
course, but off, out-tail streaming, and legs and
arms flying like the sails of a windmill, as he
tried to overtake the coach, crying:

"Help! Murder! Head the horses! Stop
the coach! Old Marse told me not to lose sight
of her! Oh, for hebbien's sake, good people, stop
the coach!"

When he got to a gate, instead of taking time
to open it, he rolled himself summerset-like right
to open it. When he met man or woman, instead
of turning from his straight course, he knocked them
over and passed on, garments flying, and legs and
arms circulating with the velocity of a wheel.

The people whom he successively met and
overthrew in his course, picking themselves up,
and getting into the village, reported that there
was a furious madman broke loose, who attacked
every one he met.

And soon every man and boy in the village who
could mount a horse started in hot pursuit.
Only race horses would have beaten the speed
with which Wool ran, urged on by fear. It was
nine miles on the turnpike road from Tip-Top
that the horsemen overtook and surrounded
Wool, who seeing himself hopelessly environed,
swearing that he would not be taken alive to have
his eyelids cut off!

It was not until after a desperate resistance
that he was finally taken, bound, put in a wagon
and carried back to the village, where he was
recognized as Major Warfield's man, and a messen-
ger was dispatched for his master.

And not until he had been repeatedly assured
that no harm should befall him, did Wool gain
composure enough to say, amid tears of cruel
grief and fear:

"Oh, marse, my young missus, Miss Black
done been conjured and bewitched and turned
into somebody else, right afore my own two
looking eyes, and gone off in 'dat coach' 'deed
she is, and ole marse kill me! 'deed he will, gum-
men. He went and ordered me not to take my
eyes offen her, and no more I didn't. But what
good that do, when she turned to somebody else,
and went off right afore my two looking eyes!
But ole marse won't listen to reason! He'll kill
me, I know he will!" whimpered Wool, refusing
to be comforted.

CHAPTER XL

CLARA IN CAPTIVITY.

I hoped here and renews planned
For Clara and for me. —Scott.

Meanwhile how fared it with Capitola in the
Hidden House?

"I am in for it now!" said Cap., as she closed
the door behind Clara; "I am in for it now!
I have had my last adventure! What will
Wool do when he discovers that he has 'lost sight'
of me? What will uncle say when he finds out
what I've done? Who—ew! Uncle will explod!
I wonder if the walls at Hurricane Hall will be
strong enough to stand it? Wool will go mad!
But ole marse won't listen to reason! He'll kill
me, I know he will!" whimpered Wool, refusing
to be comforted.

But above all, I wonder what the Le Noirs,
father and son, will say when they find that the
heirss has flown, and a 'beggar,' as uncle Daters
may be calling me, is here in her place!
Who—ew—ew—ew! There will be a tornado!
Cap., child, they'll murder you! That's just what
they'll do! They'll kill and eat you, Cap., with-
out any salt! or they may lock you up in the

haunted room to live with the ghost, Cap., and
that would be worse!

"Hush! here comes Dorcas Knight! Now I
must make believe I'm Clara, and do the senti-
mental up brown!" concluded Capitola, as she
seated herself near the door where she could be
heard, and began to sob softly.

Dorcas rapped.

Cap. sobbed in response.

"Aro you coming to luncheon, Miss Day?" in-
quired the woman.

"Ee—hee! Ee—hee! Ee—hee! I do not
want to eat," sobbed Cap., in a low and smother-
ed voice. Any one would have thought she
was drowned in tears.

"Very well—just as you like," said the woman,
harshly, as she went away.

"Well, I declare," laughed Cap., "I did that
quite as well as an actress could! But now what
am I to do? How long can I keep this up?
Heigh-ho! 'let the world slide!' I'll not reveal
myself until I'm driven to it, for when I dol-
Cap., child, you'll get clawed right up!"

A little later in the day Dorcas Knight came
again, and rapped at the door.

"Ee—hee! Ee—hee! Ee—hee!" sobbed Cap.

"Miss Day, your cousin, Craven Le Noir,
wishes to speak with you alone."

"Ee—hee! Ee—hee! Ee—hee! I cannot
see him," sobbed Cap., in a low and suffocating
voice.

"The woman went away, and Cap. suffered no
other interruption until six o'clock, when Dorcas
Knight once more rapped saying:

"Miss Day, your uncle is at the front door
with the carriage, and he wishes to know if you
are ready to obey him."

"Ee—hee! Ee—hee! Ee—hee!—le—le—le—tell
him yes!" sobbed Cap., as if her heart would
break.

The woman went off with this answer, and
Capitola hastily enveloped her form in Clara's
large black shawl, put on Clara's black bonnet,
and tied her thick mourning veil closely over her
face.

"A pretty bridal dress this! but, however, I
suppose these men are no more particular about
my costume than they are about their own con-
duct," said Cap.

She had just drawn on her gloves when she
heard the footsteps of two men approaching.

They rapped at the door.

"Come in," she called, in a low, broken voice,
that might have belonged to any girl in deep dis-
tress, and she put a white cambric handkerchief
up to her eyes and drew her thick veil closely
over her face.

The two Le Noirs immediately entered the room.
Craven approached her, and whispered, softly:

"You will forgive me this, my share in these
proceedings after a while, sweet Clara. The Sa-
bino women did not love the Roman youths the
less that they were forcibly made wives by them."

"Ee—hee! Ee—hee! Ee—hee!" sobbed Cap.,
entirely concealing her face in her white cambric
handkerchief under her impenetrable veil.

"Come, come! we lose time," said the elder,
Le Noir. "Draw her arm within yours, Craven,
and lead her out."

The young man did as he was directed, and led
Cap. from the room. It was now quite dark—the
long dreary passage was only dimly lighted by a
hanging lamp, so that with the care she took there
was scarcely a possibility of Capitola's being dis-
covered. They went on, Craven Le Noir whis-
pering hypocritical apologies, and Cap. replying
only by sobs.

When they reached the outer door, they found
a carriage drawn up before the house.

To this Craven Le Noir led Capitola, placed her
within and took the seat by her side. Colonel
Le Noir placed himself on the front seat opposite
them, and the carriage was driven rapidly off.

An hour's ride brought the party to an obscure
church in the depths of the forest, which Capitola
recognized by the cross on its top, to be a Roman
Catholic Chapel.

Here the carriage drew up and the two Le Noirs
got out and assisted Capitola to alight.

They then led her into the church, which was
dimly illumined by a pair of wax candles burning
before the altar. A priest in his sacerdotal robes
was in an instant a few count, people were
seated doubly about among the pews, at their
private devotions.

Guarded by Craven Le Noir on the right, and Colonel Le Noir on the left, Capitola was marched up the aisle and placed before the altar.

Colonel Le Noir then went and spoke apart to the officiating priest, saying, in a tone of dissatisfaction:

"I told you, sir, that as our bride was a orphan, recently bereaved, and still in deep mourning, we wished the marriage ceremony to be strictly private, and you gave me to understand, sir, that at this hour the chapel was most likely to be vacant. Yet here I find half a score of people. How is this?"

"Sir," replied the priest, "It is true, that at this hour of the evening, the chapel is most likely to be vacant, but it is not therefore certain to be so, nor did I promise as much. Our chapel is, as you know, open at all hours of the day and night, so that all who please may come and pray. These labourers, who you see here are hard-working farmers and who are now here to offer up their evening prayers, and also, some of them to examine their consciences preparatory to confession. They can certainly be no interruption to the ceremony."

"Egad, I don't know that," muttered Colonel Le Noir between his teeth.

As for Cap., the sight of other persons present in the chapel filled her heart with joy and exultation, inasmuch as it ensured her final safety. And so she just abandoned herself to the spirit of frolic that possessed her, and anticipates with the keenest rapture the denouement of her strange adventure.

"Well, what are we waiting for? Proceed, sir, proceed," said Colonel Le Noir, as he took Cap. by the shoulders and placed her on the left side of his son, while he himself stood behind ready to give the bride away.

The ceremony immediately commenced.

The prologue beginning—"Dearly beloved, we are gathered together here," etc., etc., was read.

The solemn exhortation to the contracting parties commencing—"I recommend charge you both, as ye shall answer in the dreadful day of judgment when the secrets of all hearts shall be disclosed, that if either of you know any just cause together," etc., etc., etc., followed.

Capitola listened to all this with the deepest attention, eyeing to all this with the deepest attention, eyeing to all this with the deepest attention, eyeing to all this with the deepest attention. If it were not for Herbert Greyson, I'd just let it go right straight on to the end, and see what would happen next.

While Cap. was making these mental comments the priest was asking the bridegroom:

"Wilt thou have this woman to be thy wedded wife," etc., etc., etc., "so long as ye both shall live?"

To which Craven Le Noir, in a sonorous voice responded:

"I Will."

"Indeed you will? We'll see that presently," said Cap. to herself.

The priest then turning towards the bride, inquired:

"Wilt thou have this man to be thy wedded husband," etc., etc., etc., "so long as ye both shall live?"

To which the bride, throwing aside her veil, answered firmly:

"No! not if he were the last man and I the last woman on the face of the earth, and the human race were about to become extinct, and the angel Gabriel came down from above to ask it of me as a personal favour."

The effect of this outburst, this revelation, this explosion, may be imagined but can never be adequately described.

The priest dropped his book, and stood with lifted hands and open mouth and staring eyes as though he had raised a ghoul.

The two Le Noirs simultaneously sprang forward, astonishment, disappointment and rage contending in their blanched faces.

"Who are you girl?" exclaimed Colonel Le Noir.

"Capitola Black, your honor's glory!" she replied, making a deep courtesy.

"What the foul fiend is the meaning of all this?" in the same breath inquired the father and son.

Cap. put her thumb to the side of her nose and whisking her four fingers, replied:

"It means, your worships' excellencies, that—won't—can't—come! It! it's no go! this chicken and the cat's out of the bag. It means confusion I wige! It means that the game's up, the play's over, villainy is about to be hanged, and artifice—that's I—is going to be called out amid the applause of the audience?" Then suddenly changing her mocking tone to one of great severity, she said:

"It means that you have been overtaken by a girl; it means that your purposed victim has fled, and is by this time in safety. It means that you, precious father and son would be a pair of that, you are only a pair of fools."

By this time the attention of the few persons in the church was aroused. They all arose to their feet to look and listen, and some of them left their places and approached the altar. And said, aloud:

"Good people, I am Capitola Black, the niece and ward of Major Ira Warfield, of Hurricane Hall, whom you all know; and now I claim your protection while I shall tell you the meaning of my presence here."

"Don't listen to her! she is a maniac!" cried Colonel Le Noir.

"Stop her mouth!" cried Craven, springing upon Capitola, and holding her tightly in the grasp of his right arm, while he covered her lips and nostrils with his large left hand.

Capitola struggled so fiercely to free herself that Craven had enough to do to hold her, and so she, until a stunning blow dealt from a strong arm covered his face with blood, and stretched him out at Capitola's feet.

Cap. flushed, breathless, and confused, looked up, and was sought to the bosom of Herbert Greyson, who, pale with concentrated rage, held her closely, and inquired:

"Capitola, what violence is this which has been done you?—Explain, who is the aggressor?"

"Wait—wait—wait until I get my breath!—there! that was good. That villain has all but strangled me to death. Oh, Herbert, I'm so delighted you've come! How is it that you always drop right down at the right time and on the right spot?" said Cap., while gasping for breath.

"I will tell you another time. Now I want an explanation."

"Yes, Herbert, I also wish to explain—not only to you, but to these gaping good people. Let me have a hearing!" said Cap.

"She is mad—absolutely mad!" cried Colonel Le Noir, who was assisting his son to rise.

"Silence, sir!" thundered Herbert Greyson, advancing towards him with uplifted and threat-ening hand.

"Gentlemen, gentlemen! pray remember that you are within the walls of a church!" said the distressed priest.

"Graven, this is no place for us—let us go and pursue our fugitive ward," whispered Colonel Le Noir to his son.

"We might as well; for it is clear that all is over here," replied Craven.

And the two buffed villains turned to leave the place. But Herbert Greyson, speaking up said:

"Good people! prevent the escape of those men until we hear what this young lady has to say, that we may judge whether to let them go or to take them before a magistrate."

The people flew to the doors and windows and secured them, and then surrounded the two Le Noirs, who found themselves prisoners.

"Now, Capitola, tell us how it is that you are here?" said Herbert Greyson.

"Well, that other man," said Cap., "is the guardian of a young heiress, who was betrothed to a worthy young man, one Dr. Traverserocka."

"My friend," interrupted Herbert.

"Yes, Mr. Greyson, your friend. Their engagement was approved by the young lady's father, who gave them his dying blessing. Nevertheless, in the face of all this, this 'guardian' has appointed by the Orphans' court to take charge of the heiress and her fortune, undertakes for his own ends, to compel the undertaker to

marry his own son. To drive her to this measure, he does not hesitate to use every species of cruelty. This night he was to have forced her to this altar. But in the interval to-day, I chanced being informed by her of her distressing situation, and having no time to help her in any but the way, I just changed clothes with her. She heroes there, mistaking me for her, forced me into a carriage and dragged me hither to be married against my will. And instead of catching an heir, they caught a Tartar—that's all! And now, Herbert, let the two poor wretches go hide their immensity tired of doing the sentimental, making speeches, and piling up the agonies."

While Cap. was delivering this long oration, the two Le Noirs had made several attempts to interrupt and contradict her, but were effectually prevented by the people, whose sympathies were all in command. They released the culprits, who, threatening loudly, took their departure.

Herbert then led Capitola out, and placed her upon her own pony, Gyp, which, to her unbounded astonishment, she found there in charge of Wool, who was also mounted upon his own hack.

Herbert Greyson threw himself into the saddle of a third horse, and the three took the road to Hurricane Hall.

"And now," said Capitola, as Herbert rode up to her side, "for mercy's sake tell me, before I go crazy with conjecture, how it happened that you dropped down from the sky at the very moment and on the very spot where you were needed; and where you lit upon Wool and the horses?"

"It is very simple when you come to understand it," said Herbert smiling. "In the first place, you know I graduated at the last Commencement?"

"Yes."

"Well, I have just received a Lieutenant's commission in a regiment that is ordered to join General Scott in Mexico."

"Oh, Herbert, that is news, and I don't know whether to be in despair or ecstasy!" said Cap., ready to laugh or cry as a feather's weight might tip the scales in which she balanced Herbert's new honors with his approaching perils.

"If there's any doubt about it, I decidedly recommend the latter emotion!" said Herbert, laughing.

"When do you go?" inquired Cap.

"Our regiment embarks from Baltimore on the first of next month. Meanwhile I got leave of absence to come and spend a week with my friends at home."

"Oh, Herbert, I—I am in a quandary! But you haven't told me yet how you happened to meet with Wool and to come here just in the nick of time."

"I am just going to do so. Well, you see, Capitola, I came down in the stage to Tip-Top, which I reached about three o'clock. And there I found Wool in the hands of the Philistines, suspected of being mad, from the manner in which he raved about losing sight of you. Well, of course, like a true knight, I delivered my lady's square, comforted and reassured him, and made him mount his own horse and take charge of you. After which I mounted the best of my old hired to convey me to Hurricane Hall, and I was s'wally anxious on your account, for I could make nothing whatever of Wool's wild story of your supposed metamorphosis. I thought it best to make a circuit, and take the Hidden House on horse, to make some inquiries there as to what had really happened. I had got a little bewildered seeing the dark night and the strange road, and den up to inquire my way, when to my astonishment I saw you within a few rods of the altar, struggling in the grasp of that ruffian. And you know the rest. And now let us ride on quickly, for I have a strong presentiment that Major Warfield is suffering the tortures of a lost soul through anxiety upon your account," concluded Herbert Greyson.

"Please, Marse Herbert and Miss Cap., don't you tell ole marse nuffen 'fall 'bout my losin' sight of you," pleaded Wool.

"We shall tell your old master all about it.

Wool, of her own accord, and in the presence of Herbert's home. They and in Hurricane Hall, every one party a companioned his little and a bed. And all gath'ed up. Herbert told at Chapel, favorite rain, and "You need you. That then getting Mexico. "God bless and Hurricane Hall. Then worn out his own up the city.

AN UN... "F... "M... Marah... The since the thers. "I fire; the faded out with its the left the left.

The w... cept that and ruck... ner than... And ne... frequent Alas! sh... light and hurried... Traverserocka... the crea... cian try... passed his... yet no h... So Ma... her need... the direc... every w... bringing... and enco... verse ver... empty ho... to be so... but in h... her boy's... And it w... Traverserocka... was folded upon boy's later... ran as fol...

Mr D... that you do not w... in the g... new's li... from one list over... and whet... quite well.

To drive her to this moment to use every species of persuasion to have forced her to interval to-day, I chanced to see her in the company of her father, who she was continuing to help her in any belated clothes with her. She was in her dress. And those two of me for, forced me to be as kind as I could to her, for she was married instead of being an heir—*that's all!* And now, wretches go hide their faces, but I am the sentimental, making the agonies.

During this long oration, she was several times to interest me by her effective passionate sympathies were all in, at Herbert Greyson's the culprit, who, threatened to depart.

He took out and placed her in my chair, to her name found there; in charge mounted upon his own

himself into the saddle took the road to

as, Herbert rode to make tell me, before I got it happened that you try at the very moment you were needed? and

and the horses?"

And you come to understand. "In the first of at the last Com-

ceived a lieutenant's that is ordered to join

and, and I don't know ecstasy!" said Cap.,

father's weight might balance Herbert's thin perils.

"I, I decidedly don't," said Herbert,

red Cap.

from Baltimore on

Wool, for I would not have him miss the pleasure of hearing this adventure on any account? but I promise to bear you harmless through it," said Herbert, as they galloped rapidly towards home.

They reached Hurricane Hall by eight o'clock, and in good time for supper. They found Old Hurricane storming all over the house, and ordering everybody off the premises, in his fury of anxiety upon Capito's account. But when the party arrived, surprised at seeing them in the company of Herbert Greyson, quite revolutionized his mood, and forgetting to rage, he gave them all a hearty welcome.

And when after supper was over, and they were all gathered around the comfortable fireside, and Herbert related the adventures and feats of Capito at the Hidden House, and in the Forest Chapel, the old man grasped the hand of his favorite, and with his stormy old eyes full of rain, said:

"You deserve to have been a man, Cap! Indeed you do, my girl!"

That was his highest style of praise.

Then Herbert told his own little story of getting his commission and being ordered to Mexico.

"God bless you, lad, and save you in the battle, and bring you home with victory!" was Old Hurricane's command.

Then seeing that the young people were quite worn out with fatigue, and feeling not averse to his own comfortable couch, Old Hurricane broke up the circle, and they all retired to rest.

CHAPTER XL.

AN UNEXPECTED VISITOR AT MARSH'S COTTAGE.

"Friend, with thou give me shelter, here?"
The stranger meekly said;
'My life is hunted; will men
Are following on my path."

Marsh looked at her by her lonely fireside. The cottage was not changed in any respect since the day upon which we first of all found her there. There was the same bright, little wood fire; the same clean hearth, and the identical faded carpet on the floor. There was the dresser with its glistening crockery-ware on the right, and the shelves with Traverser's old school-books on the left of the fire-place.

The widow herself had changed in nothing except that her clean, black dress was threadbare and rusty, and her patient face whiter and thinner than before.

And now there was no eager restlessness; no frequent listening and looking towards the door. Alas! she could not now expect to hear her boy's light and springing step and cheerful voice as he hurried home at eventide from his daily work.

Traverser was far away at St. Louis undergoing the cares and trials of a friendless young physician trying to get into practice. Six months had passed since he took leave of her, and there was as yet no hope of his returning even to pay a visit.

So Marsh sat very still and sad, bending over her needle-work, without ever turning her head in the direction of the door. True, he wrote to her every week. No Wednesday ever passed without bringing her a letter written in a strong, buoyant and encouraging strain. Still she missed Traverser very sadly. It was dreary to rise up in the empty house every morning; dreary to sit down to her solitary meals, and dreary still to go to bed in her lonely room without having received her boy's kiss and heard his cheerful good-night. And it was her custom every night to read over Traverser's last letter before retiring to bed.

It was getting on towards ten o'clock when she folded up her work and put it away, and drew her boy's latest epistle from her bosom to read. It ran as follows:

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 1, 184-
MY DEAR MOTHER—I am very glad to hear that you continue in good health, and that you do not work too hard, or miss me too sadly. It is the greatest comfort of my life to hear good news of you, sweet mother. I count the days from one letter to another, and read every last letter over daily until I get a new one. You insist upon my telling you how I am getting on, and whether I am out of money. I am doing quite well ma'am, and have some funds left! I

have quite a considerable practice. It is true that my professional services are in request only among the very poor, who pay me with their thanks, and good wishes. But I am very glad to pay off a small part of the debt of gratitude I owe to the beneficent of this world by doing all that I can in my turn for the needy. And even if I had never myself been the object of a good man's benevolence, I should still have desired to serve the indigent; "for whose giveth to the poor lendeth to the Lord," and I like the security. Therefore, sweet mother of mine, be at ease, for I am getting on swimmingly—with one exception. Still I do not hear from our Clara. Six months have now passed, during which, despite of the seeming silence, I have written to her every week; but not one letter or message have I received from her in return! And now you tell me also that you have not received a single letter from her either. I know not what to think. Anxiety upon her account is my one sole trouble. Not that I wrong the dear girl by one instant's doubt of her constancy; no; my soul upon her truth; but I could do that, I should be most unworthy of her love. No, no, mother; you and I know that Clara is true. But, ah, we do not know to what sufferings she may be subjected by Le Noir, who I firmly believe has intercepted all our letters. Mother, I am about to ask a great, perhaps an unreasonable, favor of you. It is to go down into the neighborhood of the Hidden House, and make inquiries, and try to find out Clara's real condition. If it be possible, put yourself into communication with her, and tell her that I judge her heart by my own, and have the firmest faith in her constancy, even though I have written to her every week, for six months, without ever having received an answer. I feel that I am putting you to expense and trouble, but my great anxiety about Clara, which I am sure you share, must be my excuse. I kiss your dear and honored hands; and remain ever,

Your loving son and faithful servant,
THOMAS ROCKE.

"I must try to go. It will be an awful expense, because I know no one there, and I shall have to board at the tavern at Tip-Top while I am making inquiries—for I dare not approach the dwelling of Gabriel Le Noir!" said Marsh Rocks, as she folded up her letter, and replaced it in her bosom.

Just at that moment she heard the sound of wheels approach, and a vehicle of some sort drew up to the gate, and some one speaking without.

She went to the door, and listening, heard a girlish voice say:

"A dollar!—Yes, certainly; here it is. There, you may go now."

She recognized the voice, and with a cry of joy jerked the door open just as the carriage rolled away. And the next instant Clara Day was in her arms.

"Oh, my darling! my darling! my darling! is this really you? Really, really you, and no dream?" cried Marsh Rocks, all in a flutter of excitement, as she strained Clara to her bosom.

"Yes, it is I, sweet friend; come to stay with you a long time, perhaps," said Clara, softly, returning her embraces.

"Oh, my lamb! my lamb! what a joyful surprise! I do think I shall go crazy! Where did you come from, my pet? Who came with you? When did you start? Did Le Noir consent to your coming? And how did it happen?—But, dear child, how worn and weary you look. You must be very tired. Have you had supper? Oh, my darling! come and lie down on this sofa lounge, while I put away your things and get you some refreshment," said Marsh Rocks, in a delirium of joy, as she took off Clara's hat and sack, and laid her down to rest on the lounge, while she whistled up near the fire.

"Oh, my friend, we have been so anxious about you! Traverser and myself. Traverser is still at St. Louis, love, getting on slowly. He has written to you every week, and so indeed have I, but we neither of us have so much as one letter in reply. And yet neither of us ever doubted your true heart, my child. We knew that the letters must have been lost, mis-carried, or intercepted."

"They must indeed, since my experiences in regard to letters exactly corresponds with yours.

I have written every week to both of you, yet never received one line in reply from either," said Clara.

"We know it," we said so. Oh, those Le Noirs! those Le Noirs! But, my darling, you are perfectly exhausted, and though I have asked you a half an hundred questions, you shall not reply to one of them, nor talk a bit more until you have rested and had refreshment. Here, my love, is Traverser's last letter. It will amuse you to lie and read it while I am getting tea," said Marsh, taking the paper from her bosom and handing it to Clara, and then placing the stand with the light near the head of her couch, that she might see to read it without rising.

And while Clara, well pleased, perused and smiled over her lover's letter, Marsh Rocks laid the cloth and spread a delicate repast of tea, milk-toast and poached eggs, of which she tenderly pressed her visitor to partake.

And when Clara was somewhat refreshed by food and rest, she said:

"Now, dear mamma, you will wish to hear how it happens that I am with you to-night."

"Not unless you feel quite rested, dear girl."

"I am rested sufficiently for the purpose; besides I am anxious to tell you. And, oh, dear mamma! I could just now sit in your lap, and lay my head upon your kind, soft bosom so willingly."

"Come, then, Clara. Come, then, my darling," said Marsh, tenderly, holding out her arms.

"No, no, mamma, you are too little, it would be a sin," said Clara, smiling; "but I will sit by you and put my hand in yours, and rest my head against your shoulder while I tell you all about it."

"Come, then, my darling," said Marsh Rocks. Clara took the offered seat, and when she was fixed to her liking, she commenced and related to her friend a full history of all that had occurred to her at the Hidden House, from the moment that she had first crossed its threshold to the hour in which, through the courage and address of Capito, she was delivered from imminent peril.

"And now," said Clara, in conclusion, "I have come hither in order to get Dr. Williams to make one more appeal for me to the Orphans' Court. And when it is proved what a traitor my guardian has been to his trust, I have no doubt the judge will appoint some one else in his place, or at least see that my father's last wish in regard to my residence is carried into effect."

"Heaven grant it, my child! Heaven grant it! Oh, those Le Noirs! those Le Noirs! I was there ever in the world before such ruthless villains and accomplished hypocrites!" said Marsh Rocks, clasping her hands in the strength of her emotions.

"A long time yet they talked together, and then they retired to bed, and still talked until they fell asleep in each other's arms.

The next morning the widow arose early, gazed a little while with delight upon the sleeping daughter of her heart, pressed a kiss upon her cheek so softly as not to disturb her rest, and then, leaving her still in the deep, sweet sleep of wearied youth, she went down stairs to get a nice breakfast.

Luckily a farmer's cart was just passing the road before the cottage on its way to market.

Marsh took out her little purse from her pocket, hailed the driver, and expended half her little store in purchasing two young chickens, some eggs, and some dried peaches, saying to herself:

"Dear Clara always had a good appetite, and healthy young human nature must live substantially, in spite of all its little heart-aches."

While Marsh was preparing the chicken for the gridiron, the door at the foot of the stairs opened, and Clara came in, looking, after her night's rest, as fresh as a rose-bud.

"What! up with the sun, my darling!" said Marsh, going to meet her.

"Yes, mamma. 'Oh if it is so good to be here with you in this nice, quiet place, with no one to make me slumber. But you must let me help you, mamma. See! I will set the table and make the toast."

"Oh, Miss Clara—"

"Yes, I will! I have been ill-used and made miserable, and now you must pet me, mamma, and let me have my own way, and help you to

cook our little meals and to make the house tidy, and afterwards to work those button holes over last night. Oh! if they will only let me stay here with you and be at peace, we shall be very happy together, you and I!" said Clara, as she drew out the little table and laid the cloth.

"My dear child, may the Lord make you as happy as your sweet affection would make me!" said Marah.

"We can work for our living together," continued Clara, as she gaily fitted about from the dresser to the table, placing the cups and saucers and plates—"you can sew the seams and do the plain hemming, and I can work the button holes and stitch the bosoms, collars and wristbands. And 'if the worst comes to the worst,' we can hang out our little shingle before the cottage gate, inscribed with:

**MRS. ROCKE AND DAUGHTER,
SHIRT MAKERS.**

Orders executed with neatness and dispatch.

"I will drive a thriving business, mamma. I assure you," said Clara, as she sat down on a stool at the hearth and began to toast the bread.

"I trust in Heaven that it will never come to that with you, my dear."

"Why? why mamma? why should I not taste of toil and care as well as others? a thousand times better than myself! Why should not I work as well as you and Traverser, mamma? I stand upon the broad platform of human rights, and I say I have just as good a right to work as others," said Clara, with a pretty assumption of obstinacy, as she placed the plate of toast upon the board.

"Doubtless, dear Clara, you may play at work just as much as you please; but heaven forbid Mrs. Roche, as she placed at work!" replied Mrs. Roche, as she plucked the coffee-pot and the dish of braised chicken on the table.

"Why, mamma? I do not think that is a good prayer at all. That is a wicked, proud prayer, really told as well as other people's daughters, I'd like to be informed?" said Clara, mockingly, as they both took their seats at the table.

"I think, dear Clara, that you must have contracted some of your eccentric little friend Capibero's saw in such gay spirits," said Mrs. Roche, as she poured out the coffee.

"Oh, mamma, it is but the glad rebound of the that dark prison of the Hidden House, and to be home occupied!"

"No, my dear; no tenant has been found for it. The property is in the hands of an agent to let; but the house remains quite vacant and deserted."

"Why is that?" asked Clara.

"Why, my love for the strangest reason. The foolish country people say that since the doctor's death, the place has been haunted."

"Haunted!"

"Yes, my dear, so the foolish people say, and they get wiser ones to believe them."

"What exactly do they say? I hope—I hope they do not trifle with my dear father's honoured name and memory?"

"Oh, no, my darling—no; but they say that about the house is quite empty and deserted by the living, strange sights and sounds are heard and seen by passers-by at night. Lights appear at the upper windows from which pale faces look out."

"How very strange!" said Clara.

"Yes, my dear, and these stories have gained such credence that no one can be found to take the house."

"So much the better, dear mamma, for if the decision of the Orphans' Court should give a the evidence, old and new, you and I can move making line of business."

"Heaven grant it, my dear. But now, Clara, my love, we must lose no time in seeing Doctor Williams, lest your guardian should pursue you here and give you fresh trouble."

Clara assented to this, and they immediately arose from the table, cleared away the service,

put the room in order, and went up stairs to put on their bonnets—Mrs. Roche leading Clara her quite ready, they looked up the house and set out for the town.

It was a bright, frosty, invigorating winter's morning, and the two friends walked rapidly until they reached Doctor Williams' house.

The kind old man was at home, and was much surprised and pleased to see his visitors. His inquiries they he said:

"This is a much more serious affair than the other. We must employ counsel. Witnesses Hidden House. You are aware that the late judge of the Orphans' Court has been appointed to a high office under the government at Washington. The man that has his place is a person of sound integrity, who will do his duty. It remains only for us to prove the justice of our cause to his satisfaction, and all will be well."

"Oh, I trust in Heaven that it will be," said Marah, fervently.

"You two must stay in my house until the affair is decided. You might possibly be safe from a real injury; you could not be free from molestation in your unprotected condition at the cottage," said Doctor Williams.

Clara warmly expressed her thanks, and she had better go home now and pack up what you wish to bring, and put out the fire and close up the house, and come here immediately.

"In the meantime, I will see your dear father's solicitor and be ready with my report by the time you get back," said Doctor Williams, promptly taking his hat to go.

Mrs. Roche and Clara set out for the cottage, which they soon reached.

Throwing off her bonnet andshawl, Clara said:

"Now, mamma, the very first thing I shall do will be to write to Traverser, so that we can send the letter by to-day's mail, and set his mind at rest. I shall simply tell him that our mutual that I am now on a visit to you, and that while I pendence, I shall not speak of the coming suit, until we shall see how it will end."

Mrs. Roche approved this plan, and placed writing materials on the table. And while the packing up what was useful to take with them to the doctor's, and putting out the fire, Clara wrote bonnets, locked up the house, and set out. They later, and they reached the doctor's house just as he himself walked up to the door, accompanied by his old client and her friend, and they all went into the house together.

In the doctor's study the whole subject of Clara's plight and its occasion was talked over, and the lawyer agreed to commence proceedings immediately.

**CHAPTER XLII.
CAP. "ARREST ON HER LAURELS" AND "SPOILS FOR A FIGHT."**

"It's hardly in a body's power. To keep at times true being sour. How best o' things are stirred; While roofs and countless thousands rent. And see us how to wear it. —BBANA.

Leaving Clara Day and Marah Roche in a home of safety, plenty and kindness, in the old doctor's house, we must run down to Hurricane Hill to see what mischief Cap. has been getting into since we left her! In truth, none. Cap. had had such a surfeit of adventures, that she was fain to lie by and rest upon her laurels. Besides, there seemed no robbers to capture, no distressed damsels to deliver, and Cap. was again in danger of "spoiling the Hall"—Herbert Greyson whom she vowed for a fight." And then Herbert Greyson whom she vowed Cap. had to content herself for a week with quiet mornings of needle work at her work stand, with Herbert to read or to talk with her; another afternoon rides, attended by Herbert and old Hurri-

come) and hnm-drum evenings at the chess-board, with the same Herbert, while Major Warfield, dined in a great "sleepy hollow" of an arm-chair.

One afternoon when they were out riding through the woods beyond the Deacon's Barn, party, presented a suspicious-looking document to Capito, and a similar one to Herbert Greyson. And while old Hurricane stared his eyes papers, which were found to be rather prosaic invitations in a present at a certain solemnity at Stanton. In a word, they were subpoenaed to give testimony in the case of Williams, vs. Le Noir.

"Here's a diabolical dilemma!" said Old Hurricane to himself, as soon as he learned the purport of these documents; "Here I shall have to mou to bear witness against him. Suppose, loeb. Ah, but he can't, without feigning a criminal himself. Well, well, we shall see."

While Old Hurricane was cogitating, Cap. was exulting.

"Oh, now! I tell all I know! Yes, and more too!" she exclaimed, in triumph.

"More too! Oh! ho! ho! ho! never say more too!" said Herbert, laughing.

"I will, for I'll tell all I suspect! I am galloping ahead, in her eagerness to get home and pack up for her journey."

The next day Old Hurricane, Herbert Greyson, Capito, Pita, and Wool went by stage to Farmers' Hotel, whence they proceeded to Capito and Capito soon sallied forth to see Clara and Roche. They soon found the doctor's house, and were ushered into the parlor in the presence of their friends.

The meeting between Capito and Clara, and between Mrs. Roche and Herbert, was very cordial. And then Herbert introduced Capito to Mrs. Roche, and Cap. presented Herbert to Clara. And they all entered into conversation upon the subject of the coming lawsuit, and the circumstances that led to it. And Clara and Capito after their exchanging clothes and parting. And Clara and Capito after their mutual adventures and misadventures, Herbert and Capito took leave and returned to their hotel.

Herbert Greyson was the most serious of the whole family. Upon reaching the hotel he went to his own room, and fell into deep reflection. And this was the course of his thoughts:

"Mrs. Warfield and Marah Roche are here in the same town! I brought hither upon the same room! I to-morrow to meet in the same centripence of the other. Mrs. Roche does not know that in Capito's uncle she will behold Major Warfield! He does not foresee that in Clara's matronly friend he will behold Marah Roche. And Le Noir, the cause of all their misery, will be present also. What will be the effect of this unexpected meeting? Ought I not to warn one or the other?—Let me think—No! for were I to warn Major Warfield he would absent himself. Should I drop a hint to Marah, she would shrink from the meeting. No, I will leave it all to Providence, and so the sight of her sweet, pale face and soft, appealing eyes, so full of constancy and truth, may touch that stern old heart. Heaven grant it may!" concluded Herbert Greyson.

The next day the suit came on. At an early hour Doctor Williams appeared, having in charge Clara Day, who was attended by her friend Mrs. Roche. They were accommodated with seats immediately in front of the judge.

Very soon afterwards, Major Warfield, Herbert Greyson and Capito entered. And took their places on the witness's bench, at the right side of the court-room.

Herbert watched Old Hurricane, whose eyes were spell-bound to the bench where sat Mrs. Roche and Clara. Both were dressed in deep mourning, with their veils down and their faces instead that Marah Roche should turn her head and meet that fixed, wistful look of Old Hurricane. And he wondered what strange instinct it could be that riveted the old man's regards to that unrecognized woman.

in evenings at the chess-board, when Major Warfield peeped in from the arm-chair, beyond the Demon's Run, and up to the suspicious-looking document that was in Herbert Grey's hand. Old Hurricane stared his eyes most interestedly upon the found to be rather promising agent at a certain solemnity word, they were rebuked the case of Williams, *vs.* Le

al dilemma!" said Old Hurricane as he learned the pursuit; "Here I shall have to face to face with that de- face against him. Suppose, lose- all my claim to another! I shall see Clara and Mrs. I had just been cogitating, Cap. was

I know! Yes, and more in triumph. "Not a word!" I never say more all I suspect!" said Cap. her eagerness to get home. "Herbert Greyson, and Wood went by stage to up at the Planters' and to Herbert Greyson and to see Clara and Mrs. and the doctor's house, and the parlor in the presence

Capitola and Clara, and Herbert, was very cor- introduced Capitola to seated Herbert on Clara. conversation upon the and the circum- and Clara and Capitola had happened to each and parting. And over their mutual adven- tures, Herbert and Capitola to their hotel.

the most serious of the thing the hotel he went into deep reflection. "Herbert, you are here in either upon the same set in the same coun- of them suspects the. "Herbert, you are here in either upon the same set in the same coun- of them suspects the. "Herbert, you are here in either upon the same set in the same coun- of them suspects the.

Williams appeared, they were attacked. They were accom- in front of the

Warfield, Herbert ed, and took their at the right side of

rience, whose eyes re where sat Mrs. re dressed in deep own and their faces -bert dressed every could turn her head. look of Old Hurri- stand of strange insti- old man's regards

At last, to Herbert's great uneasiness, Major Warfield turned and commenced questioning him:

"Who is that woman in mourning?"

"Hm—m—that one with the fixen curls under her bonnet is Miss Day."

"I don't mean the girl, I mean the woman sitting by her?"

"That is—hem—hem!—that is Doctor Williams sitting—"

Old Hurricane turned abruptly around and favored his nephew with a severe, scrutinizing gaze—demanding:

"Herbert, have you been drinking so early in the morning?—Denny, sir, this is not the season for mint juleps before breakfast! Is that great, stout, round-bodied, red-faced old Doctor Williams a little woman? I see him sitting on the right of Miss Day. I didn't refer to him. I referred to that still, quiet little woman sitting on her left, who has never stirred hand or foot since she sat down there. Who is she?"

"That woman—oh!—she?—yes—ah, let me see—she is a—Miss Day's companion!" faltered Herbert.

"To the demon with you! who does not see that!—But who is she? What is her name?" abruptly demanded Old Hurricane.

"Her name is a—Did you ever see her before, sir?"

"I don't know. That is what I am trying to remember. But, sir, will you answer my question?"

"You seem very much interested in her."

"You seem very much determined not to let me know who she is! Hang it, sir! I will you or will you not tell me that woman's name?"

"Certainly," said Herbert; "her name is—"

He was about to say *Marah Rocke*, but moral indignation overpowered him, and he passed.

"Well, well, her name is what?" impatiently demanded Old Hurricane.

"*Mrs. Warfield!*" answered Herbert, doggedly.

And just at that unfortunate moment Marah turned her pale face and beseeching eyes around and met the full gaze of her husband!

In an instant her face blanched to marble and her head sank upon the railing before her bench.

Old Hurricane was too dark to grow pale, but his bronzed cheek turned as grey as his hair, which fairly lifted itself on his head. Grasping his walking-stick with both his hands, he tottered to his feet, and muttering:

"I'll murder you for this, Herbert!" he strode out of the court-room.

Marah's head rested for about a minute on the railing before her, and when she lifted it again, her face was as calm and patient as before.

This little incident had passed without attracting attention from any one except Capitola, who, sitting on the other side of Herbert Greyson, had heard the little passage of words between him and her uncle, and had seen the latter start up and go out, and who now turning to her companion, inquired:

"What is the meaning of all this, Herbert?"

"It means—Satan! And now attend to what is going on. Mr. Sauter has stated the case, and now Stringfellow, the attorney for the other side, is just telling the judge that he stands there in the place of his client, Lieutenant Colonel Le Noir, who, being ordered to join General Taylor in Mexico, is upon the eve of setting out and cannot be here in person."

"And is that true? Won't he be here?"

"It seems not. I think he is ashamed to appear after what has happened and that taken advantage of a fair excuse to absent himself."

"Oh, yes. I saw it officially announced in this morning's papers. And, by-the-by, I am very much afraid he is to take command of my regiment and be my superior officer!"

"Oh, Herbert, I hope and pray not! I think there is wickedness enough packed up in that man's body to sink a squadron or lose an army!"

"Well, Cap., such things will happen. Attention! There's Sauter next to call his witness." And, in truth, the next moment Capitola Black was called to the stand.

Cap took her place and gave her evidence *con amore*, and with such *vim* and such expression of indignation, that Stringfellow reminded her she also was there to give testimony, and not to plead the cause.

Cap. rejoined that she was perfectly willing to do *testis*. And so she continued not only to tell the acts, but to express her opinions as to the motives of Le Noir, and give her judgment as to what should be the decision of the court.

Stringfellow, the attorney for Colonel Le Noir, evidently thought that in this rash, reckless, excited witness, he had a fine subject for forensic cross-examination! But he reckoned "without his host." He did not know Cap! He, too, "caught a Tartar." And before the cross-examination was concluded, Capitola's astute and cutting replies overwhelmed him with a flood and confusion, and done more for the cause of her friend than all her partisans put together!

Other witnesses were called to corroborate the testimony of Capitola, and still others were examined to prove the last expressed wishes of the late William Day, in regard to the disposal of his daughter's person during the period of her minority.

There was no effective rebutting evidence, and after some hard arguing by the attorneys on both sides, the case was closed, and the judge deferred his decision until the third day thereafter.

The parties then left the Court and returned to their several lodgings.

Old Hurricane gave no one a civil word that day. Wood was an atrocious villain, an incendiary scoundrel, a cut-throat, and a black demon. Cap. was a beggar, a vagabond, and a vixen. Herbert Greyson was another beggar, besides being a knave, a top and an impudent puppy. The inn-keeper was a swindler, the waiters thieves, the whole world was going to ruin, where it well deserved to go, and all mankind to the demon—as he hoped and trusted they would!

And all the tornado of passion, and invective arose just because he had unexpectedly met in the court-room the patient face and beseeching eyes of a woman, married and forsaken, loved and lost, long ago!

Was strange that Herbert, who had so resented his treatment of Marah Rocke, should bear all his fury, injustice and abuse of himself and others with such compassionate forbearance? But he not only forbore to resent his own affronts, but also besought Capitola to have patience with the old man's temper, and apologized to the host, by saying that Major Warfield had been very severely tried that day, and when calmer, would be the first to regret the violence of his own words.

Marah Rocke returned with Clara to the old doctor's house. She was more patient, silent and quiet than before. Her face was a little paler, her eyes softer, and her tones lower—that was the only visible effect of the morning's unexpected encounter.

The next day but one all the parties concerned assembled at the court-house to hear the decision of the judge. It was given as had been anticipated in the favor of Clara Day, who was permitted in accordance with her father's approved wishes, to reside in her paternal home, under the care of Mrs. Marah Rocke. Colonel Le Noir was to remain trustee of the property, with directions from the court immediately to pay the legacies left by the doctor to Clara Day to Marah Rocke and Traverser Rocke, and also to pay to Clara Day, in quarterly instalments, from the revenue of her property, an annual sum of money, sufficient for her support.

The decision filled the hearts of Clara Day and her friends with joy. Forgetting time and place, men there were into the arms of Marah Rocke and went with delight. All concerned in the trial then sought their lodgings.

Clara and Mrs. Rocke returned to the cottage to make preparations for removing to Willow Heights.

Doctor Williams went to the agent of the property and there he gave up the keys, which he did without hesitation.

Old Hurricane and his party packed up, to be ready for the stage to take them to Tip-Top the next day.

But that night a series of mysterious events were said to have taken place at the deserted house at Willow Heights, that filled the whole community with superstitious wonder. It was reported by numbers of gardeners and farmers, who passed that road, on their way to early market, that a perfect witches' Sabbath had been held in that empty house all night! That light

had appeared fitting from room to room; that strange, weird faces had looked out from the windows; and wild screams had pierced the air!

The next day when this report reached the ears of Clara, and she was asked by Doctor Williams whether she would not be afraid to live there, she laughed gaily and bade him try her.

Cap. who had some over to take leave of Clara, joined her in her merriment, declared that she, for her part, doted on ghosts, and that after Herbert Greyson's departure, she should come and visit Clara and help her to entertain the spectres.

Clara replied that she should hold her to her promise. And so the friends kissed and separated.

That same day saw several removals. Clara and Mrs. Rocke took up their abode at Willow Heights, and seized an hour even of that busy time, to write to Traverser and apprise him of their good fortune.

Old Hurricane and his party set out for their home, where they arrived before night-fall.

And the next day but one Herbert Greyson took leave of his friends and departed to join his company on their road to glory.

CHAPTER XLIII.

BLACK DONALD.

Fear'd, shunn'd, belied ere youth had lost her force,
He hated men too much to feel remorse,
And thought the vice of wrath a sacred call,
To pay the injuries of some on all.

There was a laughing devil in his cheer,
That cause smother'd both of rage and fear;
And where his frowns of hatred darkly fell,
Hope, withering, fled, and mercy sigh'd farewell!

Herbert Greyson had been correct in his conjecture concerning the cause of Colonel Le Noir's conduct in absencing himself from the trial, or appearing there only in the person of his attorney. A proud, vain, conceited man, full of Joseph Surfaceisms, he could better have borne to be arraigned upon the charge of murder than to face the accusation of baseness that was about to be proved upon him. Being reasonably certain as to what was likely to be the decision of the Orphans' Court, he was not disappointed in hearing that judgment had been rendered in favour of his ward and her friends. His one great disappointment had been upon discovering the flight of Clara. For when he had ascertained that she had fled, he knew that all was lost—and lost through Capitola—the hated girl for whose destruction he had now another and a stronger motive—revenge.

In this mood of mind, three days before his departure to join his regiment, he sought the resort of the outlaw. He chose an early hour of the evening as that in which he would be most likely to find Black Donald.

It was about eight o'clock when he wrapped his large cloak around his tall figure, pulled his hat low over his sinister brows, and set out to walk alone to the secret cavern in the side of the Demon's Punch Bowl.

The night was dark and the path dangerous; but his directions had been careful, so that when he reached the brink of that awful abyss, he knew precisely where to begin his descent with the least danger of being precipitated to the bottom.

And by taking a strong hold upon the stunted saplings of pine and cedar that grew down through the clefts of the ravine, and placing his feet firmly upon the points of projecting rocks, he contrived to descend the inside of that horrible abyss, which from the top seemed to be fraught with certain death to any one daring enough to make the attempt.

When about half-way down the precipice he reached the elump of cedar bushes growing in the deep cleft, and concealing the hole that formed the entrance to the cavern.

Here he paused, and looking through the entrance into a dark and apparently fathomless cavern, he gave the peculiar signal-whistle which was immediately answered from within by the well-known voice of the outlaw chief, saying:

"All right my Colonel. Give us your hand. Be careful now; the floor of this cavern is several feet below the opening."

Le Noir extended his hand into the darkness within and soon felt it grasped by that of Black Donald, who, muttering, "Slowly, slowly, my dear darkness, in guiding him down the utter darkness of the subterranean descent until they stood upon the firm bottom of the cavern."

"They were sitting in the midst of a blackness that might be felt, except that from a small opening in the side of the rock a light gleamed. Towards this second opening Black Donald conducted his patron."

And stooping and passing before him, led him into an inner cavern, well lighted and rudely fitted up. Upon a large natural platform of rock, occupying the centre of the space, were some dozen bottles of brandy or whiskey, several leaves of bread and some dried venison. Around this rude table, seated upon fragments of rock, lugged thither for the purpose, were some eight or ten men of the band, in various stages of intoxication. Along the walls were piles of bear-skins, some of which served as couches for six or seven men, who had thrown themselves down upon them in a state of exhaustion or drunken stupor.

"Come, boys, we have not a boundless choice of apartments here, and I want to talk to my Colonel. Suppose you take your liquor and give us the use of this one for an hour," said the outlaw.

The men sullenly obeyed and began to gather up the viands. Demon Dick seized one of the lights to go after them.

"Put down the gim. Satan singe your skin for you! Do you want to bring a hue and cry upon us?—Don't you know a light in the outer cavern can be seen from the outside?" roared Black Donald.

Dick sulkily set down the candle and followed his comrades.

"What are you glimmering about? confound you! You can see to eat and drink well enough and find your way to your mouth in the dark, you brute!" thundered the captain.

But as there was no answer to this, and the men had retreated and left their chief with his visitor alone, Black Donald turned to Colonel Le Noir, and said:

"Well, my patron, what great matter is it that has caused you to leave the company of fair Clara Day for our grim society?"

"Ah, then it appears you are not aware that Clara Day has fled from us! has made a successful appeal to the Orphan's Court, and been taken out of our hands!" angrily replied Colonel Le Noir.

"Whoa! My Colonel, I think I could have managed that matter better. I think if I had not have escaped me!"

"But! but! but! stop boasting, since it was through your neglect—yours! yours!—that I lost this girl."

"Mine!" exclaimed Black Donald in astonishment.

"Are yours for if you had done your duty, performed your engagement, kept your word, and delivered me from this fatal Capitola, I had not lost my ward, nor my son his wealthy bride!" exclaimed Le Noir, angrily.

"Capitola! Capitola again! What on earth had she to do with the loss of Clara Day!" cried Black Donald, in wonder.

"Everything to do with it, sir! By a cunning artifice she delivered Clara from our power; actually set her free and covered her flight until she was in security!"

"That girl again! Ha-ha-ha-ha! Ho-ho-ho-ho!" laughed and roared Black Donald, slapping his knees.

Le Noir grand and gnashed his teeth in rage, muttering hoarsely:

"Yes! you may laugh, confound you, since it is granted those who win to do so! you may laugh! for you have done me out of five thousand dollars, and what on earth have you performed to earn it?"

"Come, come, my Colonel! fair and easy! I don't know which is vulgarst, to betray loss of temper of love or money, and you are doing both! However, it is between friends! But how the demon did that girl, that *capitola* Capitola, get Clara off from right under your eyes?"

"By changing clothes with her! confound you! I will tell you all about it," replied Le

Noir, who thereupon commenced and related the whole stratagem by which Capitola fled. Clara, including the manner in which she accompanied them to church and revealed herself at the altar.

Black Donald threw himself back and roared with laughter, vigorously slapping his knees and crying:

"That girl! that *capitola* Capitola! I would not sell my prospect of possessing her for doubly your price!"

"Your prospect! Your prospect is about as deceptive as a *fata morgana*! What have you been doing, I ask you again, towards realising this prospect, and earning the money you have already received?"

"Fair and easy, my Colonel! Don't let temper get the better of justice! What have I already paid me?—In the first place, I lost my time and risked my liberty watching around Hurricane Hall. Then, when I had identified her, the window, I put three of my best men in to early to capture her! Then, when she and my good looks, transmuting myself into a camp-meeting to watch, among other things, an opportunity of carrying her off! The sooner she succeeded in nothing except in fooling the wisecracker, whom I furnished with instruments by which they made their escape. Since that time we have had to lie low—yes, literally—to *lie low*—to keep out of sight, to burrow underground in a word, to live in this cavern!"

"And since which you have abandoned all five thousand dollars," sneered Le Noir.

"Earning the *remaining* five thousand, you mean, Colonel! The first five thousand I consider I have already earned. It was the last five he disposed of."

"Well?"

"Well, I have not given up either the intention of earning the money, or the hope of getting the girl; in truth, I had rather lose the money than the girl. I have been on the watch almost continually; but though I suppose she rides out frequently, I have not yet happened to hit upon her in any of her excursions. At last, however, I have fixed upon a plan for getting the witch into my power. I shall trust the execution of that plan to no one but myself!"

"Time! perdition, sir! delay in this matter is fraught with danger! Listen, sir! How Wardle of her history I do not know, or the knowledge it was through the agency of that accursed hag, Nancy Grewell—but that he has her, and that she knows all about her, is but too certain! That he has not at present legal proof enough to establish her identity and her rights before a court of justice, I infer from the fact of his continuing inactive in the matter. But who can foresee how soon he may obtain all the proof that is necessary to establish Capitola's claim? Who can tell whether he is not now secretly engaged in seeking and collecting such proof?—I repeat, I repeat, that the girl must immediately be got rid of!—Donald! rid me of that creature and the day that you prove to me her death, I will double your fee!"

"I agreed, my Colonel, agreed. I have no objection to your doubling, or even quadrupling my fee! you shall find me in that as in all other matters, perfectly amenable to reason. Only I must have time. Haste would ruin us. I repeat that I have a plan by which I am certain to get the girl into my possession. A plan, the execution of which I will intrust to no other hands but my own. But I conclude as I began—

"—I must have time!"

"And how much time?" exclaimed Le Noir, again losing his patience.

"Easy, my patron. That I cannot tell you. It is imprudent to make promises, especially to you, who will take nothing into consideration, when they cannot be kept," replied Black Donald, coolly.

"But, sir, do you not know that I am ordered to Mexico, and must leave within three days!—I would see the end of this before I go!" angrily exclaimed Le Noir.

"Suffly, suffly my child, the Colonel!—Slow but sure!—Fair and easy goes far in a day!—In a word, will you trade this business for me, and do it promptly?"

"Surely, surely, my patron! But I insist upon time!"

"But I go to Mexico in three days!—All honor go with you my Colonel! Who would keep his friend from the path of glory?"

"Perdition, sir, you trade with me!"

"Perdition, certainly, Colonel. There is no trade as you mean; but the rest of your sentence is wrong; I don't trade with you!"

"Nothing in the devil's name do you mean?"

"Nothing in the name of any absent friend of ours! I mean simply that you may go to—Mexico."

"And—my business—"

"—Can be done just as well, perhaps better, without you! Recollect, if you please, my Colonel, when you were absent with Harrison *without you*. Your *great business was done here*! No one ever suspected for that very reason. The person most benefited by the death of Engene Le Noir was far enough from the scene of his murder!"

"But! Perdition seize you! Why do you speak of things so long past!" exclaimed Le Noir, growing white to his very lips.

"To jog your worship's memory, and suggest that your honor is the last man who ought to for you to be in a distant land, serving your country, at the time that your brother's heiress, whose property you illegally hold, is got out of your way."

"There is something in that," mused Le Noir. "There is *all* in that!"

"You have a good brain, Donald!"

"What did I tell you?—I ought to have been in the cabinet, and mean to be too. But Colonel, mean, I should like, for fear of accidents, that you conclude yours—and settle with me before you go."

"What do you mean?"

"That you should look over to me the remaining five thousand."

"I'll see you at the demon first," passionately exclaimed Le Noir.

"No you won't; for in that case you'd have to make away with the girl, yourself; or see old Hurricane make away with all our fortune."

"Wretch, that you are!"

"Come, come, Colonel, don't let's quarrel. The Kingdom of Satan divided against itself cannot stand. Do not let us lose time by falling out. I will get rid of the girl! You, before you go, must hand over the tin, lest you should fall out, my Colonel. Shall out, and never fear. Shell Capitola shall be a wife and Black Donald a widower, before many weeks shall pass."

"I'll do it. I have no time for dispute, as you know; and you profit by the dispute, as I do it, though under protest," muttered Le Noir, grinding his teeth.

"That's my brave and generous patron," said Black Donald, as he arose to attend Le Noir from the cavern, "that's my magnificent Colonel of cavalry. The man who runs such risks for you, should be very handsomely remunerated."

CHAPTER XLII.

GLOBY.

"What Alexander sighed for,
What Cassius's soul possessed,
What heroes, slain, have died for,
Globy!"

Within three days after this settlement with Black Donald, Colonel Le Noir left home to join his regiment, ordered to Mexico.

He was accompanied by his son, Graven Le Noir, as far as Baltimore, from which port the reinforcements were to sail for New Orleans, en route for the seat of war.

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my patron! But I insist

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by you my Colonel! Who
from the path of glory?"

trifle with me?"

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trifle with you!"

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IV.

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about to weigh anchor, Craven Le Noir took leave of his father and set out for the Hidden House.

And here Colonel Le Noir's regiment was joined by the company of new recruits, in which Herbert Greyson held a commission as lieutenant, and thus the young man's worst forebodings were realized, in having for a travelling companion and superior officer, the man of whom he had been destined to make a mortal enemy, Col. Le Noir. However, Herbert soon marked out his course of conduct, which was to avoid Le Noir as much as was consistent with his own official duty, and when compelled to meet him, to deport himself with the cold ceremony of a subordinate to a superior officer.

Le Noir, on his part, treated Herbert with an arrogant scorn amounting to insult, and need every opportunity afforded him by his position to wound and humiliate the young lieutenant.

After a quick and prosperous voyage they reached New Orleans, where they expected to be further reinforced by a company of volunteers who had come down the Mississippi river from St. Louis. These volunteers were now being daily drilled at their quarters in the city, and were only awaiting the arrival of the vessel to be enrolled in the regiment.

One morning, a few days after the ship reached harbor, Herbert Greyson went on shore to the military rendezvous to see the new recruits exercised. While he stood within the enclosure watching their evolutions under the orders of an officer, his attention became concentrated upon the form of a young man of the rank and file, who was marching in a line with many others, having their backs turned towards him. This form and gait seemed familiar—under the circumstances in which he saw them again—painfully familiar. And yet he could not identify the man. While he gazed, the recruits, at the word of command suddenly wheeled and faced about. And Herbert could scarcely repress an exclamation of astonishment and regret.

That young man in the dress of a private soldier was Clara Day's betrothed, the widow's only son, Traverse Rock! While Herbert continued to gaze in surprise and grief, the young recruit raised his eyes, recognized his friend, flushed up to his very temples, and cast his eyes down again. The rapid evolutions soon wheeled them around, and the next order sent them into their quarters.

Herbert's time was also up, and he returned to his duty.

The next day Herbert went to the quarters of the new recruits, and sought out his young friend, whom he found loitering about the grounds. Again Traverse blushed deeply as the young lieutenant approached. But Herbert Greyson, letting none of his regret appear, since now it would be worse than useless, in only serving to give pain to the young private, went up to him cordially and shook his hands, saying:

"Going to serve your country, eh, Traverse? Well, I am heartily glad to see you, at any rate."

"But heartily sorry to see me here, enlisted as a private in a company of raw recruits, looking not unlike Fabba's ragged regiment?"

"Nay, I did not say that, Traverse. Many a private in the ranks has been led by a general officer," replied Herbert, encouragingly.

Traverse laughed good-humoredly, saying:

"It does not look much like it at in my case. This dress," he said, looking down at his coarse, ill-fitting uniform, cow hide shoes, etc.—"this dress, this drilling, these close quarters, coarse food, and mixed company, is enough to take the military ardour out of anyone."

"Traverse, you talk like a dandy, which is not at all your character. Efficiency is not your vice."

"Nor any other species of weakness, do you mean?" Alas! Herbert's own saying, hopeful, confident old friend is considerably taken down in his ideas of himself, his success, and life in general. I went to the West with high hopes. Six months of struggling against indifference, neglect, and accumulating debts, lowered them down. I carried out letters and made friends, but their friendship began and ended in wishing me well. While trying to get into profitable practice I got into debt. Meanwhile I could not hear from my betrothed in all those months. An occasional letter from her might have prevented this step. But troubles gathered around me, debts increased, and—"

"Creditors were cruel. It is the old story, poor boy!"

"No; my only creditors were my landlady and landress, two poor widows who never willingly distressed me, but occasionally asked for 'that little amount' so piteously, that my heart beat to lock it to give them. And as victuals and clean shirts were absolutely necessary to life, every week my debts increased. And now I am faced a prosperous male creditor, and might, perhaps, have been provoked to bully such an one, had he been inclined to be cruel; but I could not face poor women, who after all, I believe, are generally the best friends a struggling young man can have; and so, not to lose a smart young lieutenant with a poor private's antecedents—"

"Oh, Traverse!"

"I will even make an end of my story. 'At last there came a weary day when hope and faith beneath the weight gave way.' And hearing that a company of volunteers was being raised to go to Mexico, I enlisted, and my citizen's wardrobe and my little medical library, paid my debts, made my two friends, the poor widows, some acceptable presents, sent the small remnant of the money to my mother, telling her that I was going farther south to try my fortune, and—here I am!"

"You did not tell her that you had enlisted?"

"No."

"Oh, Traverse! how long ago was it that you left St. Louis?"

"Just two weeks."

"Ah! if you had only had patience for a few days longer, I might have been spared the agony of an instant he was sorry for having spoken thus, for Traverse, with all his soul in his eyes, asked eagerly:

"Why—why, Herbert? What do you mean?"

"Why you should know that I did not come direct from West point, but from the neighborhood of Stanton and Hurricane Hall."

"Did you? Oh, did you? Then you may be able to give the news of Clara and my dear mother!" exclaimed Traverse, eagerly.

"Yes, I am—pleasant news," said Herbert, hesitating in a manner in which no one ever hesitated before in communicating good tidings.

"Thank Heaven! Oh, thank Heaven! What is it, Herbert? How is my dear mother getting on? Where is my best Clara?"

"They are both living together at Willow Heights, according to the wishes of the late Doctor Day. A second appeal to the Orphan's Court, made in behalf of Clara by her next friend Doctor Williams, about a month ago, proved more successful. And if you had waited a few days longer before enlisting and leaving St. Louis you would have received a letter from Clara to the same effect, and one from Doctor Williams, apprising you that your mother had received her legacy, and that the thousand dollars left you by Doctor Day had been paid into the Agricultural Bank, subject to your orders."

"Oh, Heaven! had I but waited three days longer!" exclaimed Traverse, in such acute distress that Herbert hastened to console him by saying:

"Do not repine Traverse. These things go by fate. It was your destiny—let us hope it will prove a glorious one."

"It was my IMPATIENCE!" exclaimed Traverse.

"It was my IMPATIENCE! Doctor Day always faithfully warned me against it—always told me that most of the errors, sins and miseries of this world arose from simple impatience, which is want of faith. And now I know it! and now I know it! What had Z, who had an honorable profession, to do with becoming a private soldier?"

"Well, well, it is honorable at least to serve your country," said Herbert soothingly.

"If a foreign foe invaded my shores, yes; but what had I to do with invading another's country?—enlisting for a war of the rights and wrongs of which I know no more than anybody else does! Growing impatient because fortune did not at once empty her cornucopia upon my head! Oh, fool!"

You name yourself too severely, Traverse. Your act was not so natural enough and justifiable enough, much as it is to be regretted," said Herbert, cheerfully.

"Come, come, sit on this plank bench beside me—if you are not ashamed to be seen with a private who is also a donkey—and tell me all about it. Show me the full measure of the happiness I

have so recklessly squandered away," exclaimed Traverse, despondently.

"I will set beside you and tell you everything you wish to know,—on condition that you stop berating yourself in a manner that fills me with indignation," replied Herbert, as they went to a distant part of the dusty enclosure and took their seats upon a rude bench.

"Oh, Herbert bear with me; I could dash my will, impatient head against a stone wall!"

"That would not be likely to clear or strengthen your brains," said Herbert, who thereupon commenced and told Traverse the whole history of the possession of Clara Day at the Hidden House; the interception of her letters; the attempt made to force her into a marriage with Craven Le Noir; her deliverance from her enemies by the address and courage of Capitola; her flight to Stanton and refuge with Mrs. Rocks; her appeal to the court; and finally her success and her settlement under the charge of her maternally friend at Willow Heights."

Traverse had not listened patiently to this account. He heard it with many bursts of irrepressible indignation and many involuntary starts of wild passion. Towards the last he sprang up and walked up and down, clanging like an angry lion in his cage.

"And this man," he exclaimed, as Herbert concluded,—"*This* domo—this base—this now commanding officer! the colonel of our regiment!"

"Yes," replied Herbert, "but as such you must not call him names; military rules are despotic; and this man who knows your person and knows you to be the betrothed of Clara Day, whose land and fortune he covets for his own, will leave no power, with which his command invests him, untried, to rain and destroy you! Traverse, I say these things to you, that being forewarned, you may be fore armed." I trust that you will remember your mother and your betrothed, and for their dear sakes practice every sort of self-control, patience and forbearance under the provocation you may receive from our colonel. And in advising you to do this, I only counsel that which I shall myself practice. I, too, am under the ban of Le Noir for the part I played in the church in snoring Capitola, as well as for happening to be the nephew of my uncle, Major Warfield, who is his mortal enemy."

"I'll—will I not be patient, after the lesson I have just learned upon the evils of his opposite? Be easy on my account, dear, old friend, I will be as patient as Job, meek as Moses, and long suffering as—my own sweet mother!" said Traverse, earnestly.

The drum was now heard beating to quarters, and Traverse, wringing his friend's hand, left him.

Herbert returned to his ship full of one scheme, of which he had not spoken to Traverse lest it should prove unsuccessful. This scheme was to procure his free discharge before they should set sail for the Rio Grande. He had many influential friends among the officers of his regiment, and he was resolved to tell them as much as was delicate, proper and useful for them to know of the young recruit's private history in order to get their co-operation.

Herbert spent every hour of this day and the next, when off duty, in this service of his friend. He found his brother-officers easily interested, sympathetic and propitious. They united their efforts with his own to procure the discharge of the young recruit; but in vain! the power of Colonel Le Noir was opposed to their influence, and the application was peremptorily refused.

Herbert Greyson did not sit down listlessly under this disappointment, but wrote an application, embodying all the facts of the case to the Secretary of War, got it signed by all the officers of the regiment and dispatched it by the first mail.

Simultaneously he took another important step for the interest of his friend. Without being in any particular motive he had begged Traverse to let him have his photograph taken, and the latter, with a laugh, at the lover-like proposal, had consented. When the likeness was finished, Herbert sent it by express to Major Warfield, accompanied by a letter describing the excellent character and unfortunate condition of Traverse, praying the Major's interest in his behalf, and concluded by saying:

"You cannot look upon the accompanying photograph of my friend and any longer disclaim your own express image in your son."

How this affected the action of Old Hurricane will be seen hereafter.

Traverse knowing nothing of the efforts that had been, and were still being made for his discharge, suffered neither disappointment for failure of the first, nor anxiety for the issue of the last. He wrote to his mother and Clara, congratulating them on their good fortune; telling them that he, in common with many young men of St. Louis, had volunteered for the Mexican War, that he was then at New Orleans, *en route* for the Rio that their mutual friend, Herbert Grayson was an officer in the same regiment of which he himself was at present a private, but with strong hopes of soon winning his epaulettes. He enclosed an order for his mother to draw the thousand dollars left him by Doctor Day; and he advised her to re-deposit the sum in her own name, for her own use in case of need. Praying God's blessing upon them all, and begging their prayers for himself, Traverse concluded his letter, which he mailed the same evening.

And the next morning the company was ordered on board, and the whole expedition set sail for the Rio Grande.

Now we might just as easily not accompany our troops to Mexico, and relate the feats of arms there performed, with the minutest and fidelity of an eye-witness, since we have had at dinner tables where the heroes of that war have been honored guests, and where we have heard them fight their battles over till "thrice the foe was slain, and thrice the field was won."

We might following the rising star of our young lieutenant, as by his own merits and others' misdeeds he ascended from rank to rank, through all the grades of military promotion, but we need not. Major and Colonel Grayson, are they not written in the chronicles of the Mexican War?

W^h prefer to look after our little domestic heroine, our brave little Cap., who, when women have their rights, shall be a lieutenant-colonel herself. Shall she not, gentlemen?

In one fortnight from this time, while Mrs. Rooke and Clara were still living comfortably at Willow Heights, and waiting anxiously to hear from Traverse, when they still supposed to be at his last letter written on the eve of his departure for the seat of war. At first the news overwhelmed them with grief, but then they sought relief in faith, answered his letter cheerfully, and commended him to the infinite mercy of God.

CHAPTER XLV.

CAP. CAPTIVATES A CRAVEN.

"He knew himself a villain, but he deemed
And scored the best of things he seemed;
Those deeds the better spirits plainly did
He knew himself detected, but he knew
The hearts that toated him crouched and—dreaded
too."

The surergerate human heart is perhaps the most inconsistent thing in all nature; and in nothing is it more so than in the manifestations of its passions; and in no passion is it so fantastic as in that which it miscalls love—but which is really often only appetite.

From the earliest days of manhood Craven Le Noir had been the votary of vice, which he called pleasure. Before reaching the age of twenty-five he had run the full course of dissipation, and found himself ruined in health, degraded in character, and disgusted with life.

Yet in all this experience his heart had not been once agitated with a single emotion that deserved the name of passion. It was colder than the coldest.

He had not loved Clara; though, for the sake of her money, he had courted her so assiduously. Indeed, for the doctor's orphan girl, he had, from spirit had shrunk from her pure soul. His evil foathing a fond might feel for an angel. He had found it repugnant and difficult, almost to the extent of impossibility, for him to pursue the courtship to which he was only reconciled by a sense of duty to—his pocket.

It was reserved for his meeting with Capitola, at the altar of the Forest Chapel, to fire his clammy heart, stagnant blood, and sated senses, with Her image, as she stood there at the altar with flashing eyes, and flaming cheeks, and seething tongue, defying him, was ever before his mind's eye. Pleasant and original, that she impressed upon his nature as no other woman had ever been to him to do. But what, most of all, attracted him that little savage to his bosom and have her at towards him only stimulated his passion.

Craven Le Noir, among his other graces, was gifted with inordinate vanity. He did not in the least degree despair of overcoming all Capitola's passion equal to his own.

He knew well that he dared not present himself at Hurricane Hall, but he resolved to waylay her in her rides, and there to prize his suit. To this he was urged by another motive almost as strong as love—namely, avarice.

He had gathered thus much from his father—that Capitola Black was supposed to be Capitola party in land, houses, iron and coal mines, foundries and furnaces, railway shares, &c., and bank stocks, from which his father drew his princely revenue that supported them both in their lavish extravagance of living.

As the heiress, or rather the rightful owner, of all this vast fortune, Capitola was a much greater "catch" than poor Craven with her modest estate had been. And Mr. Craven Le Noir was quite willing to turn the tables on all that vast property with the great heiress, and step from his Noir's often ungracious bonny to that of the husband of the heiress and the master of the property. Added to that was another favorable circumstance, namely, that she had had a strong personal antipathy to Clara, which would make his course of courtship all the pleasanter. In one word, he resolved to woo, win, and elope her, and then turn upon his father and claim the Noir's fortune in right of his wife. The absence of Colonel Le Noir in Mexico favored his projects, as he could not fear interruption.

Meanwhile our little madcap remained quite unconscious of the honors designed her. She had absence; every alternate day of the second; twice in the third; once in the fourth; not at all in the fifth, and the sixth week she was quite herself again, as full of fun and frolic and as ready for any mischief or devilry that might turn up.

She resumed her rides, no longer followed by Wool, whom Old Hurricane, partly upon account of his misadventure in having had the misfortune inadvertently "to lose sight of" his mistress upon that memorable occasion of his mistress unprospective of Cap. into Clara, and partly because he did not consider his favorite in danger.

He little knew what a subtle and unscrupulous agent had been left sworn to her destruction, and that another individual, almost equally dangerous, had registered a secret vow to run off with her.

Neither did poor Cap., when rejoicing to be free from the dogging attendance of Wool, imagine it even likely that if she was exposed, nor is cared for them in any other manner than as provided been injured to danger, and had never seen Bayard, was "without fear and without reproach."

Craven Le Noir proceeded cautiously with his plans, knowing that there was time enough, and that all might be lost by haste. He did not wish to alarm Capitola.

The first time he took occasion to meet her in the folds of his saddle, and with a melancholy smile passed on.

"Miserable wretch, he is a mean fellow to want to marry a girl against her will, no matter how

much he might have been in love with her; and I am very glad I balked him! Still he looks so ill and unhappy that—I can't help pitying him! I shake my head, looking compassionately at his white cheeks and languishing eyes, and little knowing that the illness was the effect of dissipation, and that the melancholy was assumed for the occasion.

A few days after this Cap. again met Craven Le Noir, who again, with a deep bow and sad smile, passed her.

"Poor fellow! he richly deserves to suffer, and I hope it may make him better, for I am right sure you will be so dreadful to let his father try to compel her to have him! Suppose, now, Herbert Grayson was to take a fancy to another girl, would 't not be to take a and put a pistol to his head, and say, 'Cap. I shall marry none but her, or receive an order you lead in your staph brains!' No, I'd scorn it! I'd forward the other wedding! I'd make the cake and dress the bride, and—when maybe I'd break my heart for anybody! Set them both sweet, precent, Herbert treat me so! And I'm immitable unctious, as 't Cap., with a rich, happy love, she cheered Gyp and so on.

Now Craven Le Noir had been conscious of the repeating and compassionate look of Capitola, but he did not know that they were only the pitying regards of a noble and victorious nature over a vanquished and suffering wrong-doer. However, he still determined to be cautious, and not ruin his prospects by precipitate action, but to "hasten slowly."

So the next time he met Capitola he raised his eyes with one deep, sad, and appealing gaze to hers, and then being profoundly passed on.

"Poor man!" said Cap., to herself, "he bears no malice towards me for depriving him of his sweetheart, that's certain! And badly as he behaved, I suppose it was all for love, for I don't know how any one could live in the same house with Clara and not be in love with her." He should have been so myself, if 't had been a man, I know!

The next time Cap. met Craven, and saw again that deep, sorrowful, appealing gaze, as he bowed and passed her; she glanced after him, saying to herself:

"Poor soul, I wonder what he means by looking at me in that piteous manner?—I can do nothing to relieve him. 'I'm sure if I could, I would.' But the way 't transgressor is hard.' Mr. Le Noir, do you who sins must suffer!"

For about three weeks the seemingly accidental meetings continued in this silent manner, so slowly did Craven make his advances. Then long step forward.

One day, when he guessed that Capitola would be out, instead of meeting her as heretofore, he put himself in her road, and riding slowly toward a five-barred gate, allowed her to overtake him.

He opened the gate, and bowing, held it open until she passed.

She bowed her thanks and rode on, but presently, without the least appearance of intruding aside—since she had overtaken him—she was at her ferocious manner, he said:

"I have long desired an opportunity to express my deep sorrow into rudeness toward an estimable young lady at the Forest Chapel. Miss Black, will you permit me now to assure you of my profound repentance of that act, and to implore your pardon."

"Oh! I have nothing against you, Mr. Le Noir? It was not I whom you were intending to marry against my will! and as for what you said and did to me, ha-ha! I had proved it, you know, and I also afterwards paid it in kind, you know, fair fight, in which I was victor; and it was a should never be vindictive!" said Cap., laughing, unjust, also did not suspect him of being treacherous and deceitful, or imagine the base designs concealed beneath his plausible manner. Her

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been in love with her; and I can't help pitying him! I'm passionately as little knowing to effect of discipline, and was assumed for the occasion.

Cap. again met Craven with a deep bow and said:

richly deserves to suffer, but I'm right to be so dreadful to him! I would have him! I don't want to take a good deal out of him! I don't want to take a good deal out of him! I don't want to take a good deal out of him!

Cap. he raised his appealing gaze to hers, passed on, to herself, "he bears depriving him of his own body as he bears to live in the same house with her."

Craven, and saw again the appealing gaze, as he bowed after him, saying to her as he looked after her: "I can be sure if I could, I would be a transgressor in my eyes."

seemingly acquiescent manner, she advances. Then she made a considerably to Cap. would he riding slowly toward her to overtake her.

riding, held it open to her, but the pretence of intruding upon her—she had her nearest eyes and desire to express to her towards an ostensible Chapel. Miss Cap. to assure you of her, and to inform you, Mr. Le Noir?

intending to marry her, you said and said, "You know, I'm not a man; it was a mistake." It was a mistake, said Cap., laughing, and being violent and being treacherous. The base despicable manner. Her

brave, honest nature could understand a lie and a despot, but not a traitor.

"Then like frank enemies who have fought their fight out, you bear no malice toward each other, we may shake hands and be friends, I hope!" said Craven, replying in the same spirit in which she had spoken.

"Well, I don't know what that, Mr. Le Noir! Friendship is a very sacred thing, and its name should not be lightly taken on our tongues. I hope you will excuse me if I decline your offer," said Cap.—who had a well of deep, true, earnest feeling beneath her effervescent surface.

"What! you will not even grant a repentant man your friendship, Miss Black?" asked Craven, with a sorrowful smile.

"I wish you well, Mr. Le Noir. I wish you a good and therefore a happy life; but I cannot give you friendship, for that means a great deal."

"Oh, I see how it is! You cannot give your friendship where you cannot give your esteem. Is it not so?"

"Yes," said Capito, "that is it; yet I wish you so well that I wish you might grow worthy of higher esteem than mine."

"You are the only man I know of who will not shrink from characterizing that conduct as it deserves—my unparadise violence towards Clara, Miss Black, I have mourned that sin from the day that I was hurried into it until this. I have bewailed it from the very bottom of my heart," said Craven, earnestly fixing his eyes with an expression of perfect truthfulness upon those of Capito.

"I am glad to hear you say so," said Cap.

"Miss Black, please to bear this in palliation—I will not presume to say in defence of my conduct; I was driven to frenzy by a passion of contending love and jealousy, as violent and mad as that of war and treason. But that the delusive passion has subsided, and among the unnumbered mercies for which I have to be thankful is that, in my frantic pursuit of Clara Day, I was not cursed with success. For all the violence into which that frenzy drove me I have deeply repented. I can never forgive myself, but I cannot forgive me."

"Mr. Le Noir, I have nothing for which to forgive you. I am glad that you have repented towards Clara, and I wish you well, and that is really all that I can say."

"I have deserved this, and I accept it," said Craven, in a tone so mournful that Capito, in spite of all her instincts, could not choose but pity him.

He rode on, with his pale face, downcast eyes and melancholy expression, until they reached a point at the back of Hurricane Hall where their paths diverged.

Here Craven, lifting his hat and bowing profoundly, said, in a sad tone:

"Good evening, Miss Black!"

And turning his horse's head, took the path leading down to the Hidden Hollow.

"Poor young fellow! he must be very unhappy down in that miserable place! but I can't help it! I wish he would go to Mexico with the rest," said Cap.

As she pursued her way homeward, she tried to excite her suspicion, Craven. Le Noir avoided meeting Capito for several days, and then threw himself in her road, and as before, allowed her to overtake him.

Very subtly he colored into conversation with her, and guarding every word and look, took care to interest without alarming her. He said no word of friendship, but a great deal of regret for wasted years and wasted talents in the past, and good resolutions for the future.

And Cap. listened good humoredly. Capito, being of a brave, hard, firm nature, had not the sensitive perceptions, fine intuitions, and true insight into character that distinguished the more refined nature of Clara Day—or at least, she had not these delicate faculties in the same perfection. Thus her undoubted suspicions of Craven's sincerity were overborne by a sort of benevolence which determined her to think the best of him which circumstances would permit.

a much better prospect of success—especially as Capito, in her ignorance of her own great fortune, must consider his proposal the very climax of discontentedness.

After three or four weeks of riding and conversing with Capito, he had, in his own estimation, advanced so far in her good opinion as to make it perfectly safe to risk a declaration. And this he determined to do upon the very first opportunity.

Chance favoured him. One afternoon Capito, riding through the pleasant woods skirting the back of the mountain range that sheltered Hurricane Hall, got a fall, for which she was afterwards inclined well to end Wood.

It happened in this way she had come to a steep rise in the ground, and urged her pony into a hard gallop, intending, as she said to herself, to "storm the height," when suddenly, under the violent strain, the girth, ill fastened, she apart, and Miss Cap. was on the ground, but, a detour the fallen saddle.

With many a blessing up to the goddess, she of the grooms, Cap. picked herself up, put her saddle on the horse, and was engaged in dressing and fastening her girth, when she heard a low moan arising from his horse, and with greatly deplored on his countenance, that he ought inquiring:

"What is the matter?—No serious accident I hope and trust, Miss Black?"

"I am not hurt," said Craven, with a half smile, and as if it was going to a hard gallop up the steep, it flew apart, gave me a tumble, that's all!" said Cap., deprecating a moment from her occupation to take breath.

"You were not hurt?" inquired Craven, with deep interest in his tone.

"No, there was no harm done except to my riding skirt, which has been torn and muddled by the fall," said Cap., laughing, and resuming her efforts to tighten the girth.

"Pray permit me," said Craven, gently taking the end of the strap from her hand; "this is no work for a lady, and is besides beyond your strength."

Capito, thanking him withdrew to the side of the road, and seating herself upon the trunk of a fallen tree, began to brush the dirt from her habit.

Craven adjusted and secured the saddle with great care, patted and soothed the pony, and then approaching Capito in the most deferential manner stood before her and said:

"Miss Black, you will pardon me, I hope if I tell you that the peril I had imagined you to be in, has so agitated my mind as to make it impossible for me longer to withhold a declaration of my sentiments—here he voice that had been uttered throughout this disclosure now really and utterly faded him.

Capito looked up with surprise and interest, she had never in her life before heard an explicit declaration of love from anybody. She and Herbert somehow, had always understood each other very well without ever a word of technical love-making passing between them; so Capito did not exactly know what was coming next.

Craven recovered his voice; and encouraged by the favorable manner in which she appeared to listen to him, actually threw himself at her feet and seizing one of her hands, with much ardour and earnestness and much more eloquence than any one would have credited him with, poured forth the history of his passion and his hopes.

"Well, I declare!" said Cap., when he had finished his speech and was waiting in breathless impatience for her answer, "this is what is called a declaration of love, and a proposal for marriage, is it?—It is downright sentimental, I suppose, if I had only the sense to appreciate it!"

"Crud girl! how you mock me!" cried Craven, rising from his knees and sitting beside her.

"No, I don't! I'm in solemn earnest! I say it is first rate! I do it again! I like it!"

"Sarcastic and merciless one, you glory in the pain you give!—But if you wish again to hear me say I love you, I will say it a dozen—yes a hundred times over, if you will only admit that you could love me a little in return!"

"Don't! that would be fifteen or two or three times is quite enough! Besides, what earthly good could my saying 'I love you' do?"

"I might persuade you to become the wife of one who would adore you to the last hour of his life!"

"Meaning you!"

"Meaning me, the most devoted of your admirers!"

"That isn't saying much, since I haven't got any but you!"

"Think forlorn for it! Then I am to understand, charming Capito, that at least your hand and your affections are free," said Craven, joyfully.

"Well, now, I don't know about that. Really, I can't positively say! but it strikes me, if I were to get married to anybody else, there's nobody would feel queer!"

"No doubt there are many whose secret hopes would be blasted for so charming a girl could not have passed through this world without having won many hearts, who would keenly feel the loss of hope in her marriage! But what if they do, my exulting Capito? You are not responsible for any one having found such hopes!"

"Fudge!" said Cap. "I'm no belle! never was! I never can be! have neither wealth, beauty, nor coquetry enough to make me one! I'm no lovers or admirers to break their hearts about me, one way or another; but there is one honest fellow—him I never mind, I feel as if I belonged to somebody else;—that's all. I am very much obliged to you, Mr. Le Noir for your interference, and even for the beautiful way in which you expressed it, but—I belong to somebody else."

"Miss Black," said Craven, somewhat abashed but not discouraged, "I think I understand you! I presume that you refer to the young man who was your gallant champion in the Forest Chapel!"

"The one that made your nose bleed!" said the incorrigible Cap.

"Well, Miss Black, from your words it appears that this is by no means an acknowledged, but only an understood engagement, which cannot be binding upon either party! Now a young lady of your acknowledged good sense, who has had admirers," interrupted Cap.

Craven smiled.

"I would not hear your enemy say that," he replied, then resuming his argument he said:

"You will really understand, Miss Black, that the very engagement of which you speak, where there is want of fortune for your interference, prudent, that it is binding. On the contrary, the position which it is my pride to offer you, is considered an enviable one, even apart from the devoted love that goes with it. You are aware that I am the sole heir of the Hidden House estate, which with all its dependencies is considered the largest proprietary, as my wife would be the most important lady in the county."

Cap's lip curled a little; looking askance at him, she answered—

"I really am very much obliged to you, Mr. Le Noir, for the distinguished honor that you deigned for me. I should highly appreciate the magnanimity of a young gentleman, who deigns to propose marriage to the little beggar that I acknowledge myself to be. I regret to be obliged to refuse such dignities, but—I belong to another!" said Capito, rising and advancing towards her horse.

Craven would not risk his success by pushing his suit farther at this sitting.

Very respectfully lending his assistance to put Capito into her saddle, he said he hoped at some future, and more propitious time, to resume the subject. And then with a deep bow he left her, mounted his horse and rode on his way.

He did not believe that Capito was more than half in earnest, or that any girl in Capito's circumstances would do such a mad thing as to refuse the position he offered her.

He did not throw himself in her way often enough to excite her suspicion that their meetings were preconcerted on his part, and even when he did overtake her or offer her to overtake him, he avoided giving her offence by pressing his suit until another good opportunity should offer. This was not long in coming.

One afternoon he overtook her and rode by her side for a short distance when finding her in usually good spirits and temper, he again renewed his declaration of love and offer of marriage.

Cap. turned around in her saddle and looked at him with astonishment for a full minute before she exclaimed:

"Why, Mr. Le Noir, I gave you an answer more than a week ago. Didn't I tell you 'no'?" "What on earth do you mean by repeating the question?"

"I mean, bewitching Capitoia, not to let such a treasure slip out of my grasp if I can help it!" "I never was in your grasp that I know of!" said Cap., whipping up her horse and leaving him far behind.

Days passed before Craven thought it prudent again to renew and press his suit. He did so upon a fine September morning, when he overtook her riding along the banks of the river. He joined her, and in the most deprecating manner besought her to listen to him once more. Then he commenced in a strain of the most impassioned eloquence and urged his love and his proposal.

Capitoia stopped her horse, and around and faced him, looking him full in the eyes, while she said:

"Upon my word, Mr. Le Noir, you remind me of an anecdote told of young Sheridan. When his father advised him to take a horse and settle, he replied by asking *where* he should take! Will nobody serve your purpose, but somebody else's sweatshirt?—I have told you that I belong to a brave young soldier who is fighting his country's battles in a foreign land, while you are lazing here at home, trying to undermine him! I am in love with you, sir! and ashamed of myself for presuming to accost me on the highway, or anywhere else, again! Craven by name and Craven by nature, you have once already left the weight of Herbert's arm! Do not provoke its second descent upon you! You are warned!" and with that Capitoia, with her lips curled, her eyes flashing and her cheeks burning, got whip to her pony and galloped away.

Craven Le Noir's thin, white face grew perfectly livid with passion.

"I will have her yet! I have sworn it, and by fair means or by foul, I will have her yet!" he exclaimed as he relaxed his hold upon his bride and let his horse go on slowly, while he sat with his brows gathered over his thin nose, his long chin buried in his neck-cloth, and his nails between his teeth, gnawing like a wild beast, as was his custom when deeply cogitating.

Presently he conceived a plan so diabolical that none but Satan himself could have inspired it! This was to take advantage of his acquaintance and causal meetings with Capitoia, so to malign her character, as to make it unlikely that any honest man would ever risk his honor by taking her to wife; and he resolved if possible to effect this in such a manner—namely, by jests, and sneers, that it should never be directly traced to a positive assertion on his part. And in the meantime he determined so as to govern himself in his deportment towards Capitoia as to arouse no suspicion, give no offence and if possible win back her confidence.

It is true that even Craven Le Noir, base as he was, shrunk from the idea of smirching the reputation of the woman of whom he wished to make a wife; but then he said to himself that in that remote neighborhood the scandal would be of little consequence to him, who as soon as he should be married, would claim the estate of the Hidden House in right of his wife, put it in charge of an overseer, and then with his bride start for Paris, the paradise of the epicurean, where he designed to fix their principal residence.

Craven Le Noir was so pleased with his plan that he immediately set about putting it in execution. Our next chapter will show how he succeeded.

CHAPTER XLV
CAP.'S MAOR.

It is not approved to the height of a villain, who hath slandered, scorned, dishonoured thy kinwoman! Oh! that I were a man for his sake, or had a treacherous heart to strike at him!

Autumn brought the usual city visitors to Hurricane Hall to spend the sporting season and recreate was in his glory, giving dinners and profuse banquets.

Capitoia also enjoyed herself rarely, enacting her new role of hostess, and not infrequently joining her uncle and his friends in their field sports. Among the guests there were two who deserved particular attention, not only because they had been for many years annual visitors of Hurricane Hall, but more especially because there had grown up between them and our little madcap heroine a strong mutual confidence and friendship. Not more than three persons could possibly be more unlike than Capitoia and the two cousins of her soul, as she called these two friends. They were both distant relatives of Major Warfield, and in right of this relationship invariably addressed Capitoia as "Cousin Cap."

John Stone, the elder of the two, was a very good-humored face, fair skin, blue eyes, and dark bright chestnut hair and beard. In temperament he was rather pliable, quiet and lazy. In character he was honest, prudent and good-tempered. In circumstances he was a safe banker, with a notable wife who was able to excite his quiet nerves with a few words of any amusement. The one person who agreeably stirred his rather still spirit was our little Cap., and that was the secret of his friendship for her.

Edwin Percy, the other, was a young West Indian, tall and delicately formed, with a clear olive complexion, languishing, dark hazel eyes, and a bright chestnut hair and beard. In temperament he was as ardent as his climate. In character, indolent, careless and self-indulgent. In condition he was the bachelor heir of a sugar plantation of a thousand acres. He loved not the chase, nor any other amusement requiring exertion. He doted upon ewansdown sofas, sprigged, French plays, cigars and chocolate. He came to the country to find repose, good air, and an appetite. He was the victim of constitutional ennui that yielded to nothing but the exhilaration of Capitoia's company; that was the mystery of his love for her, and doubtless the young Creole would have proposed for Cap. had he not thought it too much trouble to get married, and dreaded as was opposite in character to John Stone as they both were to Capitoia, yet great was the relative attraction among the three. Cap. impartially divided her kind offices as hostess between them. John Stone joined Old Hurricane in many a hard day's hunt, and Capitoia was often of the party.

Edwin Percy spent many hours on the luxurious lounge in the parlor, where Cap. was careful to place a stand with chocolate, cigars, matches and his favorite books.

One day Cap. had had what she called "a row with the parlor," that is to say, a slight misunderstanding with Major Warfield; a very uncommon occurrence, as the resolute and proud in which that temperate old gentleman never allowed himself to be drawn into the names of 'bugger,' 'fondling,' 'brat,' 'vagrabond' and 'vagrant,' that Cap. stole in. In just indignation, refused to join the blding party, and taking her game-bag, powder, her favorite pointer, walk, off as she termed it, "to shoot herself." But if Capitoia's by no means sweet temper had been tried that morning, it was destined to be still more severely tested before the day was over.

Her second prosecution came in this way: John Stone, another deserter of the blding party, had that day taken himself to Tip-Top, to pursue private business of his own. He dined at the "Antlers" in company with some sporting gentlemen of the neighborhood, and when the conver-

sation naturally turned upon field sports Mr. John Stone spoke of the fine shooting that was to be had around Hurricane Hall, when one of the gentlemen, looking straight across the table to Mr. Stone, said:

"About that pretty little huntress of Hurricane Hall—that niece, or ward, or mysterious daughter of old Hurricane, who engages with so much enthusiasm in your field sports over there, stand—I—Diana in nothing but her love of the chase!"

"Sir! it is a base calumny! and the man who endorses it is a shameless slanderer! There is my card! I may be found at my present residence Hurricane Hall," said John Stone, throwing his pasteboard across the table, and rising to leave it.

"Nay, nay," said the stranger, laughing and statement; "I know nothing about it. I wash my hands of it," said the young man, and then upon Mr. Stone's demanding the author of the calumny, he gave the name of Mr. Craven Le Noir, who he said, had "talked in his cups" at a dinner party recently given by one of his friends.

"I pronounce—publicly in the presence of all these witnesses, as I shall presently to Craven Le Noir himself—that he is a shameless, miserable, who has basely slandered a noble girl! You, forth decline to endorse these words; henceforth shall call to a severe account any man who ventures, by word, or gesture or glance, to hint this slanderable name and fame of the lady in question. Gentlemen, I am to be found at Hurricane Hall, proving to the satisfaction of the lady in question, and I have the honor of wishing you a more indulgent afternoon," said John Stone, bowing and leaving the room.

He immediately called for his horse and rode home.

In crossing the thicket of woods between the river and the rising ground in front of Hurricane Hill, he overtook Capitoia, who, as we have said, had been out alone with her gun and dog, and was now returning home with her game-bag well laden.

Now, as John Stone looked at Capitoia, with her reckless, free and joyous air, he thought she was just the sort of a girl unconsciously, to get it best to give her a hint to put an abrupt period to her acquaintance, if she had ever the slightest, with the heir apparent of the Hidden House.

While still hesitating how to begin the conversation, he came up with the young girl, dismounted, and leading his horse, walked by her side asking carelessly:

"What have you bagged, Cap.?"

"Some partridges. Oh, you should have been out with me and Sweetpea! we've had snare sport! but, anyhow, you shall enjoy your share of the spoils! Come home, and you shall have current sauce—a dish of my own invention, for uncle's sake, you know I'm such a gourmand!"

"Thank you, yes I am on my way home now. Hem—! Capitoia, I counsel you to cut the acquaintance of our neighbor, Craven Le Noir."

"I have already done so; but—what in the world is the matter, that you should advise me thus?" inquired Capitoia, fixing her eyes steadily upon the face of John Stone, who avoided her gaze as he answered:

"The man is not a proper associate for a young woman."

"I know that, and have out him accordingly; but, cousin John, there is some reason for your words, that you have not expressed; and as they concern me, now I insist upon knowing what they are."

"That it is nothing," said the other, evasively. "John Stone, I know better! and the more you look down and whip your boot, the surer I am that there is something I ought to know, and I will know."

"Well, you tergiversant! have your way!—he has been speaking lightly of you—and all nobody minds him, his tongue is no scandal!"

"John Stone, what has he said?" asked Capitoia, drawing her breath hardy between her closed teeth.

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in the presence of a I presently to Craven Le Noir, a homeless miserere noble girl! You, she those girls; hence! For after this I want any man who ventures a glance, to hint this peculiarly highly with the of the lady in question, and at Hurricane Hall, wishing you a more impression, and—a very a Stone, bowing and

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se your way!—he you—thence all no asked. Capitola?" said Capitola between her

"Oh, now, why should you ask?—It is nothing; it is not proper that I should tell you," replied that gentleman, in embarrassment.

"It is nothing," and yet it is not proper that you should tell me! How do you make that out? John Stone leaves off lashing the harmless bushes and listen to me—I have to live in the same neighborhood with this man, after you have gone away, and I insist upon knowing the whole length and breadth of his business and malignity, that I may know how to judge and punish him!" said Capitola, with such grimness of resolution that Mr. Stone, provoked at her perversity, answered:

"Well, you willful girl, listen!" And commencing, he mercifully told her all that had passed at the table.

To have seen our Cap. then! Face, neck and bosom were flushed with the crimson tide of indignation!

"You are sure of what you tell me, Cousin John?"

"The man vouches for it."

"He shall bite the dust!"

"What?"

"The slanderer shall bite the dust!"

Without more ado, down was thrown gun, game-bag, powder-flask and shot-burn, and bounding from point to point over all the intervening space, Capitola, rushed into Hurricane Hall, and with-out an instant's delay ran straight into the parlor, where her epicurean friend, the young Croole, by slumbering upon the lounge.

With her face now livid with concentrated rage, and her eyes glittering with suppressed light peculiar to intense passion, she stood before him and said:

"Edwin! Craven Le Noir has defamed your cousin I get up and challenge him!"

"What did you say, Cap.?" said Mr. Percy, slightly yawning.

"Must I repeat it? Craven Le Noir has defamed my character—challenge him!"

"That would be against the law, coz.; they would indict me, sure!"

"You—you—you lie here and answer me in that way! Oh, that I saw a man!"

"Compose yourself, I was at coz., and tell me what all this is about. Tavoo!—really I was asleep when you first spoke to me."

"Asleep! Had you been dead and in your grave, the words that I spoke should have roused you like the trump of the archangel!" exclaimed Capitola, with the blood rushing back to her cheeks.

"Your entrance was sufficiently startling, coz. I but tell me over again—what was the occasion?"

"That odious, Craven Le Noir, has slandered me. Oh, the villain! He is a base slanderer! Percy, get up this moment and challenge Le Noir! I cannot breathe freely until it is done!"

exclaimed Capitola, impetuously.

"Cousin Cap., dwelling in obsolete, scenes are passed; law settles everything, and here there is scarcely ground for action for libel. But be comforted, coz., for if this comes to Uncle Hurricane's ears, he'll make mince-meat of him in no time. It is all in his line; he'll chew him right up!"

"Percy, do you mean to say that you will not call out that man?" asked Capitola, drawing her breath hard.

"Yes, coz."

"You won't fight him?"

"No, coz."

"You won't?"

"No."

"Edwin Percy, look me straight in the face!" said Cap., staring through her closed teeth.

"Well, I am looking you straight in the face! straight in the two blazing gray eyes, you little temptress in a teapot!—what then?"

"Do I look as though I should be in earnest in what I am about to speak?"

"I should judge so."

"Then listen, and don't take your eyes off mine until I am done speaking!"

"Very well; don't be long though, for I rather agitate me."

"I will not let her see, then! You say that you are leaning to challenge Le Noir. Very good. I, on my part, here renew all acquaintance with my part, here renew all acquaintance with my part; I will never sit down at the same table; you! the same room; or breathe the same air with you; never speak to you; listen to you; or recognise you in any manner, upon my deep

wrongs are avenged in the punishment of my slanderer, so help me—"

"That's all! don't swear, Cap.; it's profane and unbecomingly and nothing on earth but broken oaths would be the result!"

But Cap. was off. In an instant she was down to the yard, where her groom was holding her horse, ready in case she wished to take her usual ride.

"Where is Mr. John Stone?" she asked.

"Down at the kennels, Miss," answered the boy.

She jumped into her saddle, put whips to her horse and flew over the ground between the mansion-house and the kennels.

She pulled up before the door of the main building, sprang from her saddle, took a bridle to a man in attendance, and rushed into the house and into the presence of Mr. John Stone, who was busy in prescribing for an indisposed pointer.

He looked up in astonishment, exclaiming:

"Hillo! all the witches! here's Cap. I why here on earth did you shoot from? what's up now? You look as if you were in a state of spontaneous combustion and couldn't stand it another minute."

"And I can't! and I won't! John Stone, you must call that man out!"

"What man, Cap.—what the deuce do you mean?"

"You know well enough! you do this to provoke me! I mean the man of whom you cautioned me this afternoon! the wretch who slandered me, the niece of your host!"

"Who—sw—!"

"What you mean, Percy?"

"On the lounge, with an ice in one hand and a novel in the other! I suppose its nose minding the matter, John; he is a mere epicure; there is no fight in him! It is you who must vindicate your cousin's honor!"

"My cousin's honor cannot need vindication! it is unquestioned and unquestionable!"

"No smooth words, if you please, cousin John! Will you, or will you not fight that man?"

"Tut, Cap., no one really questions your honor! that man will get himself knocked into a cocked hat if he goes around talking of an honest girl!"

"An likely thing, when her own cousins and guests take it so quietly!"

"What would you have them do, Cap.? The longer an affair of this kind is agitated, the more offensive it becomes! Besides, chivalry is out of date. The knight-errant are all dead."

"The axes are all dead! If any ever really lived!" cried Cap., in a fury. "Heaven knows I am inclined to believe them to have been a fabulous race like that of the Mastodon or the centaur. I certainly never saw a creature that deserved the name of man! The very first of your race was the meanest fellow that ever was heard of east the stolen apple, and when found out, laid one half of the blame on his wife and the other on his maker—" THE WOMAN WHO THOU GAVEST ME DID SO AND SO! I don't wonder the Lord took a dislike to the race and sent a flood to sweep them all off the face of the earth—I will give you one more chance to retrieve your honor in one word, now—will you fight that man?"

"My dear little cousin, I would do anything in reason to vindicate the assailed manhood of the whole of my sex, but really, now—"

"Will you fight that man?—one word—yes or no?"

"Yes! Cap. I you are a very reckless young woman! You—it's your nature—why are you corrigible madcap! You bewitch a poor wretch until he doesn't know his head from his heels; puts his feet into his hat and covers his scalp with his boots! You are a will-o-the-wisp who lures a poor fellow on through woods, bogs and brambles until you land him in the quick sands! You whirl him around and around until he grows dizzy and delirious, and talks at random, and then you'd have him called out, you blood-thirsty little vixen! I tell you, Cousin Cap., if I were to take up all the quarrels your hoydenism might lead me into, I should have nothing else to do!"

"Then you won't fight!"

"My dear little cousin! I have a wife and family, which are powerful checks upon a man's duelling impulses!"

"Silence! you are no cousin of mine! no drop of your sluggish blood stagnates in my veins! no spark of the liquid fire of my life's current bursts in your torpid arteries, else at this insult, would it set you in a flame! Never dare to call me cousin again, recant!" and so saying, she flung herself out of the building and galloped away home, put whip to her horse and galloped away home.

Now, Mr. Stone had privately received to expedient to take Cap. into his confidence, as Capitola reached the horse-block, her own groom came to take the bridle.

"Jen," she said, as she jumped from her saddle,— "put Gyp up and then come to my room; I have a message to send by you."

And then with burning cheeks and flashing eyes, she went to her own sanctum, and after taking off her hat, did the most astounding thing that ever a woman of the nineteenth or any former century attempted—she wrote a challenge to Craven Le Noir—charging him with falsehood in having maligned her honour; demanding from him "the satisfaction of a gentleman;" and requesting him as the challenged party, to name the time, place and weapons with which he would meet her.

By the time she had written, sealed and directed this warlike defiance, her young groom made his appearance.

"Jen," she asked, "do you know the way to the Hidden House?"

"Yes, Miss, sure."

"Then take this note thither, ask for Mr. Le Noir, put it into his hands, and say that you are directed to wait an answer. And listen, you need not mention to any one in this house, where you are going; nor when you return, where you have been; but bring the answer you may get directly to this room, where you will find me."

"Yes, Miss," said the boy, who was off like a flying Mercury.

Capitola threw herself into her chair to spend the slow hours until the boy's return, as well as her fierce impatience and forced inaction would permit.

At ten time she was summoned; but excused herself from going below upon the plea of indisposition.

"Which is perfectly true," she said to herself, "since I am utterly indisposed to do. And besides, I have sworn never to sit at the same table with my cousins, until for the wrongs done me I have received ample satisfaction."

CHAPTER XLVIII.

CAPITOLA CAPS THE CLIMAX.

Oh! when she is angry, she is keen and shrewd! She was a wren when she went to school; And though she is but little she is fierce. —SHAKESPEARE.

It was quite late in the evening when Jim, her messenger, returned.

"Have you an answer?" she impetuously demanded, rising to meet him as he entered.

"Yes, Miss, here it is," replied the boy, handing a neatly folded, highly perfumed little note.

"Go," said Cap., curtly, as she received it.

And when the boy had bowed and withdrawn, she threw herself into a chair, and with little respect for the pretty device of the pierced heart with which the note was sealed, she tore it open and devoured its contents.

Why did Capitola's cheek and lips blanch white as death? Why did her eyes contract and glitter like scintillae? Why was her breath drawn hard and laboriously through clenched teeth and livid lips.

That note was couched in the most insulting terms.

Capitola's first impulse was to rend the paper lock and grind those atoms to powder beneath her heel. But a second inspiration changed her purpose.

"No, no, no, I will not destroy you, precious little note! No legal document involving the ownership of the largest estate, no cherished love-letter filled with vows of undying affection, shall be more carefully guarded! Next to my heart, shall you lie. My shield and buckler shall you be! My sure defence and justification! I know what to do with you, my precious little jewel! You say,

the warrant for the punishment of that man, signed by his own hand." And so saying Capitola carefully deposited the note in her bosom.

Then she lighted her chamber lamp, and taking it with her, went down stairs to Lucie's bedroom.

Taking advantage of the time when she knew he would be absorbed in a game of chess with John Stone, and she should be safe from interruption for several hours if she wished, she went to Major Warfield's little armory in the closet adjoining his room, opened the pistol-case and took from it a pair of revolvers, closed and locked the case, and with a good deal of the key that they might not chance to miss until she should have time to place them.

Then she crept back into her own chamber, locked the pistols up in her own drawer, and went out with so much excitement, prepared to go to rest. Here a grave and unexpected obstacle met her; she had always been accustomed to kneel and offer up to Heaven her evening's tribute of praise and thanksgiving for the mercies of the day, and prayers for protection and blessing through the night.

Now she knelt as usual, but thanksgiving and prayer seemed frozen on her lips. How could she praise or pray with such a purpose as she had in her heart?

For the first time Capitola doubted the perfect righteousness of that purpose which was of a character to arm her prayers upon her lips.

With a start and impulsion and a heavy sigh, she sprang up and hurried into bed.

She did not sleep, but lay tossing from side to side in a feverish excitement the whole night—having, in fact, a terrible battle between her own fierce passions and her newly-awakened conscience.

Nevertheless, she arose by daybreak in the morning, dressed herself, went and unlocked her drawer, took out the pistols, carefully loaded them, and laid them down for service.

Then she went down stairs, where the servants were only just beginning to stir, and sent for her groom, Jim, whom she ordered to saddle her pony, and also to get a horse for himself to attend her in a morning ride.

After which she returned up stairs, put on her riding-habit, and buckled around her waist a morocco belt, into which she stuck the two revolvers. She then threw around her shoulders a short circular cape that concealed the weapons, and put on her hat and gloves and went below.

She found her little groom already at the door with the horses. She sprang into her saddle and, bidding Jim follow her, took the road towards Tip Top.

She knew that Mr. Le Noir was in the habit of riding to the village every morning, and she determined to meet him. She knew, from the early hour of the day, that he could not possibly be ahead of her, and she rode on slowly, to give him an opportunity to overtake her.

Probably Craven Le Noir was later that morning than usual, for Capitola had reached the entrance of the village before she heard the sound of his horse's feet approaching behind her.

She did not wish that their encounter should be in the streets of the village, so she instantly wheeled her horse and galloped back to meet him.

As both were riding at full speed they soon met.

She first drew rein, and, standing in his way accosted him with:

"Mr. Le Noir!"

"Your most obedient, Miss Black," he said with a deep bow.

"I happen to be without father or brother to protect me from affront, sir, and my uncle is an inveterate veteran whom I will not trouble. I am, therefore, under the novel necessity of fighting my own battles. Yesterday sir, I sent you a note demanding satisfaction for a heinous slander you circulated against me. You replied by an insulting note. You do not escape punishment! Here are two pistols; both are loaded; take either one of them; for, sir, we have met, and now we do not part until one of us falls from the horse!"

And so saying, she rode up to him and offered him the choice of the pistols.

He laughed—partly in surprise and partly in

admiration, as he said, with seeming good humor:

"Miss Black, you are a very charming young woman, and delightfully original and piquant in all your pleas; but you outrage all the laws that govern the duello. You know that, as the challenged party, I have the right to the choice of time, place and arms. I made that choice yesterday. I renew it to-day. When you accede to the terms of the meeting, I shall endeavor to give you all the satisfaction you demand. Good morning, Miss."

And with a deep bow, even to the flaps of his saddle, he rode past her.

"That base insult again!" cried Capitola, with the blood rushing to her face.

Then lifting her voice she again accosted him:

"Mr. Le Noir!"

He turned, with a smile.

She took one of the pistols on the ground near him, saying:

"Take that up and defend yourself."

He waved his hand in negation, bowed, smiled, and rode on.

"Mr. Le Noir!" she called, in a peremptory tone.

Once more he turned.

She raised her pistol, took deliberate aim at his white forehead, and fired—

Bang! bang! bang! bang! bang! bang!

—Six times without an instant's intermission, until her revolver was spent.

When the smoke cleared away, a terrible vision met her eyes.

It was Craven Le Noir with his face covered with blood, reeling in his saddle, from which he soon dropped to the ground.

In falling, his foot remained hanging in the stirrup. The well-trained cavalry horse stood perfectly still, though trembling in a panic of terror, from which he might at any moment start to run, dragging the helpless body after him. Capitola saw this danger, and not being cruel, she tempered justice with mercy; threw down her spent pistol; dismounted from her horse; went up to the fallen man; disengaged his foot from the stirrup; and taking hold of his shoulders, tried with all her might to drag the still living man from the dusty road where it lay in danger of being run over by wagons to the green bank where it might lie in comparative safety.

But the heavy form was too much for her to single strength. And calling her terrified groom to assist her, they removed the body.

Capitola then remounted her horse, and galloped rapidly into the village, and up to the "ladies' entrance" of the hotel, where after sending for the proprietor, she said:

"I have just been shooting Craven Le Noir for slandering me; he lies by the roadside at the entrance of the village; you had better send somebody to pick him up."

"Miss!" cried the astounded inn-keeper.

Capitola distinctly repeated her words, and then leaving the inn-keeper, transfixed with consternation, she crossed the street and entered a magistrate's office, where a little old gentleman, with a pair of green spectacles resting on his hooked nose, sat at a writing-table, giving some directions to a constable, who was standing half in hand before him.

Capitola waited until this functionary had his orders and a written paper, and had left the office, and the magistrate was alone, before she walked up to the desk and stood before him.

"Well, well, young woman! Well, well, what do you want?" inquired the old gentleman, impatiently looking up from folding his papers.

"I have come to give myself up for shooting Craven Le Noir, who slandered me," answered Capitola, quietly.

The old man let fall his hands full of papers, raised his head and stared at her over the tops of his green spectacles.

"What did you say, young woman?" he asked, in the tone of one who doubted his own ears.

"I say that I have forestalled an arrest by coming here to give myself-up for the shooting of a dastard who slandered, insulted, and refused to give me satisfaction," answered Capitola, very distinctly.

"Am I awake? Do I hear aright? Do you mean to say that you have killed a man?" asked the dismayed magistrate.

"Oh! I can't say as to the killing! I shot him off his horse, and then sent Mr. Merry and his men to pick him up, while I came here to answer for myself!"

"Unfortunate girl and how can you answer for such a dreadful deed?" exclaimed the utterly confounded magistrate.

"Oh, as to the dreadfulness of the deed, that depends on circumstances," said Cap., "and I can answer for it very well. He slandered me; I to me; I refused him. He slandered me; I challenged him. He insulted me; I shot him."

"Miserable young woman, if this be proved true, I shall have to commit you!"

"Just as you please," said Cap., "but bless your soul, that won't help Craven Le Noir a single bit!"

As she spoke several persons entered the office in a state of high excitement—all talking at once, saying:

"That is the girl!"

"Yes, that is her!"

"She is Miss Black, old Warfield's niece."

"Yes, he said she was," etc., etc.

"What is all this, neighbors, what is all this," inquired the troubled magistrate, rising in his place.

"Why, sir, there's been a gentleman, Mr. Craven Le Noir, shot. He has been taken to the 'Antlers,' where he has been lying, and we wish him to be confronted with Miss Capitola Black, the young woman here present, that he may identify her, whom he accuses of firing six charges into him, before his death. She doesn't deny it, because he is ready to swear to her!" said Mr. Merry, who constituted himself spokesman.

"She accuses herself," said the magistrate in dismay.

"Then, sir, had she not better be taken at once to the presence of Mr. Le Noir, who may not have many minutes to live!"

"Yes, come along," said Cap. "I only gave myself up to wait for this; and as he is already at hand, let's go and have it all over, for I have been riding about in this frosty morning air, for three hours, and I have got a good appetite, and I want to go home to breakfast."

"I am afraid, young woman, you will scarcely get home to breakfast this morning," said Mr. Merry.

"We'll see that presently," answered Cap., composedly, as they all left the office, and crossed the street to the "Antlers."

They were conducted by the landlord to a chamber on the first floor, where upon a bed lay stretched, almost without breath or motion, the form of Craven Le Noir. His face was still covered with blood, that the bystanders had scrupulously refused to wash off, until the arrival of the magistrate. His complexion, as far as it could be seen, was very pale. He was thoroughly prostrated, if not actually dying.

Around his bed were gathered the village doctor, the landlord, and several meid servants.

"The square has come, sir; are you able to speak to him?" asked the landlord, approaching the bed.

"Yes—let him swear me," feebly replied the wounded man, "and then send for a clergyman."

The landlord immediately left to send for Mr. Goodwin, and the magistrate approached the head of the bed, and speaking solemnly, exhorted the wounded man, as he expected soon to give an account of the works done in his body, to speak the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, without reserve, malice or exaggeration, both as to the deed, and its provocation.

"I will, I will, for I have sent far a minister, and I intend to try to make my peace with Heaven," replied Le Noir.

The magistrate then directed Capitola to come and take the stand at the foot of the bed where the wounded man, who was lying on his back, could see her without turning.

Cap. came as she was commanded, and stood there with some irrepressible and inexpressible, little mischievous gleaming out from under her long eye-lashes and from the corners of her dimpled lips.

The magistrate then administered the oath to Craven Le Noir, and bade him look upon Capitola and give his evidence.

He did so, and under the terror of a guilty conscience and of expected death, his evidence

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He has
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one!"

to the killing! I shot him
and sent Mr. Morry and his
while I came here to an-

and how can you answer
ed!" exclaimed the utterly

carelessness of the deed, that
said Cap., "and I
well. He made a lacesome
me. He slanders me; I
consulted me; I shot him."
woman, if this be proved
mammy you!"

"e," said Cap., "but bless
Clayven Le Noir a single
persons entered the office
excitement—all talking at

old Warfield's noise,"
was," etc., etc.

magistrate, rising in his

gentleman, Mr. Cra-

has been taken to the

with Miss Capitoila

her presence, that he

he accuses of firing six

his death. She need not

ready to swear to her!"

constituted himself spok-

"said the magistrate in

not better be taken at

Mr. Le Noir, who may not

live!"

said Cap. "I only gave

and as he is already

leave it all over, for I have

my froxy morning air, for

got a good appetite, and

breakfast."

woman, you will scarcely

this morning," said Mr.

answered Cap.,

the office, and crossed

ce."

by the landlord to a

er, where upon a bed lay

breath or motion, the

His face was still cov-

hstanders had scrupu-

to, until the arrival of the

tion, as far as it could

He was thoroughly pros-

partook more of the nature of a confession than
an accusation. He testified that he had address-
ed Capitoila, and had been rejected by her; then,
under the influence of evil motives, he had cir-
culated insinuations against her honor, which
were utterly unjustifiable by fact; she, seeming
to have heard of them, took the strange course
of challenging him—just as if she had been a
man; he could not of course meet a lady in a
duel, but he had taken advantage of the techni-
cal phraseology of the challenged party, as to
time, place and weapons, to offer her a deep in-
sult; then she had hoped his death would be
waged, offered him his choice of a pair of revolvers,
and told him, that having met, they should not
part until one or the other fell from the horse;
he had again laughingly refused the encounter
except upon the insulting terms he had before
proposed;—he had then thrown him one of the
pistols, bidding him defend himself—he had
laughingly passed her when she called him by
name, he turned and she fired—six times in suc-
cession and he fell. He knew no more until he
was brought to his present room. He said in
conclusion, he did not wish the young girl should
be presented as she had only avenged her own
honor; and that he hoped his death would be
taken by her and her friends, as a sufficient ex-
piation of his offences against her; and lastly,
he requested that he might be left alone with the
minister.

"Bring that unhappy young woman over to
my office, Kothman," said the magistrate, ad-
dressing himself to the constable. Then turning to
the landlord, he said:

"Sir, it would be a charity in you to put a
messenger on horseback and send him to Hurri-
cane Hall for Major Warfield, who will have to
enter into a recognizance for Miss Black's appear-
ance at court."

"Stop," said Cap., "don't be too certain
of that! 'Be always sure you're right—then
go ahead!' Is not any one here cool enough to re-
flect that if I had fired six bullets at that man's
forehead and everyone had struck, I should have
blown his head to the sky?—Will not somebody
at once wash his face and see how deep the
wounds are?"

The doctor who had been restrained by others
now took a sponge and water and cleaned the face
of Le Noir, which was found to be well peppered
with split peas!

Cap. looked around, and seeing the astonished
looks of the good people, burst into an irrepro-
bable fit of laughter, saying as soon as she had
got breath enough:

"Upon my word, neighbors, you look more
shocked, if not actually more disappointed, to find
that, after all, he is not killed, and there'll be no
epitaph, than you did at first when you thought
murder had been done."

"Will you be good enough to explain this,
young woman?" said the magistrate severely.

"Certainly, for your worship seems as much
disappointed as others!" said Cap. Then turn-
ing towards the group around the bed, she said:

"You have heard Mr. Le Noir's last dying
speech and confession, as he supposed it to be;
and you know that confession, by avowing that
it inflamed my temper against him. Last night,
after having received his insulting answer to my
challenge, there was evil in my heart, I do as-
sure you! I possessed myself of my uncle's re-
volvers, and resolved to waylay him this morn-
ing, and force him to give me satisfaction, or if
he refused—well, no matter! I tell you, there
was danger in me!—But, before retiring to bed
at night it is my habit to say my prayers; now
the practice of prayer and the purpose of 'red-
handed violence,' cannot exist in the same per-
son at the same time. I couldn't sleep without
praying, and I couldn't pray without giving up
my thoughts of all my vengeance upon Craven Le
Noir. So at last I made up my mind to spare his
life, and teach him a lesson. The next morning
I drew the charges of the revolvers, and re-loaded
them with poor powder and dried peas. Every-
thing else has happened just as he has told you.
He has received no harm, except in being terribly
frightened, and in having his heavy speckle—
and as for that, didn't I offer him one of the
pistols, and expose my own face to similar
damage?—for I'd seem to take advantage of any
one!" said Cap., laughing.

Craven Le Noir had now raised himself up in a

sitting posture, and was looking around with an
expression of countenance which was a strange
blending of relief at this unexpected respite from
the grave and intense mortification at finding
himself in the ridiculous position in which the ad-
dress of Capitoila and his own weak nerves,
cowardice, and credulity had placed him.

Cap. went up to him and said, in a consoling
voice:

"Come! thank Heaven that you are not going
to die this bout. I'm glad you repented and told
the truth; and I hope you may live long enough
to offer Heaven a truer repentance than that
which is the mere effect of fright. For I tell you
plainly that if it had not been for the grace of the
Lord acting upon my heart last night, your soul
might have been in Hades now."

Craven Le Noir shut his eyes, groaned, and fell
back overpowered by the reflection.

"Now, please your Worship, may I go home?"
asked Cap., demurely popping down a smock
courtesy to the magistrate.

"Yes—go! go! go!" said the officer, with an
expression as though he considered our Cap.
an individual of the animal kingdom whom neither
Bacon nor any other Natural philosopher had
ever classified, and who, as a creature of unknown
habits, might sometimes be dangerous.

Cap. immediately availed herself of the permis-
sion, and went out to look for her servant and
horses.

But Jam, the first moment he had found himself
unwatched, had put out as fast as he could fly
to Hurricane Hall, to inform Major Warfield of
what had occurred.

And Capitoila, after losing a great deal of time
in looking for him, mounted her horse and was
just about to start, when who should ride up in
hot haste but Old Henrienne, attended by Wool.

"Stop there!" he shouted, as he saw Cap.
She obeyed and he sprang from his horse
with the agility of youth, and helped her to de-
scend from her.

Then drawing her arm within his own, he led
her into the parlor, and putting an unusual re-
straint upon himself, he ordered her to tell him
all about the affair.

Cap. sat down and gave him the whole history
from beginning to end.

Old Henrienne could not sit still to hear. He
strode up and down the room, striking his stick
upon the floor, and uttering inarticulate sounds
of rage and defiance.

When Cap. had finished her story he suddenly
stopped before her, brought down the point of his
stick with a resounding thump upon the floor,
and exclaimed:

"Dumny, you New York newshoy, will you
never be a woman? Why the demon didn't you
tell me, sirrah! I would have called the fellow
out and chastised him to your heart's content,
Hang it, Miss, answer me and say."

"Because you are on the invalid list and I am
in sound condition, and capable of taking my own
part," said Cap.

"Then, answer me this: while you were taking
your own part, why the foul fiend didn't you
pepper him with something sharper than dried
peas?"

"I think he is quite as severely punished in
suffering from extreme terror and intense mor-
tification and public ridicule," said Cap.

"And now, uncle, I have not eaten a single
blessed mouthful, this morning, and I am hungry
enough to eat up Gyp, or to satisfy Patty."

Old Henrienne, permitting his excitement to
subsist in a few expiring groans, rang the bell
and gave orders for breakfast to be served.

And after that meal was over, he set out with
his niece for Hurricane Hall.

And upon arriving at home, he addressed a
letter to Mr. Le Noir, to the effect that as soon as
the latter should have recovered from the effect of
his fright and mortification, he Major Warfield,
should demand and expect satisfaction.

CHAPTER XLVIII.

BLACK DONALD'S LAST ATTEMPT.

Who can express the horror of that night,
When darkness loot his ribs to mouster fear?
And heaven's black mantle, banishing the light,
Made everything in fearful form appear."
—BANKTON.

Let it not be supposed that Black Donald had
forgotten his promise to Colonel Le Noir, or was
indifferent to its performance.

But many perilous failures had taught him
caution.

He had watched and waylaid Capitoila in her
rides. But the girl seemed to bear a charmed
scepter; for never once had he caught sight of her
except in company with her groom and with
Craven Le Noir. And very soon by the secret-
dropping on these occasions, he learnt the exact de-
sign of the son to forestall the father, and run off
with the heiress.

And as Black Donald did not foresee what suc-
cess Craven Le Noir might have with Capitoila, he
felt the more urgent necessity for prompt action
on his own part.

He might indeed have brought his men and at-
tacked and overcome Capitoila's attendants in
open day; but the enterprise must needs have
been attended with great bloodshed and loss of
life, which would have made a sensation in the
neighborhood, that Black Donald, in the present
state of his fortunes, was by no means anxious of
daring.

In a word, had such an act of unparalleled
violence been attempted, the better it succeeded
the greater would have been the indignation of
the people, and the whole country would probably
have risen and armed themselves, and limited the
outlaws, as so many wild beasts, with horses and
hounds.

Therefore Black Donald preferred quietly to
silence his victim, so as to leave no trace of her
"taking off," but to allow it to be supposed that
she had eloped.

He resolved to undertake this adventure alone,
though to himself personally this plan was even
more dangerous than the other.

He determined to gain access to her chamber,
secretly himself, anywhere in the room, (except
under the bed, where his instincts informed him
that Capitoila every night looked,) and when the
household should be buried in repose, steal out
upon her, overpower, gag, and carry her off, in
the silence of the night, leaving no trace of his
own presence behind.

By means of one of his men, who went about
unperceived among the negroes, buying mats
and baskets, that the latter were in the habit of
making for sale, he learned that Capitoila occupied
the same remote chamber, in the oldest part of
the house; but that a guest slept in the room
next, and another in the one opposite hers. And
that the house was besides full of visitors from
the city, who had come down to spend the spring
season, and that they were hunting all day
and canoeing all night from one week's end to
another.

On hearing this, Black Donald quietly compre-
hended that it was no time to attempt the ab-
duction of the maiden, with the least probability
of success. All would be risked, and most prob-
ably lost in the endeavor.

He resolved, therefore, to wait until the house
should be clear of company, and the household
fallen into their accustomed carelessness and
monotony.

He had to wait much longer than he had reck-
oned upon—through October and through Novem-
ber, when he first heard of and languied over
Cap's "duel" with Craven Le Noir, and con-
gratulated himself upon the fact that rival was
no longer to be feared. He had also to wait
through two-thirds of the month of December,
because a party had come down to enjoy a short
season of fox-hunting. They went away just be-
fore Christmas.

And then at last came Black Donald's oppor-
tunity! And a fine opportunity it was! But
Satap himself engaged to furnish him with that
order, it could not have been better!

The reader must know, that throughout Vir-
ginia the Christmas week, from the day after
Christmas until the day after New Year's, is the
negroes' saturnalia! There are usually eight

days of incessant dancing, feasting and frolicking from quarter to quarter, and from barn to barn. Then the banjo, the fiddle and the "hones," as he heard from morning until night, and from night until morning.

And nowhere was this annual ostent of festivity held more sacred than at Hurricane Hall. It was the will of Major Warfield that they should have their full satisfaction out of their seven days' carnival. He usually gave a dinner party on Christmas Day, after which his people were free until the third of January.

"Demmy, mum!" he would say to Mrs. Conditment, "they wait on us fifty-one weeks in the year, and it's hard if we can't wait on ourselves the fifty-second!"

Small thanks to Old Hurricane for his self-denial! He did nothing for himself or others, and Mrs. Conditment and Capitolia had to do all the cooking and housework. And Cap had to perform most of the duties of Major Warfield's valet. And that was the way in which Old Hurricane waited on himself.

It happened, therefore, that about the middle of the Christmas week, being Wednesday, the twenty-eighth of December, all the house-servants and farm-laborers from Hurricane Hall went off in a body to a banjo break-down given at a farm five miles across the country.

And Major Warfield, Mrs. Conditment and Capitolia were the only living beings left in the old house that night.

Black Donald, who had been prowling about the premises evening after evening, watching his opportunity to effect his nefarious object, soon discovered the outward bound stampede of the negroes, and the unprotected state in which the old house, for that night only would be left. And he determined to take advantage of the circumstance to consummate his wicked purpose.

In its then defenceless condition, he could easily have mastered his force and carried off his prize without immediate personal risk. But, as we said before, he eschewed violence, as being likely to provoke after effects of a too fatal character.

He resolved rather at once to risk his own personal safety in the quieter plan of abduction which he had formed.

He determined that as soon as it should be dark, he would watch his opportunity to enter the house, steal to Cap's chamber, secure himself in a closet, and when all should be quiet, "in the dead waste and middle of the night," he would come out, master her, stop her mouth, and carry her off.

When it became quite dark he approached the house, and hid himself under the steps beneath the back door leading from the hall into the garden, to watch his opportunity of entering. He soon found that his enterprise required great patience as well as courage. He had to wait more than two hours before he heard the door unlocked and opened.

He then peered from his hiding place, and saw Old Hurricane taking his way out towards the garden.

Now was his time to slip unperceived into the house. He stealthily came out of his hiding place, crept up the portion stairs to the back door, noiselessly turned the latch, entered, and closed it behind him. He had just put his foot upon a side door on his right hand, and concealed himself in a wood closet under the stairs, when he heard the footsteps of Old Hurricane returning.

The old man came in, and Black Donald laughed to himself to hear with what caution he looked about, and barred the doors to keep out house-breakers!

"Ah, old fellow! you are fastening the stable after the horse has been stolen!" said Black Donald to himself.

As soon as Old Hurricane had passed by the closet in which the outlaw was concealed, and had gone into the yard, Black Donald determined to risk the ascent into Capitolia's chamber. From the description given by his men, who had once succeeded in finding their way thither, he knew very well where to go.

Noislessly, therefore, he left his place of concealment, and crept out to reconnoitre the hall, which he found deserted.

Old Hurricane's shawl, hat and walking-stick were deposited in one corner. In case of being

met on the way, he put the hat on his head, wrapped the shawl around his shoulders, and took the stick in his hand.

His forethought proved to be servicable. He went through the hall and up the first flight of stairs without interruption; but on going along the hall of the second story he met Mrs. Conditment coming out of Old Hurricane's room.

"Your slippers are on the fourth, your gown is at the fire and the water is boiling to make your punch, Major Warfield," said the old lady, in passing.

"Umph, umph, umph," grunted Black Donald.

The house-keeper then bade him good-night, saying that she was going at once to her room.

"Umph!" assented Black Donald. And so they parted, and this peril was passed.

Black Donald went up the second flight of stairs and then down a back passage and a narrow staircase along a corridor and through several untenant rooms, and into another passage, and finally through a side door leading into Capitolia's chamber.

Here he looked around for a safe hiding-place—there was a high bedstead curtained; two deep bureau work stands, wash stand and two arm chairs. The forethought of little Pipant had caused her to kindle a fire on the hearth and place a waiter of refreshments on the workstand, so as to "take all comfortable before she had left with the other negroes to go to the banjo break-down."

Among the edibles, Pipant had been careful to leave a small bottle of brandy, a pitcher of cream, a few eggs and some spice, saying to herself, "Long as it was Christmas time Miss Caterpillar might want a sup of egg-nog quiet to herself, 'jee as much as old marse did his whiskey mistress would require a more delicate lunch than her old master."

Black Donald laughed as he saw this outlay, and remarking that the young occupant of the chamber must have an appetite of her own, he took the neck of the brandy bottle in his lips and drank.

Then vowing that Old Hurricane knew what good liquor was, he replaced the bottle and looked around to find the best place for his concealment.

He soon determined to hide himself behind the thick folds of the window curtain nearest the door, so that immediately after the entrance of Capitolia he could glide to the door, lock it, withdraw the key and have the girl at once in his power.

He took a second "swig" at the brandy bottle, and then went into his place of concealment to wait events.

That some hour Capitolia was her uncle's partner in a prolonged game of chess. It was near eleven o'clock before Cap, heartily tired of the battle, permitted herself to be beaten in order to get to bed.

With a satisfied chuckle, Old Hurricane arose from his seat, lighted two bed-chamber lamps, gave one to Capitolia, took the other himself, and started off for his room, followed by Cap, as far as the head of the first flight of stairs, where she bade him good night.

She waited until she saw him enter his room, heard him lock his door on the inside and throw himself down heavily into his chair, then she went on her own way.

She hurried up the second flight of stairs, and along the narrow passages, empty rooms, steep steps, and dreary halls, until she reached the door of her own room.

She turned the latch and entered the room. The first thing that met her sight was the waiter of provisions upon the stand. And at this fresh instance of her little maid's forethought, she burst into an uncontrollable fit of laughter.

She did not see a dark figure glide from behind the window curtains, steal to the door, turn the lock and withdraw the key.

But still retaining her prejudice against the presence of food in her bed-chamber, she lifted up the water in both hands to carry it on into the passage, turned and stood face to face with—Black Donald!

CHAPTER XXIX.

THE AWFUL PERIL OF CAPITOLA.

Out of this nettle, danger,
I'll pluck the dower, safety!—SHAKESPEARE.

Capitolia's blood seemed to turn to ice, and her form to stone at the sight! Her first impulse was to scream and let fall the water! She controlled ad herself and repressed the scream, though she ad herself slipping the waiter.

Black Donald looked at her and laughed aloud at her consternation, saying with a chuckle: "You did not expect to see me here to-night, did you now, my dear?"

She gazed at him in a silent panic for a moment.

Then her faculties, that had been suddenly dispersed by the shock, as suddenly rallied for her rescue.

In one moment she understood her real position.

Black Donald had locked her in with himself, and held the key; so she could not hope to get out.

The loudest scream that she might utter would never reach the distant chamber of Major Warfield, or the still more remote apartment of Mrs. Conditment; so she could not hope to bring any aid to her assistance.

She was therefore entirely in the power of Black Donald. She fully comprehended this, and said to herself:

"Now, my dear Cap, if you don't look sharp your hour is come! Nothing on earth will save you, Cap, but your own wit! for if ever I saw mischief in any one's face, it is in that fellow's that is eating you up with his great eyes at the same time that he is laughing at you with his big mouth! Now, Cap, my little man, be a woman and don't you stick at trifles! Think of Jaal and Sissers! Think of Judith and Holofemes! And the devil and Doctor Faust, if necessary, and don't you blench! All stragglers are fair in love or war—especially in war, and most especially in a war as this is likely to be—a contest in equ-quarters for dear life!"

All this passed through her mind in one moment, and in the next her plan was formed.

Setting her waiter down upon the table, and throwing herself into one of the arm-chairs, she said:

"Well, upon my word, I think a gentleman might let a lady know when he means to pay her a domiciliary visit at midnight!"

"Upon my word, I think you are very cool!" replied Black Donald, throwing himself into the second arm-chair on the other side of the stand of refreshments.

"People are likely to be cool on a December night, with the thermometer at zero, and the ground three feet under the snow," said Cap, nothing daunted.

"Capitolia, I admire you! You are a cucumber. That's what you are, a cucumber."

"A pickled one!" asked Cap.

"Yes! and as pickled cucumbers are good to give one an appetite, I think I shall fall to and eat."

"Do so," said Cap, "for Heaven forbid that I should fall in hospitality!"

"Why, really, this looks as though you had expected a visitor—doesn't it?" asked Black Donald, helping himself to a huge slice of ham, and stretching his feet out towards the fire.

"Well, yes, rather; though, to say the truth, it was not your reverence I expected," said Cap.

"Ah! somebody else's reverence, eh? Well, let them come, pouring out and quaffing a large glass of brandy. He drank it, sat down the glass, and turning to our little heroine, inquired:

"Capitolia, did you ever have Craven Le Noir here to supper with you?"

"You insult me! I scorn to reply!" said Cap.

"Who are I what long whiskers our Grinnakin's got! You scorn to reply! Then you really are not afraid of me?" asked the robber, rolling a great piece of cheese in his mouth.

"Afraid of you?—No, I guess not," replied Cap, with a toss of her head.

"Yet, I might do you some harm."

"But you won't."

"Why won't I?"

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OF CAPITOLA.

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"Why won't it?"

"Because you couldn't do me any harm, unless you were to kill me, and you would gain nothing by my death, except a few trinkets that you may have without."

"Then, you are really not afraid of me?" he asked, taking another deep draught of brandy.

"Not a bit of it—I rather like you."

"Come, now, you're running a rig upon a fellow," said the outlaw, winking, and depositing a huge chunk of bread in his capacious jaws.

"No, indeed! I liked you before I saw you! I always did like people that make other people's hair stand on end! Don't you remember when you first came here disguised as a peddler, though I did not know who you were, when we were talking of Black Donald, and everybody was abusing him, except myself, I took his part, and said that, for my part, I liked Black Donald, and wanted to see him?"

"Sure enough, my jewel, so you did! and didn't I bravely risk my life, by throwing off my disguise, to gratify your humble wish?"

"So you did, my hero!"

"Ah, but now, as you liked me, the moment you thought me in your power, didn't you leap upon my shoulders like a catamount, and cling there, shouting to all the world to come and help you, for that you had caught Black Donald, and would die before you would give him up?" Ah! you little vampire, how you thirsted for my blood!

"And you pretended to like me!" said Black Donald, aid, eyeing her from head to foot, with a sly leer.

Cap. returned the look with interest. Dropping her head on one side, she glanced upwards, from the corner of her eye, with an expression of "infinite" humor, mischief and mockery, saying:

"Lor! didn't you know why I did that?"

"Because you wanted me captured, I suppose."

"No, indeed, but, because—"

"Well, what?"

"Because—I wanted you to carry me off!"

"Well, I declare, I never thought of that!" said the outlaw, dropping his bread and chess, and staring at the young girl.

"Well, you might have thought of it then: I was tired of hum-drum life, and I wanted to see adventures!" said Cap.

Black Donald looked at the mad girl from head to foot, and then said, coolly:

"Miss Black, I am afraid you are not good."

"Yes I am—before folks!" said Cap.

"And so you really wished me to carry you off?"

"I should think so! didn't I stick to you until you dropped me?"

"Certainly; and now if you really like me as well as you say you do, come give me a kiss."

"I won't!" said Cap., "until you have done your supper and washed your face. Your beard is full of crumbs!"

"Very well, I can wait awhile! meantime just brew me a bowl of egg-nog, by way of a night-cap, will you?" said the outlaw, drawing off his boots and stretching his legs to the fire.

"Agreed; but it takes two to make egg-nog; you'll have to whisk up the whites of the eggs into froth, while I beat the yowls, and mix the other ingredients," said Cap.

"Just so," assented the outlaw, standing up and taking off his coat, and flinging it upon the floor.

Cap. shuddered, but went on calmly with her preparations. There were two little white bowls sitting one within the other upon the table. Cap. took them apart and set them side by side, and began to break the eggs, letting the white slip into one bowl and dropping the yellow into the other.

Black Donald sat down in his shirt-sleeves, took one of the bowls from Capitola and began to whisk up the whites with all his might and main.

Capitola beat up the yowls, gradually mixing the sugar with it. In the course of her work she complained that the heat of the fire scorched her face, and she drew her chair farther towards the corner of the chimney, and pulled the stand near her.

"Oh! you are trying to get away from me," said Black Donald, hitching his own chair in the same direction, close to the stand, so that he sat immediately in front of the fire-place.

Cap. smiled, and went on beating her eggs

and sugar together. Then she stirred in the bread and poured in the milk, and took the bowl from Black Donald, and laid on the foam. Finally, she added a pellet with the rich compound and handed it to her uncanny guest.

Black Donald raised his neck cloth, threw it upon the floor, and sipped his egg-nog, all the while looking over the top of the glass at Capitola.

"Miss Black," he said, "it must be past twelve o'clock."

"I suppose it is," said Cap.

"That it must be long past your usual hour of retiring?"

"Of course it is," said Cap.

"Then what are you waiting for?"

"For my company to go home," replied Cap.

"Meaning me?"

"Oh, don't mind me, my dear."

"Very well," said Cap., "I shall not trouble myself about you, and her tones were steady though her heart seemed turned into a ball of ice through terror."

Black Donald went on slowly sipping his egg-nog, filling up his goblet when it was empty, and looked at Capitola over the top of the glass. At last he said:

"I have been watching you, Miss Black."

"Little need to tell me that," said Cap.

"And I have been reading you."

"Well, I hope the page was entertaining."

"Well—you my dear, it was, rather so. But why don't you proceed?"

"Proceed—with what?"

"With what you are thinking of, my darling."

"I don't understand you."

"Why don't you offer to go down stairs and bring up some lemon?"

"Oh, I'll go in a moment," said Cap., "if you wish."

"Ha—ha—ha—ha! Of course you will, my darling! and you'd deliver me into the hands of the Philistines, just as you did my poor man when you fooled them about the victuals! I know your tricks, and all your acting has no other effect on me than to make me see your wonderful coolness and courage: my dear, stop puzzling your little head with schemes to buffet me. You are like the eared stalling!

"You can't get—out!" chuckled Black Donald, hitching his chair nearer to hers. He was now right upon the centre of the rug.

Capitola turned very pale, but not with fear, though Black Donald thought she did, and roared with laughter.

"Have you done your supper?" she asked, with a sort of avil calmness.

"Yes, my duck," replied the outlaw, pouring the last of his egg-nog into his goblet, drinking it at a draught, and chucking as he set down the glass.

Capitola then lifted the stand with the refreshments to remove it to its usual place.

"When you are going to do, my dear?" asked Black Donald.

"Clear away the things and set the room in order," said Capitola, in the same awfully calm tone.

"A nice little housewife you'll make, my duck!" said Black Donald.

Cap. sat at the stand in its corner, and then removed her old arm-chair to its place before the dressing-bureau.

Nothing now remained upon the rug except Black Donald seated in the arm-chair.

Capitola paused; her blood seemed freezing in her veins; her heart beat thickly; her throat was choked; her head fell nearly to bursting, and her eyes were veiled by a blinding film.

"Come, come, my duck—make haste; it is late; haven't you done setting the room in order yet?" said Black Donald, impatiently.

"In one moment," said Capitola, coming behind his chair and leaning upon the back of it.

"Donald," she said, with dreadful calmness. "I will not now call you Black Donald! I will call you as your poor mother did, when your young soul was as white as your skin, before she ever dreamed her boy would grow black with crime. I will call you simply Donald, and entreat you to hear me for a few minutes."

"Talk on, then, but talk fast, and leave my mother alone. Let the dead rest!" exclaimed

the outlaw, with a violent convulsion of his bearded chin and lip that did not escape the notice of Capitola, who hoped some good of this betrayal of feeling.

"Donald," she said, "men call you a man of blood; they say that your hand is red and your soul is black with crime."

"They may say what they like; I care not," laughed the outlaw.

"But I do not believe all this of you. I believe that there is good in all, and much good in you; that there is hope for all, and strong hope for you."

"Bosh! stop talking poetry! 'Taint in my line, nor yours either!" laughed Black Donald.

"But truth is in all our lines. Donald! I repeat it, men call you a man of blood! They say that your hands are red and your soul black with crime. Black Donald they call you! But Donald, you never have yet stained your soul with a crime as black as that men have trembled at their frowns to hear it. And even woman, while deploring your crimes, have admired your courage."

"I think 'em kindly for it. Woman always like men with a spice of the devil in them," laughed the outlaw.

"No, they do not," said Capitola, gravely. "You like men of strength, courage, and spirit—but those qualities do not come from the Evil One, but from the Good, who is the giver of all good. Your Creator, Donald, gave you the strength, courage, and spirit that all men and women so much admire; but He did not give you these great powers that you might use them in the service of his enemy, the devil."

"I declare there is really something in that—I never thought of that before."

"Nor ever thought, perhaps, that however misguided you may have been, there is really something great and good in yourself that might yet be used for the good of man and the glory of God," said Capitola, solemnly.

"Ha-ha-ha! Oh, you flatterer. Come—have you done? I tell you it is after one o'clock, and I am tired to death."

"Donald, in all your former acts of lawlessness your antagonists were strong men; and as you boldly risked your life in your deprecations, your acts, though bad, were not base. But now your antagonist is a feeble girl, who has been unfortunate from her very birth—to destroy her would be an act of baseness to which you never yet descended."

"Bosh! who talks of destruction? I am tired of all this nonsense. I mean to carry you off, and there's an end of it," said the outlaw, doggedly rising from his seat.

"Stop!" said Capitola, turning ashen pale—"stop, sit down and hear me for just five minutes: I will not tax your patience longer."

The robber, with a loud laugh, sank again into his chair, saying:

"Very well; talk on for just five minutes and not a single second longer; but if you think in tonight to persuade me to leave this room to-night without you, you are widely out of your reckoning, my duck, that's all."

"Donald, do not sink your soul to permission by a crime that Heaven cannot pardon. Listen to me; I have jewels here worth several thousand dollars. If you will consent to go, I will give them all to you, and let you quietly out of the front door, and never say one word to mortal of what has passed here to-night!"

"Ha-ha-ha! why, my dear, how green you must think me! What hinders me from possessing myself of your jewels as well as of yourself?" said Black Donald, impatiently rising.

"Sit still! In five minutes' grace are not half out yet!" said Capitola, in a breathless voice.

"So they are not! I will keep my promise," replied Black Donald—laughing, and again dropping into his seat.

"Donald, uncle pays me a quarterly sum for pocket-money, which is at least five times as much as I can spend in this quiet country place. It has been accumulating for years until now I have several thousand dollars all of my own. You shall have it if you will only go quietly away and leave me in peace!" prayed Capitola.

"My dear, I intend to take that anyhow I take it as your bridal dowry, you know. For I'm going to carry you off and make an honest wife of you!" "DONALD, give up this heinous purpose!" cried Capitola, in an agony of supplication, as she leant over the back of the outlaw's chair.

"Yes, you know I will! ha—ha—ha!" laughed the robber.

"Man, for your own sake give it up!" "Ha—ha—ha, for my sake!"

"Yes, for yours! Black Donald, have you ever reflected on death?" asked Capitola, in a low and terrible voice.

"I have visited it often enough; but as to reflecting upon it, it will be time enough to do that when it comes. I am a powerful man, in the prime and pride of life," said the athlete, stretching himself exultingly.

"Yet it might come! death might come with sudden, overwhelming power and hurl you to nought in a moment of time, this glorious handiwork of the Creator to be hurled to swift destruction, and for the soul that animates it to be cast into hell!"

"Hush, again! this is a subject for the pulpit, not for a pretty girl's room. If you really think me such a headstrong man, why don't you go with me at once and say no more about it," roared the outlaw, laughing.

"Black Donald—will you leave my room?" cried Capitola, in an agony of prayer.

"No," answered the outlaw, mocking her voice.

"Is there no inducement that I can hold out to you, to leave me?"

"None!"

Capitola raised herself from her leaning posture, took a step backward so that she stood entirely free from the trap-door, then slipping her foot under the rug, she placed it lightly on the spring-bolt, which she was careful not to press; the ample fall of her dress concealed the position of her foot.

Capitola was now paler than a corpse, for here was the pallor of a living horror! Her heart beat violently, her head throbed, her voice was broken as she said:

"Man, I will give you one more chance. Oh, man, pity yourself as I pity you, and consent to leave me."

"Ha—ha—ha! it is quite likely that I will isn't it now? No, my duck! I haven't watched and planned for this chance for this long time past to give it up now that you are in my power. A likely story, indeed! And now the five minutes grace are quite up."

"Scro! don't move yet! before you stir say, 'Lord have mercy on me!' said Capitola solemnly.

"Ha—ha—ha! that's a pretty idea! why should I say that?"

"Say it to please me: only say it, Black Donald!"

"But why to please you?"

"Because I wish not to kill both your body and soul! because I would not send you prayerless into the presence of your Creator! for, Black Donald, within a few seconds your body will be hurled to swift destruction, and your soul will stand before the bar of God!" said Capitola, with her foot upon the spring of the concealed trap.

She had scarcely ceased speaking before he bounded to his feet, whirled around, and confronted her, like a lion at bay, roaring forth:

"You have a revolver there, girl! move a finger and I shall throw myself upon you like an avalanche!"

"I have no revolver! I watch my hands as I take them forth and see!" said Capitola, stretching her arms out towards him.

"What do you mean, then, by your talk of 'deaf destruction'?" inquired Black Donald, voice of thunder.

"I mean that it hangs over you! that it is

imminent! that it is not to be escaped! Oh, man, call on God, for you have not a minute to live!"

The outlaw gazed on her in astonishment. Well he might, for there she stood, paler than marble sterner than steel with no look of human feeling about her but the gleam-like light of her terrible eyes, and the beading sweat upon her death-like brow.

For an instant the outlaw gazed on her in consternation, and then recovering himself, he burst into a loud laugh, exclaiming:

"Ha—ha—ha! Well, I suppose this is what people would call a piece of splendid acting. Do you expect to frighten me, my dear, as you did Craven Le Noir with the pest?"

"Scro!—Lord have mercy on my soul," say it Black Donald, say it, I beseech you!" she prayed.

"Ha, ha, ha, my dear! you may say it for me! and to reward you, I will give you—such a treat! he laughed.

"I shall say it for you! May the Lord pity and save Black Donald's soul, if that be yet possible for the Saviour's sake!"

Good Capitola, in a broken voice, with her foot upon the concealed and fatal spring.

He laughed aloud, stretched forth his arms and rushed to clasp her.

She pressed the spring.

The drop fell with a tremendous crash and an instant's vision of a white and pain-stricken face, and wild upturned hands as he disappeared, and then a square, black opening, was all that remained where the terrible intruder had sat.

No sight or sound came up from that horrible pit, to hint of the secrets of the prison house.

One shuddering glance at the awful void, and then Capitola turned and threw herself, face downwards, upon the bed, not daring to rejoice in the safety that had been purchased by such a dreadful deed, feeling that it was an awful, though a complete victory!

CHAPTER L.

THE NEXT MORNING.

Oh, such a day! So fought, so followed and so fairly won! Came not till now to dignify the times Since Caesar's fortunes.—SHAKESPEARE.

Capitola lay upon the bed, with her face buried in the pillow, the greater portion of the time from two o'clock until day. An uncontrollable horror prevented her from turning lest she should see the yawning mystery in the middle of the floor, or hear some awful sound from its unknown depths.

The very shadows on the walls thrown up wildly by the expiring twilight, were objects of grotesque terror. Never, never, in the whole youth of strange visages, had the nerves of this brave girl been so tremendously shaken and prostrated.

It was late in the morning when at last nature succumbed, and she sank into a deep sleep. She had not slept long when she was aroused from a faint knocking at her door.

She started up wildly and gazed around her. For a minute she could not remember what were the circumstances under which she had lain down, or what was that vague feeling of horror and alarm that possessed her. Then the yawning trap-door's creak, and boots upon the floor, and Black Donald's coat, hat and boots upon the floor, drove in upon her reeling brain the memory of the night of terror!

The knocking continued more loudly and impatiently, accompanied by the voice of Mrs. Conditina, crying:

"Miss Capitola! Miss Capitola! why, what can be the matter with her?"—Miss Capitola!

"Eh! what? yes!" answered Capitola, pressing her hands to her feverish forehead, and putting back her dishevelled hair.

"Why, how soundly you sleep, my dear! I've been calling and rapping here for a quarter of an hour! Good gracious child, what made you oversleep yourself so?"

"—did not get to bed till very late," said Capitola, confusedly.

"Well, well, my dear, make haste now, your uncle is none of the patientest, and he has been

waiting breakfast for some time! Come, open the door and I will help you to dress, so that you may be ready sooner."

Capitola rose from the side of the bed, where she had been sitting, and went cautiously around that going trap-door to her chamber door, where she missed the key, and suddenly remembered that it had been in Black Donald's pocket when he fell. A shudder thrilled her frame at the thought of that horrible fall.

"Well, well, Miss Capitola, why don't you open the door?" cried the old lady, impatiently.

"Mrs. Conditina, I have lost the key—dropped it down the trap-door. Please ask uncle to send for some one to take the lock off—and don't wait breakfast for me."

"Well, I do think that was very careless, my dear; but I'll go at once," said the old lady, moving away.

She had not been gone more than ten minutes, when Old Hurricane was heard coming, blustering along the hall, and calling:

"What now, you imp of Satan? What mischief have you been at now? Opening the trap-door, my mischievous monkey! I wish from the bottom of my soul you had fallen into it, and I say, you careless baggage! I've a great mind to leave you locked up there for ever."

Thus scolding, Old Hurricane reached the spot, and began to pry screw-drivers and chisels until at length the strong lock yielded, and he opened the door.

There a vision met his eyes that arrested his steps upon the very threshold; the remains of a beaucheasian sapper; a man's coat and hat and boots upon the floor; in the midst of the room the great square, black opening; and beyond it, standing upon the hearth, the form of Capitola, with disordered dress, dishevelled hair, and wild aspect.

"Oh, uncle, see what I have been obliged to do," she exclaimed, extending both her arms down towards the opening with a look of bloodied horror and inspiration, such as might have sat upon the countenance of some sacerdotal priestess of the olden time.

"What—what—what!" cried the old man, nearly dumb with amazement.

"Black Donald was in my room last night; he stole from his concealment and locked the door on the inside, and withdrew the key, thus locking me in with himself, and—"

she ceased and struck both hands to her face, shuddering from head to foot.

"Go on, on!" thundered Old Hurricane, in an agony of anxiety.

"I escaped harmless! Oh, I did, sir, but at what a fearful price!"

"Explain! Explain!" cried Old Hurricane, in breathless agitation.

"I drew him to sit upon the chair on the rug, and—"

again she shuddered from head to foot— "and I sprung the trap and precipitated him to—oh, Heaven of Heavens! where?—I know not!"

"But you—you were unharmed?"

"Yes, yes!"

"Oh, Cap. I! Oh, my dear Cap. I! Thank heaven for that!"

"But, uncle, where—oh, where did he go?" inquired Capitola, almost wildly.

"Who the demon cares? To perdition, I hope and trust, with all my heart and soul!" cried Old Hurricane, with emphasis, as he approached and looked down into the opening.

"Uncle, what is below there?" asked Capitola, anxiously, pointing down the abyss.

"An old cellar, as I have told you long ago, and Black Donald, as you have just told me, like a generous I are you killed, as you deserve to be, your atrocious villain!" roared Old Hurricane, stooping down into the opening.

A feeble, distant moan answered him.

"Oh, heaven! he is living! he is living! I have not killed him!" cried Capitola, clasping her hands.

"How soundly you sleep, my dear! I've been calling and rapping here for a quarter of an hour! Good gracious child, what made you oversleep yourself so?"

"—did not get to bed till very late," said Capitola, confusedly.

"Well, well, my dear, make haste now, your uncle is none of the patientest, and he has been

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...ment, man! I'll trouble you to put on your bonnet and walk over to Ezy's and tell him to come here directly! I must send for the constable," said Old Hurricane, going to the door and speaking to his housekeeper, who, with an appalled countenance, had been a silent spectator of all that had passed.

As soon as the old woman had gone to do her errand he turned again, and stooping down the hall, exclaimed:

"I say, you scoundrel down there! What do you think of yourself now? Are you much hurt, you know? Is every one of your bones broken, as they deserve to be, you villain? Answer me, you varlet!"

A low deep moan was the only response.

"If that means yes, I'm glad to hear it, you wretch. You'll go to the camp-meeting with us again, won't you, you knave! You'll preach against evil passions and profane swearing, looking right straight at me all the time, until you bring the eyes of the whole congregation upon me as a sinner above all sinners, you scoundrel! You'll turn me out of my own bed and away from my own board, won't you, you villain? Won't you, precious Father Gray? Oh, well! Father Gray you! Demmy, the next time a trap-door falls under you, you rascal, there shall be a rope around your neck to keep you from the ground, precious Father Gray!"

"Uncle! Uncle! that is cowardly!" exclaimed Capitola.

"What is cowardly, Miss Impertinence?"

"To insult and abuse a fallen man who is in your power! The poor man is badly hurt, may be dying, for aught you know, and you stand over him and berate him when he cannot even answer you!"

"Tugh, umph, umph; demmy, you're—umph, well, he is fallen, fallen pretty badly, eh? and if he should come around after this, the next fall he gets will be like to break his neck, eh?—I say, you gentleman below there—Mr. Black Donald—precious Father Gray—you'll keep quiet, won't you, while we go and get our breakfast? do, now! Come, Cap, come down and pour out my coffee, and by the time we get through, old Ezy will be here."

Capitola complied and they left the room together.

The overseer came in while they were at breakfast, and with his hair standing on end, listened to the account of the capture of the outlaw by our heroine.

"And now saddle Fleetfoot and ride for your life to Tip-Top and bring a pair of constables," were the last orders of Old Hurricane.

While Mr. Ezy was gone on his errand, Major Warfield, Capitola and Mrs. Conditment remained below stairs.

It was several hours before the messenger returned with the constables, and with several neighbors whom interest and curiosity had instigated to join the party.

As soon as they arrived, a long ladder was procured and carried up into Capitola's chamber and let down through the trap door. Fortunately it was long enough, for when the foot of the ladder found the floor of the cellar, the head rested securely against the edge of the opening.

In a moment the two constables began singly to descend, the foremost one carrying a lighted candle in his hand.

The remaining members of the party, consisting of Major Warfield, Capitola, Mrs. Conditment, and some half dozen neighbors, remained gathered around the open trap-door, waiting, watching, and listening for what might next happen.

Presently one of the constables called out:

"Major Warfield, sir!"

"Well!" replied Old Hurricane.

"He's breathing still, sir; but seems badly hurt, and may be a-dying, seeing as he's unrecognizable and unresponsible. What shall we do along of him?"

"Bring him up! let's have a look at the fellow, at any rate!" exclaimed Old Hurricane, peremptorily.

"Just so, sir! but some of the gem'men up there'll have to come down on the ladder and give a lift. He's dead weight now, I tell you honor!"

Several of the neighbors immediately volun-

teered for the service, and two of the strongest descended the ladder to lend their aid.

On attempting to move the injured man he uttered a cry of pain, and fainted, and then it took the united strength and skill of four strong men to raise the large incalculable form of the athlete, and get him up the ladder. No doubt the motion greatly inflamed his inward wounds, but that could not be helped. They got him up at last, and laid out upon the floor, a ghastly, bleeding, insensible form, around which every one gathered to gaze. While they were all looking upon him as upon a slaughtered wild beast, Capitola alone felt compassion.

"Uncle, he is quite crushed by his fall. Make the men lay him upon the bed. Never think of me; I shall never occupy this room again; its associations are too full of horrors. There, uncle, make them at once lay him upon the bed."

"I think that's wrong, but I'll try, unless we mean to let the fellow die," said one of the neighbors.

"Very well! I have particular reasons of my own for wishing that the man's life should be spared until he could be brought to trial and induced to give up his accomplices," said Old Hurricane.

Then turning to his ward, he said:

"Come along, Capitola. Mrs. Conditment will see that your effects are transferred to another apartment."

"And you, friends," he continued, addressing the men present, "be so good, so soon as we have gone, go to midnight that follow and put him to bed, and examine his injuries while I send off for a physician; for I consider it very important that his life should be spared sufficiently long to enable him to give up his accomplices."

And so saying, old Hurricane drew the arm of Capitola within his own and left the room.

It was not long before the physician arrived. When he had examined the patient, he pronounced him utterly unfit to be removed, as besides other serious contusions and bruises, his legs were broken and several of his ribs fractured.

In a word, it was several weeks before the strong constitution of the outlaw prevailed over his many injuries, and he was pronounced well enough to be taken before a magistrate and committed to prison to wait his trial. Alas! his life, it was said, was forfeit by a hundred crimes, and there could be no doubt as to his fate. He maintained a self-possessed, good-humored, and laughingly defiant manner, and when asked to give up his accomplices, he answered gaily:

"That treachery was a legal virtue which out-laws could not be expected to know anything about."

Capitola was where landed for her brave part in the capture of the famous desperado. But Cap. was too sincerely sorry for Black Donald to care for the applause.

CHAPTER LL

A FATAL HATRED.

"Oh, heaven and all its hosts, he shall not die!" by Satan and his fiends, he shall not live!

There is no transient flesh of fugitive passion.—His death hath not been my life for years of misery, which, else, I had not lived.—

Up on that thought, and not on foot, I fed; Upon that thought, and not on sleep, I rested; I came to do the deed that must be done.—

Not thou, nor the storking angels could prevent me! —MARCUS.

The United States army, under Gen. Scott, invested the City of Mexico.

A succession of splendid victories had marked every stage of their advance, from the sea-coast to the capital. Vera Cruz had fallen; Cerro Gordo had been stormed and passed; Xalapa taken; the glorious triumph of Churubusco had been achieved. The names of Scott, Worth, Wool, Quitman, Pillow, and others, were crowned with honor. Others, again, whose humble names and unobtrusive heroisms had never been recorded as nobly, endured as patiently, and fought as bravely. Our own young hero, Herbert Greyson, had covered himself with honor.

The war with Mexico witnessed, perhaps, the most rapid promotions of any other in the whole history of military affairs.

The rapid ascent of our young officer was a striking instance of this. In two years from the first he had entered the service with a lieuten-

ant's commission, he held the rank of major in the—regiment of infantry.

Fortune had not so smiled upon our other young friend, Traverso Roeka; partly, because, being entirely out of his vocation, he had no right to expect success; but, mostly, because he had a powerful enemy in the colonel of his regiment—an unsloughing enemy, whose constant vigilance was directed to prevent the advancement, and insure the degradation and ruin of one whom he contemptuously termed the "gentleman private."

Now, it is known that, by the rules of military etiquette, a wide social gulf lies between the colonel of the regiment and the private in the ranks.

Yet Colonel Le Noir continually went out of his way to insult Private Roeka, hoping to provoke him to some act of fatal insubordination.

And very heavy was the trial to a high-spirited young man like Traverso Roeka; and very fortunate was it for him that he had early been imbued with that most important truth that "he who ruleth his own spirit is greater than he who taketh a city."

But if Colonel Le Noir crossed the gulf of military etiquette to harass the poor young soldier, Major Greyson did the same thing for the more honorable purpose of soothing and encouraging him.

And both Herbert and Traverso hoped that the designs of their colonel would be still frustrated by the self-command and patience of the young private.

Alas! they did not know the great power of evil—they did not know that nothing less than Divine Providence could meet and overcome it.

They foolishly believed that the malignity of Le Noir had resulted in no other practical evil than in preventing the young soldier's well-merited advancement, and in keeping him in the humble position of a private in the ranks.

They were not aware that the discharge of Traverso Roeka had long ago arrived, but that it had been suppressed through the diabolical cunning of Le Noir. That letters, messages, and packets, sent by his friends to the young soldier, had found their way into his colonel's possession, and no further.

And so, believing the hatred of that bad man to have been fruitless of serious, practical evil, Herbert encouraged his friend to be patient for a short time longer, when they should see the end of the campaign, if not of the war.

It was now that period of suspense and of false truce, between the glorious 20th of August, and the equally glorious 8th of September, 1847; and between the two most brilliant actions of the war, the battle of Churubusco and the storming of Chapultepec.

The General-in-chief of the United States forces in Mexico, was at his headquarters in the archiepiscopal palace of Tezcuiclan, on the suburbs, or in the full sight of the city of the Montezumas, awaiting the issue of the conference between the commissioners of the two hostile governments, met to arrange the terms of a treaty of peace—that every day grew more hopeless.

General Scott, who had had misgivings as to the good faith of the Mexicans, had now his suspicions confirmed by several breaches on the part of the enemy of the terms of the armistice.

Early in September, he despatched a letter to General Santa Ana, complaining of these infractions of the truce, and warning him, that if some satisfactory explanations were not made within forty-eight hours, he should consider the armistice at an end, and renew hostilities.

And, not to lose time, he began on the same night a series of reconnoissances, the object of which was to ascertain their best approach to the city of Mexico—which, in the event of the renewal of the war, he proposed to carry by assault.

It is not my intention to pretend to describe the siege and capture of the capital, which has been so often and eloquently described by grave and wise historians, but rather to follow the fortunes of an humble private in the ranks and relate the events of a certain court-martial, as I learned them from the after-dinner talk of a gallant officer, who had officiated on the occasion.

It was during these early days in September.

that the illustrious General-in-chief was meditating one. Ang the war by the result of the city of Mexico, that Colonel Le Noir, also resolved to bring his own private feud to an end, and ruin his enemy by a coup-de-diable.

He had an efficient tool for his purpose, in the Captain of the company to which Traverser Locke belonged. This man, Captain Zuten, was a vulgar upstart, thrown into his command by the turbulence of war, as the scum is cast up to the surface by the boiling of the cauldron.

He hated Traverser Locke, for no conceivable reason, unless it was that the young private was a perfect contrast to himself; in the possession of a handsome person, a well cultivated mind, and a gentlemanly deportment,—qualifications sufficient for the recognition of a mean and vulgar nature.

Colonel Le Noir was not slow to see, and to take advantage of his hatred.

And Captain Zuten became the willing coadjutor and instrument of his vengeance. Between them they concocted a plot almost certain to bring the unfortunate young man to an ignominious death.

One morning, about the first of September, Major Greyson, in going his rounds, came upon Traverser, standing solitary near one of the outposts. The aspect of the young private was so pale, listless and despairing, that his friend immediately stopped and exclaimed: "Why, Traverser, how ill you look! more fitted for the sick list, than the sentry's duties. What the deuce is the matter?"

The young soldier touched his hat to his superior, and answered sadly, "I am ill, ill in body and mind, sir."

"Pooh!—leave off etiquette when we are alone, Traverser, and call me Herbert, as usual. Heaven knows I shall be glad when all this is over, and we fall back into our relative civil positions towards each other! But what is the matter now, Traverser?—Some of Le Noir's villainy again, of course."

"Of course! but I did not mean to complain, this slavery, these insults and persecutions patiently, since I have brought them upon myself."

"Take comfort, Traverser! the war is drawing to a close. Either this armistice will end in a permanent peace, or when hostilities are renewed, our General will carry the city of Mexico by storm, and dictate the terms of a treaty from the grand square of the capital! In either event the war will soon be over, the troops disbanded, and the volunteers free to go about their business;—and Doctor Traverser Locke at liberty to pursue his legitimate profession," said Herbert, cheerfully.

"It may be so; I do not know. Oh, Herbert, whether it be from want of sleep, and excessive fatigue,—for I have been on duty for three days and nights,—or whether it be from incipient illness, or all those causes put together, I cannot tell, but my spirits are dreadfully depressed! There seems to be hanging over me a cloud of fate I cannot dispel! Every hour it seems descending lower and blacker over my head, until it feels like some heavy weight about to engulf or crush me!" said Traverser, sadly.

"Pooh, pooh! hypochondria! Cheer up! I remember that in a month we shall probably be disbanded, and in a year,—think of it Traverser Locke!—Clara Day will be twenty-one, and at liberty to give you her hand! Cheer up!"

"Ah, Herbert! all that seems now to be more unsubstantial than the fabric of a dream! I can't but think of Clara or of my mother, without despair! For oh, Herbert! between me and them there seems to yawn a *dishonored grave!* Herbert, the talk, you know, of an attack on the Molino-del-Rey, and I almost hope to fall in that charge!"

"Why," inquired Major Greyson, in dismay. "To escape being forced into a dishonored grave! Herbert, that man has sworn my ruin, and he will accomplish it," said Traverser, solemnly.

"For Heaven's sake, explain yourself!" said Herbert.

"I will! listen! I will tell you the history of the last three days," said Traverser; but before he could add another word, the sentry that was to relieve his guard, approached and said: "Captain Zuten orders you to come to his tent instantly."

With a glance full of significance, Traverser bowed to Herbert, and walked off, while the sentinel took his place.

Herbert saw no more of Traverser that day. At night he went to inquire for him, but learned that he had been sent with a reconnoitering party to the Molino-del-Rey.

The next day, on seeking for Traverser, he understood that the young private had been dispatched on a foraging expedition. That night, upon again inquiring for him, he was told that he had been sent in attendance upon the officer who had borne secret dispatches to General Quitman, at his quarters on the Acapulco road.

"Traverser is right! They mean to ruin him! I see how it is exactly. When I saw Traverser on guard, two days ago, he looked like a man exhausted and drained for want of sleep; and since that time he has been night and day engaged in harassing duty! That demon, Le Noir, with Zuten to help him, has determined to keep Traverser from sleep, until nature is thoroughly exhausted, and then set him upon guard, that he may be found sleeping upon his post. That was what the boy meant, when he talked of the cloud that was hanging over him, and of being forced into a dishonored grave; and when he hoped, poor fellow, to fall in the approaching assault upon the Molino-del-Rey—I see it is now! They have decided upon the destruction of Traverser! He can do nothing; a soldier's whole duty is comprised in one word—obedience, even, if, in this instance, he is ordered to commit suicide! Let them hatch their diabolical plots! We will not let the Lord does not still reign, and the devil is not a fool! It shall go hard, but that they are 'hatched with their own petard,'" said Herbert, indignantly.

Early the next morning he went to the tent of Captain Zuten, and requested to see private Traverser Locke, in whom, he said he felt a warm interest.

The answer of Colonel Le Noir's tool confirmed Herbert's worst suspicions. Touching his cap with an air of deference, he said: "As you think so much of the young fellow, Major, I am very sorry to inform you, sir, that he is under arrest."

"Upon what charge?" inquired Herbert, calmly, concealing the suspicion and indignation of his bosom.

"Upon a rather bad one, Major—Sleeping on his post," replied the officer, masking his indignation with a show of respect.

"Rather bad! the penalty is death," said Herbert, dryly.

"Yes, sir—martial law is rather severe."

"The Colonel of our regiment, sir," replied the man, scarcely able to conceal his triumph.

"An accusation from a high quarter. Is his charge supported by other testimony?"

"By your pardon, Major, but is that necessary?"

"You have answered my question by asking another one, sir. I will trouble you for a direct reply," said Herbert, with dignity.

"Then, Major, I must reply—Yes."

"What testimony? I would know the circumstances."

"Well, sir, I will tell you all about it," said the officer, with ill-concealed triumph. "Private Traverser Locke had the early morning watch —"

"—After his return from the night ride to Acapulco?"

"Yes, sir; well, Colonel Le Noir and myself, in going our rounds this morning, just before sunrise, came full upon this young fellow, fast asleep on his post. In fact, sir, it required a hearty shake to awaken him."

"After ninety-six hours' loss of sleep, I should not wonder!"

"I know nothing about that, sir; I only know that Colonel Le Noir and myself found him fast asleep on his post. He was immediately arrested."

"Where is he now?" inquired Herbert.

"In one of the Colonel's extra tents, under guard," replied the officer.

Herbert immediately went to the tent in question, where he found two sentinels, with loaded muskets, on duty before the door. They grounded arms, on the approach of their superior officer.

"Is Private Traverser Locke confined within there?" he inquired.

"Yes, sir."

"I must pass in to see him."

"I beg your pardon, sir; but our orders are strict, not even to admit an officer, without a written order from our Colonel," said the sentinel.

"Where is the Colonel?"

"In his tent, sir."

Herbert immediately went on to the fine marquee occupied by Colonel Le Noir.

The sentinel on duty there, at once admitted him, and he passed on into the presence of the Colonel.

He saluted his superior officer with cold military etiquette, and said:

"I have come, sir, to ask of you, an order to be admitted to see Private Traverser Locke, confined under the charge of sleeping on his post."

"I regret to say, Major Greyson, that it cannot be done," replied Le Noir, with ironical politeness.

"Will you have the kindness to inform me, sir, upon what pretext my reasonable request is refused?" asked Herbert, coolly.

"I deem it quite unnecessary to do so, sir," answered the Colonel, haughtily.

"Then, I have no more to do here," replied Herbert, leaving the tent.

He immediately threw himself into his saddle, and rode off to the Archbishop's palace of Toluca, where the General-in-chief had fixed his head quarters.

Here he had to wait some little time before he was admitted to the presence of the gallant Comrade, who received him with all the stately courtesy for which that renowned officer is distinguished.

Herbert mentioned the business that had brought him to the general's presence, the request of a written order to see a prisoner in strict confinement for sleeping on his post.

The Commander, whose kind heart was interested in the welfare of all his soldiers, made some inquiries into the affair, of which Herbert proceeded to give him a short history, without however, venturing, as yet, directly to charge the Captain or the Colonel with intentional foul play; indeed, to have attempted to criminate the superior officers of the accused man, would then have been most unwise, useless, and hurtful.

The general immediately wrote the desired order, and passed it to the young officer.

Herbert bowed, and was about to retire from the room, when he was called back by the general, who placed a packet of letters in his hand, saying that they had arrived among his dispatches, and were for the prisoner, to whom Major Greyson might as well take them at once.

Herbert received them with avidity, and on his way back to the colonel's tent, he examined their subscription.

There were three letters—all directed to Traverser Locke; on two of them, he recognized the familiar hand-writing of Marah Locke, on the other, he saw the delicate Italian style of a young lady's hand, which he readily believed to be that of Clara.

In the midst of his anxiety on his friend's account he rejoiced to have his one little ray of comfort to carry him. He knew that many months had elapsed since the young soldier had heard from his friends at home; and Traverser never received a letter unless it happened to come under cover to Herbert Greyson. And well they both knew the reason.

"How very fortunate," said Herbert, as he rode on, "that I happened to be at the general's quarters to receive them, since just when I did; for if they had been sent to Colonel Le Noir's quarters, or to Captain Z.'s, poor Traverser would never have heard of them. However, I shall not distract Traverser's attention by showing him these letters until he has told me the full history of his arrest, for I wish him to give me a cool account of the whole thing, so that I may know if I can possibly serve him. Ah, it is very unlikely that any power of mine will be able to save him, if indeed, and in truth, he had sleep upon his post," ruminated Herbert, as he rode up to the tent where his prisoner was confined.

Another pair of sentinels were on duty in place of those who had refused him admittance.

He alighted from his horse, was challenged, showed his order, and passed into the tent.

There a sight met him that caused the tears to rush to his eyes—for the bravest is always the tenderest heart.

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thirteen officers, convened at Tacubaya, for the trial of Traverso Roeko, private in the Regiment of Infantry, accused of sleeping on his post.

It was a sultry morning, early in September, and by seven o'clock the drum was heard beating before the Archbishopal palace, where it was understood the trial involving life or death, would come off.

The two sentinels on guard before the doors and a few officers off duty, loitering about the verandah, were the only persons visible near the well-ordered premises, until the members of the court-martial, with the prosecutors and witnesses, began to assemble and pass in.

Within a lofty apartment of the building, which was probably at one time the great dining-hall of the priests, were collected some twenty persons, comprising the court-martial and its attendants.

An extension table covered with green cloth occupied the middle of the long room.

At the head of this table sat General W., the president of the court. On his right and left, at the sides of the table, were arranged the other members according to their rank.

At a smaller table, near the right hand of the President, stood the Judge Advocate, or prosecutor on behalf of the United States.

At the door stood a sentinel on guard, and near him two or three orderly sergeants, in attendance upon the officers.

The Judge Advocate opened the court by calling over the names of the members, beginning with the President and ending with the youngest officer present, and recording them as they responded.

This preliminary settled, orders were dispatched to bring the prisoner, prosecutor and witnesses into court.

And in a few minutes entered Colonel Le Noir, Captain Zuten, Ensign Allen and Sergeant Baker. They were accommodated with seats near the left hand of the President.

Lastly, the prisoner was brought in, guarded, and placed standing at the foot of the table.

Traverso looked pale, from the severe effects of excessive fatigue and anxiety; but he deported himself with firmness and dignity, bowed respectfully to the court and then drew his stately form up to its fullest height, and stood awaiting the proceedings.

The Judge Advocate, at the order of the President, commenced and read the warrant for holding the court. He then read over the names of the members, commencing as before, with the President, and descending through the gradations of rank to the youngest officer, and demanded of the prisoner whether he had any cause of challenge, or took any exception to any member present, and if so, to declare it, as was his privilege, and looked slowly around, in turn, upon each officer of the court-martial.

They might all be said to be strangers to him, since he knew them only by sight—all except his old acquaintance, Herbert Greyson, who sat first at the left hand of the President, and who returned his look of scrutiny with a gaze full of unconcernment.

"I find no cause of challenge, and take no exception to any among the officers composing this court," answered Traverso, again bowing, with such sweetness and dignity in tone and gesture the officers, in surprise, looked—first at the prisoner, and then at each other. No one could doubt that the accused, in the humble garb of a private soldier, was nevertheless a man of education and refinement—a true man both in birth and breeding.

As no challenge was made, the Judge Advocate proceeded to administer to each of the members of the court the oath prescribed by the Articles of War, to the intent that they should try "the matter before them, between the prisoner and the United States, according to the evidence, without fear, favor, or affection."

This oath was taken by each member holding up his right hand, and repeating the words after the officer.

The court then being regularly constituted, and every preliminary form observed, the Judge Advocate arose and directed the prisoner to listen to the charge brought against him and preferred by the colonel of his regiment, Gabriel Le Noir.

Traverso raised his head and fixed his eyes upon the prosecutor, who stood before him, Judge-advocate; while the latter, in an audible voice, read the accusation, charging that prisoner with wilful neglect of duty—in that he, Traverso Roeko, on the night of the first of September, being placed upon guard at the north-western outpost of the Infantry quarters, at Tacubaya, did fall asleep upon his post, thereby endangering the safety of the quarters and violating the 40th Article of War.

To which charge the prisoner, in a firm voice, replied:

"Not guilty of wilful neglect of duty, though found sleeping upon my post."

The Judge-advocate then cautioned all witnesses to withdraw from the court and come only as they were called. They withdrew; and he then arranged some preliminaries of the examination, and called in Capt. Zuten, of the Regiment of Infantry.

The witness was a short, coarse-featured, red-haired private, of Dutch extraction, without intellect enough to enable him to conceal the malignity of his nature.

He testified that on Thursday, the first of September, Traverso Roeko, private in his company, was ordered on guard at the north-western outpost of the quarters, between the hours of four and eight A. M. At about five o'clock on the same morning, he, Joseph Zuten, in making his usual rounds, and being accompanied on that occasion by Colonel Gabriel Le Noir, Lieutenant Adams, and Ensign Baker, did surprise Private Traverso Roeko asleep on his post, leaning against the sentry-box with his musket at his feet.

This witness was cross-examined by the Judge-advocate, who, it is known, was his own person the office of prosecutor on the part of the United States and counsel for the prisoner—or, rather, if he be honest, he acts an impartial inquirer and arbitrator between the two.

As no new facts were gained by the cross-examination, the Judge-advocate proceeded to call the next witness, Colonel Le Noir.

Here, then, was a gentleman of most prepossessing exterior, as well as of most irreproachable reputation!

In brief, his testimony corroborated that of the foregoing witness as to the finding of the prisoner asleep on his post at the time and place specified. In honor of his high social and military standing, this witness was not cross-examined.

The next called was Lieutenant Adams, who corroborated the evidence of former witnesses. The last person examined was Ensign Baker, whose testimony corresponded exactly to that of the Judge-advocate then briefly summed up the case on the part of the United States—first by reading the 40th Article of War, to wit, that

"Any sentry who shall be found sleeping on his post, or shall leave it before he shall be regularly relieved, shall suffer death," &c., &c., &c.

And secondly, by reading the recorded evidence to the effect that

Traverso Roeko had been found by competent witness sleeping on his post.

And concluded by saying—

"Gentlemen, officers of the court-martial, here is the law and here is the fact, both proven, and it remains for the court to find a verdict in accordance to both."

The prisoner was then put upon his defence. Traverso Roeko drew himself up and said that, —the truth, like the blessed sun, must, on its shining forth, dispel all clouds of error; that, resting in the power of truth, he should briefly relate the history of his march on the fact.

Traverso was interrupted several times in the course of his narrative by the President, General W., a severe martinet, who reminded him that an attempt to criminate his superior officers would injure his cause before the court.

Traverso, bowing, as in duty bound, to the President at every fresh interruption, nevertheless proceeded straight on with his narrative to its conclusion.

The defence being closed, the Judge-Advocate arose, as was his privilege, to invite the last word. He stated that if the prisoner had been oppressed or aggrieved by his superior officer,

he should lay in the 35th of the Articles of War, and that, as any soldier who shall feel himself oppressed by his captain, shall complain thereof to his superior officer.

To this the prisoner begged to reply that he had considered the colonel of his regiment his personal enemy, and as such could have little hope of the issue, even if he had had opportunity afforded him, of appealing to that authority.

The Judge-Advocate expressed his belief that this complaint was venacious and groundless; that the court, the prisoner, and witness, dismissed, and the court adjourned to meet again to deliberate with closed doors.

It was a period of awful suspense with Traverso Roeko. The prospect seemed dark for him. The fear of the offence, and the law afflicting the penalty of death to that offence was established, and as the Judge-Advocate truly said, nothing remained but for the court to find their verdict in accordance to both.

Extenuating circumstances there were certainly; but extenuating circumstances were seldom admitted in court-martial, the law and practice of which were severe, to the extent of cruelty.

Another circumstance against him, was the fact that it did not require an unanimous vote to render a legal verdict; but that if a majority of two-thirds should vote for conviction, the fate of the prisoner would be sealed. Traverso had but one friend in the court, and what could his single voice do against so many? Apparently nothing; yet, as the prisoner, on leaving the court room, raised his eyes to that friend, Herbert Greyson returned the look with a glance of more than encouragement—of triumph!

CHAPTER VIII.

THE VERDICT.

We must not make a scene-sweep of the law, setting it up to frighten birds of prey. And let it keep one shape till custom makes it their perch, and not their terror.—SHAKESPEARE.

The members of a court-martial sit in the double capacity of jurors and judges; as jurors they find the facts, and as judges they award the punishment. Yet, in session with closed doors was without the solemn formality that the uninitiated might have supposed to attend a grave deliberation upon a matter of guilt or innocence, involving a question of life or death.

No sooner were the doors closed that shrill out the "vulgar" crowd, than the "high and mighty" officials immediately fall into easy attitudes, and disengaged conversation upon the weather, the climate, yesterday's dinner at General Cushion's quarters, the claret, the cigars, and the Mexican signoras.

They were presently recalled from this easy chat by the "dout, a severe disciplinarian, who reminded them of the gravity of the business upon which they had convened.

The officers, unperceived, wheeled themselves around in the chairs, facing the table, and fell into order.

The Judge-Advocate seated himself at the detached stand, opened his book, called the attention of the court, and commenced and read over the whole record of the evidence, and the proceedings up to this time.

The President then said:

"For my own part, gentlemen, I think this quite a simple matter, requiring but little deliberation. Here is the fact of the offence proved, and here is the law upon that offence clearly defined. Nothing seems to remain for us to do but to bring in a verdict in accordance with the law and the fact."

Several of the older officers and sterner disciplinarians agreed with the President, who now said:

"I move that the vote be immediately taken upon this question."

To this, also, the elder officers assented. And the Judge Advocate was preparing to take the ballot, when one of the junior members arose and said:

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THE JUDGE ADVOCATE

of the law, is of prov; it custom makes it error.

SHAKESPEARE.

martial sit in the judges; as jurors they award the with closed doors ally that the un- to attend a grave guilt or innocence, death.

used that shirt out high and mighty" the weather, the General Cushion's and the Mexican

d from this easy disciplinary, ply of the business

celed themselves as table, and fell

himself at the de- called the attend- and read over and the proceed

on, I think this but little delibe- offence proved, e offence clearly as for us to do ordinance with the

and sterner dis- sident, who now immediately taken

assented. And to take the bat- tubers arose and

Mr. President and gentlemen, there are miti- gating circumstances attending this offence, which in my opinion should be duly weighed be- fore making up our ballot."

"Lieutenant Lovel, when your hair has grown white in the service of your country, as mine has, and when your skin is mottled with the scars of a score of well-fought fields, you will find your soft theories corrected by hard experience, and you will know that in the case of a sentinel sleeping upon his post, there can be no mitigating cir- cumstances; that nothing can palliate such flagrant and dangerous neglect, involving the safety of the whole army; a crime that martial law and custom has very necessarily made punishable with death," said the President, sternly.

The young lieutenant sat down abashed, under the impression that he had betrayed himself into some sort of gross impropriety. This was his first appearance in the character of juror and judge; he was literally "unaccustomed to public speaking," and did not hazard a reply.

"Pardon any other gentleman any views to advance, before we proceed to a general ballot," inquired the President.

Several of the officers whispered together, and then some one of them seemed to be no reason why the vote should not be immediately taken.

Herbert Greyson remained perfectly silent. Why he did not speak *there*, in reply to this ad- juration,—why, indeed, he had not spoken *before*, in support of Lieutenant Lovel's views in favor of his friend, he does not know to this day, though I mean to ask him the first time I have the opportunity. Perhaps he was unwilling to dramatic effects; but whatever might have been the motive, he continued silent, offering no obstacles to the immediate taking of the vote.

The Judge-Advocate then called the court to order for the taking of the ballot, and proceeded to question the members in turn, commencing with the youngest.

"How say you Lieutenant Lovel, is the prisoner on trial guilty or not guilty of the offence laid to his charge?"

"Guilty," responded the young officer, as his eyes filled with tears of pity for the other young man, against which he had felt obliged to recon- sider his vote.

"If that is the opinion of one who seems friendly to him, what will be the votes of the other stern judges?" said Herbert Greyson to himself, in dismay.

"What say you, Lieutenant Adams—is the prisoner guilty or not guilty?" said the Judge Advocate, proceeding with the ballot.

- "Guilty!"
- "Lieutenant Cragin!"
- "Guilty!"
- "Lieutenant Evans!"
- "Guilty!"
- "Lieutenant Goffe!"
- "Guilty!"
- "Lieutenant Heese!"
- "Guilty!"
- "Captain Kingsley?"
- "Guilty!"
- "Captain McConkey?"
- "Guilty!"
- "Captain Lucas?"
- "Guilty!"
- "Captain O'Donnelly?"
- "Guilty!"
- "Captain Rosenkrantz?"
- "Guilty!"
- "Major Greyson?"
- "NOT GUILTY!"

Every officer sprang to his feet and gazed in astonishment, consternation and indignant inquiry upon the reader of this unprecedented vote.

The President was the first to speak, breaking out with:

"I Major Greyson! your vote, sir, in direct defiance of the fact and the law upon it, is unprecedented, sir, in the whole history of court-martial!"

"I record it as uttered, nevertheless," replied Herbert.

"And your oath, sir, what becomes of your oath as a juror of this court?"

"I regard my oath in my vote!"

"What, sir," inquired Captain McConkey, "do you mean to say that you have rendered

that vote in accordance with the facts elicited in evidence, as by your oath you were bound to do?"

"Yes, sir! do you mean to say that the prisoner did not sleep on his post?"

"Certainly I do not; on the contrary, I grant that he *did* sleep upon his post, and yet I maintain that in doing so, he was not guilty!"

"Major Greyson plays with us!" said the President.

"By no means, sir! I never was in more solemn earnest than at present! Your honor, the President, and gentlemen judges of the court, as I am not counsel for the prisoner, nor civil officer, nor lawyer, of whose interference court-martial are proverbially jealous, I beg you will permit me to say a few words in support, or at least, I will say, in explanation of the vote which you have characterized as an opinion in opposition to fact and law, and unprecedented in the whole history of courts-martial."

"You fit it in its!" said General W., shifting uneasily in his seat.

"I heard the defence of the prisoner," continued Herbert; "you heard the narrative of his wrongs and sufferings, to the truth of which his every aspect bears testimony. I will not here express a judgment as to the motives that prompted his superior officers, I will merely advert to the facts themselves, in order to prove that the circumstances under the circumstances, could not with his human power, have done otherwise than he did."

"Sir, if the prisoner considered himself wronged by his captain, which is very doubtful, he could have appealed to the colonel of his regiment."

"Sir, the articles of war accord him that privilege. But is it ever taken advantage of? Is there a case on record where a private soldier ventures to make a dangerous enemy of his immediate superior by complaining of his captain to his colonel. Nor in this case would it have been of the least use, inasmuch as this soldier had well-founded reasons for believing the second in command to be the instrument of this enmity."

"And you, Major Greyson, do you coincide in the opinion of the prisoner? Do you think that there could have been anything in common between the colonel of the regiment and the poor private in the ranks, to explain such an outrageous sentiment as enmity?" inquired Captain O'Donnelly.

"I answer distinctly, yes, sir! In the first place, this poor private is a young gentleman of birth and education, the heir of one of the most important estates in Virginia, and the betrothed of one of the most lovely girls in the world. In both these capacities he has stood in the way of Colonel Le Noir, standing between him and the estate on the one hand, and between him and the young lady on the other. He has disappointed Le Noir both in love and ambition. And he has thereby made an enemy of the man who has besides the nearest interest in his destruction. Gentlemen, who believe in the justice of Colonel Le Noir, I say now to repeat in his presence, and maintain at the proper time and place."

"But how came this young gentleman of birth and expectations to be found in the ranks?" inquired Captain Rosenkrantz.

"How came we to have headstrong sons of wealthy parents, fast young men of fortune, and runaway students from the universities and colleges of the United States, in our ranks! In a burst of boyish impotence the young man enlisted. Destiny gave him as the colonel of his regiment his mortal enemy. Colonel Le Noir his maintenance. And between them both they have done all that could possibly be effected to defeat the good fortune and insure the destruction of Traverse Boeke. And I repeat, gentlemen, that what I feel constrained to affirm here in the absence of those officers, I shall assuredly re-assert and maintain in their presence upon the proper occasion. In fact, I shall bring formal charges against Colonel Le Noir and Captain Zaton, of conduct unworthy of officers and gentlemen!"

"But it seems to me that this is not directly to the point at issue," said Captain Kingsley.

"On the contrary, sir, it is the point, the whole point, and *only* point, as you shall presently see, by attending to the facts that I shall recite to your memory. You and all present met, then, so that there was a deliberate purpose to effect the ruin of this young man. He is accused of having been found sleeping on his post, the penalty of which, in time of war, is death. Now listen to the history of the days that preceded his fault, and tell me if human nature could have withstood the trial?"

"Sunday night was the last of repose to the prisoner until Friday morning, when he was found asleep on his post."

"Monday night he was sent with the recon- sidering party to Canada-Mata."

"Tuesday he was sent with the officer that carried our General's expostulation to Santa Anna. *At night* he was put on guard."

"Wednesday he was sent with another party to protect a band of emigrants crossing the marshes. *At night* he was sent with all acco-

pany party to reconnoitre Molina-Roy, where the officer that carried despatches to General Quitman, and did not return until *midnight*, when, thoroughly worn out, driven indeed to the extreme degree of mortal endurance, he was again, on a sultry, oppressive night, in a still, solitary place, set on guard."

"Thursday he was found asleep upon his post—by whom?—the colonel of his regiment and the captain of his company, who seemed bent upon his ruin!—as I hold myself bound to establish before another court-martial."

"This result has been intended from the first! If five nights' loss of sleep would not have effected this, *ifteen* probably would; *if fifteen* would not, *thirty* would; or *if thirty* wouldn't, *sixty* would!—and all this Captain Zuten had the power to enforce until his doomed victim should fall into the hands of the provost-marshal and into the arms of death!"

"And now, gentlemen, in view of all these circumstances, I ask you—Was Traverse Boeke guilty of wilful neglect of duty in dropping asleep on his post? And I move for a recon- sideration, and a new ballot!"

"Such a thing is without precedent, sir! These mitigating circumstances may be brought to bear on the Commander-in-Chief, and may be embodied in a recommendation to mercy; they should have no weight in the finding of the verdict," said the President, "which should be in accordance with the fact and the law."

"And with justice and humanity! to find a verdict of guilty against this young man would be to place an unmerited brand upon his spot- less name, that no *other* history of the Execu- tion could wipe out! Gentlemen, will you do this? No! I am sure that you will not! And again I move for a new ballot!"

"I second the motion!" said Lieutenant Lovel, rising quite encouraged to behave in his own first instincts, which had been so favorable.

"Gentlemen," said the President, sternly, "this thing is without precedent! In all the annals of courts-martial, without precedent!"

"Then, if there is no such precedent, it is quite time that such a one were established! so that the iron car of liberal law should not always roll over and crush justice! Gentlemen, shall we have a new ballot?"

"Yes! yes! yes!" were the answers.

"It is irregular! it is illegal! it is *unprecedented*! a new ballot! never heard of such a thing in forty years of military life! Lord bless my soul, what is the service counting to!"

"A new ballot! a new ballot! a new ballot!" was the unanimous cry.

The President groaned in spirit, and recorded a vow never to forgive Herbert Greyson for this departure from routine.

The new ballot demanded by acclamation had to be held.

The Judge-Advocate called the court to order and began anew. The votes were taken as before, commencing with the young lieutenant, who now responded untroubledly:

"Not Guilty!"

And so it ran round the entire circle. "Not guilty!" "Not guilty!" "Not guilty!" were the hearty responses of the court.

The acquittal was unanimous. The verdict was recorded.

The doors were then thrown open to the public, and the prisoner called in and publicly discharged from custody.

The court then adjourned.

Traverse took a throw himself upon the bosom of his friend, exclaiming in a broken voice:

"I cannot sufficiently thank you! My dear mother and Clara will do that!"

"Nonsense," said Herbert, laughing; "didn't I tell you that the Lord reigns, and the devil is a fool! This is only the beginning of victories!"

CHAPTER LIV.

THE END OF THE WAR.

Now are our brows bound with victorious wreaths,
Our brows are hung up for ornaments;
Our stern alarms changed to merry meetings,
Our doubtful marches to delightful marches.
Grief-viols now hath smoothed his wrinkled front,
And now, instead of mounting barbed steeds,
To fright the souls of fearful adversaries,
He capers nimbly in a lady's chamber,
To the lascivious pleasing of a lute.—SHAKESPEARE.

Ten days later Molino-del-Rey, Casa-de-Mata and Chapultepec had fallen. The United States forces occupied the city of Mexico. General Scott was in the Grand Plaza, and the American standard waved above the capital of the Montezumas!

Let those who have a taste for words and muskets, drums and trumpets, blood and fire, describe the desperate battles and splendid victories that led to this final magnificent triumph!

My business lies with the persons of our story, to illustrate whom I must pick out a few isolated instances of heroism in this glorious campaign.

Herbert Greyson's division was a portion of the gallant Eleventh that charged the Mexican batteries on Molino-del-Rey. He covered his name with glory, and qualified himself to merit the command of his regiment, which he afterwards received.

Traverse took a young Paladino, when they were marching into the very month of the cannon that were vomiting fire upon them, and when the young ensign of his company was struck down before him, Traverse took the colors from his falling hand, and crying "Victory!" pressed onwards and upwards over the dead and the dying, and springing upon one of the guns which continued to belch forth fire, he thrice waved the flag over his head, and then he planted it upon the battery! Captain Zimou fell in the subsequent assault upon Chapultepec.

Colonel Le Noir entered the city of Mexico with the victorious army, but on the subsequent day, being engaged in a street skirmish with the leprous or liberated convicts, he fell mortally wounded by a copper bullet, and he was now lying by inches at his quarters near the Grand Cathedral.

It was on the evening of the 30th of September, six days from the triumphant entry of General Scott into the capital, that Major Greyson was seated at supper at his quarters, with some of his brother officers, when an orderly entered and handed a note to Herbert, which proved to be a communication from the surgeon of their regiment, begging him to repair without delay to the quarters of Colonel Le Noir, who, being in extremity, desired to see him.

Major Greyson immediately excused himself to his company, and repaired to the quarters of the dying man.

He found Colonel Le Noir stretched upon his bed, in a state of extreme exhaustion, and attended by the surgeon and chaplain of his regiment.

"As Herbert advanced to the side of his bed, Le Noir stretched out his pale hand, and said:

"You hear no grudge against a dying man, Greyson?"

"Certainly not," said Herbert; especially when he proposes doing the right thing, as I judge you do, from the fact of your sending for me."

"Yes, I do, I do," replied Le Noir, pressing the hand that Herbert's kindness of heart could not withhold.

Le Noir then beckoned the minister to hand

him two sealed packets, which he took and laid upon the bed before him.

Then taking up the larger of the two packets, he placed it in the hands of Herbert Greyson, saying:

"There, Greyson, I wish you to hand that to your friend, young Ročke, who has received his colors, I understand?"

"Yes; he has now the rank of ensign."

"Then give this parcel into the hands of Ensign Ročke, with the request, that being freely yielded up, they may not be used in any manner to harass the last hours of a dying man."

"I promise on the part of my noble young friend, that they shall not be so used," said Herbert, as he took possession of the parcel.

Le Noir then took up the second packet, which was much smaller, but much more firmly secured, than the first, being an envelope of parchment, sealed with three great seals.

Le Noir held it in his hand for a moment, gazing from the surgeon to the chaplain, and thence down upon the mysterious packet, while spasms of pain convulsed his countenance. At length he spoke.

"This second packet, Greyson, contains—well, I may as well call it a narrative. I confide it to your care upon these conditions—that it shall not be opened until after my death and funeral; and that when it has served its purpose of retribution, it may be, as far as possible, forgotten. Will you promise me this?"

"On my honor, yes," responded the young man, as he received the second parcel.

"That is all I have to say, except this—that you should be true upon every account, the most proper person to whom I could confide this trust. I thank you for accepting it; and I believe that I may safely promise that you will find the contents of the smaller packet of great importance and advantage to yourself and those dear to you."

Herbert bowed in silence.

"That is all. Good bye. I wish now to be alone with our chaplain," said Colonel Le Noir, extending his hand.

Herbert pressed that wasted hand; silently sent up a prayer for the dying wrong-doer; bowed gravely, and withdrew.

It was almost eight o'clock, and Herbert thought that he would scarcely have time to find Traverse before the drum should beat to quarters.

He was more fortunate than he had anticipated; for he had scarcely turned the Grand Cathedral, when he came full upon the young ensign.

"Ah! Traverse, I am very glad to meet you! I was just going to look for you. Come immediately to my rooms, for I have a very important communication to make to you! Colonel Le Noir is supposed to be dying. He has given me a parcel to be handed to you, which I shrewdly suspect to contain your intercepted correspondence for the last two years," said Herbert.

Traverse stared and gazed upon his friend in amazement, and was about to express his astonishment, when Herbert, seeing others approach, drew the arm of his friend within his own, and they hurried silently toward Major Greyson's quarters.

They had scarcely got in, and closed the door, and drawn a light, before Traverse exclaimed, impatiently:

"Give it me!" and almost snatched the parcel from Herbert's hands.

"What I don't be impatient. I dare say it is all stale news!" said Herbert, as he yielded up the prize.

They sat down together, on each side a little stand supporting a light.

Herbert watched with sympathetic interest while Traverse tore open the envelope and examined its contents.

They were, as Herbert had anticipated, letters from the mother and the betrothed of Traverse—letters that had arrived and been intercepted, from time to time, for the preceding two years.

There were blanks, also, directed in a hand strange to Traverse, but familiar to Herbert as draughts upon a New Orleans bank, payable to the order of Traverse Ročke.

Traverse pushed all these letters aside with scarcely a glance and not a word of inquiry, and began eagerly to examine the long-desired, long-withheld letters from the dear one at home.

His cheek flamed to see that every seal was broken, and the fragrant aroma of every heart-broken word inhaled by others before they reached himself!

"Look here, Herbert! look here! is not this innumerable? Every fond word of my mother, every delicate and sacred expression of—of regard from Clara, all read by the profane eyes of that man!"

"That man is on his death-bed, Traverse, and you must forgive him! He has restored your letters."

"Yes, after their sacred privacy has been profaned! Oh!"

Traverse handed his mother's letters over to Herbert, that her foster-son might read them, but Clara's "sacred epistles" were kept to himself.

"What are you laughing at?" inquired Traverse, looking up from his page and, detecting Herbert with a smile upon his face.

"I am thinking that you are not as generous as you were some few years since, when you would have even let me have a glimpse of her letters!"

"Have they not been already sufficiently published?" said Traverse, with an almost girlish sneer and blush.

When those cherished letters were all read and put away, Traverse stooped down and "fished" paper, another set of letters, which proved to be blanks enclosing the checks, of various dates, which Herbert recognised as coming anonymously by the Old Hurricane.

"What in the world is the meaning of all this Herbert? Have I a nabob uncle turned up anywhere, do you think? Look here!—a hundred dollars—and a fifty, and another—all draughts upon the Planters' Bank, New Orleans, drawn in my favour and signed by Jargent & Dor, Bankers—I, that haven't had five dollars at a time to call my own for the last two years! Here, Herbert, give me a good sharp pinch to wake me up! I may be sleeping on my post again!" said Traverse, in perplexity.

"You are not sleeping, Traverse!"

"Are you sure?"

"Perfectly," replied Herbert, laughing.

"Well, then, do you think that crack upon the crown of my head that I got upon Chapultepec has not injured my intellect?"

"Not in the slightest degree!" said Herbert, still laughing at his friend's perplexity.

"Then I am a hero of a fair tale, that is all—a fair tale in which waste paper is changed into bank notes, and private soldiers prince-palatinel!

"Look Hiss!" cried Traverse, desperately, thrusting the bank cheques under the nose of his friend; "do you see those things and know what they are, and still you tell me everything in this castle don't go by enchantment?"

"Yes, I see what they are, and it seems to me perfectly natural that you should have them!"

"Humph!" said Traverse, looking at Herbert with an expression that seemed to say that he thought the wife of his friend deranged.

"Traverse," said Major Greyson, did it never occur to you, that you must have other relatives in the world besides your mother? Well, I suspect that those checks were sent by some relative of yours or your mother's, who just begins to remember that he has been neglecting you!"

"Herbert, do you know this?" inquired Traverse, anxiously.

"No, I do not know it; I only suspect this to be the case," said Herbert, evasively. "But what is that which you are forgetting?"

"Oh! this—yes, I had forgotten it. Let us see what it is!" said Traverse, examining a paper that had rested upon the stand.

"This is an order for my discharge, signed by the Secretary of War, and dated—two months ago! Here I have been carrying two years illegally, and if I had been convicted of neglect of duty in sleeping on my post, I should have been sent to the gallows!"

"That man, as I said before, when he prosecuted me, knew perfectly well!" exclaimed Traverse.

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"Gloriously, gloriously."

"Yes, for to break me not broken!—not them when end please Providence General Butler."

"And you will like to see my day; but I'm no with honor."

"And can you triumphed over won your colors?"

"No, for the sion! Nor will by the blessing sent out to do, at tice. And on week to try my fortune."

"To New O favor, of some there!" exclaiming.

"So much the better, I am not infected! I b."

"I never saw without a theor."

"The drum was and the friend revived hope."

"The next m der of the seen and received I."

"And then, of tal letters to be entreaty the was the secret tinely ad, Trae out for the more to seek I."

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"And I Herbo itarating his Nor should r not be broke Beyond the an importan entirely igno But the H beyond all He was of repentance h had been fr proach of de ering illness portion of w of his only v visit him, a sincere pe And soon the treaty Mexican O army evad

... that every soul was
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... has restored your
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... ere kept to himself,
... g at," inquired Tra-
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... his face.
... are not as generous
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... of her letters!"
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... nucle turned up any-
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... Orleans, drawn in
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... years! Here, Her-
... to wake me up!
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... col!" said Herbert,
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... if it?"
... am said to have
... at Chapultepec

"Gloriously, Traverser! You trust your colors gloriously."
"Yet, for all that, my true mission is not to break men's bones, but to set them when broken!—not to take men's lives, but to save them when endangered. So, to-morrow morning, please Providence, I shall present this order to General Butler, and apply for my discharge."
"And you will do so immediately for home?"
"The face of Traverser and loudly changed.
"I should like to do so! Oh, how I should like to see my dear mother and Clara, if only for a day; but I must not indulge the longing of my heart. I must not go home until I can do so with honor."
"And can you not do so now? You, who have triumphed over all your personal enemies, and won your colors at Chapultepec?"
"No, for all this was in my legitimate profession! Nor will I present myself at home until, by the blessing of the Lord, I have done what I set out to do, and establish myself in a good practice. And so, by the help of Heaven! I hope within one week to be on my way to New Orleans to try my fortune in that city."
"To New Orleans!—and a new, malignant fever, of some horrible, unknown type, raging there!" exclaimed Herbert.
"So much the more need of a physician! Herbert, I am not the least uneasy on the subject of infection! I have a theory for its annihilation."
"I never saw a clever young professional man without a theory!" laughed Herbert.
The drama was now bound, pending the latter, and the friends separated with hearts full of revived hope.
The next morning Traverser presented the order of the secretary to the commander-in-chief, and received his discharge.
And then, after writing long, loving, and hopeful letters to his mother and his betrothed, and entreating the former to try and find out who was the secret benefactor who had sent him such timely aid, Traverser took leave of his friends, and set out for the Southern Queen of Cities, once more to seek his fortune.
Meanwhile the United States Army continued to occupy the City of Mexico, through the whole of the autumn and the winter.
General Butler, who temporarily succeeded the illustrious Scott in the chief command, very wisely arranged the terms of an armistice with the enemy, that was intended to last two months from the beginning of February; but which happily lasted only the conclusion of the treaty of peace between the two countries.
Colonel Le Noir had not been destined soon to die; his wound, an inward canker from a copper bullet, that the surgeon had at length succeeded in extracting—look the form of a chronic febrile disease. Since the night upon which he had been so extremely ill, as he supposed dying, and yet had rallied, the doctors felt no apprehensions of his speedy death, though they gave no hopes of his final recovery.
Under these circumstances, there were hours in which Le Noir bitterly regretted his precipitation in permitting those important documents to go out of his own hands. And he frequently sent for Herbert Greyson in private to require re-assurances that he would not open the packet confided to him before the occurrence of the event specified.
And Herbert always soothed the sufferer by reiterating his promise that so long as Colonel Le Noir should survive, the seal of that packet should not be broken.
Beyond the suspicion that the parcel contained an important confession, Herbert Greyson was entirely ignorant of its contents.
But the life of Gabriel Le Noir was prolonged beyond all human calculus of probabilities.
He was spared to experience a more effectual repentance than that spurious one into which he had been frightened by the seeming rapid approach of death. And after seven months of lingering illness and gradual decline, during the latter portion of which he was comforted by the society of his only son, who had come at his summons to visit him, in May, 1848, Gabriel Le Noir expired a sincere penitent, reconciled to God and man.
And soon afterwards, in the month of May, the treaty of peace having been ratified by the Mexican Congress at Queretaro, the American army evacuated the city and territory of Mexico.

And our brave soldiers, their "brows crowned with victorious wreaths," set out upon their return to home and friends.

CHAPTER LV.
THE FORTUNATE RAT.

Howan has to all allotted, soon or late, Some lucky revolution of their fate; Whose motions if we watch and guide with skill For human good despoils no human will. Our fortune rolls as from a smooth descent, And from the first impression takes its bent. Now, now she meets you with a glorious prize, And spreads her looks before her as she flies. —DANTE.

Meanwhile, what had our young adventurer been doing in all these months between September and October? Traverser, with his two hundred dollars, had set out for New Orleans about the first of October.
But by the time he had paid his travelling expenses and fitted himself out with a respectable suit of professional black, and a few necessary books, his little capital had diminished three quarters.
So that when he found himself settled in his new office in a highly respectable quarter of the city, he had but fifty dollars and a few dimes left.
A portion of this sum was expended in a cheap sofa-bedstead, a closed washstand, and a spirit-lamp coffee-burner, for Traverser determined to lodge in his office and board himself,—which will have this additional advantage," said the cheerful fellow to himself,—for besides saving me from debt, it will keep me always on hand for calls.
The fever, though it was October, had scarcely abated; indeed, on the contrary, it seemed to have revived and increased in virulence in consequence of the premature return of many people who had had on the first appearance, and who in coming back too soon to the infected atmosphere, were less able to withstand contagion than those who remained.
That Traverser escaped the plague was owing not so much to his favorite "theory" as to his vigorous constitution, pure blood, and regular habits of temperance, cleanliness, and cheerful society of mind and body.
Just then the demand was greater than the supply of medical services. Traverser found plenty to do. And his pleasant young face and hopeful and confident manners won him great favor in sick-rooms, where, whether he was to be ascribed to "theory," his "practice," or to the happy influence of his personal presence, or to all these together, with the blessing of the Lord upon them,—it is certain that he was very successful in raising the sick. It is true that he did not earn five dollars in as many days; for his practice, like that of almost every young professional man, was among the indigent.
But what of that?—what if he were not running up heavy accounts against wealthy patrons?—he was "giving to the poor"—not money, for himself was as poor as any of them—but his time, labor and professional skill!—he was "giving to the Lord," he was "lending to the Lord," and to "bless the security." And the most successful speculator that ever made a fortune on 'Change, never, never invested time, and labor or money to a surer advantage.
And this I would say for the encouragement of all young persons in similar circumstances—do not be impatient if the "returns" are a little while delayed, for they are sure, and so rich that they are quite worth waiting for, nor will the waiting be long. Give your services cheerfully, also, for "the Lord loveth a cheerful giver."
Traverser managed to keep out of debt; he regularly paid his office-rent and his landlady's bill; he regularly purchased his mutton-chop or pound of beefsteak, and broiled it himself; he made his coffee; swept and dusted his office; put up his sofa-bed; blacked his boots; and oh! miracle of independence, he mended his own gloves and depended on his own shirt-buttons—for you may depend on the widow's son know how to do all these things; nor was there a bit of hardship in his having to wait upon himself, though if his mother and Clara, in their well-provided and comfortable home at Willow Heights, had only known how

desolate the young man was of female aid and comfort, how they would have smiled!
"No one but himself to mind his poor dear gloves! Oh—oh, too-boo-coo!"
Traverser never alluded to his straitened circumstances; but boasted of the comfort of his quarters and the extent of his practice, and declared that his income already exceeded his outlay; which was perfectly true, since he was resolved to live within it, whatever it might be. As the fever began to subside, Traverser's practice declined, and about the middle of November his "occupation was gone."
We said that his office was in the most respectable locality in the city; it was, in fact, on the ground floor of a first-class hotel.
It happened that that one night, near the close of winter, Traverser lay awake on his sofa-bedstead, turning over in his mind how he should contrive to make both ends meet at the conclusion of the present term, and feeling as near despondency as it was possible for his buoyant and God-trusting soul to be, when there came a loud ringing at his office-bell.
This reminded him of the stirring days and nights of the preceding autumn. He started up at once to answer his summons.
"Who's there?"
"The Doctor knocks in!"
"Yes, what's wanted?"
"A gentleman, sir, in the house here, sir, taken very bad, wants the doctor directly, room number 555."
"Very well, I will be with the gentleman immediately," answered Traverser, plunging his head into a basin of cold water and drying it hastily.
In five minutes Traverser was in the office of the hotel, inquiring for a waiter to show him up into 555.
One was ordered to attend him, who led the way up several flights of stairs, and around divers galleries, until he opened a door and ushered the doctor immediately into the sick room.
There was a little, old, dried-up Frenchman in a blue night-cap, extended on a bed in the middle of the room, and covered with a white counterpane that clung close to his rigid form as to a corpse.
And there was a little, old, dried-up Frenchwoman in a brown merino gown and a high-crowned mullin cap, who hopped and chattered about the bed like a frightened magpie.
"On! Monsieur le Docteur!" she screamed, jumping at Traverser in a way to make him start back; "Où, Monsieur le Docteur! I am vera happy you to see! Voila mon freres! Behold my brother! He is ill! he is vera ill! he is dead! he is vera dead!"
"I hope not," said Traverser, approaching the bed.
"Voilà! Behold! Mon Dieu, he is vera still! he is vera cold! he is vera dead! what can you, mon freres, my brother to save!"
"Be composed, Madam, if you please, and allow me to examine my patient," said Traverser taking the wrist of the sick man.
"Ma foi! I know not what you speak! compose." What can you my brother to save!"
"Much, I hope, Madam, you must leave me to examine my patient and not interrupt me," said Traverser, passing his hand over the naked chest of the sick man.
"Mon Dieu! I know not 'exam' and interrupt!" and I know not what can you mon freres to save!"
"If you don't hush parley-rolling, the doctor can't think, nump," said the waiter, in a respectful tone.
Traverser found his patient in a bad condition—in a stupor, if not in a state of positive insensibility. The surface of his body was cold as ice, and apparently without the least vitality. If he was not, as his sister had expressed it, "very dead," he was certainly "next to it."
By close questioning, and by putting his questions in various forms, the doctor learned from the elating little magpie of a Frenchwoman that the patient had been ill for nine days; that he had been under the care of Monsieur le Docteur Cartiere; that there had been a consultation of physicians; that they had prescribed for him and given him over; that the Docteur Cartiere still attended him; but was at this instant in a dangerous as accoucher to a lady in extreme tendance, whom he could not leave; but Docteur

Carriere had directed them, in his unavoidable absence, to call in the skilful, the talented, the soon to be illustrious young Docteur Roceke, who was also near at hand.

The heart of Traverser thrilled with joy. The Lord had remembered him. His best skill spent upon the poor and needy who could make him no return, but whose lives he had succeeded in saving, had reached the ears of the celebrated Dr. C., who had with the unobtrusive magnanimity of real genius, quietly recommended him to his own patrons.

Oh! well, he would do his very best, not only to advance his own professional interests, and to please his mother and Clara, but also to do honor to the magnanimous Doctor C.'s recommendation.

Here, too, was an opportunity of putting in practice his favorite theory; but first of all, it was necessary to be informed of the preceding mode of treatment and its results.

So he farther questioned the little, restless mangle, and by ingeniously framed inquiries, succeeded in gaining from her the necessary knowledge of the patient's antecedents. He examined all the medicines that had been used, and informed himself of their effects upon the disease. But the most serious difficulty of all, seemed to be, the impossibility of raising vital action upon the cold, dead skin.

The chattering little woman informed him that the patient had been covered with blisters that would not "pull," that would not "declimate," that would not, what you call it—*"draw!"*

Traverser could easily believe this, for not only the skin, but the very flesh of the old Frenchman seemed bloodless and lifeless.

Now for his theory! what would kill a healthy man with perfect circulation, might save the life of this dying one, whose whole surface, inch deep, seemed already dead.

"Put him in a bath of mustard-water, as hot as you can bear your own hand in, and continue to raise the temperature slowly, watching the effect, for about five minutes. I will go down and prepare a cordial draught to be taken the moment he gets back to bed," said Doctor Roceke, who immediately left the room.

His directions were all but too well obeyed. The bathing-tub was quickly brought into the chamber and filled with water, as hot as the nurse could bear her hand in. Then the invalid was hastily invested in a slight bathing-gown and lifted by two servants and laid in the hot bath.

"Now, bring quickly, water boiling," said the little, old woman, imperatively. And when a large copper kettle full was forthcoming, she took it and began to pour a stream of hissing, bubbling water in at the foot of the bath.

The skin of the torpid patient had been reddening for a few seconds, so as to prove that its sensibility was returning, and now when the stream from the kettle began to mix with the already very hot bath, and to raise its temperature almost to boiling, suddenly there was heard a cry from the bath, and the patient, with the agility of youth and health, skipped out of the tub and into his bed, kicking vigorously, and exclaiming:

"Briquands! assassins! you have scalded my legs to death!"

"Glorie be to the Lord! he's saved!" cried one of the waiters, a devout Irishman.

"Giel! no speaks! he moves! he lives! *mon frere!*" cried the little Frenchwoman, going to him.

"Ah, murderers! handies! you've scalded me to death! I'll have you all before the commissaire!"

"He scolds! he threatens! he swears! he gets well! *mon frere!*" cried the old woman, banging herself to change his clothes and put on his flannel night-gown. They then tucked him up warmly in bed, and put bottles of hot water all around, to keep up this newly stimulated circulation.

At that moment Dr. Roceke came in, put his hand into the bath-tub, and could scarcely repress a cry of pain and of horror—the water scalded his fingers! what must it have done to the sick man!

"Good heaven, Madam! I did not tell you to scald your patient!" exclaimed Traverser, speaking to the old woman. Traverser was shocked

ed to find how perilously his orders had been executed.

"*Eh bien, Monsieur!* he lives! he does well! *Voila mon frere!*" exclaimed the little old woman.

It was true! the accidental "boiling bath," as it might also be called, had effected what perhaps no other means in the world could—a restored circulation.

The disease was broken up, and the convalescence of the patient was rapid. And as Traverser kept his own secret concerning the accidental high temperature of that bath, which every one considered a fearful and a successful experiment, the fame of Dr. Roceke spread over the whole city and country.

He would soon have made a fortune in New Orleans, had not the hand of destiny beckoned him elsewhere. It happened thus:

The old Frenchman whose life Traverser had partly by accident and partly by design succeeded in saving, comprehended perfectly well how narrow his escape from death had been, and attributed his restoration solely to the genius, skill, and boldness of his young physician, and was grateful accordingly with all a Frenchman's noisy demonstration.

He called Traverser his friend, his deliverer, his son!

One day, as soon as he found himself strong enough to think of pursuing his journey, he called his "son" into the room and explained to him that he, Doctor Pierre St. Jean, was the proprietor of a private Insane Asylum, very celebrated, very quiet, very aristocratic, indeed, receiving none but patients of the highest rank; that this retreat was situated on the highest banks of a charming lake in one of the most healthy and beautiful neighborhoods of East Orleans; that he had originally come down to the city to engage the services of some young physician of talent as his assistant, and finally, that he would be delighted to enwrapled if "his deliverer" his friend! his son! accepted the post.

Now, Traverser particularly wished to study the various phases of mental derangement, a department of his professional education that had hitherto been opened to him only through books.

He explained this to his old friend, the French physician, who immediately went off in rapturous exclamations of joy as, "Good! Great! Grand!!" and "I shall now re-see my good child! my dear son! for his ex-ecution skill!"

Traverser, in the engagement were soon arranged, and Traverser prepared to accompany a new friend to his beautiful retreat, the private mad-house. But first Traverser wrote to his mother and Clara in Virginia, and also to Herbert Greyson in Mexico, to apprize them of his good fortune.

CHAPTER LXV.

THE MYSTERIOUS MARIAGE.

Stay, Jailer, stay, and hear my woes;
She is not mad who kneels to thee;

For what am I full well I know,
And what I was, and what should be;

I'll rave no more in proud despair—
My language shall be calm the end;

But ere I die, I'll swear,
I am not mad! no, no, not mad!

—M. G. LEWIS.

It was of the close of a beautiful day in early spring that Traverser Roceke, accompanying the old doctor and the old sister, reached the grove on the borders of the beautiful lake upon the banks of which was situated the "Calm Retreat."

A large, low, white building, surrounded with piazzas and shaded by fragrant and flowering southern trees, it looked like the luxurious country-seat of some wealthy merchant or planter, rather than a prison for the insane.

Doctor St. Jean conducted his young assistant down a broad and cool hall, on each side of which doors opened into spacious rooms, occupied by the proprietor and his household. The cells of the patients, as it appeared, were up stairs. The country doctor and the matron who had been in his sister, now came forward to welcome the party, and report the state of the institution and its inmates.

All were as usual, the country doctor said, except "Mademoiselle."

"And what of her, how is Mademoiselle?—A patient not interesting, Doctor Roceke?" said the old Frenchman, almost indifferently questioning his substitute and addressing Traverser.

"She has stopped her violent ravings, and seems to me to be sinking into a state of stupid despair," replied the substitute.

"A patient most interesting, my young friend! a child of most pathetic; you shall hear of it some time. But come, ring and order coffee," said the old Frenchman, leading the way into a pleasant apartment on the right of the hall, furnished with straw matting upon the floor, and bamboo eelies and chairs around the walls.

Here coffee was presently served to the travelers, who soon after retired for the night.

Traverser's room was a large, pleasant apartment at the end of a wide, long hall, on each side of which were the doors opening into the cells of the patients.

Fatigued by his journey, Traverser slept soundly through the night; but early in the morning he was rudely awakened by the sounds of maniacal voices from the cells. Several were crying, some laughing aloud, some groaning and howling, and some holding forth in frantic exhortations.

He dressed himself quickly and left his room, to walk down the length of the long hall and observe the cells on each side. The doors were at regular intervals, and each door had in its centre a small opening to enable the proprietor to look in upon the patients.

As these were all women, and some of them delicate and refined even in their insanity, Traverser felt shocked at this necessary, if it were necessary, exposure of their sanctuaries.

The cells were in fact small bed rooms, with their white-washed walls, and white curtained beds and windows, looked exceedingly neat, clean and cool, but also it must be confessed, very bare, dreary and cheerless.

"Even a looking-glass would be a great benefit to these poor girls, for I remember that even Clara in her worst violent grief, and mother in her life-long sorrow, never neglected their looking-glass and personal appearance," said Traverser to himself as he passed down the hall, and resolved that this little indulgence should be afforded the patients.

And except those first involuntary glances, he scrupulously avoided looking in through the gratings upon those wretched women who had no means of relieving themselves.

But as he turned to go down the stairs, his eyes went full into an opposite cell, and fell upon a vision of beauty and sorrow that immediately riveted his gaze.

It was a small and graceful female figure, clothed in dark black, seated by the window, with her elbow resting upon the sill and her chin supported on her hand. Her eyes were cast down until her eye-lashes lay like inky lines upon her snow-white cheek. Her face, of classic regularity and marble whiteness, bore a ghastly contrast to the long eye-lashes, arched eye-brows and silken ringlets, black as midnight. She might have been a statue or a picture, so motionless she sat.

Conscious of the wrong of gazing upon this solitary woman, Traverser forced his looks away and passed on down stairs, where he again met the old doctor and Mademoiselle Angele at breakfast.

After breakfast, Doctor St. Jean invited his young assistant to accompany him on a round of visits to the patients, and they went immediately up to the hall, at the end of which Traverser had slept.

"These are our incurables, but they are not violent; incurables never are. Poor Mademoiselle she has just been conveyed to this ward," said the doctor, opening the door of the first cell on the right at the head of the stairs, and admitting Traverser at once into the presence of the beautiful, black-haired, snow-faced woman, who had so much interested him.

"This is my friend, Doctor Roceke, Mademoiselle; Doctor, this is my friend, Mademoiselle Mont De St. Pierre."

Traverser bowed profoundly, and the lady arose, curtained and resumed her seat, saying coldly:

"I have told you, Monsieur, never to address me as Mademoiselle; you persist in doing so; and I shall never notice the insult again."

"Ten thousand pardons, Madam! but if

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voluntary glances, he in through the grate-

Madame will always look so young! so beautiful I can I ever remember that she is a widow?"

The classic lip of the woman curled in scorn, and she disdainful reply.

"I take an appeal to Monsieur Le Docteur—Is not Madame young and beautiful?" asked the

Fronchman, turning to Traverse, while the splendid black eyes of the stranger passed from the one to the other.

Traverse caught the glance of the lady and bowed gravely. It was the most delicate, and proper reply.

She smiled almost as gravely, and with a much kinder expression than any she had bestowed upon the Fronchman.

"And how has Madame fared during my absence so long? The servants—have they been respectful? have they been observant? have they been obedient to the will of Madame? Madame has but to speak!" said the doctor, bowing

Politely.

"Why should I speak when every word I utter you hears, or affect to believe, to be the ravings of a maniac? I will speak no more," said the lady, turning away her superb dark eyes and looking out of the window.

"Ah, Madame will not so punish her friend, her servant I her slave!"

A gesture of fierce impatience and disgust was the only reply she made by the lady.

"Come away; she is angry and may become dangerously excited," said the old doctor, leading the way from the cell.

"Did you tell me this lady is one of the incurables?" inquired Traverse, when they had left her apartment.

"Bah! yes, poor girl, 'vera incurable,' as my sister would say."

"Yes, she appears to me to be perfectly sane, as well as exceedingly beautiful and interesting."

"Ah, bah! my excellent; my admirable; my inexperienced young friend, that is all you know of lunatics! With more or less violence of assertion, they ever are excited upon their insanity; just as criminals protest their innocence! Ah, bah! you shall go into every cell in this ward, and not find one lunatic among them," sneered the old doctor, as he led the way to the next little room.

It was indeed as he had foretold, and Traverse Rooker found himself deeply affected by the melancholy, the earnest, and sometimes the violent manner in which the poor unfortunate protested their sanity, and implored or demanded to be restored to home and friends.

"You perceive," said the doctor, with a dry laugh, "that they are none of them crazy!"

"I see," said Traverse, "but I also detect a very great difference between that lovely woman and all these other inmates."

"Bah! bah! bah! she is more beautiful I more accomplished I more refined than the others, and she is in one of her lucid intervals! that is all, but as to a difference between her insanity and that of other patients, it lies in this, that she is the most hopelessly mad of the whole lot. She has been mad eighteen years!"

"Is it possible!" exclaimed Traverse, incredulously.

"She lost her reason at the age of sixteen, and she is now thirty-four—you can calculate!"

"It is amazing and very sorrowful! how beautiful she is!"

"Yes, her beauty was a fatal gift! It is a sad story! Ah, it is a sad story! You shall hear of it when we get through."

"I can connect no idea of woman's frailty with that refined and intellectual face," said Traverse, coolly.

"Ah, bah! you are young! you know not the world you live in! my innocent, my excellent, my pious companion!" said the old doctor, as they crossed the hall to go into the next wing of the building, in which were situated the men's wards.

Traverse found nothing that particularly interested him in this department, and when they had concluded their round of visits, and were seated together in the old doctor's study, Traverse asked him for the story of his beautiful patient.

young lady, Mademoiselle Mont de St. Pierre, is of a family noble and distinguished—a relative of this officer, illustrious and brave. At fifteen, Mademoiselle met a man, handsome and without honor. Ah, bah! you understand! at sixteen the child became a fallen angel! She lost her reason through sorrow and shame! This relative—the gentleman, illustrious and noble, and com-

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The doctor shrugged his shoulders.

"It is a story miserable, as I told you before. A gentleman, illustrious, from Virginia, an officer high in the army, and distinguished in the war, he brought this woman to me nearly three years ago. He informed me that—ah, bah! I had better tell you the story in my own manner. This

"I thank you," she would answer, with a softening tone and look, adding "yes," or "no," as the truth might be.

One day, after looking at the young physician some time, she suddenly said:

"You never forget! You always address me by my proper title of Madam, and without the touch of irony which others indulge in when 'humoring' me as they call it! Now, pray explain to me why, in your earnest, you give me this title!"

"Because, Madam, I have heard you lay claim to that title, and I think that you yourself, of all the world, have the best right to know how you should be addressed," said Traverse respectfully.

The lady looked wistfully at him, and said—

"But my next-door neighbor asserts that she is a queen; she insists upon being called 'your majesty.' Has she, then, the best right to know how she should be addressed?"

"Alas! no, Madam; and I am pained that you should do yourself the great wrong to draw such comparisons."

"Why? Am not I and the 'queen' inmates of the same ward of incurables, in the same lunatic asylum?"

"Yes, but not with equal justice of cause. The 'queen' is a hopefully deranged, but happy lunatic. You, Madam, are a lady who has retained the full possession of your faculties amid circumstances and surroundings that must have overwhelmed the reason of a weaker mind."

The lady looked at him in wonder and almost in joy.

"Ah, it was not the strength of my mind, it was the strength of the Almighty upon whom my mind was stayed, for time and for eternity, that has saved my reason in all these many years! But how did you know that I was not mad? How do you know that this is anything more than a lucid interval of longer duration than usual?" she asked.

"Madam, you will forgive me for having looked at you so closely and watched you so constantly, but I am your physician, you know."

"I have nothing to forgive and much to thank you for, young man. You have an honest, truthful, frank young face! the only one such that I have seen in eighteen years of service? But why, then, did you not believe the doctor? why did you not take the fact of my insanity upon trust, as others did?—she asked, fixing her glorious dark eyes inquiringly upon his face.

"Madam, from the first moment in which I saw you, I disbelieved the story of your insanity and mentioned my doubts to Doctor St. Jean—"

"Who cancelled your doubts, of course. I can readily believe that he did. Doctor St. Jean is not a very bad man; but he is a charlatan and a dudder; he received the story of my reported insanity as he received me, as an advantage to his institution, and he never gave himself the unprofitable trouble to investigate the circumstances."

I told him the truth about myself as a patient. I now speak to you; but somebody else had told him that this truth was the fiction of a deranged imagination, and he found it more convenient and profitable to believe somebody else! But again I ask you, why were not you also, so discreetly obtuse?"

"Madam," said Traverse, blushing ingenuously, "I hope you will forgive me for saying that it is impossible any one could see you without becoming deeply interested in your fate. Your face, Madam, speaks equally of profound sorrows and of saintly resignation. I saw no sign of madness in the calm depths of your eyes, and eyes, there! In the calm depths of your eyes, there! I know that the fires of insanity never could have burned. Pardon me that I looked at you so closely; I was your physician, and was most deeply anxious concerning my patient."

"I thank you; may the Lord bless you; perhaps He has sent you here for my relief; for you are right, young friend; you are altogether right; I have been, with great grief and despair, but never for one hour in the whole course of my life have I been insane."

"I believe you, Madam, on my sacred honor, I do!" said Traverse, fervently.

"And yet you could get no one about this place to believe you! They have taken my brother-in-law's false story, endorsed as it is by the doctor-proprietor, for granted. And just so long as I persist in telling my true story, they will consider me a monomaniac, and so often as the thought of

CHAPTER LVII.

THE MANIA'S STORY.

A scheming villain forged this tale. That chance me in this dreary cell, My fate unknown, my friends howal, O doctor, haste that I go to tell! Oh, haste my daughter's heart to cheer, Her heart, at once, 'twould glad and sad To know, the student and captive here, I am not mad! I am not mad!—M. G. Lewis.

There is some advantage in having imagination, since that visionary faculty opens the mental eyes to facts that more practical and duller intellects could never see.

Traverse was young and romantic, and deeply interested in the doctor's beautiful patient. He, therefore, did not yield his full credulity to the tale told by the "relative illustrious" to the old doctor, as to the history and cause of the lady's madness, or even take it for granted that the distinguished officer's story might be a wicked fabrication, to conceal a crime, and that the lady's "crazy fancy" might be the pure truth.

And Traverse had heard to what heinous uses private mad-houses were sometimes put by some unscrupulous men, who wished to get certain women out of their way, yet who shrink from bloodshed.

And he thought it not impossible that this gentleman, so noble, so compassionate, and tender-hearted, might be just such a man, and this "fallen angel" such a victim. And he determined to watch and observe. And he further resolved to treat the interesting patient with all the attention and respect due to a refined and accomplished woman in the full possession of her faculties.

And he really was, this demagogue would not hurt her; and if she were not mad, it was the only proper conduct to be observed towards her, as any other must be equally cruel and offensive. Her bodily health certainly required the attendance of a physician, and Traverse had, therefore, a fair excuse for his daily visits to her cell.

His respectful manners, his grave brow, and his intellectual tone in saying—

"I hope I find you stronger to-day, Madam," seemed to gratify one who had few sources of pleasure.

ny many wrongs and sorrows, combines with the nervous irritability to which every woman is occasionally subject, and makes me rave with impetuous and excitement, they will report me a dangerous lunatic, subject to periodical attacks of violent frenzy; but, young man, even at my worst I am no more mad than any other woman, and with grief and hysterical through nervous irritation, might at any time become without having her sanity called in question."

"I am sure that you are not, nor ever could have been, Madam. The nervous excitement of which you speak is entirely within the control of medicine, which mania proper is not. You will use the means that I prescribe and your continued calmness will go far to convince even these dullards that they have been wrong."

"I will do everything you recommend; indeed some weeks before you came, I had put a constraint upon myself and forced myself to be very still; but the effect of that was, that acting upon their theory they said that I was sinking into the state of a melancholy-mad state of mania, and they put me in here with the incurables."

"Lady," said Travers, respectfully, taking her hand, "now that I am acquainted in some slight degree with the story of your heavy wrongs, do not suppose that I will ever leave you, until I see you restored to your friends."

"Friends! ah! young man, do you really suppose that if I had friends, I should have been left thus long unthought? I have no friends, Doctor Roocke, except yourself, newly sent me by the Lord! nor any relatives except a young daughter upon the dreadful night when she was born—once torn away from my sight, and once about two years ago. My little daughter does not know that she has a poor mother living, and I have no friend upon earth but you, whom the Lord has sent."

"And not in vain!" said Travers, fervently, "though you have no other friends, fervently, the law to protect you. I will make your enemies I have a good mother to whom suffering has taught sympathy with the whom suffering has and I have a lovely betrothed bride, whom you will forgive her lover for thinking an angel in woman's form; and we have a beautiful home among the hills of Virginia; and you shall add to our happiness by living with us."

The lady looked at Travers Roocke with astonishment and incredulity.

"Boy," she said, "do you know what you are promising—to assume the whole burden of the support of a useless woman for her whole life! What would your mother or your promised wife say to such a proposition?"

"Ah! you do not know my dear mother nor my Clara, no, nor even me. I tell you the truth when I say that your coming among us would make us happier. Oh, Madam, I myself owe so much to the Lord, and to his instruments, who so benevolent of this world, for all that has been done for me. I seize with gratitude the chance to serve in myrta any of His suffering children! Pray believe me!"

"I do! I do, Doctor Roocke! I see that life has not deprived you of a generous, youthful, enthusiasm," said the lady, with the tears welling up into her glorious blue eyes.

After a little, with a smile, she held out her hand to him, saying:

"Young friend, if you should succeed in freeing me from this prison, and establishing my sanity before a court of justice, I and my daughter will come into the immediate possession of the largest estates of your native Virginia! I trust you, Doctor Roocke, while I tell you my I have ever confided to, very much more of it than I have ever confided to any human being!"

"Lady, I am very impatient to hear your history, but I am your physician, and must first consider your health. You have been sufficiently excited for one day; it is late; take your tea and retire early to bed. To-morrow morning, after I have visited the man, and you have taken your breakfast, I will come, and you shall tell me the story of your life."

"I will do whatever you think best," said the lady.

Travers lifted her hand to his lips, bowed, and retreated from the cell.

That same night Travers wrote to his friend Herbert Greyson in Mexico, and to his mother

and Clara, describing his interesting patient, though as yet he could tell but little of her, not even in fact her real name, but promising fuller particulars next time, and declaring his intention of bringing her home for the present to their house.

CHAPTER LVIII.

END OF THE LADY'S STORY.

Of the present caught is bright,
But in the coming years I see
A brilliant and a cheerful light,
Which burns before thee constantly.
—W. D. GALLAGHER.

At the appointed hour the next morning, Travers Roocke repaired to the cell of his mysterious patient.

He was pleased to find her up and dressed with more than usual care and taste, and looking, upon the whole, much better in health and spirits than upon the preceding day.

"Ah, my young hero, is it you? you see that I am ready for you," she said, holding out her hand.

"You are looking very well this morning!" said Travers, smiling.

"Yes, hope is a fine tonic, Doctor Roocke." She was seated by the same window at which Travers had first seen her, and she now beckoned the young doctor to come and take a seat near her.

"My story is almost as melo-dramatic as a modern romance, Dr. Roocke," she said.

Travers bowed gravely and waited.

"My father was a French patriot, who suffered death in the cause of liberty, when I, his only child, was but fourteen years of age. My mother, broken-hearted by his loss, followed him within a few months. I was left an orphan and penniless, for our estate was confiscated."

"Ah, your sorrows came early and heavily indeed," said Travers.

"Yes; well! a former servant of my father, held an humble situation of porter, on the ground-floor of a house, the several floors of which were let out to different lodgers. This poor man and his wife gave me a temporary home with them, as a young Virginian gentleman of fortune traversing the country for pleasure and improvement, whose name was Mr. Eugene Le Noir.

"Le Noir! cried Travers with a violent start.

"Yes! what is the matter?"

"It is a familiar Virginian name, Madam, that is all I pray go on."

"Mr. Le Noir was as good and kind as he was wise and cultivated. He used to stop to gossip with old Chiquet every time he stopped at the porter's room to take or leave his key. There he heard of the poor little orphan of a child. There he who had no friend in the world but her father's old servant. He pitied me, and after many consultations with father and mother Chiquet, he assumed the position of guardian to me, and placed me at one of the best schools in Paris. He lingered in the city and came to see me very often; but always saw me in the presence of Madam, the father or an older brother, and I knew that he loved me with the tender, protecting affection that he would have given a younger sister, had he possessed one. Ah! Doctor Roocke, tell me besides yourself, are there many other men in your State like him?"

"I knew but one such; but go on, dear Madam."

"When I had been to school some months, he came to me one day scarcely able to conceal his love. He told me that his father was ill and that he should have to sail in the first packet to leave of me. I was wild with grief, not only upon his account but upon my own, at the prospect of leaving him, my only friend! I was but a child the world; I regarded this noble gentleman, who was as much my superior in years as in everything else, as a father, guardian or elder brother, so in an agony of grief, I threw myself into his arms, sobbing and weeping bitterly, and imploring him not to break my heart by leaving me! It was in vain madam the Dilettante exclaimed and expostulated at these improprieties. I am sure

I did not hear a word until he spoke. Putting me out of his arms he said:

"I must go, my child, duty calls me."

"Then take me with you—take your poor little one with you, and do not sell her out of your warm, good heart, or she will wither and die like a poor flower torn up by the roots!" I cried, and he drew me back to his bosom and whispered:

"There is but one way in which I can take you with me, my child. Will you be my wife, little Capitoletto?"

"Capitoletto!" cried Travers, with another great start.

"Why, it is such an odd name, that is all. Pray proceed, Madam."

"We were married the same day, and sailed the third morning thereafter from Havre for the United States, where we arrived, alas! only to find the noble gentleman, my Eugene's father, laid in his grave. After Mr. Le Noir's natural country was over, we went down peaceably to our "The Hidden House!" again exclaimed Travers Roocke.

"Yes; that is another odd name, isn't it? Well, I was very happy. At first, when I understood my real position, I had been afraid that my husband married me only from compassion; but he soon proved to me that his love was as pure, and as noble as his love was as high, happy! But one day, in the midst of my blissful joy, a thunderbolt fell and shattered my peace to destruction for ever! Oh, Dr. Roocke, my husband woods, in open day. I cannot talk of this! I own the wild, breaking down, overwhelmed with the rush of terrible recollections.

Travers poured out a glass of water, and handed it to her.

She drank it, made an effort at self-control, and resumed:

"Thus, scarcely sixteen years of age, I was a widow, helpless, penniless, and entirely dependent upon my brother-in-law, Colonel Gabriel Le Noir; for by the terms of their father's will, if Eugene died without issue, the whole property was to be given to his younger brother, Gabriel. To kind to me after my awful bereavement, until a circumstance was discovered that changed all our relations. It was two months after my husband's death, that I discovered, with mingled emotions of joy and sorrow, that Heaven had certainly decided me to be a mother. I had kept my cherished secret to myself as long as it was possible, but it could not indeed be long concealed from the household. I believe that my brother-in-law was the first to suspect it. He called me into his study one day, and I obeyed like a child. And there he rudely questioned me upon the subject of my sacred mother-mystery. He learned the truth, more from my silece than from my replies, for I could not answer him."

"The brutal the miserable bound!" ejaculated Travers.

"Oh, Dr. Roocke, I could not tell you the avalanche of abuse, insult, and invective that he met me of more crimes than I had ever heard talk of. He told me that my condition was an impossible one unless I had been false to the memory of his brother; that I had dishonored his name, disgraced his house, and brought myself to shame; and he said, 'I should leave the roof, leave the neighbor hood, and this as I deserved to die, in a ditch! I made no reply. I was crushed into silence under the weight of his reproaches.'

"The stuff! the pitroon! Ah, poor stranger, why did you not leave the house at once, and throw yourself upon the protection of the minister of your parish, or some other kind neighbor?"

"Alas, I was a child, a widow, and a foreigner, laws, or your people. I was not hopeful or confident. I had suffered so cruelly, and I was overwhelmed by his abuse."

"But did you not know, dear lady, that all his rage was motivated only by the fact that the birth of your child would dishonor him?"

"Ah, no. I was not aware, at that time, that Gabriel Le Noir was a villain; and I was as ignorant, honest, thought unjust; and I was as ignorant,

until he spoke. Putting
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ant as a child—I had no mother nor maternal
 friend to instruct me. I know that I had broken
 no command of God or man—that I had
 been a faithful wife, but when Gabriel Le Noir
 accused me with such bitter earnestness, I feared
 that some strange departure from the usual
 course of nature had occurred for my destruction.
 And I was overwhelmed by mortification, terror,
 and despair.
 "Ah, the villain!" exclaimed Traverse, be-
 tween his teeth.
 "He told me at last that, to save the memory
 of his dead brother he would hide my dishonor;
 and he ordered me to seclude myself from the
 sight of all persons. I obeyed him like a slave,
 grateful even for the shelter of his roof."
 "A roof that was your own as he very well
 knew. And he knew also, the catfish, that if the
 circumstances became known, the whole State
 would have protested you in your rights, and
 ejected him like a cur!"
 "Nay, even in that case no harm should have
 reached him on my account. He was my hus-
 band's brother."
 "And worst enemy. But proceed, dear lady."
 "Well, I secluded myself as he commanded.
 For four months I never left the attic to which he
 had ordered me to seclude myself from the
 light of all persons. I became the mother of twins—a boy and a girl.
 The boy only opened his eyes on the world to
 close them again directly. The girl was living
 and healthy. The old nurse who attended me
 had an honest and compassionate face; I per-
 suaded her to secrete and save the living child,
 and to present my dead babe to Colonel Le Noir
 as the only one; for the suspicions that had never
 been awakened for myself were alarmed for my
 child. I instinctively felt that he would have
 destroyed it."
 "The mother's instinct is like inspiration,"
 said Traverse.
 "It may be so! well, the old woman pitied me
 and did as I desired. She took the dead child
 to Colonel Le Noir, who carried it off, and after-
 wards buried it as the heir of his elder brother.
 The old woman carried off my living child and
 my weeping ring, concealed under her ample
 skirt. Anxiety for the fate of my child con-
 cealed me to do what nothing else on earth would have
 tempted me to do—to creep about the halls and
 passages on tiptoe and under cover of the night,
 and listen at key-holes," said the lady, blushing
 deeply at the recollection.
 "You—you were perfectly right Mrs. Le Noir!
 In a den of robbers, where your life and honor
 were always at stake, you could have done no
 otherwise!" exclaimed Traverse, warmly.
 "I learned by this means that my poor old
 nurse had paid with her liberty for her kindness
 to me. She had been abducted and forced from
 her native country together with a child found in
 her possession, which they evidently suspected
 and I knew to be mine. Oh, heaven! the agony
 then of thinking of what might be her unknown
 fate,—worse than death, perhaps? I felt that I
 had only succeeded in saving her life,—doubtful
 good!"
 Here Mrs. Le Noir paused in thought for a
 few moments and then resumed.
 "It is the memory of a long, dreary and hope-
 less imprisonment, my recollection of my resi-
 dence in that house! In the same manner in
 which I gained all my information, I learned that
 it was reported in the neighborhood that I had
 gone mad with grief for the loss of my husband,
 and that I was a inmate of a mad-house in the
 north. It was at length known that I never had
 the Hidden House all these years until about
 two years ago. My life there was dreary beyond
 all conception. I was forbidden to go out or to
 appear at a window! I had the whole attic,
 containing some eight or ten rooms, to rove over,
 but I was forbidden to descend. An ill-looking
 woman, called Doreas Knight, between whom and
 the elder Le Noir there seemed to have been some
 sinful bond, was engaged ostensibly as my attend-
 ant; but really as my jailer. Nevertheless,
 when the sense of confinement grew intolerable I
 sometimes eluded her vigilance and wandered
 about the house at night."
 "Thence no doubt," said Traverse, "vying
 the report that the house was haunted!"
 Mrs. Le Noir smiled, saying:
 "I believe the Le Noirs secretly encouraged
 that report! I'll tell you why. They gave me a

chamber-lamp enclosed in an intense blue shade,
 that cast a strange unearthly light around. Their
 ostensible reason was to ensure my safety from
 fire. Their real reason was that this light might
 be seen from without in what was reputed to be
 an uninhabited portion of the house, and give
 credit to his bad reputation among the ignorant of
 being haunted!"
 "So much for the origin of one atheistical
 ghost story," said Traverse.
 "Yes! and there was still more circumstantial
 evidence to support this ghostly reputation of the
 house. As the years passed I had, even in my
 confined state, gathered knowledge in one way and
 another—picking up stray books and hearing
 stray conversation; and so, in the end I learned
 how gross a deception and how great a wrong had
 been practised upon me. I was not wise or
 cunning. I betrayed constantly to my attendant
 my knowledge of these things. In consequence
 of which my confinement became still more re-
 stricted.
 "Yes, they were afraid of you, and fear is
 always the mother of cruelty," said Traverse.
 "Well, from the time that I became enlight-
 ened as to my real position, all my faculties were
 upon the alert to find means of escaping and
 making my own way to the authorities. One
 night they had a rust, Colonel Eglen, of
 the army. Old Doreas had her hands full,
 and forgot her prisoner. My door was left un-
 locked. As long after Colonel Eglen had retired to rest,
 and when all the household were buried in repose
 I got up and crept down to the chamber of
 the guard with no other purpose than to make
 known my wrongs and appeal to his compassion.
 I entered his chamber, approached his bed to
 speak to him, when this hero of a hundred fields
 started up in a panic, and at the sight of the pale
 woman who drew his curtains in the dead of
 the night, he shrieked, violently rang his bell,
 and faintly prose away!"
 "Ha! ha! ha! he could brave an army, or
 march into a cannon's mouth, easier than meet a
 supposed dozen of another world! Well, Doctor
 Johnson believed in ghosts," laughed Tra-
 verse.
 "It remained for me to retreat as fast as pos-
 sible to my room, to avoid the Le Noirs, who
 were hurrying with healing speed to the guest-
 chamber. They knew, of course, that I was the
 ghost, although they affected to treat their vic-
 tor's story as a dream. After that my confine-
 ment was so strict, that for years I had no op-
 portunity of leaving my attic. At last the strict-
 ness was relaxed a little. Sometimes my door
 would be left unlocked. Upon one such occa-
 sion, in creeping about in the dark, I learned,
 by over-hearing a conversation between Le Noir
 and his house-keeper, that my long lost daugh-
 ter, Capitola, had been found, and was living at
 Hurricane Hall! This was enough to comfort
 me for years. About three years ago, the sur-
 veillance over me was so modified that I was
 left again to roam about the upper rooms of the
 house at will, until I learned that they had a
 new inmate, young Clara Day, a ward of Le
 Noir! Oh, how I longed to warn that child to
 fly! But I could not! I alas, again I was restrict-
 ed to my own room, lest I should be seen by
 her! But again, upon one occasion, old Doreas
 forgot to lock my door at night. I stole forth
 from my room and learned that a young girl,
 caught out in the storm, was to stay all night
 at the Hidden House. Young girls were not
 plentiful in that neighborhood. I knew Doreas, some-
 what better, and told me that this was my daugh-
 ter. I knew that she would sleep in the chamber
 under mine, because that was the only habitable
 guest-room in the whole house. In the dead of
 night I left my room and went below and entered
 the chamber of the young girl. I went first to
 the toilet table to see if among her little girlish
 ornaments, I could find any clue to her identity.
 I found it in a plain, gold ring,—the same that
 I had entrusted to the old nurse. Some strange
 impulse caused me to slip the ring upon my
 finger. Then I went to the bed and threw aside
 the curtains to gaze upon the sleeper. My girl!
 my own girl! with what strange sensations I
 first looked upon her face! Her eyes were open,
 and fixed upon mine in a panic of terror. I
 stooped to press my lips to hers and she closed
 her eyes in mortal fear. I carried nothing but
 terror with me! I withdrew from the room and

went back, sobbing, to my chamber. My poor
 girl, next morning, unconsciously, betrayed her
 mother. It had nearly cost me my life.
 "When the Le Noirs came home, the first sight
 of their arrival they entered my room, seized
 me in my bed, and dragged me shrieking from
 it!"
 "Good heaven! what punishment is sufficient
 for such wretches!" exclaimed Traverse start-
 ing up and pacing the narrow limits of the cell.
 "Listen! They soon stopped both my shrieks
 and my breath at once! I lost consciousness
 for a time, and when I awoke I found myself
 in a close carriage, rattling over a mountain-road,
 through the night. Late the next morning we
 reached an uninhabited country-house, where I
 was again imprisoned, in charge of an old dumb
 woman, whom Le Noir called Mrs. Raven. This
 I afterwards understood to be Willow Heights,
 the property of the orphan heiress, Clara Day.
 And here, also, for the term of my stay, the
 presence of the unknown inmate put the house
 reputation of being haunted. The old dumb
 woman was a shade kinder to me than Doreas
 Knight had been; but I did not stay in her
 charge very long. One night the Le Noirs came
 in hot haste. The young heiress had been deliv-
 ered from their charge by a doctor of the Orphan
 Court, and they had to give up her home. I was
 drugged and hurried away. Some narcotic
 sedative must have been administered, for I
 was insensible to semi-insensibility and mild delirium
 during the whole course of a long journey by land
 and sea, which passed to me like a dream, and at
 the end of which I found myself here. No doubt
 from the excessive use of narcotics, there was
 something wild and stupid in my manner and ap-
 pearance that justified the charge of madness.
 And when I found that I was a prisoner, in a lu-
 natic asylum, far, far away from the neighborhood
 where, at least, I had once been known, I gave
 way to the wilder grief that further confirmed
 the story of my madness. I have been here two years,
 occasionally giving way to outbursts of wild
 despair, that the doctor calls frenzy. I was
 sinking into an apathy when one day I opened the
 little Bible that lay upon the table of my cell. I
 fixed upon the last chapters in the Gospel of John.
 That narrative of much patience and Divine love
 it did for me what no power under that of God
 could have done. It saved me! It saved me from
 madness! It saved me from despair! There is a
 time for the second birth of every soul; this time
 had come for me. From that hour, this book has
 been my constant companion and comfort. I
 have learned from its page how little it matters
 how or where this fleeting mortal life is passed,
 so that it answers its purpose of preparing the
 soul for another. I have learned patience with
 sinners, forgiveness of enemies, and confidence in
 God. In a word, I trust I have learned the way
 of salvation, and in that I have learned everything.
 Your coming, and your words, young friend, have
 stirred within my heart the desire to be free, to
 mingle again on equal terms with my fellow-beings,
 and, above all, to find and embrace my child. But
 not wildly anxious am I even for these earthly
 blessings. These, as well as all things else, I de-
 sired to leave to the Lord, praying that His will
 may be mine! Your friend, my story is told."
 "Madam," said Traverse, after a thoughtful
 pause, "your fate has been more nearly connect-
 ed than you could have imagined. These Le Noirs
 have been my enemies as they are yours. That
 young orphan heiress, who appealed from their
 cruelty to the Orphan's Court, was my own
 betrothed. Willow Heights was her patrimony,
 and is now her quiet home, where she lives with
 my mother, and where in their name I invite you
 to come. And take this comfort also; your own
 no longer lives; months ago I left him ill with
 a mortal wound. This morning the papers an-
 nounce his death. There remains, therefore,
 little for me to do, but to take legal measures to
 free you from this place, and restore you to your
 home. Within an hour I shall set out for New
 Orleans, for the purpose of taking the initiatory
 steps. Until my return thence, dear lady," said
 Traverse, respectfully taking her hand—"fare-
 well, and be of good cheer!"

CHAPTER LIX.

PROSPECTS DARTING.

Thus far our fortune keeps an onward course. And we are greeted with wreaths of victory. —SHARPSHOOTS.

Leaving Mrs. Le Noir, Traversé went down to the stable, saddled the horse that had been allotted to his use, and set off for a long day's journey to New Orleans, where late at night he arrived, and put up at the St. Charles.

He slept deeply from fatigue until late the next morning, when he was awakened by the sound of drums, trumpets and fife, and by general rejoicing.

He arose and looked from his windows to ascertain the cause, and saw the equine fall of people in a state of the highest excitement, watching for a military procession coming up the street.

It was the United States troops under their gallant commanders, who had landed from the steam-boats that morning and were now marching from the quay up to their quarters at the St. Charles.

As they advanced, Traversé, eagerly upon the lookout, recognized his own regiment, and presently saw Major Grayson himself.

Traversé withdrew from the window, hurriedly completed his toilet, and hastened down stairs, where he soon found himself face to face with Herbert, who warmly grasping his hand, exclaimed:

"You here, old friend? Why, I thought you were down in East Feliciana, with your interesting patient!"

"It is for the interest of that 'interesting patient' that I am here, Herbert! Did I tell you, you was one of the victims of that demon, Le Noir?"

"No; but I know it from another source! I know as much, or more of her, perhaps than you do!"

"Ah!" exclaimed Traversé, in surprise.

"Yes! I know, for instance, that she is Capito's mother, the long lost widow of Eugene Le Noir, the mistress of the Hidden House, and the ghost who drew folk's curtains there at night."

"Then you do know something about her, but how did you arrive at the knowledge?"

"By the 'last dying speech and confession' of Gabriel Le Noir, confided to me, to be used in *restitution* after his decease! But, come! there is the second bell! Our mess are going in to breakfast; join us and afterwards you and I will retire and compare notes," said Herbert, taking the arm of his friend, as they followed the moving crowd into the breakfast parlor.

After the morning meal was concluded the two friends withdrew together, to the chamber occupied by Traversé Roake, where they sat down for mutual explanations.

Herbert first related to Traversé all that had occurred from the time that the latter left the city of Mexico, including the arrival of Craven Le Noir at the dying bed of his father, the subsequent death and funeral of Colonel Le Noir, and the late emigration of Craven Le Noir, and the claims of the approaching revolution, joined a party of explorers bound for the recently discovered gold mines of California.

"The civilized world is then rid of two villains at once," said his uncomproising Traversé.

Herbert took from his pocket the confession of Colonel Le Noir, which he said he was now at liberty to use as he thought proper for the cause of justice. That certain parts of the disclosure intimately concerned Traversé Roake; that a confession may be briefly summed up as follows:

The first item was, that he had sought to win the affections of Marah Roake, the supposed wife of Major Ira Warfield; he had sedulously wooed and followed her with his suit during the whole summer; he had been constantly repulsed and avoided him; he, listening to his own evil passions, had bribed her maid to admit him in the dark to Marah's cabin, from a certain night when her husband was to be absent; that the unexpected return of Major Warfield, who had tracked him to the house, had prevented the success of his evil purpose; but had not saved the reputation of the innocent wife, whose infuriated

husband would not believe her ignorant of the presence of the villain in her house; that Gabriel Le Noir, in hatred as well as in shame, had forbidden until now to make the explanation, which he hoped might now, late in life as it was, bring the long severed pair together, and establish Marah Roake and her son in their legal and social rights.

The second item in the black list of crime was the death of his elder brother, whom he declared he had not intended to kill. He said that, having contracted large debts which he was unable to pay, he had returned secretly from his distant quarters to demand the money from his brother, who had often helped him; that meeting his brother in the woods, he made this request. Eugene reproached him for his extravagance and folly, and refused to aid him; he, Gabriel Le Noir, fled, pursued by the curse of his absence had been suspected. His agency in the death of his brother was not suspected even by his accomplices in other crimes, the outlaw called Black Donald, who, thinking to gain an accessory over one whom he called his patron, actually pretended to have made away with Eugene Le Noir for the sake of his younger brother!

The third item of confession was the abduction of the nurse and babe of the young widow of Eugene, the circumstances of which are already known to the reader.

The fourth in the dreadful list comprised the deceptions, wrongs and persecutions practised upon Madame Eugene Le Noir, and the final false imprisonment of that lady under the charge of Pierre St. Jean, in the private mad-house kept by Doctor Grand Hatten, in East Feliciana.

In conclusion, he spoke of the wrongs done to Clara Day, whose pardon, with that of others, he begged. And he prayed that in consideration of his son, as little publicity as was possible might be given to these crimes.

During the reading of this confession, the eyes of Traversé Roake were fixed in wonder and half incredulity upon the face of Herbert, and at its conclusion he said:

"What a mass of crime! But that we may not dare to question the mercy of the Lord, I should ask if these were sins that he would ever pardon?" Herbert, it appals me to think of it!"

"This, then, was the secret of my dear mother's long unhappiness! She was Major Warfield's forsaken wife!—Herbert! I feel as though I never, never, could forgive my father!"

"Traversé, if Major Warfield had *wisely and unconditionally* forsaken your mother, I should say that should be an honorable woman's triumph if not her own son?—But Major Warfield, as well as his wife, was more sinned against than sinning!

Your parents were both victims of a cruel conspiracy, and he suffered as much in his way, as she did in hers," said Herbert.

"I always thought, somehow, that my dear mother was a forsaken wife. She never told me so; but there was something about her circumstances and manners, her retired life, her condition, so much below her deserts, her never speaking of her husband's death—which would have been natural for her to do, had she been a widow that my father had abandoned me. Lately I had suspected Major Warfield had something to do with the sad affair, though I never once suspected him to be my father!—so much for natural instincts," said Traversé, with a melancholy smile.

"Traversé," said Herbert, with the design of drawing him off from sad remembrances of his mother's early trials. "Traversé, this confession, simply your course of action in regard to the deliverance of Madame Le Noir."

"Yes; so it will," said Traversé, with animation. "There will be no need now of applying to law; especially if you will come down with me to East Feliciana, and bring the confession with you."

"I will set out with you this very morning, if you wish, as I am on leave. What! to hasten set out at midnight, and ride straight on for a week!"

"Ah! there is no need of such extravagant feats of travel. It is now ten o'clock; if we start by eleven o'clock, we can reach the 'Calm Retreat' by eleven o'clock to-night."

"En avant, then," exclaimed Herbert, rising and ringing the bell.

Traversé ordered horses, and in twenty minutes, the friends were on the road to East Feliciana.

They reached the "Calm Retreat" so late that night, that there was none but the porter awake to admit them.

Traversé took his friend up to his own dormitory, saying, laughingly:

"It is an unappreciable distance of time since you and I occupied the same bed, Herbert."

"Yes! but it is not the first by five hundred times. Do you remember, Traversé, the low attic where we used to sleep, and how on stormy nights, we used to listen to the rain pattering on the roof, within two or three inches of our faces, and how we used to be half afraid to turn over, for fear that we should bump our heads against the timbers of the ceiling?"

"Yes, indeed," said Traversé. And thereupon the two friends launched into a discussion of old times, when the two widows and their seas lived together—the two women occupying one bed, and the two boys the other. And this discussion they kept up until long after they retired, and until sleep overtook them.

The next morning Traversé conducted his friend down to the breakfast-parlor, and introduced him to Doctor St. Jean, who, as soon as he perceived his young medical assistant, sprang forward, exclaiming:

"Grand Hatten! Is this then you? Have you then returned? What for did you run away with my horse?"

"I went to New Orleans in great haste, upon very important business, sir."

"Grand Dieu! I should think so, I when you ride off on my horse without saying a word! If it had been my ambling pony, I should have been in despair, if your business so hasty and so important, was accomplished, I hope?"

"Yes; I did my errand with less trouble than I had anticipated, owing to the happy circumstance of meeting my friend here, who has come down happily connected with the same business."

"Ah, vera happy to see your friend. In the medical profession, I suppose?"

"No, sir; in the army. Allow me to present him, —Major Herbert Grayson, of the 4th Regiment of Cavalry."

"Ouil! and Grand Dieu! this is the brave, the distinguished, the illustrious officer, so honorably mentioned in the dispatches of the invincible Taylor, and the mighty Scott!" said the little Frenchman, bowing his night-capped head down to his slipped toes.

Herbert smiled as he returned the bow. And then the little French doctor turning to Traversé, said:

"But your business, so important and so hasty, which has brought this officer so illustrious down here—what is it, my friend?"

"We will have the honor of explaining to Monsieur le Doctor, over our coffee, if he will oblige us by ordering the servant to retire," said Traversé, who sometimes adopted in speaking to the old Frenchman, his own formal style of politeness.

"Ouil, ouil, excitement! Allez done, John! Go, then, John!"

As soon as the maid had gone, Traversé said: "I propose to discuss this business over our coffee, because it will save time without interfering with our morning meal, and I know that immediately afterwards you will go your usual round of visits to your patients."

"Eh, bien! proceed, my own proceed!"

Traversé immediately commenced and related all that was necessary concerning the fraud practised upon the institution by introducing into it an unfortunate woman, represented as he had, but really only sorrowful, nervous, and excitable. And to prove the truth of his words, Traversé desired Herbert to read from the confession the portion relating to this fraud, and to show the doctor the signature of the principal and the witness.

To have seen the old French doctor then I

refused in which our doctor held of the floor of the ceiling, and posing a cushioned chair, his crown, "Sera! I dreadful to it would be English.

Gabriel! serious, a compassion famous! a without return.

After being young hero should go good news of the warrior himself to

Traversé of Mrs. Le window, an work, the first appear

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Traversé "Now of leave this son's regiment to-morrow under our attendant!

"Oh! I do no fine had Mrs. Le No

Traversé carriage four after Doctor Pien

comparable New Orleans sailed for the you and me

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Black Do reported him that would be trial.

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Herbert, rising
and in twenty min-
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retreat" so late that
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stance of time since
bed, Herbert."
first by five hundred
Traverse, the low
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inches of our faces,
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our heads against

hands launched into
the two widows
—the two women
—who boys the other.
I kept up until long
and sleep overtook

we conducted his
ear, to introduce
as soon as he per-
stant, sprang for-
ward.
on you? Have you
out run away with

great haste, upon
so, I'll when you
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Traverse said:
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rejoice in a Frenchman, for the frank abandon
with which he gives himself up to his emotions.
Our doctor, after staring at the confusion, took
hold of the top of his blue tasseled night-cap,
pulled it off his head, and threw it violently upon
the floor. Then, remembering that he was ex-
posing a cranium as bald as a peeled potato, he
suddenly caught it up again, clapped it upon
his crown, and exclaimed:
"Sacre! Diable!" and other ejaculations
dreadful to translate, and others again, which
it would be profane to set down in French or
English.

Gabriel Le Noir was no longer an officer illus-
trious, a gentleman noble and distinguished,
compassionate and tender; he was a robber, in-
famous! a villain atrocious! a catfif ruthless, and
without remorse!

After breakfast, the doctor consented that his
young hero, his little knight-errant, his dear son,
should go to the distressed lady, and open the
good news to her; while the great Major Greyson,
the warrior invincible, should go around with
himself to inspect the institution.

Traverse immediately repaired to the chamber
of Mrs. Le Noir, whom he found sitting at the
window, engaged in some little trifle of needle-
work, the same pale, patient woman, that she had
first appeared to him.

"Ah, you have come! I read good news upon
your smiling face, my friend! Tell it! I have
borne the worst of sorrow! shall I not have
strength to bear joy!"

Traverse told her all, and then ended by saying:
"Now dear Madam, it is necessary that we
leave this place within two hours, as Major Grey-
son's regiment leaves New Orleans for Washing-
ton to-morrow, and it is advisable that you go
under our protection. We can get you a female
attendant from the St. Charles!"

"Oh I can be ready in ten minutes; I have
no fine lady's wardrobe to pack up!" replied
Mrs. Le Noir, with a smile.

Traverse bowed and went out to procure a
carriage from the next village. And in half an
hour afterwards the whole party took leave of
Doctor Pierre St. Jean and his "institution in-
comparable," and set forth on their journey to
New Orleans, whither in two days afterwards they
sailed for the North. And now, dear reader, let
us and me take the fast boat, and get home be-
fore them to see our little Cap, and find out what
adventures she is now engaged in, and how she
is getting on.

CHAPTER LX.

CAPITOLA A CAPITALIST.

Plumed victory
Is truly painted with a cheerful look,
Equally distant from proud insolence
And sad dejection. — MASONNEUR.

How glad I am to get back to my little Cap;
for I know very well, reader, just as well as if
you had told me, that you have been grumbling, in
suspense for the want of Cap. But I could not
help it, for, to tell the truth, I was pining inter-
her myself, which was the reason that I could
not do half justice to the scenes of the Mexican
War.

Well, now let us see what Cap. has been doing
—what oppressors she has punished—what vic-
tims she has delivered—in a word, what new
heroic adventures she has achieved.

Well, the trial of Donald Bayne, alias Black
Donald, was over. Cap., of course, had been
compelled to appear against him. During the
whole course of the trial the court-room was crowd-
ed with a curious multitude, "from far and
near," eager to get sight of the notorious outlaw.
Black Donald, through the whole ordeal, de-
fended himself with a gallant and joyous dignity,
that would have better become a triumph than a
trial.

He was indicted upon several distinct counts,
the most serious of which—the murder of the
solitary widow and her daughter in the forest
cabin, and the assassination of Eugene Le Noir
in the woods near the Hidden House—were sus-
tained only by circumstantial evidence. But his
aggravate weight of all these, together with his
very bad reputation, was sufficient to convict him,
and Black Donald was sentenced to death.

This dreadful doom, most solemnly pronounced
by the judge, was received by the prisoner with a
look lang, and the words:

"You're out of 'your reckoning now, cap'n! I
never was a saint, the Lord knows, but my hands
are free from blood-guiltiness! There's an honest
little girl that believes me—don't you?" he said,
turning laughingly to our dear heroine.

"Yes, I do!" said Cap., bursting into tears;
"and I am as sorry for you as ever I can be,
Donald Bayne."

"Both! I it is sure to come to this first or
last, and I knew it! Now, to prove you do not
think this rugged hand of mine stained with
blood, give it a friendly shake!" said the con-
demned man. And before Old Hurricane could
prevent her, Capitola had jumped over two or
three intervening seats and climbed up to the
side of the dock, and reached up her hand to the
prisoner, saying:

"God bless you, Donald Bayne, in your great
trouble, and I will do all I can to help you in this
world. I will go to the Governor myself, and
tell him I know you never did any murder."

"Remove the prisoner," said the judge, per-
emporarily.

The constables approached and led away Black
Donald.

Old Hurricane rushed upon Cap., seized her,
and, shaking her fiercely, exclaimed, under his
breath:

"You—you—you—you New York hurrah boy!
you fondling! you vagabond! you vagrant!
You bra! you bogart! I will never be a lady!
I to go and shake hands with that ruffian!"

"Sure, uncle, that's nothing, now; I have
shaken hands with you often enough!"

"Demmy, you—you—you New York trash,
what do you mean by that?"

"Of course I mean, uncle, that you are as rough
a ruffian as ever Donald Bayne was!"

"Demmy, I'll murder you!"

"Don't, uncle; they have an unreviled way
here of lunging murderers," said Cap., shaking
herself free of Old Hurricane's grasp, and hasten-
ing out of the court-room to mount her horse
and ride home.

One night after tea, Capitola and her uncle
occupied their usual seats by the little bright
wood fire, that the chilly evening and the keen
mountain air made agreeable, even in May.

Old Hurricane was smoking his pipe and read-
ing his paper.

Cap. was sitting with her slender fingers
around her throat, which she, with a shudder,
occasionally compressed.

"Well, that demon, Black Donald, will be
hanged the 26th of July," said Old Hurricane,
exultingly, "and we shall get rid of one villain,
Cap."

"I pity Black Donald, and I can't bear to
think of his being hanged! It quite breaks my
heart to think that I was compelled to bring him
to such a fate!"

"Oh! that reminds me! The reward offered
for the apprehension of Black Donald, to which
you were entitled, Cap., was paid over to me for
you. I placed it to your account in the Agricul-
tural Bank."

"I don't want it! I won't touch it! The
price of blood! It would turn my fingers!" said
Cap.

"Oh, very well! A thousand dollars won't go
a begging," said Old Hurricane.

"Uncle, it breaks my heart to think of Black
Donald's execution; 't is just does! It must be
dreadful, this hanging! I have put my finger
around my throat and squeezed it, to know how
it feels, and it is awful! Even a little squeeze
makes my head feel as if it would burst, and I
have to let go it! Oh, it is horrible to think of!"

"Well, Cap., it wasn't intended to be as
pleasant as tickling, you know. I wish it was
twenty times worse! It would serve him right,
the villain! I wish it was lawful to break him
on the wheel—I do!"

"Uncle, that is very wicked in you! I declare
I won't let go it! Oh, it is horrible to think of the
Governor to commute his sentence, and carry it
all around the county myself!"

"You wouldn't get a soul to sign it to save your
life, much less his."

"I'll go to the Governor myself, and beg him
to pardon him," said Donald Bayne."

"Ha! ha! he! the Governor would not do it
to save all our lives; and if he were to do so an
outrageous thing, he might whistle for his re-
surrection!"

"I declare, Donald Bayne shall not be hung—
and so there!" said Cap., passionately.

"Who-ew! You'll deliver him by the strength
of your arm, my little Donna Quixota."

"I'll save him in one way or another, how mad
I tell you! He sinned more against me than
against anybody else, and so I have the best right
of anybody in the world to forgive him, and I do
forgive him! And heoshn't be hung! I say it!"

"You say it! ha! ha! ha! Who are you, to
turn aside the law?"

"I, Capitola Black, say that Donald Bayne,
not having deserved to be hung, shall not be
hung! And in one way or another I'll keep it
word!"

And Cap. did her best to keep it. The next
morning she mounted Gyp and rode up to Tip-
Top, where she employed the village lawyer to
draw up a petition to the Governor for the com-
mutation of Donald Bayne's sentence. And then
she rode all over the county to get signatures to
the document. But all in vain! People of every
age and condition too thoroughly feared and hated
the famous outlaw, and too earnestly wished to
be securely and forever rid of him, to sign any
petition for a commutation of his sentence. If a
petition for his instant execution had been carried
around, it would have stood a much better chance
of success!

Cap. spent many days in her fruitless enter-
prise, but at last gave it up—but by no means in
despair, for—

"I'll save his life, yet! by one means or an-
other I can't change clothes with him as I did
with Clara, he's too big! but one way or other,
I'll save him," said Cap. to herself. She said it
to no one else, for the more difficult the enter-
prise, the more determined she was to succeed,
and the more energetic she grew as to her measures.

In the meantime the outlaw, double-trimmed,
was confined in the condemned cell, the strongest
portion of the county jail. All persons were
strictly prohibited from visiting him, except
certain of the clergy.

They did all they could to bring the outlaw to
a sense of his condition, to prepare him to meet
his fate and induce him to make a confession and
give up the retreat of his band.

And Donald listened to them with respect, re-
cognized himself a great sinner, and knelt with
them when they knelt to pray for him.

But he denied that he was guilty of the mur-
ders for which he had been doomed to die, and
utterly refused to give up his old companions, re-
plying to the ministers in something like these
words:

"Poor wretches! they are no more fit to die
than I am, and a condemned cell, with the
thought of the scaffold before him, are not ex-
actly the most favourable circumstances under
which a man might experience sincere repentance,
my masters!"

And so, while the convict listened with docility
to all that the ministers had to say, he steadily
persisted in asserting his own innocence of the
crimes for which he was condemned, and in his
refusal to deliver up his companions.

Meantime, Capitola, at Hurricane's call, was
doing all she could to discover or invent means to
save the life of Black Donald. But still she said
no more about it, even to Old Hurricane.

One evening, while Cap. was sitting by the fire
with her thoughts busy with this subject, her
uncle came in, saying:

"Cap! I have got some curiosities to show
you!"

"What are they?" said Cap., languidly.

A set of burglar's tools, supposed to belong
to some member of Black Donald's band! One of
my negroes found them in the woods in the
neighbourhood of the Devil's Punch Bowl! I
wrote to the sheriff concerning them, and he re-
quested me to take care of them until he should
have occasion to sail for them. Look! did you
ever see such things?" said Old Hurricane, setting
down a canvas bag upon the table, and turning
out from it all sorts of strange-looking in-
struments—tiny saws, files, prun-ger, screws, picks,
etc., etc., etc.

Cap. looked at them with the most curious in-
terest, while Old Hurricane explained their sup-
posed uses.

"It must have been an instrument of this sort, Cap., that blamed demon, Donald, gave to the imprisoned men to file their files off with," he said showing a thin file of tempered steel.

"That!" said Cap., "and at here! let me see it!" and she examined it with the deepest interest.

"I wonder what they foreo looks with?" she inquired.

"Why, this, and this, and this!" said Old Hurricane, producing a burglar's pick, saw and chisel. Cap. took them and scrutinized them so attentively that Old Hurricane burst out into a loud laugh, exclaiming:—

"You'll dream of those breakers to-night, Cap.!" and taking the tools he put them all back in the little canvas bag, and put the bag up on a high shelf of the parlor closet.

The next morning, while Cap. was arranging flowers on the parlor mantelpiece, Old Hurricane burst in upon her with his hands full of letters and newspapers, and his heart full of exaltation—throwing up his hat and cutting an alarming caper for a man of his age, he exclaimed:

"Hurrah, Cap. I! Hurrah! Peace is at last proclaimed and our victorious troops are on their way home! It's all in the newspapers! and here are letters from Herbert, dated from New Orleans! Here are letters for you, and here are some for me! I have not opened them yet!"

"Hurrah, uncle! Hurrah!" cried Cap., tossing up her flowers and rushing into his arms.

"Don't squeeze me into an apple-py, you little bear," said Old Hurricane, turning purple in the face, from the savage hug of Cap.'s joyful arms. "Come along and sit down with me, at this table, and let us see what the letters have brought us."

They took their seats opposite each other, at a small table, and Old Hurricane threw the whole mail between them, and began to pick out the letters.

"That's for you Cap. This is for me," he said, pitching out two in the handwriting of Herbert Greyson.

Cap. opened hers, and commenced reading. It was in fact Herbert's first downright, practical proposal of marriage, in which he begged that their union might take place as soon as he should return, and that as he had written to his uncle by the same mail, upon another subject, which he did not wish to mix up with his own marriage, she would, upon a proper opportunity, let her uncle know of their plans.

"Upon my word, he takes my consent very coolly as a matter of course, and even forces upon me the disagreeable duty of asking myself of my own uncle! Whoever heard of such proceedings! If he were not coming home from the wars, I declare I should get angry; but I won't get upon my dignity with Herbert,—dear, darling, sweet Herbert—if it were any body else, shouldn't they know the difference between their liege lady and Tom Trotter? However, as it's Herbert, here goes! Now, I suppose the best way to ask myself of uncle, for Herbert, will be just to hand him over this letter. The dear knows it isn't so over-and-above affectionate that I should hesitate. Uncle," said Cap., pulling Old Hurricane's coat-sleeve.

"Don't bother me, Cap.," exclaimed Major Warfield, who sat there holding a large, closely-written document in his hand, with his great round eyes strained from their sockets, as they passed along the lines with devouring interest.

"Well, I do declare! I do believe he has received a proposal of marriage himself," cried Cap., shooting much nearer the truth than she knew.

Old Hurricane did not hear her. Starting up with the document in his hand, he rushed from the room, and went and shut himself up in his own study.

"I vow some widow has offered to marry him," said Cap. to herself.

Old Hurricane did not come to dinner not to supper. But after supper, when Capitola's wonder was at its climax, and while she was sitting by the little wood fire that the chilly evening required, Old Hurricane came in, looking very unlike himself, in an humble, confused, deprecating, yet happy manner, like one who has at once a mortifying confession to make, and a happy secret to tell.

"Cap.," he said, trying to repress a smile, and growing purple in the face.

"Oh, yes! you've come to tell me, I suppose, that you're going to put a stop-and-in-law over my head, only you don't know how to announce it," answered Capitola, little knowing how closely she had come to the truth; when to her unbounded astonishment, Old Hurricane answered:

"What, my dear, that's just it!"

"What! My eyes! Oh crickey!" cried Cap., breaking into her newsboy's slang from mere consternation.

"Yes, my dear, it is perfectly true!" replied the old man, growing furiously red, and rubbing his face.

"Oh! oh! oh! Hold me! I'm out!" cried Cap., falling back in her chair in an inextinguishable fit of laughter, that shook her whole frame. She laughed until the tears ran down her cheeks. She wiped her eyes and looked at Old Hurricane, and every time she saw his confused and happy face, she burst into a fresh paroxysm that seemed to threaten her life or her reason.

"Who is the happy—? Oh! I can't speak! Oh, I'm killed entirely!" she cried, breaking off in the midst of her question, and falling into fresh convulsions.

"It's no new love, Cap. It's my old wife!" said Old Hurricane, wiping his face.

She sat bolt upright, gazing at him with her eyes fixed as if in death.

"Cap.," said Old Hurricane, growing more and more confused, "I've been a married man more years than I like to think of. Cap., I've— I've a wife and grown-up son!—Why do you sit there staring at me you little demon? Why don't you say something to encourage me, you little wretch!"

"Go on!" said Cap., without removing her eyes.

"Cap., I was—a jealous—passionate—Demmy! confes. on isn't in my line! A diabolical villain made me believe that my poor little wife wasn't good!"

"There! I know you'd lay it on somebody else. Men always do that!" said Cap., to herself.

"He was mortally wounded in Mexico. He made a confession, and confided it to Herbert, who has just sent me an attested copy. It was hood's name of Marah Rooke." Old Hurricane made a gulp, and his voice broke down.

Cap. understood all now, as well as if she had known it as long as Old Hurricane had. She comprehended his extreme agitation upon a certain evening, years ago, when Herbert Greyson had mentioned Marah Rooke's name, and his later and more lasting disturbance upon accidentally meeting Marah at the Orphan's Court.

This revelation filled her with strange and contradictory emotions. She was glad; she was angry with him; she was sorry for him! she was divided between diverse impulses; to hug and kiss him; to cry over him, and to seize him and give him a good shaking! And between them she did nothing at all.

Old Hurricane was again the first to speak.

"What was that you wished to say to me, Cap., when I ran away from you this morning?"

"Why, uncle, that Herbert wants to follow your example, and—and—end—!" Cap. blushed and broke down.

"I thought as much. Getting married at his age! a boy of twenty-five!" said the veteran in contempt.

"Taking a wife at your age, uncle, an infant of sixty-six!"

"Bother, Cap. I! Let me see the fellow's letter to you!"

Cap. handed it to him and the old man read it.

"If I were to object, you'd get married all the same! Demmy! You're both of ago. Do as you please!"

"Thank you, sir," said Cap., demurely.

"And now, Cap., one thing is to be noticed. Herbert says, both in your letter and in mine, that they were to start to return the day after these letters were posted. These letters have been delayed in the mail. Consequently we may expect our hero here every day. But Cap., my

dear, you must receive them. For to-morrow morning, please the Lord, I shall set out for Staunton and Willow Heights, and go and kneel down at the feet of my wife, and ask her pardon on my knees!"

Cap. was no longer divided between the wish to pull Old Hurricane's gray beard and to cry over him. She threw herself at once into his arms and exclaimed:

"Oh uncle! God bless you! God bless you! God bless you! It has come very late in life, but you may be happy with her through all the ages of eternity!"

Old Hurricane was deeply moved by the sympathy of his little madcap, and pressed her to his bosom, saying:

"Cap., my dear, if you had not set your heart upon Herbert, I would marry you to my son Travers, and you two should inherit all that I have in the world! But never mind, Cap., you have an inheritance of your own! Cap., my dear, did it ever occur to you that you might have had a father and a mother?"

"Yes! often! But I used to think you were my father, and that my mother was dead."

"I wish to the Lord that I had been your father, Cap., and that Marah Rooke had been your mother! But Cap., your father was a better man than I, and your mother as good a woman as Marah. And Cap., my dear, you are the sole heiress of the Hidden House estate, and all its enormous wealth! What do you think of that now?"

Old Hurricane.

A shriek pierced the air, and Capitola starting up, stood before Old Hurricane, crying in an impassioned voice:

"Uncle! Uncle! don't mock me! don't overwhelm me! I do not care for wealth or power; but tell me of my parents, who possessing both, cast off their unfortunate child—a girl, too! to meet the sufferings and perils of such a life as mine had been if I had not met you."

"Cap., my dear, hush! your parents were no more to blame for their seeming abandonment of you, than I was to blame for the desertion of my poor wife. We are all the victims of one villain who has now gone to his account, Capitola. I mean Gabriel Le Noir. Sit down my dear, and I will read the copy of his whole confession, and afterwards, in addition tell you all I know upon the subject!"

Capitola resumed her seat, and Major Warfield read the confession of Gabriel Le Noir, and afterwards continued the subject by relating the events of that memorable Halfway Eve when he was called out in a snow-storm to take the dying deposition of the nurse who had been abducted with the infant Capito.

And at the end of his narrative, Cap. knew as much of her own history as the reader has known all along.

"And, my dear, have a mother! and I shall even see her soon! you told me she was coming home with the party—did you not, Uncle," said Capitola.

"Yes, my child.—Only think of it! I saved the daughter from the streets of New York, and my own saved the mother from her prison at the madhouse! And now, my dear Cap., I must bid you good night, and I go to bed, for I intend to rise to-morrow morning long before daylight, to ride to Tip-Top to meet the Staunton stage," said the old man, kissing Capitola.

Just as he was about to leave the room, he was arrested by a loud ringing and knocking at the door.

Wool was heard running along the front hall to answer the summons.

"Cap., I shouldn't wonder much if that was our party. I wish it may be, for I should like to welcome them before I leave home to fetch my wife," said Old Hurricane, in a voice of agitation.

"And while they were still eagerly listening, the door was thrown open by Wren, who announced:

"Marah Herbert, which I mean to say, Major Herbert Greyson; and Herbert entered and was greeted by the two hands of Old Hurricane, who exclaimed:

"Ah, Herbert, my lad! I have got your letters. It is all right, Herbert, or going to be so. You shall marry Cap. when you like. And I am going

to-morrow morning of my wife."

"No need need. Let me ment, and the you," said H.

penas, and his frank kiss.

"Capitola! Every sign it all over again."

"Yes! and but first, I n Herbert, kiss."

"To Old Hurricane!"

"You need took Staunton Clara along—door—"

And the wife of Major Herbert, claiming it as a

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Capitola starting crying in an im-

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to-morrow morning to throw myself at the feet of my wife."

"No need of your going so far, dear sir, no need. Let me speak to my own dear girl a moment, and then I shall have something to say to you," said Herbert, leaving the old man in suspense, and going to salute Capitola, who returned him fervent embraces by an honest, downright frank kiss, that made no secret of itself.

"Capitola! My uncle has told you all?"

"Every single bit! So don't lose time by telling it all over again! To my mother with you!"

"Yes! and I will bring her in, in one moment; but first, I must bring in some one else," said Herbert, kissing the hand of Capitola and turning to Old Hurricane, to whom he said:

"You need not travel far to find Marah. We took Stanton in our way, and brought her and Clara along—Traverse!" he said, going to the door—"bring in your mother."

And the next instant, Traverse entered with the wife of Major Warfield upon his arm.

Old Hurricane started forward to meet her, exclaiming in a broken voice:

"Marah, my dear Marah, God may forgive me, but can you—can you ever do so!" and he would have sunk at her feet, but that she prevented, by meeting him silently placing both her hands in his. And so quietly Marah's forgiveness was expressed, and the reconciliation sealed.

Meanwhile Herbert went out, and brought in Mrs. Le Noir and Clara. Mrs. Le Noir, with a Frenchwoman's impetuosity, hurried to her daughter, and clasped her to her heart.

Cap. gave one hurried glance at the beautiful pale woman that claimed for her a daughter's love, and then, returning the caress, she said:

"Oh, mamma! Oh, mamma! If I were only a boy instead of a girl, I would thrash that Le Noir within an inch of his life!—But I forgot he is gone to his account."

Old Hurricane was at this moment shaking hands with his son, Traverse, who presently took occasion to lead up and introduce his betrothed wife, Clara Day, to her destined father-in-law.

Major Warfield received her with all a soldier's gallantry, a gentleman's courtesy, and a father's tenderness.

He next shook hands with his old acquaintance, Mrs. Le Noir.

And then supper was ordered, and the evening was passed in general and conversative reminiscences and cheerful conversation.

CHAPTER LXI.

"THERE SHALL BE LIGHT AT THE EVENING."

—Holy Bible.

They shall be blessed exceedingly; their store Grow daily, weekly, more and more, And peace so multiply around. Their very hearts seem holy ground.

—MARY HOWITT.

The marriage of Capitola and Herbert, and that of Clara and Traverse, was fixed to take place upon the first of August, which was the twenty-first birthday of the doctor's daughter, and also the twenty-fifth anniversary of the wedding of Mrs. Warfield and Marah Rocks.

German husbands and wives have a beautiful custom of keeping the twenty-fifth anniversary of their marriage by a festival which they call the "Silver Wedding." And thus Major Warfield and Marah resolved to keep this first of August, and farther to honor the occasion by uniting the hands of their young people.

There was but one cloud upon the happiness of Capitola; this was the approaching execution of Black Donald.

No one else seemed to care about the matter, until a circumstance occurred which painfully aroused their interests.

It was the effect that the Governor, through the solicitation of certain ministers of the Gospel, who represented the condemned as utterly unprepared to meet his fate, had respited him until the first of August, at which time, he wished the prisoner to be made to understand that his sentence would certainly, without farther delay, be carried into effect.

This carried a sort of consternation into the heart of every member of the Hurricane Hall household.

The idea of Black Donald being hung in their immediate neighborhood upon their wedding-day was appalling!

Yet there was no help for it, unless their wedding was postponed to another occasion than that upon which Old Hurricane had set his heart.

No one knew what to do. Cap. fretted herself almost sick. She had out-gelled her brains to no purpose. She had not been able to think of any plan by which she could deliver Black Donald. Meantime the last days of July were rapidly passing away.

Black Donald in the condemned cell maintained his firmness, stoutly asserting his innocence of any capital crime, and persistently refusing to give up his hand. As a last motive of confession, the paper written by Gabriel Le Noir upon his death-bed was shown him. He laughed a loud, crackling laugh, and said *that* was all true, but that he, for his part, never intended to learn a hair of Capitola's head;

that he had taken a fancy to the girl when he had first seen her, and had only wanted to carry her off and force her into a marriage with himself; that he had pretended to consent to her death only for the purpose of saving her life.

When Cap. heard this she burst into tears, and said she believed it was true!

The night before the wedding of Capitola and Herbert, and Clara and Traverse, and of the execution of Black Donald, came.

At Hurricane Hall, the two prospective bridegrooms were busy with Old Hurricane in the some papers that had to be prepared in the

The two intended brides were engaged, under the direction of Mrs. Warfield, in her dressing-room, consulting over certain properties of the approaching festival. But Capitola could give only a half attention to the discussion. Her thoughts were with the poor condemned man who was to die the next day.

And suddenly she drew out of the room, announced her groom, mounted her horse, and rode away.

In his condemned cell Black Donald was bitterly realizing how unprepared he was to die, and how utterly impossible it was for him to prepare in so short hours left. He tried to pray, but could form no other petition than that he might be allowed, if possible, a little longer to fit himself to meet his Creator. From his cell he could hear the striking of the great clock in the prison hall. And as every hour struck, it seemed "a nail driven in his coffin."

At eight o'clock that night the warden sat in his little office, consulting the sheriff about some details of the approaching execution. While they were still in discussion, a turnkey opened the door, saying:

"A lady to see the warden."

And Capitola stood before them!

"Miss Black!" exclaimed both sheriff and warden, rising in surprise, gazing upon our heroine, and addressing her by the name under which they had first known her.

"Yes, gentlemen, it is I. The truth is I cannot rest to-night without saying a few words of comfort to the poor man who is to die to-morrow. So I came hither, attended by my groom, to know if I may see him for a few minutes."

"Miss Black, here is the sheriff. It is just as he pleases. My orders were so strict that had you come to me alone I should have been obliged to refuse you."

"Mr. Keepe, you will not refuse me," said Capitola turning to the sheriff.

"Miss Black, my rule is to admit no one but the officers of the prison and the ministers of the Gospel to see the condemned! This we have been obliged to observe as a measure of safety. This convict, as you are aware, is a man of consummate cunning, so that it is really wonderful he has not found means to make his escape, closely as he has been watched and strongly as he has been guarded."

"Ah, but Mr. Keepe, his cunning was no match for mine, you know!" said Capitola, smiling.

"He-ha-ha! so it was not! You took him very cleverly, very cleverly, indeed! In fact, if it had not been for you, I doubt if ever we should have captured Black Donald at all. The authorities are entirely indebted to you for the

capture of this notorious outlaw. And really that being the case, I do think it would be straining a point to refuse you admittance to see him! So, Miss Black, you have my authority for visiting the condemned man in his cell and giving him all the comfort you can. I would attend you thither myself, but I have got to go to see the captain of a militia company to be on the scene of action to-morrow," said the sheriff, who soon after took leave of the warden and departed.

The warden then called a turnkey and ordered him to attend Miss Black to the condemned cell.

The young turnkey took up a lamp and a great key and walked before, leading the way down stairs to a cell in the interior of the basement, occupied by Black Donald.

He unlocked the door, admitted Capitola, and then walked off to the extremity of the lobby as he was accustomed to do when he let in the proachers.

Capitola thanked heaven for the chance, for had he not done so she would have had to invent some excuse of getting rid of him.

She entered the cell. It was very dimly lighted from the great lamp that hung in the lobby nearly opposite the cell door.

By its light she saw Black Donald, not only doubly ironed but confined by a chain and staple to the wall. He was very pale and haggard from long imprisonment and great anxiety.

Cap. a heart beat for the poor hanged and blighted outlaw, who had not a friend in the world to speak a kind word to him in his trouble.

He also recognized her, and rising and coming to meet her as far as the length of the chair would permit, he held out his hand and said:

"I am very glad you have come, little one! It is very kind of you to come and see a poor fellow in his extremity! You are the first female that has been in this cell since my imprisonment. Think of that, child! I wanted to see you, too. I wanted to say to you yourself again, that I never was guilty of murder, and that I only seemed to consent to your death to save you: life! Do you believe this?—On the word of a dying man it is truth!"

"I do believe you, Donald Bayne," said Capitola, in a broken voice.

"I hear that you have come into your estate! I am glad of it. And they tell me that you are going to be married to-morrow! Well! God bless you, little one!"

"Oh, Donald Bayne! Can you say God bless me, when it was I who put you here?"

"Tut, child, you outlaws hear no malice! Spite is a civilized vice! It was a fair contest, child, and you conquered! It's well you did! Give me your hand in good will, since I must die to-morrow!"

Capitola gave her hand, and while he held it, she stooped and said:

"Donald! I have done everything in the world to save your life!"

"I know you have, child. May yours be long and happy."

"Donald, may your life be longer and better than you think. I have tried all other means of saving you in vain; and there is but one means left."

"The warden started violently, exclaiming:

"Is there one?"

"Donald, yes! there is! I bring you the means of deliverance and escape. Heaven knows whether I am doing right—for I do not. I know many people would blame me very much, but I hope that He who forgave the thief upon the cross and the sinful woman at His feet, will not condemn me for following His own compassionate example. For Donald, as I was the person whom you injured most of all others, so I consider that I of all the others have the greatest right to pardon you and set you free. Oh, Donald! may your life be all about to give you, else I shall be chargeable with every future sin you commit!"

"In the name of mercy, do not hold out a false hope. I had nerved myself to die."

"But you were not prepared to meet your Maker. Oh, Donald! I hold out no false hope! Listen, for I must speak low and quick—I can never be happy again, if, on my wedding day, you should die a felon's death. Here! here are tools with the use of which you may be acquitted, for they were found in the woods near the Hidden House!" said Capitola, producing from her pocket a burglar's look-pick, saw, chisel, file, etc.

Black Donald asked them as a famished wolf might seize his prey.

"What, then?" inquired Capitola, in breathless anxiety.

"Yes! yes! yes! I can file off my iron, pick every lock, drive back every bolt, and dislodge every bar between myself and freedom with these instruments! But, child, there is one thing you have forgotten: suppose a turnkey or a guard should stop me—you have brought me no revolver!"

Capitola turned pale.

"Donald, I could easily have brought you a revolver; but I would not, even to save you from to-morrow's death. No, Donald! no! I give you the means of freeing yourself, if you can do it, as you may, without bloodshed. But, Donald, though your life is as justly forfeited, your liberty is, and so I cannot give you the means of taking any one's life for the sake of saving your own."

"You are right," said the outlaw.

"Listen, further, Donald. Here are a thousand dollars. I thought never to have taken it from the bank, for I would never have used the price of blood. But I drew it to-day for you. Take it—it will help you to live a better life. When you have plucked your way out of the old mill, and you will find my horse, Gyp, whom I shall have tied there. He is very swift—mount him and ride for your life to the nearest seaport, and so escape. But I draw it to some foreign country. And oh! try to lead a good life, and may God redeem you, Donald Bayne! There! conceal your tools and money quickly, for I hear the guard coming. Good-bye! and again—God redeem you, Donald Bayne!"

"God bless you, brave and tender girl! And God forsake me if I do not heed your advice!" said the outlaw, pressing the hand she gave him, while the tears rushed to his eyes.

The guard approached, Capitola turned to meet him. They left the cell together, and Black Donald was looked in for the last time.

"O! I hope, I pray that he may get off! O, what shall I do if he doesn't! How can I enjoy my wedding to-morrow! How can I hear the music, and the dancing, and the rejoicing, when I know that a fellow-creature is in such a strait! Oh! Lord grant that Black Donald may get clear off to-night, for he isn't fit to die!" said Cap. so herself as she hurried out of the prison.

Her young groom was waiting for her, and she mounted her horse and rode until they got to the old haunted church, at the end of the village, when, drawing rein, she said:

"Jem, I am very tired. I will wait here, and you must just ride back to the village. Mr. Cassell's livery stable, and get a gig, and put your horse into it, and come back here to drive me home, for I cannot ride."

Jem, who never questioned her imperious little mistress's orders, rode off at once to do her bidding.

Cap. immediately dismounted from her pony, and led him under the deep shadows of the elm tree, where she fastened him. Then taking his face between her hands, and looking him in the eyes, she said:

"Gyp, my son, you and I have had many a frolic together, but we've got to part now! It almost breaks my heart, Gyp, but it is to save a fellow-creature's life, and it can't be helped! He'll treat you well, for my sake, dear Gyp. Gyp! he'll part with his life sooner than sell you! Good-bye dear, dear Gyp!"

Gyp took all these caresses in a very nonchalant manner, only snorting and pawing in reply.

Presently the boy came back, bringing the gig. Cap. once more hugged Gyp about the neck, pressed her cheek against his mane, and with a whispered "Good-bye, dear Gyp," sprang into the gig, and ordered the boy to drive home.

"An' leah the pony, Miss?"

"Oh, yes, for the present; everybody knows Gyp,—no one will steal him. I have left him length of line enough to move around a little and eat grass, drink from the brook, or lie down. You can come after him early to-morrow morning."

The little groom thought this a queer arrangement, but he was not in the habit of criticising his young mistress's actions.

Capitola got home to a late supper, and to the anxious inquiries of her friends she replied that

she had been to the prison to take leave of Black Donald, and begged that they would not pursue so painful a subject.

And, in respect to Cap.'s sympathies, they changed the conversation.

That night the remnant of Black Donald's band were assembled in their first old haunt, the Old Road Inn. They had met for a two-fold purpose—to bury their old matron, Mother Raven, whose slurs the death of her patron and the apprehension of her Captain, had returned to the inn to die—and to bewail the fate of their leader, whose execution was expected to come off the next day.

The men laid the poor old woman in her woodland grave, and assembled in the kitchen to keep a death-watch in sympathy with their "unfortunate" Captain. They gathered around the table, and foaming mugs of ale were freely quaffed, for "sorrow's dry" they said, but neither laugh, song, nor jest attended their draughts. Suddenly, in the midst of their heavy grief and utter silence, a familiar sound was heard—a ringing footstep under the back windows.

And the next instant the door was flung wide open, and the outlaw chief stood among them! Hal leaped forward and flung himself around Black Donald's neck, exclaiming—

"It's you! it's you! it's you! my dear! my darling! my adored! my sweetheart! my prince! my lord! my king! my dear, dear Captain!"

Steve, the lazy muleteer, rolled down upon the silence at his master's feet, and embraced them in silence.

While Demon Dick growled forth—

"How the foul fiend did you get out?"

"Not by any help of yours, boys! But don't think I reproach you, lads! Well I know that you could do nothing on earth to save me! No one on earth could have helped me except the one who really freed me—Capitola!"

"That girl again!" exclaimed Hal, in the extremity of wonder.

"It's to be hoped, then, you've got her at last, Captain," said Demon Dick.

"No—Heaven bless her!—she's in better hands. Now listen, lads, for I must talk fast. I went first to the cave in the Punch Bowl, and not finding you there, came here at a venture, where I am happy to meet you for the last time—for to-night we disband forever!"

"'Twas our intention, Captain," said Hal, in a melancholy voice.

Black Donald then threw himself into a seat at the head of the table, poured out a mug of ale, and invited his band to pledge him. They gathered around the table, filled their mugs, pledged him standing, and then resumed their seats to listen to the last words of their chief.

Black Donald commenced and related the manner of his deliverance by Capitola; and then taking from his bosom a bag of gold, he poured it upon the table and divided it into two equal portions, one of which he handed to "Headlong Hal," saying—

"There, Hal," take that and divide it among your companions, and scatter to distant parts of the country, where you may yet have a chance of earning an honest livelihood. As for me, I shall have to quit the country altogether, and it will take nearly half this sum to enable me to do it. Now I shall have not a minute more to give you. So once more pledge your Captain, and away!"

The men filled their mugs, rose to their feet, and pledged their leader in a parting toast, and then—

"Good luck to you all!" exclaimed Black Donald, waving his hat thrice above his head with a valditory hurrah. And the next moment he was gone!

That night, if any watchman had been on guard near the stable of Hurricane Hall, he might have seen a tall man mounted upon Capitola's pony, ride up in hot haste, dismount and pick the stable lock, take Gyp by the bridle and lead him in, and presently return leading out Fleetfoot, Old Hurricane's racer, upon which he mounted and rode away.

The next morning, while Capitola was dressing, her groom rapped at the door and, in great dismay, begged that he might speak to Miss Cap. one minute.

"Well what is it, Jem?" said Capitola.

"Oh, Miss Cap, you'll kill me! I done been got up long afore any and gone to Tip-Top erter Gyp; but somebody done been stole him away afore I got there!"

"Thank Heaven!" cried Capitola, to little Jem's unspoken amazement. For to Capitola the absence of her horse meant just the escape of Black Donald!

The next minute Cap. sighed and said:

"Poor Gyp! I shall never see you again! That was all she knew of the matter! That morning while they were all at breakfast, a groom from the stable came in, with a little canvas bag in his hand, which he laid, with a bow, before his master.

Major Warfield took it up; it was full of gold, and upon its side was written, in red chalk:

"Three hundred dollars, to pay for Fleetfoot, Black Donald, Reformed Robber."

While Old Hurricane was reading this inscription, the groom said that Fleetwood was missing from his stall, and that Miss Cap.'s pony, that was supposed to have been stolen, was found in his place, with this bag of gold tied around his neck.

"It is Black Donald! he has escaped!" cried Old Hurricane, about to fling himself into a rage, when his furious eyes encountered the gentle gaze of Marah, that fell like oil on the waves of his rising passion.

"Let him go! I'll not storm on my silver wedding-day," said Major Warfield, with delight; the only little clouds upon her bright sky were removed. Black Donald had escaped to commence a better life, and Gyp was restored!

That evening a magnificent, old-fashioned wedding came off at Hurricane Hall.

The double ceremony was performed by the bishop of the diocese, (then on a visit to the neighborhood,) in the great saloon of Hurricane Hall, in the presence of as large and splendid an assembly as could be gathered together from that remote neighborhood.

The two brides, of course, were lovely in white satin, honiton lace, pearls, and orange flowers.

"Equally," of course, the bridegrooms were handsome and elegant, proud and happy.

To this old-fashioned wedding succeeded a round of dinners and evening-parties given by the wedding guests. And when all these old-time customs had been observed for the satisfaction of old friends, the bridal party went upon the new-fashioned tour for their own delight. They spent a year in travelling over the Eastern Continent, and then returned home to settle upon their patrimonial estates.

Major Warfield and Marah live at Hurricane Hall, and as his heart is settled and at rest, his temper is gradually improving. As the loc shall be led by the little child, Old Hurricane is led by the gentlest woman that ever loved or suffered, and she is leading him in his old age to the Saviour's feet.

Clara and Traverse live at Willow Heights, which has been repaired, enlarged and improved, and where Traverse has already upon an extensive practice, and where both endeavour to emulate the enlightened goodness of the sainted Doctor Day.

Cap. and Herbert, with Mrs. Le Noir, live at the Hidden House, which has been turned by wealth and taste into a dwelling of light and beauty. As the bravest are always the gentlest, so the most high-spirited are always the most forgiving. And thus the weak or wicked old Dorcas Knight still finds a home under the roof of Mrs. Le Noir. Her only retribution being the very fact that her temporary prisoner is now her mistress and sovereign lady.

I wish I could say that I live happy ever after. But the truth is, I have reason to suppose that even Clara had sometimes occasion to administer to Doctor Roche dignified curtain lectures, which no doubt did him good. And I know for a positive fact, that our Cap. sometimes gives her "dear, darling, sweet Herbert," the benefit of the sharp edge of her tongue, which, of course he deserves.

But notwithstanding all this, I am happy to say that they all enjoy a fair amount of human felicity.

IRVING'S FIVE CENT MUSIC.

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- Mollie Darling
- I have no Home
- Father says I May
- Come all by my Side, little Darling
- Mollie's Answer
- Birds has Come
- Strolling on the Sands
- Little Sunshine
- Come, Birds, Come
- Come again To-morrow Night
- How the Gates Came Ajar
- Lad Astray
- I'm waiting, my Darling, for Thee
- Little Footstep
- Whip-poor-Will's Song
- Silver Threads among the Gold
- Little Sweetheart, come and Kiss Me
- Please, God, make room for a little Boy
- When Silver Locks Replace the Gold
- When Little's Mamie Died
- Little Daisy
- The Mulligan Guard
- Little Mollie Brown
- Little May
- Mother, is the Old Home lonely?
- You are always Young to Me
- Tim Flaherty
- Father, bring Home your Moony
- Nearer the Beautiful Gates
- Gently down the Stream of Time
- Our Good Old Friends
- Come Back to Erin
- Skidmore Guard
- The Little Old Cabin in the Lane
- The Old Musician and his Harp
- Pull Down the Blind
- "Only"
- Gathering Shells from the Sea Shore
- Would I were with Thee
- A Starry Night for a Ramble
- The Little Brown Jug
- Ninety and Nine
- Over the Hill to the Poor House
- "We'd better Bide a Wee"
- Pass under the Rod
- The Little Ones at Home
- Little Stars are Brightly Shining
- Castles
- The Three Angel Visitants
- The Three Calls
- Dare to do Right
- Whisper Softly, Mother's Dying
- Do not Turn me from Your Door
- There's a Letter in the Candle
- Beautiful Girl of Kildare
- Must we then Meet as Strangers?
- Amber Treasures tied in Blue
- "The Gates are Wide Open"
- My love to All at Home
- I know, Love, You'll be True
- Down Among de Sugar Cane
- Hildebrandt Montrose
- Have I not been Kind to Thee?
- Nobody's Darling but Mina
- Fretty as a Picture
- Eileen Aislinn
- Don't you cry so, Nora Darling
- Old Black Joe
- My poor Heart is sad with its Dreaming
- Sweetest Love, I'll not Forget
- Write to me Often
- Dreaming of Home and Mother
- 'Twas the Master that knocked
- Tommy, make room for your Uncle
- Old Folks at Home

- tracing back to Georgia
- What were all the World without Thee
- He holds the Port of Heaven
- Don't leave Grandmother now she's old
- Dot Laidie Yawcob Stranna
- Ellie Rhee
- To-day and To-morrow
- Far Away
- Dublin Bay
- Kathleen Mavourneen
- When the Minst have Rolled away
- Touch me Gently, Father Time
- The Sweet Sunny Smile of My Darling
- The Little Blonde in Blue
- Little Bright Eyes at the Window
- Wait till the Moonlight Falls
- Sleep, my little Blue-eyed Treasure
- Down the Shadowed Lane she goes
- See that my Grave's kept Green
- "That Husband of Mine"
- Are we Forgotten when we're Gone?
- Speak to Me
- Mary Aileen
- Sadie Ray
- "You and I"
- Grandfather's Clock
- Only Speak kindly to Me
- Haunting Eyes
- Angela meet me at de Cross-roads
- I know You'll be true to Me, Robin
- Silver Stars are softly Glistening
- Sweet Genevieve
- Bright Rays of Early Morning
- Beautiful Isle of the Sea
- That Song of Thine
- Under the Palisade
- Drivee from Home
- Birdie, tell Winnie I'm Waiting
- "Canada"
- Where the Woodbine Twined
- Don't be Sorrowful Darling
- Put Me in my Little Bed
- The Old Man's Drunk Again
- Moet and Chandon
- Castles in the Air
- As Good as Gold
- In her Little Bed we Laid Her
- Oh, ain't He Sweeter on Me!
- You know how It is Yourself
- Take Me to the Ball to-night
- Let Me Be
- Save the Boy
- Gone Before
- The Man o' Airife
- Paving the Way
- Jerusalem the Golden
- Nobody's Darling
- Her Bright Smile haunts me Still
- Jenny who Lives in the Dail
- Serena
- Drifting
- I love the Merry Sunshine
- Annie o' the Banks o' Dee
- Maggie's Welcome
- Riding in a Pullman Car
- Beware
- Kathleen's Answer
- Five o'Clock in the Morning
- Beautiful Nell
- The Merriest Girl that's Out
- Birds will come Again
- Still I Love Thee
- Why was I Looking out?
- Baby's Gone
- Stealing a Kiss at the Garden Gate

- No.
- Darling Beasts of the Lea
- Kiss me and I'll go to Sleep
- Call her Dack and Kiss Her
- As She went Pastlog By
- Good Evening
- Standing on the Platform waiting for
- Mother, take Me home Again
- Birdie You Must Never Tell
- Little Emily
- Stay of the Evening
- The Roman Fall
- Hope
- 'Tis bot a little Faded Flower
- Don't You go, Tommy
- Maks believe I'm Dreaming
- The Regular Army, O
- Nancy Lee
- Sweet Bye and Bye
- Will the Clouds go By
- Will mother know me in the Sky?
- Homeless To-night
- The Man in the Moon was Looking
- Angela Whisper soft Good-Night
- Will you Love Me when I'm Old?
- Linger near me, Little Darling
- Kiss and Forget, Love
- Baby Mine
- Softly sing the Old Songs
- Loved Once Far Away
- When Leaflets from the Roses fall
- Adieu Sweetheart, but not Good-Bye
- I'll be watching for you at the Window
- We shall Meet all the Little Ones There
- Dear Little Collins
- Take this Letter to my Mother,
- 'Tis Gwine back to Diale
- Why does Mother stay so long?
- Dear Little Isle Far Away
- A Little Bow of Blue
- The Old Home ain't what it used to be
- Where the Moonbeams love to amble to
- Twenty-seven Cents
- Barney, Don't Forget
- The Vine-Covered Cottage
- Slavery Days
- The Campbells are Coming
- Drunkie's Dand
- Sleeping 'neath the Fair Spring Flowers
- The Water Mill
- Jim Fisk
- Dreaming and Drifting
- I've only been Down to the Club
- Whea, Emma
- The Gray Hair of my Mother
- Little Sister's gone to Sleep
- O Saviour of the World
- Evat
- Juanita
- Darling Minnie Lee
- Kilharney
- I Cannot Sing the Old Songs
- Strangers Yet
- The Babies on our Block
- Golden Years are passing by
- Sweet Mary Ann
- Kathleen Aroon
- A Flower from Mother's Grave
- The Little Spring Beside my Home
- Sombody's Coming
- Nancy Aarzen
- Now Lay me down to Sleep
- It's Whip-poor-Will
- See you there Mortality?
- Shells we Gathered Years Ago
- Sequel to Grandfather's Clock

No.
266 Thinking and Dreaming of Mother
267 Shadows on the Floor
268 The Old Wooden Rocker
269 Remember you have Children
270 My Pretty Red Rose
271 Biola's McGee
272 The Little Widow Duan
273 Robin, tell Kitty I'm coming
274 Jennie, the Kildare
275 No Work
276 Don't Forget me, Darling
277 Uncle Tom's Lament
278 The Tar's Farewell
279 In the Morning by the Bright Light
280 Angel Gabriel
281 God bless my dear old Mother
282 Carry me back to old Virginy
283 Oh! dem Golden Slippers
284 The Rain upon the Roof
285 Take Me Home
286 Drilling with the Tide
287 The Poor old Tiamp
288 Keep Pretty Flowers on my Grave,
289 My Home on the Old Ohio
290 Will you Remember me?
291 The Old Log Cabin in the Dell
292 Roses Underneath the Snow
293 Kathleen of Kilkenny
294 When You and I were young, Maggie
295 Good old Jeff; or the Poor old Slave
296 The Golden Star
297 We parted by the River Side
298 The Ring my Mother Wore
299 Ring the Bell, Watchman
300 Nora O'Neal
301 Grandmother's Chair
302 You've been a Friend to me
303 The Cottage by the Sea
304 Norah, the Pride of Kildare
305 O, Mother come back to your Boy
306 Ere as the Air
307 The Day when you'll Forget me
308 He never Smiled Again
309 The Maple Leaf, our Emblem Dear
310 Barney Macree
311 In the Gloaming
312 When Jamie comes over the Sea
313 Pairy Footsteps Gently Falling
314 Kiss me, and Call me your Darling
315 The Old Chimney Corner
316 A Sweet Face at the Window
317 How I Miss those Little Footsteps
318 Draw aside the Curtain, Mother
319 Little Jessie
320 Beautiful Dreamer
321 Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Stars
322 Died in the Streets
323 Yatie and Lizzie Louvise
324 The Skids are out to-day
325 'Tis Darkest just before the day
326 Bonnie Sweet Bessie, the Maid of Dundas
327 Little Rosebud
328 I'll go back to Erin
329 When we meet in the Sweet Bye and Bye
330 Oh, The Darke's home am Looey
331 McSorley's Twins
332 The Gown as in the Cora
333 Meet me at Twilight
334 Sing to me, Robin
335 Climbing the Golden Stair
336 One more River to Cross
337 Oh, Nanny, will thou Gang wif me
338 Has Father been Here?
339 Aileen Aroon
340 Let your Tears kiss the Flowers
341 Come o'er the Lake
342 The Old man ain't what he used to be
343 Daffney, do you love me?
344 Dese Bones shall rise Again
345 The Dream of Love is o'er
346 On the Banks of the Beautiful River
347 Time may Steal the Roses, Darling
348 Let the Dead and the Beautiful Rest.
349 Dancing in the Baza
350 Homeless and Alone To-Night
351 De Golden Wedding
352 Break the News Gently to Mother
353 De Huckleberry Pic-nic
354 Drifting Down to Sea
355 Love's Chiding
356 Hannah, Boli dat Cabbage Down
357 Shivering and Shaking out in the Cold

De day I was Sol Free
299 Lay aside the little Shoes and Stockings
300 Where Pretty Violets Grow
301 I'll see that your Grave is Kept Green
302 Miss It, Riley
303 Put on My Long White Robe
304 The Order of Fall Moons
305 The Twilight Cotaris
306 Twickenham Ferry
307 Jim, the Carter Lad
308 The Meanest Folks on our Block
309 Miss Gruber's Boarding House
310 The Lastest Man in all the Town
311 Broken Down
312 Nestle me close to Your heart
313 The Marchioness
314 I've no Mother
315 What is it?
316 Something Sweet to Think of
317 Frita's Lullaby
318 Father's Growing Old
319 Scotch Lassie Jean
320 Cradle's Empty, Baby's Gone
321 Owe the Garden Wall
322 Oh, Tom, tell Thom to Stop
323 I'll bet you a Dollar you don't
324 High-Water Pants
325 Wheel the Baby Out
326 John Riley's always Dry
327 My Mother's Dear Old Face
328 A Violet from Mother's Grave
329 Thrid Degree Fall Moon
330 The Little German Home across the Sea
331 The Boston Fire
332 Down amid the Clust'ring Roses
333 There are Kisses waiting for Me
334 Norah Mavourneen
335 You Can't Always Tell
336 Only to see Her Face Again
337 My Angel Mother
338 Don't you Miss the Tralo
339 Out of Work
340 I'm Glad my Heart's my Own
341 Keep in the Middle of the Road
342 Mother Kissed me in my Necess
343 Only a Rose from Mother's Garden
344 When the Flowers fall Asleep
345 Finnegan and his Flute
346 Nellie Mavourneen,
347 Pretty Little South Carolina Rose
348 Only an Ivy Leaf
349 What is Home without a Mother?
350 Thou hast wounded the Spirit that loved
351 Home Again
352 Shining Curls of Gold
353 Shells upon the Shore
354 The Old Cabin Home
355 Restora in the Air
356 I'll Remember You in my Prayers
357 Little Wife Nellie, the light of my Home
358 When the Leaves begin to Turn
359 Your Lassie Will be True
360 In the Evening by the Moonlight
361 Never take the Horse shoe from the Door
362 Mulligan's Funeral
363 The Dying Nun
364 Keep dem Golden Gates Wide Open
365 "Where are the Angels, Mother?"
366 Sons of Ham
367 The Mirror's the Cause of It All
368 The Widow in the Cottage by the Sea
369 Teuting on the Old Camp Ground
370 Marching through Georgia
371 Cradle's Empty, Baby smiled
372 What kind of Shoes you gwine to wear
373 Where is Heaven?
374 Talk about your Moses
375 For you we are Praying at Home
376 Oh, I'll meet you dar
377 Mother's Calling Baby Home
378 Tiny Hands
379 I'm Going Home to Chloe
380 Keep the Horse-shoe over the Door
381 The Two Orphans
382 Don't be Crying, Little Girl
383 Will the Dear Old Times come back
384 Brown Eyes Close to the Window
385 Phantom Footsteps
386 Little Maggie, the Pride of Kivane
387 Mother Comes to Me in Dreams
388 An Old-fashioned Photograph of Mother
389 Touch the Sleeping Strings

No.
410 I will be True to Thee
411 Uncle Tom's Cabin to Stay
412 Barney McCoy
413 Little Mag and I
414 Dip Me in de Golden Sea
415 Leave me out in Anger
416 Mora Marie
417 De Angels am a Coming
418 The Old Plantation Home
419 Wait till the Clouds Roll by
420 'Nath the Maple by the Mill
421 Balm of Gilead
422 Mrs. Brady's Daughter
423 Out in the Snow
424 McDonnell's Old Tin Roof
425 The Old Rustic Bridge by the Mill
426 Give the Poor all thy Honestly Earn
427 Mary Ann McLaughlin
428 Mary's Gown with a Gown
429 Little Brother Joe
430 Pass us out By
431 Some Day I'll Wander Back Again
432 Black-eyed Blinie's gone to Rest
433 Wake Nicodemus
434 By and by You will Forget me
435 That won't keep a Wife and Baby
436 Our Cat in Tennessee
437 I'm Dying for Some One to Love me
438 Bring me a Letter from Home
439 Why did the Angels take Mamma away
440 Peck-a-Boo!
441 Sweet as a Peach
442 When the Roses come Again
443 Moonlight at Killarney
444 The Widow Moin's Gout
445 I Guess you have All been There
446 Finger Prints upon the Pane
447 I'm One of the Turkish Kind
448 Angels will Open the Beautiful Gates
449 The Patter of the Shingle
450 I'll Take you Home again, Kathleen
451 Miss Brady's Piano For-tey
452 Kissing Sunbeams
453 Take Me back to Home and Mother
454 Days that are gone Seem the Brightest
455 The Pretty Little Cottage in the Meadow
456 Loved Ones Passed Away
457 Dreamy Eyes are Closed for ever
458 When Autumn Leaves turn Red and Gold
459 Don't Forget a Friend
460 Angela are Watching Above
461 We Never Speak as we pass by
462 Mary Smiled the Clouds Away
463 Only a Workingman's Child
464 I'll Meet You when the Sun Goes down
465 Love Will Roll the Clouds Away
466 Starlight on the Sea
467 Only a Pansy Blossom
468 Dimpled Hands
469 Hush, my Darling, do not Cry
470 Dear Little Pansy Blossom
471 Little Maggie Ann
472 Only a Crapoe on the Door
473 I'm Still a Friend to You
474 In His Mind
475 Take Me Back Home
476 Is that Mr. Reilly?
477 When the Moon-beams Fall
478 Please, Give me a Penny
479 The Prayer on the Pier
480 Good-Bye Mavourneen
481 The Rose-Bush by the Gate
482 Give an Honest Irish Lad a Chance
483 Jennie, my Loveliest one
484 Angels Called Thee, Little Darling
485 Charming Little Ada
486 Poor Little Joe
487 The Man Behind the Plough
488 Where is My Boy To-night
489 Don't be angry, Mother
490 Bo-Peep
491 Fifty-cents
492 The Spider and the Fly
493 Pseud Dead in the Street
494 Sweet Violets
495 Whispering Hops
496 Bring the Absent back to me
497 The Gwine to Alabama
498 Under the Roof-tree
499 There's a Dear Spot in Ireland
500 Your Pocket Book's your Friend
501 Touch these Kisses say Farewell

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