

A CASE OF NECESSITY.

By MARY E. BRADLEY. (Continued.)

"I am glad," he murmured, "very glad, Helen, to know that."

"Indeed," I went on, moved by something appealing in his eyes and voice to speak more freely than I had ever done to him before; "besides, you must remember that I am sort of fifth wheel in creation, generally. I've nothing to do anywhere else, and nobody wants me. Yet I have my secret cravings sometimes to be useful and desirable to other people. It makes me feel important to think that the opportunity has come at last, and that I can really, for once, be of some consequence. Don't you see how puffed up I am! Actually inflated with the surprise and the novelty of it! Don't go and spoil the new sensation by grudging it to me!"

"I never heard you talk so much nonsense before, Helen," he said, almost cheerfully. "But it does me good. You are a little comfort to go and lie down now, and get some rest. I'll call you when I want you."

"I went, obediently, and made myself comfortable on a couch in the library, wise enough to know that rest, which could be taken, was part of a nurse's duty; and soothed and nursed by those few little words, 'You are a comforter,' that the memory of Mrs. Rand's unkindness had no longer power to sting me."

"It was many a day since anybody had called me a comforter; and I said the words over and over to myself with almost childish enjoyment. They led me into a peaceful slumber, from which I did not wake till dawn stole in at the window. I started up then with a great sense of fright, feeling like a sentinel who had slept at his post, and crept softly into the sick-room. But everything was quiet there; my patient was asleep, in the same position in which I had left him; which showed that he, too, had rested well. So the first night was safely over."

"The doctor came round at sunrise, before the town was stirring, and was gratified by my report of a serene night."

"But don't imagine that it will last long," he said, warningly. "This is only the beginning, you know. The disease has got to run its course, and it will be tough work for you and he. 'I shall not mind, if only he lives through it,' I answered. 'Do you think he is in danger, doctor?'"

"Of course he is in danger; that is taken for granted in the beginning. But it is too soon to predict how it will end. I'll do my best to save him, that's all I can say."

"And I'll do my best to help you," I responded. "So will Jimmy."

"Better believe I will, though," Jimmy spoke up for himself, mullishly. "Miss Helen—when the doctor had left me alone again—Did I ever see her so as an Miter Parkinson got to be so friendly?"

"You and Mr. Parkinson! You don't lack for modesty, do you, Jimmy?" "Not to speak of Miss Helen," he returned, as if I had paid him a compliment. "Nor I don't lack for pride, nay, rather. It's something to be proud of, faith, to be friends with Mr. Parkinson."

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R. A. & J. STEWART. Chatham, Jan. 14th 1886.

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Wanted for a small family. Apply at the ADVANCE office.

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To be sold at PUBLIC AUCTION, on Friday the 29th day of April next, at 10 o'clock, at the Sheriff's Office in Newcastle between the hours of two and four o'clock, P. M. the following real estate...

"God forgive her!" I said to myself, as I took the great up-stairs. "But I am afraid I meant 'God punish her!'"

I felt as if I watched him helpless and suffering, with the cruel disease gaining upon him hour by hour, such a tenderness for him, and such a great indignation against those who had deserted him without pity, that I was hardly just or reasonable. There were many that felt sorry for him without doubt, and would have risked money, perhaps, but for the sake of others, and to save their own souls.

The doctor was the bearer, indeed, of kindly messages and inquiries every day. But the fact remained that the house was shunned, as a pest-house would have been, and not a human creature would so much as pass by it if it was possible to reach their destination cross-street to evade a possible leath from the infected place, and Jimmy had to resort to many round-about measures even to procure supplies of food.

There was a dreadful monotony in those long, hot, bright days, as they crept slowly, oh, so slowly, onwards. The doctor's visits, early in the morning and late in the evening, were the only break in their blank dreariness; and these—though watched for in breathless anxiety as the disease gained headway—came to have a terror of their own. For the gloomy look upon his face deepened more and more, each morning and night that he stood by the bedside where my poor patient lay.

"Doctor, tell me what you are thinking," I asked one night as he stood with knitted brows, looking down at the pitiable object before him.

"I am thinking that I did a wicked thing, in letting you sacrifice yourself for what I might have known in the beginning was a forlorn hope," he answered, dreadingly.

General Business.

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R. HOCKEN.

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