

## Technical and Bibliographic Notes / Notes techniques et bibliographiques

Canadiana.org has attempted to obtain the best copy available for scanning. Features of this copy which may be bibliographically unique, which may alter any of the images in the reproduction, or which may significantly change the usual method of scanning are checked below.

- Coloured covers /  
Couverture de couleur
- Covers damaged /  
Couverture endommagée
- Covers restored and/or laminated /  
Couverture restaurée et/ou pelliculée
- Cover title missing /  
Le titre de couverture manque
- Coloured maps /  
Cartes géographiques en couleur
- Coloured ink (i.e. other than blue or black) /  
Encre de couleur (i.e. autre que bleue ou noire)
- Coloured plates and/or illustrations /  
Planches et/ou illustrations en couleur
- Bound with other material /  
Relié avec d'autres documents
- Only edition available /  
Seule édition disponible
- Tight binding may cause shadows or distortion  
along interior margin / La reliure serrée peut  
causer de l'ombre ou de la distorsion le long de la  
marge intérieure.
  
- Additional comments /  
Commentaires supplémentaires:

Canadiana.org a numérisé le meilleur exemplaire qu'il lui a été possible de se procurer. Les détails de cet exemplaire qui sont peut-être uniques du point de vue bibliographique, qui peuvent modifier une image reproduite, ou qui peuvent exiger une modification dans la méthode normale de numérisation sont indiqués ci-dessous.

- Coloured pages / Pages de couleur
- Pages damaged / Pages endommagées
- Pages restored and/or laminated /  
Pages restaurées et/ou pelliculées
- Pages discoloured, stained or foxed /  
Pages décolorées, tachetées ou piquées
- Pages detached / Pages détachées
- Showthrough / Transparence
- Quality of print varies /  
Qualité inégale de l'impression
  
- Includes supplementary materials /  
Comprend du matériel supplémentaire
  
- Blank leaves added during restorations may  
appear within the text. Whenever possible, these  
have been omitted from scanning / Il se peut que  
certaines pages blanches ajoutées lors d'une  
restauration apparaissent dans le texte, mais,  
lorsque cela était possible, ces pages n'ont pas  
été numérisées.

# MONTREAL HEARTHSTONE

DEVOTED TO CHOICE LITERATURE ROMANCE &...

VOLUME III. GEO. E. DESBARATS, PLACE D'ARMES HILL. MONTREAL, SATURDAY, AUGUST 3, 1872. TERMS, \$2.00 PER ANNUM. No. 31.

For the Hearstone.

## THE NIGHTINGALE AND THE LARK.

BY ISABELLA VALANCY GRAYFORD.

A Lark sprang from her nest as the day rose in the East, And she shook the glancing dewdrop from her wing; And as shrilly, clear and gay, rose her gladness roundelay. A Nightingale, enraptured, heard her sing. "Come, Lark, and dwell with me," thus he sang melodiously. "And nestle in the pink and perfumed thorn; In the dim and shady brake, such melody we'll make. As will charm again to sleep the bold eye'd morn."

"And while in silver streams, down pour the pale moonbeams, We'll chaunt to fairy revellers of the night; The Lark's plaint we'll hear, fram'd for his mistress' ear, And we'll mourn with the melancholy sprite. The Lark said by the stream will harken to our thorn, And strike her golden harp in sweet joy; And the Zephyr on its way, round the night primrose to play, Will bear us sweetest perfumes passing by!"

"Nay, nay, sweet Philomel," sang the Lark, "I love the well, Yet I may not share thy perfumed thorn with thee; Nor chaunt to airy fay, from its blossom laden spray. When the pale moon-beams are flooding all the sea. For me it is to rise, and pierce the gold-bar'd skies, That part to let the blushing morning thine; Dart thro' the rosy cloud, and with matin clear and loud, Proclaim to man the Day is born anew."

"Thou lovest the moonlit glade, and in evening's pensive shade, Alone dost pour thy melancholy lay, Thy mistress is the Moon, in her robes of silver'd gloom. And I love the rosy glances of the Day! So I bid thee farewell, melodious Philomel. And let us each be constant to our fate; Mine it is to usher in the Day with matin hymn, And thine upon the Queen of Night to wait!"

REGISTERED in accordance with the Copyright Act of 1868.

## THE DEAD WITNESS; OR, LILLIAN'S PERIL.

BY MRS. LEPROHON.

CHAPTER I.

LILLIAN TREMAINE'S BASHFUL RESOLUTION.

Tremaine Court was a large, irregular, weather-stained building, situated in the western part of the County of Surrey, bounded on two sides by arid, stony hills, at the back by a dense pine wood, dark and cool even in the hottest months of summer, whilst in front broad, flat meadows stretched out in interminable sameness.

An antiquarian might have derived satisfaction from a study of the quaint, many-gabled mansion, the foundations of which had been built whilst the princely Plantagenets still sat on England's throne. Trees, moat and draw-bridge and many other relics of bygone times had long since disappeared, but the heavy, oddly-carved portal and massive stone mullions still spoke eloquently of the past. A man of a thrifty and practical spirit, however, would have clinked at the countless indications of neglect and carelessness everywhere apparent. The east wing, partly in a ruinous condition, was evidently unoccupied, for doors and windows were closely nailed and boarded up. Wood-grown walks, gates broken off their hinges, fences and outbuildings deplorably out of repair, said little for the management of the master of Tremaine Court.

The interior dilapidation corresponded with that which reigned outside. Damp-stained walls, mildewed tapestry and painting, with decaying wood-work, were its characteristics; whilst the few articles of old-fashioned, cumbersome furniture to be met with in the various rooms gave evidence of the same indifference to comfort and appearance. Everything, however, bore the stamp of scrupulous cleanliness.

In a small, octagonal apartment facing the east, and lit up by a flood of sunlight that streamed over the old high-backed chairs and carpeted floors with a halo of brightness, were two girls who, though dissimilar in expression and feature, were nevertheless sisters. The eldest was pale and of small stature, with a face indicative alike of sorrow and physical suffering, through which, however, shone the light of a patient meek spirit. Her companion, evidently her junior by several years, presented a wonderful contrast to herself. Tall, exquisitely formed, with a countenance whose chiselled features would have been almost haughty in their regular beauty but for the soft splendour of her dark gray eyes and the waves of golden brown hair that rippled over her shoulders; she seemed the very incarnation of youth, health and beauty. Her bright young face, however, was clouded at the present moment and her crimson lips compressed; her eyes were fixed on the younger sister, who, looking at her mood was neither a pleasant nor a joyous one. The dress of both girls, though scrupulously clean and bearing marks of careful mending, was singularly poverty-stricken in appearance, and the thin, washed-out calico worn by the younger sister, the sleeves and skirt of which were much too narrow and short, had evidently been made for her before she had attained her present queenly proportions. A basket of coarse sewing and mending rested on the oaken table at which they sat, and their fingers moved diligently for



A HUMAN SKELETON, PARTLY CLOTHED IN FRAGMENTS OF WHAT HAD APPARENTLY BEEN A WOMAN'S NIGHT-DRESS, EDGED WITH RICH LACES.

a time in silence. At length the youngest abruptly said, with a sharp ring of pain in her voice:

"I tell you, Margaret, life is becoming intolerable to me, and there are times I care not how soon or in what way it may end."

"Lillian, my darling sister, do not speak so wildly. Patience—"

"Ah! I have none left, nor hope either. Tell me," and with a sudden movement she turned more fully towards her sister, "are these rays that barely shield us from exposure, for they do not protect us from cold; is the miserable, scanty nourishment furnished; are these bare, comfortless, wretched surroundings suitable to the daughters of Tremaine, in whose blood runs blood old and proud as any in England? Look! and with a passionate movement she dragged back her sleeve revealing her arm in its faultless symmetry.

"See this skin, smooth white as satin, then contrast it with these hands, disfigured with the roughest household drudgery, drudgery wrought not only in kitchen, but in out-house and garden. Think of the life we lead! Half-starved, overworked daily, outraged in every good and gentle feeling, tyrannized over by a heartless father and a mental upstart. Oh, Margaret! how can you still talk of patience?"

"My poor Lillian, what else remains for us? Friend or relative, save our father, we have none; means, resources we have none. Our only alternative is submission to our lot."

"Margaret, Margaret, we are as dissimilar in character as in everything else. You are gentle, patient, holy as an angel; I, well, I am entirely the reverse. There is a stubborn pride, an impatience of injustice, a vindictiveness in me that at times would surely terrify you, my meek sister, when it often alarms myself. But a week ago—I have kept this secret from you till now—father, in one of his angry outbursts, threw a stool at me. I stood my ground, only bending my head slightly to avoid it, staring unflinchingly at him all the time. Almost livid with rage, he shouted: 'Quick, Stakely, take that girl out of the room, or I cannot answer for what may happen.' Curse her, she has her mother's hot-temper! Shaking off Madame Stakely's officious arm, I slowly left the room with open defiance in look and manner; but oh! Margaret, I felt that death would have been welcome to me then, even if it had been given by my father's hand. There must be more of my father's nature in me than of my poor, gentle mother's."

"Lillian, my love, my sister, what is this change that has come over you?" and flinging down her sewing the elder girl threw her arm round her companion's neck and lovingly drew the bright young head with its masses of silken hair down on her shoulder.

"Do you remember the lessons I have endeavoured, in my poor, humble way to inculcate, and the prayers I taught you even when you were a little child, as well as the promises of patience and forbearance you have so often made me?"

"Yes, Margaret," and the speaker sadly shook her head. "I was a child then, but I am a woman now."

"Ah, dearest, that should make you only the more patient. What is woman's chief study through life but to learn to suffer?"

"So it has generally been with the women of our house, sister, but such is not necessarily the case. Besides, there are things that can be endured meekly and patiently; others that cannot. Our father's harsh severity and apparent want of affection for us, his alarming violence when under the influence of the fatal stimulants to which he occasionally resorts, is hard to bear, so also is the penury, want and squalidness that surround us in the midst of riches and plenty. Still all this could be borne; but what I find intolerable is the odious, insolent tyranny of the woman called our house-keeper, but who is in reality our task-mistress."

"My Lillian, do not at least quarrel with our inevitable poverty, nor talk so childishly of our possessing wealth and riches."

"But I say we do, Margaret! Think of the rolls of bank notes father gives that Miss Stakely at the beginning of every month. I sit not well known in the village of Brompton that she supports her married daughter in a style of ease to which we are strangers, though her son-in-law rarely does a day's work or curries a shilling? Then does she not pay for her other girl, poor wretched Dorothy, in a private lunatic asylum, where the charges are exorbitantly high? See the comfortable manner in which her room is furnished—the soft, fine fabrics she wears, the dainties and rich wines that spread her solitary table in her own sitting room. Ah, a mystery there is about her which I will yet fathom! The unbounded influence she exerts over our father is not derived from friendship and regard for I have seen him time and time again look at her from under his bent brows in a manner that seemed clearly indicative of fear and dislike. I

have walked through life till lately with my eyes closed as it were, but they are opened at length, and I will never rest till I find out the real meaning of many things that puzzle me now. Again I repeat that I have good grounds for believing that we are rich in actual wealth. You remember the old man that came here last winter to help in nursing father through his terrible attack of delirium? Well, under promise of strict secrecy he told me that many years ago, shortly after father had returned from abroad, he was waking one day in the garden when Mrs. Stakely came out in a great fright and asked him to accompany her to the stone vault under the east wing as Mr. Tremaine, who had gone down there for some business papers, had been suddenly seized with a sort of fit, and she did not know but that he might die on the spot. Old Davy went with her and found father lying on the ground, in a sort of stupor, with staring eyes and white ghastly face. He helped the house-keeper to drag him into one of the outer cellars where a window grating admitted the fresh air, and after a time that brought him round. Now, you know, Margaret, that one of the traditions of Tremaine Court is that the founder of the race had a secure vault constructed under the east wing of the building for the express purpose of storing gold, through as far as I can judge from our annals, the said vault has proved quite a superfluous luxury, as no Tremaine seems ever to have had any gold to store, they wanting it all for actual use. We, ourselves, however, are favored exceptions I sincerely believe to this rule."

"Why do you think so, Lillian? Did old Davy see any gold whilst he was down in the vault?"

"No; but he saw a long, brass-bound oak chest heavily padlocked, which he knew contained gold, silver, or valuable jewels. My old informant added that a spade stood in a corner as if for immediate use as he supposed Mr. Tremaine was about to bury some of his treasures. The truth of Davy's story I will yet ascertain. You shake your head, sister, as if this were impossible, but to a firm, daring nature rendered almost reckless by misery, few things are really so. Alas! I see my way to a certain extent clearly before me. Listen. Last week when Mrs. Stakely had gone to the village, probably to draw the money for father from the bank, I brought him up in pursuance with her parting commands, his evening meal. He was asleep and the decanter on the stand beside him, as well as the oppressive atmosphere of the room,

heavy with spirituous fumes, announced that his sleep would probably be long and profound. Whilst hesitating whether to awake him, or else return with my tray, I rested it a moment on the bureau. The small top drawer of the latter was open, and therein lay a bunch of keys labelled 'east wing.' To a heavy, peculiar looking brass one was affixed a card, inscribed with the words: 'Oak chest in east vault.' Now, my quiet Margaret, model of listeners, what do you say to my discoveries?"

"They are worse than useless. Forbidden knowledge is always dangerous."

"What a dear gentle moralist you are!" rejoined the other, with a smile that lit up her face like sunshine, making it for the moment almost startling in its glowing, wonderful beauty. "Listen!" and she caught her sister in a playful embrace. "Forbidden knowledge, like forbidden pleasures, is popularly supposed to be sweet, and I will taste it. The next time Mrs. Stakely goes to Brompton to pass the night with her sick daughter, and father—well, goes to sleep soundly, we'll say—I shall bring in his supper, take the keys from the drawer, and thoroughly explore the east wing."

"The eldest girl's cheek blanched. 'For God's sake do not venture on so wild, so mad a step! What! venture at night into that lonely, ruinous place, shut out as it is from all human help or ken?"

"What would I have to fear except rats and beetles, of which I am less afraid than most women are?"

"But, Lillian, people have said that the place is haunted."

"What a speech for my wise, sensible Margaret to make, who is as free from superstition as it is possible for mortal to be. For myself, I could say with Madame de Staël, in speaking of ghosts: 'I do not believe in them, but I fear them.' Nevertheless, at the risk of meeting the shadowy horrors, I will, on the first occasion, carry out my intention. Why, Margaret, are you going to cry over it?' she hastily added, as tears filled her companion's sorrowful eyes: 'Well, I will think twice before I risk my projected exploration, so we will change the subject for one less painful and exciting.' A pause followed, and then Lillian, throwing down her sewing, drew from the bottom of the basket, where they had been concealed under some linen and cotton, a tiny slip of old paper and a pale blue ribbon, which she proceeded to stitch together.

As Margaret noted this a faint smile stole over her lip, and she softly said: "So my sister Lillian—I can no longer call her my 'little Lillian,' as I used to do not so very long ago—begins to listen to the promptings of feminine vanity, and to study self-adornment! I have noticed also that for a few weeks past you arrange your hair differently to the plain, neat manner in which you once braided it at the back of your head. Rippling down in a shining shower of curls, as it now is, is certainly very becoming. In fact, picturesque, but I should also think rather uncomfortable, and, to be plain, untidy."

"Ah, sister, I have been admiring looks more than once directed at it in its present flowing state."

"And by who?" was the wondering question. "Surely not Mrs. Stakely or father?"

"No certainly not by them."

"I again ask by who?" and this time a look of vague alarm stole over Margaret Tremaine's face.

Lillian's cheek hotly flushed. "Sister, I ought to tell you, and twenty times I have been on the point of doing so, but fear of your sorrowful displeasure has always kept me silent."

"Lillian, dear, speak now. What is it?"

"I will. Do you remember, about three weeks ago, when Mrs. Stakely was at Brompton, I went out with my basket to gather mosses and ferns, which, you know, I prefer to the handsomest garden flowers, in the pine woods at the back of our place. Just as I had reached the densest part of it, where I have been in the habit of wandering for years without ever meeting a human being, the report of a gun fired off close at hand started me, and my alarm was increased by the bounding out of a dog from among the bushes, barking furiously. Greatly terrified, for I am more afraid of dogs than of ghosts, I hastily retreated, endeavouring at the same time to ward him off with my basket, the sight of which appeared to glad him to frenzy. At this critical moment there was another entrance on the stage, and from the direction in which the dog had come stepped forth a tall, thick, military looking man, carrying a gun, and dressed in the rough sportsman's style. In courteous terms he apologized for the fright he had unintentionally caused, and then, looking more closely at me, and seeing, I suppose, that my very lips were white with terror, he, in a softer and more deferential tone, asked permission to accompany me a little distance, to ensure me against any new alarm in the agitated state I then was. There came an expression of perplexity over his face as his eye rested for a moment on my miserable faded calico, coarse straw hat, and heavy leather shoes, so plainly revealed by my disgustfully short dress."

"Very little poor Lillian prided herself on the rare beauty of a foot and ankle inwardly pronounced by the stranger the most perfect he had ever seen, or which might have chafed less at a circumstance that now dyed her cheek with the hot blush of mortification. "To his offer I replied in the negative adding that Tremaine Court was near at hand. He started, re-estimating the words, Tremaine Court, and then hesitatingly said: 'Are you—are you a member of the family?' "Yes, the youngest daughter."

"With a quick glance at me he resumed, 'I might have known you, Miss Tremaine, from your strong resemblance to your mother when I knew, though slightly, before I embarked with

\* Je n'y crois pas, mais je les crois.

my regiment for India many long years ago. Then without direct questioning he led me on to give him many harmless details such as that we led a most tedious, quiet life—that in you, my eldest sister, I possessed a friend, teacher, and mother, that we kept no servants—how else account for the state of my poor hands—finally, that he was the first stranger in my own rank to whom I had spoken for three years. As the word rank unthinkingly escaped my lips I involuntarily glanced down at my old dress with its faded pattern, and felt as if I could have died from shame at the empty boast. "Dear Miss Tremaine," he said with an accent of inexpressible gentleness, "though I am but a stranger, you may safely confide on me the title of friend, which I will give, if it permits it, fully earn." After a few more words we reached the edge of the wood where he left me divining, I suppose, from the alarmed glances I cast in the direction of the house that I feared being seen with him. Before parting he gave me his card on which was inscribed his name, Col. Neville Atherton, late Madras Cavalry. His health consequent on a long sojourn in India had compelled him to leave the service. He had returned to his native land, settled down at Atherton Park his ancestral home, purchased some months ago, a shooting lodge not very far from Tremaine Court, and comes down to it occasionally for a few days' sport. So there is a veracious account of the first chapter of my life's romance.

"Lillian, Lillian, my thoughtless sister, how imprudent of you to hold such long converse in a lonely wood with a perfect stranger!"

"And that is not all Margaret. I met him again another morning that, suffering from a severe headache, I had gone out for fresh air on the breezy flat; and we had a delightful walk together. He accosted me with the most cordial friendliness, saying that his mother to whom he had spoken about his meeting with myself, had told him that there existed a certain relationship between his family and ours, the Tremaines and Athertons having intermarried though it was many years ago. We also mentioned that old Mrs. Atherton had known our father or mother well and had liked and admired her exceedingly. Finally he asked leave to call on father and ourselves, but I quickly assured him such a thing was out of the question."

"God help us!" moaned the eldest sister as she pressed her hand to her forehead with a look of acute mental pain. "What evil fate has added this last difficulty to the many that surround us already?"

"Nonsense, dearest Margaret, every trifling alarm you; but to finish my story as frankly as I began it, I intend to meet him again as soon as fate will permit, and it is for his eye I am quitting this poor little bit of lace and ribbon together."

For a moment Miss Tremaine gazed at her sister in bewilderment, dismayed silence, and then in a voice that mingled with pain, supplication and fear, whispered:

"Oh Lillian promise me you will not do this! For the sake of our dear mother, of the love and care with which I have watched over you from childhood, promise! Think, my sister, how I love—worship you. Earth holds naught else in the present, nor in the future, save that love; for to me, the sickly pale-worn invalid, no girlish dreams and hopes such as others of my age can indulge in, may ever come. Have pity on me then, my bright, beautiful sister, and promise you will not meet again this ungenerous stranger who takes advantage of your childish inexperience and youth to involve you in stolen meetings that may yet deprive you of the last jewel that belongs to the daughters of the Tremaines, that of a spotless reputation?"

"Ah Margaret, and the youngest girl's lips quivered, "if I did not love you with a love equal to your own, I would not sacrifice for your wish the only pleasant dream that has ever yet brightened my dreary existence. However, Heaven forbid I should voluntarily bring tears to those dear eyes that have already wept so much; so I only promise to have done henceforth with Colonel Neville Atherton of the Madras Cavalry before I quite lose my heart to him; however, I warn you that I may possibly at no very distant date indemnify myself by seeking an interview with the ghosts of the east wing."

"Be it so," returned the eldest girl to whom all risks now seemed trifling when placed in the balance with the anxiety inspired by Colonel Atherton's attentions. Plainly she could tell from the artless acknowledgements a few questions drew from Lillian that this heinous man of the world, fresh from the insane listlessness and apathy of the daughters of India, had been charmed not only by the girl's rare patrician beauty, but by the untrammelled innocent frankness of a happy young nature untried to the spell of a clear bright intellect such as she possessed.

"Thank God, my truthful, upright sister, that I can put perfect trust in your word. You have never deceived me yet, but hush, here comes Mrs. Stukely."

CHAPTER II. MRS. STUKELY.

Slowly and widely the door was thrown open and a tall woman of rigid unbending presence with dark colourless skin, and cold light gray eyes gleaming suspiciously from beneath thick jetty eyebrows, entered the room. She was dressed in dark tints of gray and purple, but the material was rich and soft, whilst the cap that covered the smoothly braided, still abundant, hair though unadorned with flower or ribbon, was trimmed with rich black lace.

"Well, young ladies, you seem to be forgetting in your interesting conversation that there is such a thing as dinner to be prepared to-day. Lillian, go at once to the garden and gather some lettuce and pens. Take care that you do not pick unripe worthless ones as you did yesterday."

Suddenly the girl commenced folding up her work, taking it must be acknowledged an unnecessary amount of time to the task. Mrs. Stukely stood watching her with an evil light in her sinister gray eyes, then added:

"Hurry, girl, or the dinner will be late, and your father's anger—no light matter thoroughly aroused. Has it no terrors for you?"

"Scarcely. I am so much accustomed to abuse and harshness that I begin to take them as matters of course."

"Lillian, hush, I implore you!" whispered Margaret.

"Ah, poor sister, such is always your cry, but what has your angelic patience won for you? Nothing, except that light and colour have been stolen from your face—hope and joy crushed out of your heart."

At this juncture Mrs. Stukely's eye caught sight of the lace frilling on which Lillian had been for some time working, and darting forward, she snatched it up, exclaiming:

"So it is on such silly frippery as this you spend time that should be devoted to useful household duties, you vain idler!"

"Please put down that lace Mrs. Stukely," rejoined the girl calmly, "unless indeed you covet and intend to appropriate it, as articles of more value belonging to my dear mother were appropriated years ago."

"Be silent for my sake, darling Lillian!"

whispered the trembling Margaret in the speaker's ear. "Such scenes will kill me."

During her evident terror Lillian after one parting glance of uncompromising defiance at her antagonist swept from the room with the port of an empress.

"What has come over that girl?" at length ejaculated the irate housekeeper. "Pervorse and insolent she has always been from her cradle upwards, but at least there was measure in her arrogance, now there is none. There must be an evil spirit upon her."

"Mrs. Stukely, may I remember that she is very young. Her character too, though generous and affectionate, is quick and impulsive—allowances will be made for her."

"Some Margaret, none whatever. The evil spirit that is in her must be curbed, ay, and cast out, even if her heart be broken in the struggle."

"For the sake of that dear mother, Mrs. Stukely, whom you lived with so long—nursed in her dying hours, you must bear with the trivial impertinences of the child."

A shiver of strong emotion ran through the housekeeper's frame, and with a malicious compression of her lips, and a strange husky intonation in her voice she rejoined:

"Ay, that is it! Like mother—like child. If ever pride and obstinacy dwell under a calm quiet exterior it did in Lillian's mother, just as it dwells in Lillian now."

"Shame, Mrs. Stukely!" retorted the usually all-enduring Margaret. "How can you malign my dear mother thus? I have spoken with the clergyman who so frequently visited her during her last illness, and who knew her intimately for long years previous, and he praised her as I have heard few women praised."

"Simple girl, he could not well do otherwise when speaking of her to her own child. Ask your father his opinion on the subject and he might enlighten you a little."

Margaret's lips quivered. "Ah! if her life," she murmured, "were anything like mine and Lillian's, what a relief death must have been to her—how she must have welcomed his approach."

"Enough of this idle gossip!" exclaimed Mrs. Stukely with strange abruptness. "See at once to making your father some of the wine jelly he likes so well, and remember, put in the flavoring essence carefully—counting the drops."

CHAPTER III. THE EAST VAULT.

Lillian Tremaine faithfully observed the promise given to her sister of avoiding all further interviews with Colonel Atherton, and more than once the latter had wandered with dog and gun through the woods in the unavailing hope of meeting the fair young being who had, without apparent effort on her part, thrown a spell around him such as his reserved and somewhat cold nature had rarely yet acknowledged. The incongruity of Lillian's dress and surroundings with her name and actual social rank, which might have chilled or repelled him the more, adding to admiration for her beauty a feeling of sympathy and compassion, as well as a sentiment of strong indignation against the father who set such poor store on so rare a child.

Lillian resolutely endeavoured to forget him, substituting for the frequent remembrances of their two meetings, that recurred so often to her, the thought of her meditated exploration of the uninhabited portion of Tremaine Court.

Her opportunity at length came on one bleak rainy evening that Mrs. Stukely had gone to Brighton to spend the night with her sick daughter. After tenderly bidding her sister Margaret—who was suffering from a severe attack of pain in her hip—to bed, and giving the anodyne potion prescribed for such occasions, she carried up her father's light supper at eight o'clock. He was wrapped in deep sleep, a heap of papers and periodicals beside his bed, and though the full light of the lamp streamed on his face, it had no power to awake him from the heavy slumber of intoxication. Roger Tremaine had been a very handsome man in his youth, but his regular features had long years ago been robbed of their comeliness by indulgence in his favourite vice. The years, indeed, through all changes, the expression of relentless sternness that had distinguished even them in early boyhood.

Lightly Lillian crossed the room, set down her tray, and then tried the tiny drawer, but it was locked. Determined not to be baffled, she looked around, and a small key attached to her father's watch chain, which was suspended on a hook near his bed, met her keen gaze. She tried the key, which fitted, opened the drawer, and then replaced the watch guard in its former position.

A few hours after, lantern in hand, and shawl thrown over her head, she had let herself into the east wing, and was cautiously threading her way through long, narrow passages—vast recessing rooms, where every footstep set in motion clouds of the thick dust that covered walls, flooring and furniture alike. Decay and desolation were everywhere visible, and as a mass of plastering from the ceiling, disturbed probably by her footsteps or the opening of the door, rattled down around her, she hesitated for a moment, fearing that the worm-eaten flooring might give way beneath her feet and precipitate her into some unknown gulf below. Yes, the rumors of the east wing, the reason alleged by Mr. Tremaine for closing it up, was certainly a just one.

Of furniture there was not much, everything of worth or value having probably been removed years before. Old family portraits, grimy and blackened with dirt and age, hung on the walls, and stared blankly down on the intruder. Few of the doors on the first floor were locked, but on descending a staircase she found herself confronted by one that resisted all her efforts to open it. Putting her lantern on the floor, she tried her keys, and the fourth or fifth one fitted, but it required her utmost strength to overcome the stiffness of the lock. She at length succeeded, and panting with exhaustion, threw wide back the door; but just as she was about entering, it was clapped violently to as if by some unknown hand on the other side. For the first time Lillian faltered in her project, asking herself if this was not an omen sent to deter her from it; and the thought of return momentarily presented itself; but soon conquering her terror, she bravely pushed it open again and resolutely entered. A broken window, the strong draft from which had precipitated her, closed the door, explained the circumstance which had alarmed her, and reassured the lock on her key.

Suddenly a strange, unaccountable noise smote on her ear. She paused and breathlessly listened. It was not the scurrying of rats and mice in the wainscot, the moaning of the night winds through the broken casements, but a rustling, creeping sort of noise, now faint almost to extinction, then loud as if close beside her. The girl turned sick with fear. Was it human or supernatural? Ah! there it was close beside, just in a niche of the wall, buried in complete shadow. With the desperation of utter fear she sprang forward, and projected the light of her lantern full into the recess. The enigma was solved. Some strips of papering, detached in part from the wall, and trailing down on the floor, had produced, as they were swayed about

by the wind, the noise that had so greatly alarmed her.

With a light heart she now went on, resolved to yield no more to fear, but to seek a natural cause for every unaccountable phenomenon that might present itself. No new source of alarm, however, offered; and she threaded corridors ante-rooms, and descended staircases till she arrived at the cellars. Damp, noisome and inexpressibly gloomy they were, and sluggish, crawling vermin beset her path on all sides.

But soon what she deemed to be her goal came in sight: a low-browed door, defended with massive bars and studded with nails, which she felt must open into the last vault, as it was called. The bolts were discouragingly immovable, but some had fallen taken from the handle in her hand after a time conquered the impediment, and she succeeded in slowly forcing them back. She then applied the brass key, labelled as that of the last vault, to the lock, and opened the ponderous door with comparative ease. The morbid exclamations at first almost overpowered her, but fortunately the tide of life and health ran strong in her veins, and she soon overcame the sensation sufficiently to examine the place into which she had entered.

It was a low, square, stone apartment, with an opening for admitting light, or air. Curiously rising into lanterns under a calm light around, and the first object her glance fell upon was the long, brass-bound chest, the principal object of her visit. A heap of mouldering, musty papers, letters and accounts they seemed, lay in a corner; and these, with a rusty spade, probably the one of which David had spoken, were the only objects the vault contained. Placing her lantern so that its light might fall freely on her work, she inserted the key. It fitted well, but this lock was also hopelessly stiff. Would she ever succeed in turning it? Straining every nerve and muscle till perspiration beaded her forehead and her whole frame quivered with the intensity of her efforts, she returned again and again to the task. What! fall after all she had dared and braved? Surely such a thing was not to be thought of.

Pausing to recover breath, she examined the exterior of the mysterious object before her. What did it contain? Money, well, she would touch none of it, but would at least have the satisfaction of knowing that their alleged poverty was a fiction. It might be silver—old plate—of which very few specimens were to be met with on the sideboards of Tremaine Court, or perhaps it was jewels, papers or personal effects belonging to her mother. What if it should contain nothing but old receipts, accounts or leases of the time when her father owned the rich manor of Hillington, brought him by his wife, and gambled away later at the *rouge et noir* tables of Baden-Baden? Well, whatever were the contents she was determined on seeing them. Again she addressed herself to the task, and the lock sulkily and reluctantly yielded. Yes, it was opened at last, and with a low exclamation of satisfaction she lifted the lid. Then taking up the lantern she looked within, and this is what Lillian Tremaine saw:

*As a woman she might sleep in fragments of what had evidently been a woman's night dress edged with rich laces. The teeth were singularly perfect and white as ivory, whilst long tresses of fair silky hair yet adhered to the dry skull.*

What a sight for the pallid faced girl who stood there staring down with eyes full of stony horror at that awful spectacle.

Who or what had been the being whose mortal relics lay before her? What accident or crime had brought her here? Had her father anything to do with it?

As if fascinated by the terrible sight, or seeking some clue that might help to elucidate the mystery, she looked still more closely down into the chest. Suddenly a look of agonized intelligence flashed over her face—an expression of now and deeper horror looked from her eyes, and with a cry sharp, terrible as if a death blow had been suddenly dealt her, she fell unconscious to the earth, the lantern slipping from her hand and extinguishing the light in its fall, thus leaving her in darkness at that dead hour of night, in that dreary vault.

(To be continued.)

LIFE'S BETTER MOMENTS.

Life has its moments  
Of beauty and bloom;  
But they hang like sweet roses  
On the edge of the tomb.  
Blessings they bring us,  
As lovely as brief;  
They meet us when happy,  
And leave us in grief.

Lines of the morning,  
Tingeing the sky,  
Come on the suburbs,  
And off with them fly.  
Shadows of evening  
Hang soft on the shore:  
Darkness wraps them—  
We see them no more.

So life's better moments  
In brilliance appear,  
Dawning in beauty,  
Our journey to cheer,  
Fleeting as clouds,  
Like shadows of oen:  
Would that we, like them,  
Might melt into heaven!

REGISTERED in accordance with the Copyright Act of 1862.

TO THE BITTER END.

By Miss M. E. Braddon.

AUTHOR OF 'LADY AUDLEY'S SECRET,' ETC.

CHAPTER XXVI.—(Continued.)

"O, Sir Francis is come home, is he?" said Richard listlessly, looking round the familiar room, with its heavily-embroidered ceiling, and lattice windows looking out on a spacious stone yard, and tumble-down low-roofed outhouses, a pump, an empty dog-kennel, and half a dozen fowls scratching on a shrunken manure-heap. How well he remembered Grace sitting in and out of the old stone-flagged kitchen, pretending to help a little in the household work, sitting down by a sunny window to shell a great basket of peas, and running off before they were half done, and forgetting to come back!

"Sure to goodness, Mr. Redmayne, didn't you know about Sir Francis?" exclaimed Mrs. Bush, who evidently supposed that English newspapers would have made it their business to supply the colonies with the latest news of Clevedon Hall.

"How should I know?"

"Dear me! He's been back going on for a year. Let me see, it was last August as he came, and you not to know anything! He was married this morning to as sweet a young woman as you ever see—Colonel Davonant's

daughter of the Wells. I went over to see the wedding, but it was as much as I could do to get inside the church-door. I don't suppose as Kingsbury church was ever so full since it was built."

Richard Redmayne seemed quite indifferent to Sir Francis Clevedon and his affairs. He left the kitchen, and roamed through the old house, unlocking the doors of the rooms, which had been kept carefully locked in his absence, and going into one after another, only to stand for a little while looking round him, with a slow half-wondering gaze, as if he could hardly believe he had ever lived there. The rooms were all faultlessly clean, but had a damp chilly atmosphere, and a certain dreariness of aspect, as if they had been thus shut and thus disused for the last fifty years. If Richard Redmayne had been a believer in ghosts, he might almost have expected to see one in those dusky chambers, where the half-opened shutters let in the afternoon light grudgingly, leaving obscure corners where a ghost might lurk. But for Rick Redmayne there was only one shadow, and that was with him always.

He had lived and been happy in those rooms once upon a time. His thoughts went back to the days of the early manhood, before his wife's death, to pleasant peaceful days, when his worst care had been a doubtful harvest or sickening among his cattle, and from that quiet time they went to the summer afternoon on which his young wife left him smoking his pipe in the garden, left him with a light word and a loving smile, a little look back at him which he remembered to this hour, and thus left him for ever.

Bitter memories! Can any life into which death has once entered ever again be perfectly happy? Rick Redmayne had outlived the sharpness of his, but not the grief itself. Ten years after that day of horror, with his fair young daughter by his side, loving her with all the force of his strong heart, the recollection of that loss was as fresh in his mind as it had been in the first week of bereavement. And now that Grace was gone, he forgot the tranquil years that had intervened between those two great sorrows. It seemed to him rather as if an angry Deity with one sweep of his hand had left him desolate, robbed him of all hope and comfort.

If he had any virtue, it was that of Job. He did not curse God, and die. He lived; but he lived to cherish a purpose which perhaps was worse than the suicide's desperate sin. He lived on in the hope that fate would give his child's false lover into his hands—a vague blind hope at the best, but strong enough to keep him alive.

Sorely had he changed since that day when, dashed a little by misfortune, but still daring and hopeful, he had asked the indulgence of his creditors before he sailed across the world to redeem his fortunes. In mind and body the man was alike altered: moody where he had been social—doubtful and suspicious where he had been open and trusting as a child—brooding alone over his injuries, angry with the very world for having held such a traitor, rebellious against his God for having permitted such a wrong. In his outward aspect even the change was striking. It was not so much that his dark brown hair was streaked with iron-gray, that there were deeper lines than his actual years would have warranted upon the handsome rugged face. The change of expression was a greater change than this. The face had hardened, the eyes and mouth had grown cruel. At its best now the expression was at once gloomy and reckless; as if its best face of Richard Redmayne was the face of a man to be feared.

He came back to his old home, but not to his old habits, or his old friends. The friends had fallen away from him long ago, chilled and repelled by a change so obvious. Of the details of that sorrow which had changed him, the outer world, his small world, knew very little. People in Kingsbury knew that Grace Redmayne had gone away from home, and had died away from home, but when and where she had died had been told to none. This very silence was in itself mysterious, and to the minds of most people implied disgrace—some sad and shameful story which the girl's kindred kept hidden in their own hearts.

CHAPTER XXVII.

"BUT O, THE HEAVY CHANGE NOW THOU ART GONE!"

Richard Redmayne sat in the old room, and paced the old garden, or lay smoking his pipe on the grass under the cedar day after day, and made no attempt to occupy himself, physically or mentally, but let the days drag themselves out how they would. They were very slow to pass, yet so empty, that when gone they seemed to have travelled swiftly, like the days in a workhouse or a jail, where there is no greater event to mark the passage of time than the monotonously recurring hours for meals. He shrank from being seen in his old haunts, and from being greeted by his old companions. If he had himself committed some unpardonable crime against society, he could hardly have avoided his fellow-men more persistently than he now avoided all the friends of his youth and manhood. He rarely went beyond his own garden and orchard in the daytime; but at night sometimes, when the rover's restlessness was strong upon him, he would set out long after dark, walk fifteen miles, or so, across country, in a reckless mood which took no heed of distance or direction, and come back to Briarwood in the drowsy dawn, worn out and haggard.

"I try to walk the devil down, you see, Mrs. Bush," he said to his housekeeper, on returning from one of these rambles, a speech which filled the honest woman with consternation.

"There's something unkind about Richard Redmayne," she told her husband. "I don't think he's ever been quite right in his head, poor soul, since he lost his daughter."

He was in England, and he had come back to find his child's destroyer, yet he did so little. He went up to Mr. Smoothey's office, made an appointment with Mr. Rendel, the private inquirer, and offered that gentleman any terms he chose to demand if he would only find the man who had called himself "Walgru" on one occasion, and "Walsh" on another.

He pressed the business with such a feverish eagerness, that Mr. Rendel, who did not by any means see his way to making the required discovery, affected a kind of hopefulness for very charity.

"It is rather a difficult matter," he said. "You see, I have positively no clue. The man takes a furnished house at Hightgate, gives it up, pays every one in cash, on cheques or anything of that kind, and vanishes. I have no

photograph of the man, no knowledge of his profession, antecedents, anything; and yet you ask me to pick him out from the entire population of this city, supposing him to be an inhabitant of this city, which were by no means sure he is."

Richard Redmayne sat with his back to the dusty window of the dusty office, listening to those arguments with a gloomy countenance. "Never mind the difficulty," he said abruptly; "it's your trade to get over that. If it was easy to find him, I should have found him long ago. Find him, Mr. Rendel, and I'll pay you what you like for your difficulty."

"But, my good Redmayne," said Mr. Smoothey, in his comfortable family-solicitor-like way, "supposing the man found, what then? You have no redress. The law which makes abduction a crime would not tell here, since your daughter was nineteen years of age. Nor can you prove that any wrong was done her, or that any wrong was intended. To what end, then, would you trace the offender?"

"Never mind what end. Find him for me, that's all I ask you to do. I may have my own manner of reckoning with him. I want to see him face to face. I want to be able to say, 'You killed my daughter.'"

"Upon my honour, Mr. Redmayne, I think you look at this business from a very false and fatal point of view. Granted that a great wrong was done in tempting your poor child to leave her home; but remember that it is a kind of wrong committed almost every day, and a kind of temptation to which every good-looking young woman of the middle class is more or less subject. The fatal result was not a part of the wrong, not contemplated by the wrong-doer. Had your daughter lived, who knows that this gentleman might not have married her? Even if it were not his immediate intention to do so, he might have done so ultimately, prompted by conscience and affection."

"Don't try to humbug me by that see-saw kind of argument—if he didn't and if he did," cried Rick Redmayne roughly. "I only know that he stole my daughter away from her home, and that she died of that shame he brought upon her, and that I hold him her murderer."

"There was no use in talking to such a man. The words of wisdom were wasted on this passionate undisciplined soul. Mr. Smoothey shut his spectacles-case with rather an impatient snap.

"You must do as you please, Mr. Redmayne," he said. "I have no doubt Rendel will do his best with your business, and of course my legal advice you may want from me as at your service; but I really cannot see your motive."

"That man's in a bad way," said the astute Rendel, when the farmer had left the office. "The sort of man who would scarcely surprise me if he did something desperate. I shan't help him to find the seducer. In the first place, I consider the thing beyond the limits of possibility; and in the second place, even if I could find the man, it would go against my conscience to have my hand in bringing those two together. Yet you know, Smoothey, that my conscience is rather elastic."

"Toughish, certainly," answered the lawyer; "and warranted to stretch. However, I quite agree with you about this poor fellow Redmayne. The man has brooded on this subject until it has become a monomania."

Richard Redmayne went back to Briarwood soon after this interview, believing that he had done his utmost, but not till he had been to look at the cottage where his daughter died, and the grave in which she lay. The pretty little gothic bandbox on Hightgate Hill was let. He could only prowl up and down by the railings for a little, screened by the laurel hedge, listening to the fresh voices of children in the tiny garden. There were guelder-roses in bloom, and a bed of standard roses in the centre of the miniature lawn, bird-cages in the open window, the whole aspect of the place bright and joyous. He looked up at the window of that room where they had laid her in the last solemn slumber, looked at it, and thought of the day when she had lain there, a dull November day, with the rain beating against the window-panes, perhaps, and all nature gloomy. It wounded him to see the house under this cloudless June sky, to hear happy voices from the room where she had died broken-hearted.

He walked all the way to Hetheridge—seven miles along the dusty north road; then away westward, by a quiet cross-road, to the quietest village within twenty miles of London. He passed the village green, and the pond where the ducks were floating lazily in the sunshine, and went on beneath the shelter of chestnut and lime to the churchyard where Grace was buried. This sixth of June was her birthday, and he had chosen this day of all others for his pilgrimage to her grave.

"I might have brought some flowers or something," he said to himself as he opened the low wooden gate. "What a hard-hearted wretch I must be not to have thought of it! Did I ever go to see her empty-handed when she was at school?"

The churchyard was not particularly pretty one, only very solemn and tranquil, with a great yew-tree making a wide circle of shadow above the quiet green hillocks. There were no splendid monuments of modern date, but here and there a ponderous tomb with a rusty railing, a mouldering stone sarcophagus, with sinuous ivy creeping in and out among the cracks in the stone, and a dank moss thick upon the time-worn inscriptions. The charm of the scene was its utter tranquillity. A village churchyard on a hill, with a wide stretch of landscape below it, and only the faintest indication of a city in the far distance.

Richard Redmayne found his way to the gravestone. Was not every detail of the quiet scene burnt in upon his brain? The churchyard was empty of all human kind, yet on the granite slab there lay a wreath of waxen-petalled exotics, all pure white, and as fresh as if it had been that minute laid there.

Rick Redmayne went back to the gate, striding over the low graves recklessly. Who was there to bring votive wreaths to her grave—who, in all her little world—except the man who had destroyed her?

"He has been here," the farmer said to himself; "is here still, perhaps, loitering somewhere. O God, if I could only meet him, in this place, by her grave! It seems the fittest spot for us two to come face to face; and if we do meet here, I think I shall strangle him."

The muscular hand closed with a tighter grip upon the oak sapling which Mr. Redmayne carried as a walking-stick.

He planted himself by the churchyard-gate and waited, listening for a footstep on the gravel-path.

"I wonder that he can have the heart to stand beside her grave, knowing that he killed her."

It was not softened in any degree by this indication that his lost child was still held in loving remembrance. His only sentiment was wonder that her destroyer could presume to lay his wreath upon her grave—that he dared approach the scene which must needs remind him of his crime.

He waited an hour with a dogged patience, but no one came. Then he made a careful round of the churchyard, and meeting no one, knelt down and said a short prayer by his daughter's tombstone; not such a prayer as Christianity inspires—reverent, submissive, confiding; but tinged rather with that fiery spirit which might have breathed in the supplications of some outraged father in the old Greek days, when men's gods were of the stern mould; an appeal to the Eumenides—a blind wail for retribution.

He took the wreath in his strong hand when that prayer was ended—took it, intending to scatter those frail blossoms to the summer winds. The delicate petals seemed almost to shrink and shiver in his rough grasp; but after looking at it for a few moments with a moody countenance, he laid it gently on the stone where it had lain when he found it, encircling his daughter's name.

"She was so fond of flowers, and these white sweet-scented ones above all," he said to himself. "No; I won't spoil it, even though he put it there."

He rose at last and left the churchyard, meaning to make inquiries in the village as to the appearance of any stranger who might have been observed by the innkeeper or his gossips. In so small and primitive a place a stranger could hardly escape observation; but at the gate Richard Redmayne encountered the sexton, who had espied him from his cottage a few paces off, and had come out to see whether there might not be a sixpence to be earned in this direction.

"Would you like to see the church, sir?" he inquired.

"No; I don't care about churches. Have you been about here all the morning?"

"Yes, sir; in and out, on and off."

"There's been a man here; a man who brought some flowers to lay upon one of the graves."

"Like enough, sir. There's many as brings flowers; that's the beauty of this place; nobody ever interferes with 'em; the children never lays a finger on 'em."

"You haven't seen any stranger, then, this morning?"

"Well, yes; there was a gentleman I met, coming out of this here gate, like as I might meet you now this minute, above an hour ago."

"You didn't know him?"

"Not to call to mind his name; but I know his face well enough. He's got somebody buried with us, I make no doubt."

"Does he come here often?"

"Not as I know of. I took the liberty to wish him good-morning; but he only made answer by a nod, and walked off before I could ask him if he'd like to see the church."

"Look here," said Richard Redmayne, with his hand in his pocket. "Here's half-a-crown for you. Tell me what the man was like, as close as you can, and I'll make it five shillings."

He tossed the coin to the sexton, whose shrivelled old countenance wrinkled into a rapturous grin.

"Lor a-mussy, sir, I wish I were a better hand at that sort of work. The gentleman were full and dark, with his eyebrows marked very strong, like givin' him rather a fierce look. His face looked to me as if it were made of wrought iron; but he was a personable sort of a man for all that, and quite the gentleman."

"That will do," said Richard Redmayne, throwing him a second half-crown. "If ever that man comes this way again, you get some one to follow him, and if you find out where he goes, and where he lives, I'll give you a five-pound note. Remember that."

"Lor, sir, it's a thing I snever did in all my born days," cried the sexton, gazing at Rick Redmayne with an awe-stricken countenance; "you bain't one of these here perlice officers in plain clothes, be ye?"

"Never mind what I am; you do what I tell you, and earn a five-pound note. You can telegraph to me at this address when you find out what I want to know, and you shall have your money by return of post."

Rick Redmayne wrote his address on a page of his pocket-book and tore out the leaf, which he handed to the sexton.

"I am as willings as any one in Hetheridge to earn a honest penny, sir; but fellerin' any one so seem'g so out of the way and under-and-like. Certinly, there's my grandson Thomas, as sharp a lad as ever any one need wish to see, and as fleet-footed, he might follow any gentleman afoot or a-horseshack, and I don't believe as he'd be left behind; and a rare artful lad too, and an uncommon favourite with our parson; Lor, how he do give out the responses in the psalms; you might a-most hear him out here—that sharp and shrill!"

"Find out where this man lives, and earn your money," said Mr. Redmayne. "Don't lose that bit of paper with the address. Good-bay."

He walked away rapidly, leaving the sexton pondering, and scratching his head with a puzzled air.

"As to artfulness," he muttered to himself with an inward chuckle; "if it comes to that, our Thomas might get his livin' by fellerin'; but I don't know what parson would say to it. Howsumd'ever, there's no call for him to know."

(To be continued.)

Letter from the Rev. J. Salmons, M. D.

CHIPMAN, Queen's County, N. B.

Mr. James J. Collins, Sir.—In the article of Medicine I have recommended your Compound Syrup of Hypophosphites, and have found invariably the following results: Greater freedom to the action of the Lungs, increased and more easy expectoration in cases indicated by dry cough, and decided augmentation of tone to the whole nervous system.

I can safely and consistently recommend your invaluable preparation in a variety of cases, especially for these diseases, having success fully prescribed it in Bronchitis, Asthma, Debility from Liver Complaint, Debility from Fevers, and Debility from Impoverished Blood.

I am, sir, your truly, JAMES SALMONS, Practising Physician and Surgeon.

Stiff and stiffened limbs, stiff joints limbered and strengthened by Johnson's Anodyne Liniment.

ON THE SHORE.

BY LIZZIE G. HARDY.

She stood upon the other shore, And watched me as I launched my boat, Her white robes gleaming in the sun, Her bright hair on the breeze aloft; And, as I clef the rippling waves, Her dear voice rang out sweet and clear, "Dear love, I know you'd surely come, And so I waited for you here."

Then as I moored my tiny craft, And clasped my darling's snow-white hand, The last rays of the sunset fell Across the sunny, wave-kissed strand. "Remember, love," she gaily cried, "That over, when the day is o'er, And sunset crimson 'or the tide, I'll wait for you here on the shore."

Alas! the years creep on so slow, And life has grown so blank and cold, Since I have lost the rare, sweet smile, And tender, loving words of old. Around me falls the setting sun— I know the day is almost o'er— The mystic waves dash o'er my feet— Love, are you waiting on the shore?

WIDOW WOOD.

BY MARY KYLE DALLAN.

I don't say that brother Ben's widow wasn't good looking, for her age and her size. Then, too, she had a pretty penny left her. Ben was always lucky in business. And she might have married very well, if she wanted to change her condition; but, you see, Margaret Ann was a fool—she, a widow of forty, to set her cap at young Sam. Spencer, who was only twenty-four! If I was her brother-in-law, and if Ben had said to me, as he did, "Richard, always be kind to Margaret Ann," I couldn't help seeing that. The fact of the matter is, that if you see a widow, do make fools of themselves of other than girls.

In this case, I admit, age was the only obstacle. Sam was a good young man—above selling himself to a woman old enough to be his mother, for her money-bags. Sam was clerk in the store. I was poor Ben's partner. I'd tried to buy the widow out. I'd said, over and over again: "Margaret Ann, you have plenty, and to spare; why not retire?" But, you see, she wouldn't. Ben had left his share of the business to her, and she wouldn't drop it. After a while I found out the reason. It was Sam. Spencer.

That was why she liked to sail about the store in her dead black silks; that was why she was always finding some excuse to hand down that part of the stock he had in hand, raising everything up, and giving him no end of trouble.

You see, I couldn't help it. The concern paid, and the Widow Wood owned just as much of it as I did. If I'd said, "Margaret Ann, go home," she could have said, "I've a right here." That was it. She never waited on a customer. She never did anything but bother and pry. She had no children to occupy her, and she brought her pet white poodle along with her. "So lonesome," she said she was, "in the big house opposite, and that was why she had us come to tea so much, of course."

Well, this went on for nearly a year. Big eyes at Sam, sweet smiles, soft speeches! I used to wonder whether old Ben knew how soon he had been forgotten. To be sure he was sixty when he died, and a bald-headed, stoop-shouldered man, with solemn ways about him; but she'd been his wife for twenty-three years, and though I'm a bachelor, I know what feelings ought to be. And Ben was my brother too. I hope it wasn't wicked of me to make up my mind to put an end to her capers, as far as Sam went, and to tell him that we wanted a young lady as a cashier, and what not, and that if Lilly Rathbone could leave Grigg and Grater, I'd give her the place. Sam was in love with Lilly, I know that; but Margaret Ann had never seen her.

"Margaret Ann," says I, one day, "we'll have a new cashier to-day. We need one, and I've engaged one."

"Well," says Margaret Ann, "perhaps we do. I hope he's a nice young man, and good looking. Good looks attract custom."

"I'm glad you coincide with me," says I. And I laughed to myself, for I knew Margaret Ann was thinking of some one else to fill with. But I said nothing.

It was fun to see her face change when she saw Lilly behind the counter next day. And she gave it to me in the private office, I can tell you. She hated formulas about a store, and she didn't like Lilly's looks. I could laugh at her, however, there. I had good references with Lilly, and I had signed a written agreement with her for six months. She was to be cashier, you see, as I told you. Margaret Ann couldn't help herself, and I suppose she knew it, for she said nothing after that, and Sam, and Lilly were as happy as young birds. I believe he proposed to her behind my counter; I know he did it somewhere, and I know he was accepted.

"Lor, bless you," says I, to myself, "and help you build your nest." I'm not crusty, if I am a bachelor.

A few days after, I found Margaret Ann walking the office in a towering rage, with her face flaming.

"Richard," says she, "a woman is always right about another woman. Men admire a pretty face so, that they are blinded by it. It was always so with Mr. Wood. Many a time he's thought a woman everything that was splendid until I've proved that she wasn't, by telling him things. Now I've found out your Lilly Rathbone. She's exactly what I thought—exactly!"

"Well, what is it?" says I.

"No better than she should be," says Margaret Ann. "I saw her kiss Sam. Spencer behind the counter this blessed morning."

"And he didn't want her to, I suppose, and hollered for help?" says I.

"You know what men are," says she; "of course he kissed her back?"

"Didn't he kiss her first?" says I.

"Well, she let him any how," says she.

"Well," says I, "I suppose you need to kiss Ben, after you were engaged, if not before."

"What has that to do with it?" says she.

"Why, they—at least—did he propose her coming here, Richard?"

"No," says I; "but they are engaged, Margaret Ann."

"Don't believe it," said she.

"It's gospel truth," said I.

"And then—well, I didn't mind it; it didn't hurt me a bit—but then that woman turned around and slapped me in the face, she was so hopping mad!"

"Such actions in a respectable store! You deserved brute!" says she; and marched out, and didn't come back for a week, for which I was truly thankful.

When she did come, it was all smiles and amiability; and she talked to Lilly, and she smiled at Sam, and she really did come out beautifully, considering. Lilly took a great notion to her.

"What a nice, pleasant lady Mrs. Wood is," she said, as we were filling things up that night; "and so pretty too, for her age, I think she's splendid!"

"That you like her," said I.

"Dear me!" said she, with her head under the counter.

"Sister-in-law, you know," said I; "one of the family; it won't do to praise her too much."

"Oh, I wasn't thinking of what you said, Mr. Wood," said she. "I'm so surprised about my key, I'm sure I hung it here. A little brass door key, with a nick in the handle and a piece of pink ribbon tied to it. I can't think where it is gone."

Well, we both looked everywhere. We unrolled packages and peeped into boxes, and poked down cracks in the floor. Lilly kept worrying about getting a locksmith to fit another key for her. I told Margaret Ann about it, and she was always so tired.

Rose was her sister. The two were orphans, and kept house together in one little room of a respectable tenement-house.

"I've always had tea ready before Rose got in," said Lilly; "but to-night she'll have to wait."

It's odd how we remember little things sometimes. Perhaps the girl's pretty puzzled face, and her graceful motions as she ran about looking for the key, impressed this one on my mind. At all events we did not find the missing key tied with pink ribbon, and Lilly went home with a sad face.

I told Margaret Ann about it when I saw her next, and she inquired very politely of Lilly as to the end of the affair, when she next saw her. The key was never found, but Lilly said she had had two made, so that such a thing could never happen again. She would keep one, and Rose the other.

"And as I presume it was lost here, you must have the value of it from us," said Margaret Ann. "It's not much, but it's not just." And that I thought very kind of Widow Wood, considering.

Well, time passed on, and one day was about like the other. Winter went, and summer came. People began to go to the country, and trade was dull. And Sam, told me that Lilly and he were going to be married soon, God willing.

I just left Sam, when Margaret Ann's colored girl stepped across the street, and told me that her mistress wanted to see me.

Of course I went over. And when I got into the back-parlor, I found Margaret Ann wrapped up in a shawl, her eyes red with crying.

"Anything happened?" says I.

"Yes," says she, "I'm afraid so. I'm so sorry."

"Dear me! Do mention the facts," says I.

"Well," says she, "I can hardly bear to do it; but—when has a chance at the safe besides you and me?"

"Nobody but Lilly Rathbone," says I.

"You are sure?" says she.

"Why, of course," says I.

"Ah! Well," says she, "perhaps there's another way out of it. May be you've had occasion to use that money of mine. I mean the thousand-dollar bank-note that I put in there, in a red pocket-book, last week."

"No," said I. "Of course I'd have spoken of it. It was your private money."

"It's gone, Richard," said she. "You saw me look in the safe to-day?"

"Yes," says I.

"Well," says she, "it was gone then. I couldn't bring myself to speak of it. You see, a girl like that has so many temptations; going to marry, and all. Richard, promise me you won't have her arrested, or anything, if it is her."

"It is not," I cried. "Besides, it was your money. You would be the prosecutor of any thief."

"Dear me, yes," says she, "and I'll let her go; but I must get it back, and she must leave the store."

"How can you think so ill of the girl?" says I. "Why don't you suspect me? I'm ever so much more doubtful a character than she is."

"You are my brother-in-law," said Margaret Ann. "Now listen to reason. Come to the store with me, and we'll search. If we don't find it, I'll charge Lilly with the theft to-morrow, and if she don't confess, get a search-warrant out for her rooms. I'll be very kind, but I can't lose a sum like that."

She cried again. I did really feel that she was in great trouble. We went to the store again, and searched the safe, but the money was gone. Margaret Ann had the number in her pocket-book. It was easy to identify it, and besides, a poor girl like Lilly did not pay respect to the man who treats them to a good thrashing. To see them at their utmost is to see them inside the manacles above alluded to. As a rule they are quiet enough, and humble enough there. Somehow or other, though, they are constantly coming to loggerheads with their keeper. The solution of this problem lies in the fact that they do not like work, and scheme by every possible means to do a minimum thereof. Naturally, they are found out, and made to take the consequences. They never get over their hatred of Lindley Murray, Coaker, and the various masters of the arts and sciences through which they are dragged. There are, in connection with many of these menageries, grand show days, when all the boys attend in their best clothes, clean white collars, and have their neckties tied quite straight. They are made to sit altogether, and are confronted by the spectators. They looked very frightened and tame—quite unlike the savage things they appear in their natural element. Some pompous gentleman, who has been invited by the keeper, then gets up and talks to them. They would go to sleep, only they are afraid. When the pompous gentleman finishes, some of the tamest of the collection are made to recite pieces, which they do as if they did not like doing it, and without once looking at the audience. They very often forget their parts, and get a cross look from the keeper, which makes them still more forgetful. After they have concluded their entertainment, and are comfortably on their seats again, the pompous gentleman gets up once more, and says he is surprised to find that they are such good boys and such clever boys, and hopes that they will always be a credit to themselves and their keeper, who is so very kind to them. Then one or two more pompous gentlemen get up, and say the same thing. The animals gaze at their inventors with astonishment, and their looks of incredulity evidence that they do not believe a word about their being such patterns. After the speaking is concluded, the boys are taken away to another part of the menagerie, where they are provided with cake, luns, oranges, apples, dried fruits, and sundry non-intoxicating beverages. The gluttonous propensities of a number are made painfully apparent, and the proceedings terminate by their keeper bidding them farewell in such an affectionate manner as leads them to doubt the evidence of their senses. They try in vain to realize how it is that the grim tyrant who has been the terror and bugbear of their lives for so many weary months, has suddenly become transformed into a gentle and fatherly friend.

Boys profess to have a great contempt for girls and girls' games. Nevertheless, it is a fact of which the student of natural history must take

drawing the quilt well down about the bed afterward.

"I hardly think you'll marry Sam. Spencer after a loss of her head," I've outwitted you."

"Not quite," said I. "Margaret Ann, there are two worlds to that matter."

I walked out of my closet, and stood with my back against the outer door. She knew she was trapped, but her wicked tongue had its way still.

"So, you're in the habit of coming here?" she said. "Nice young ladies, certainly!"

"I never came here before," said I, "and you know that; but I've been here all day, waiting for you. I saw Lilly's key in your basket last night, and I began to guess the truth. Bring me that pocket-book."

"Margaret Ann did it. She was as pale as death, and almost as cold. I looked at her, and felt sorry for her, after all."

"You're my brother's widow," I said, "and a poor, foolish, jealous creature. I haven't told any one of your suspicion yet, and I never will, on two conditions."

"Name them," said she; "I can't help myself."

"You'll retire from the business," said I.

"I'll do it," said she.

"And you'll give that thousand dollar note to Lilly as a wedding present."

She looked at me and gave a great gulp.

"Sister-in-law, you know," said I, "one of the family; it won't do to praise her too much."

"Oh, I wasn't thinking of what you said, Mr. Wood," said she. "I'm so surprised about my key, I'm sure I hung it here. A little brass door key, with a nick in the handle and a piece of pink ribbon tied to it. I can't think where it is gone."

Well, we both looked everywhere. We unrolled packages and peeped into boxes, and poked down cracks in the floor. Lilly kept worrying about getting a locksmith to fit another key for her. I told Margaret Ann about it, and she was always so tired.

Rose was her sister. The two were orphans, and kept house together in one little room of a respectable tenement-house.

"I've always had tea ready before Rose got in," said Lilly; "but to-night she'll have to wait."

It's odd how we remember little things sometimes. Perhaps the girl's pretty puzzled face, and her graceful motions as she ran about looking for the key, impressed this one on my mind. At all events we did not find the missing key tied with pink ribbon, and Lilly went home with a sad face.

I told Margaret Ann about it when I saw her next, and she inquired very politely of Lilly as to the end of the affair, when she next saw her. The key was never found, but Lilly said she had had two made, so that such a thing could never happen again. She would keep one, and Rose the other.

"And as I presume it was lost here, you must have the value of it from us," said Margaret Ann. "It's not much, but it's not just." And that I thought very kind of Widow Wood, considering.

Well, time passed on, and one day was about like the other. Winter went, and summer came. People began to go to the country, and trade was dull. And Sam, told me that Lilly and he were going to be married soon, God willing.

I just left Sam, when Margaret Ann's colored girl stepped across the street, and told me that her mistress wanted to see me.

Of course I went over. And when I got into the back-parlor, I found Margaret Ann wrapped up in a shawl, her eyes red with crying.

"Anything happened?" says I.

"Yes," says she, "I'm afraid so. I'm so sorry."

"Dear me! Do mention the facts," says I.

"Well," says she, "I can hardly bear to do it; but—when has a chance at the safe besides you and me?"

"Nobody but Lilly Rathbone," says I.

"You are sure?" says she.

"Why, of course," says I.

"Ah! Well," says she, "perhaps there's another way out of it. May be you've had occasion to use that money of mine. I mean the thousand-dollar bank-note that I put in there, in a red pocket-book, last week."

"No," said I. "Of course I'd have spoken of it. It was your private money."

"It's gone, Richard," said she. "You saw me look in the safe to-day?"

"Yes," says I.

"Well," says she, "it was gone then. I couldn't bring myself to speak of it. You see, a girl like that has so many temptations; going to marry, and all. Richard, promise me you won't have her arrested, or anything, if it is her."

"It is not," I cried. "Besides, it was your money. You would be the prosecutor of any thief."

"Dear me, yes," says she, "and I'll let her go; but I must get it back, and she must leave the store."

"How can you think so ill of the girl?" says I. "Why don't you suspect me? I'm ever so much more doubtful a character than she is."

"You are my brother-in-law," said Margaret Ann. "Now listen to reason. Come to the store with me, and we'll search. If we don't find it, I'll charge Lilly with the theft to-morrow, and if she don't confess, get a search-warrant out for her rooms. I'll be very kind, but I can't lose a sum like that."

She cried again. I did really feel that she was in great trouble. We went to the store again, and searched the safe, but the money was gone. Margaret Ann had the number in her pocket-book. It was easy to identify it, and besides, a poor girl like Lilly did not pay respect to the man who treats them to a good thrashing. To see them at their utmost is to see them inside the manacles above alluded to. As a rule they are quiet enough, and humble enough there. Somehow or other, though, they are constantly coming to loggerheads with their keeper. The solution of this problem lies in the fact that they do not like work, and scheme by every possible means to do a minimum thereof. Naturally, they are found out, and made to take the consequences. They never get over their hatred of Lindley Murray, Coaker, and the various masters of the arts and sciences through which they are dragged. There are, in connection with many of these menageries, grand show days, when all the boys attend in their best clothes, clean white collars, and have their neckties tied quite straight. They are made to sit altogether, and are confronted by the spectators. They looked very frightened and tame—quite unlike the savage things they appear in their natural element. Some pompous gentleman, who has been invited by the keeper, then gets up and talks to them. They would go to sleep, only they are afraid. When the pompous gentleman finishes, some of the tamest of the collection are made to recite pieces, which they do as if they did not like doing it, and without once looking at the audience. They very often forget their parts, and get a cross look from the keeper, which makes them still more forgetful. After they have concluded their entertainment, and are comfortably on their seats again, the pompous gentleman gets up once more, and says he is surprised to find that they are such good boys and such clever boys, and hopes that they will always be a credit to themselves and their keeper, who is so very kind to them. Then one or two more pompous gentlemen get up, and say the same thing. The animals gaze at their inventors with astonishment, and their looks of incredulity evidence that they do not believe a word about their being such patterns. After the speaking is concluded, the boys are taken away to another part of the menagerie, where they are provided with cake, luns, oranges, apples, dried fruits, and sundry non-intoxicating beverages. The gluttonous propensities of a number are made painfully apparent, and the proceedings terminate by their keeper bidding them farewell in such an affectionate manner as leads them to doubt the evidence of their senses. They try in vain to realize how it is that the grim tyrant who has been the terror and bugbear of their lives for so many weary months, has suddenly become transformed into a gentle and fatherly friend.

notice, that they are extremely frightened of girls, and in conjunction with this, must be afraid of the fact that girls are not much, if at all, afraid of them. The boys never look such abject things as they do when beside girls. It is then positively melancholy to regard them. They have not a single word to say, and are ever shyly looking round for opportunities to "bolt." Their keepers have been known, in a spirit of refined cruelty, to make a boy and girl link arms, and in that manner walk through a public street. The misery of the poor boy it is impossible to describe. The girl, of course, was contented enough, and disposed to grumble because the boy was not more seizable. Boys are almost, but not quite as much, frightened of women. But they like men, and are never tired of conversing with them.—*Laborer's Review.*

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S LEARNING.

A moderate-sized volume might be written on the learning and accomplishments of Queen Elizabeth. Her progress under her first instructors was marvellous. At eleven years of age she translated out of French verse into English prose "The Mirror or Glass of the Sinful Soul." This she dedicated to Queen Catherine Parr in an epistle dated from Ashbridge, December 31, 1541. This dedication and epistle have been printed by Thomas Hearne. When she was but twelve years old she translated from the English into Latin, French, and Italian, "Prayers and Meditations" collected out of certain pious writers by the most noble and religious Catherine, Queen of England. This she dedicated to her father, Henry VIII., in a Latin epistle dated from Hatfield, December 30, 1545. The MS. is now in the British Museum. About the same time she translated from the French "The Meditations of Margaret, Queen of Navarre, concerning the Love of the Soul of Christ." This was published by Bale in 1548, and has been reprinted. Camden says: "Before she was seventeen years of age she very well understood the Latin, French, and Italian tongues, and the Greek indifferently." Upon the death of her father and her tutor about the same time she was much encouraged by her brother Edward, who was exceedingly attached to her, and called her his *Lady Temper*. She now sent for Roger Ascham to supply the place of her tutor, and he left Cambridge for that purpose, and came to her at Chestnut. Her diligence in the study of the Greek and Latin classics was great, and Ascham writes from Greenwich to his friend Struthius "that he enjoyed at court as agreeable a freedom and respectment for his studies as he had ever done in the university; and that he was reading over with the Princess Elizabeth the orations of Aristotle and Demosthenes, de *Oratore*, in Greek, and that she understood at first sight not only the force and propriety of the language, and the meaning of the orator, but the whole scheme of the cause, and the laws, customs, and manners of the Athenians." Her studies were interrupted by the accession of Mary, but upon succeeding to the crown herself, after the settlement of the perplexed affairs of the Kingdom, she renewed them with great ardour. Ascham, in 1563, tells the young queen of England that "it was their shame that one maid should go beyond them all in excellency of learning and knowledge of letters tongues. Yet, he followed that besides her perfect reading in Latin, Italian, French, and Spanish, she read three or four more Greek every day than some prebendaries of that church did read Latin in a whole week." She employed also Sir Henry Saville and Sir John Fortescue to read to her. The latter (who was a most accomplished scholar) read Thucydides, Xenophon, Polybius, and the Greek tragedians to her. Richard gives a wonderful account of her own personal studies. It would be tedious to recount her translations and other works. On August 5, 1561, her Majesty went to Cambridge, and stayed five days in King's College. She was entertained with tragedies, comedies, orations, and other unbecoming exercises, and visited every college. Upon her departure she took leave of the university in a Latin oration, which has been preserved by Holmsted and Fuller.—*Churchman's Shilling Magazine.*

SCIENTIFIC ITEMS.

UPHEAVAL OF THE SWEDISH COAST.—The rate of upheaval of the Swedish coast, a fact long known to geologists, is shown by a large block of ice, which in September, 1846, was four feet above high-water mark, as is proved by an inscription to that effect, on the block, which was made in the summer of 1846, and is now, indicating a comparatively recent and rapid upheaval. The earliest record of this stone state that it was above the water, but not in



THREE LITTLE HAY-MAKERS.

BY EMMA ALICE BROWN.

Out in the summer sunshine We tossed the fragrant hay, Three careless, happy children, And work was sweet as play; Sweet for the blossoming clover, And the red of the cardinal's crest— Sweet for the hedge-lark's curdling song, And hints of her hidden nest.

Now, in the shadowy coolness Of the bowery haunts of June, We waded away, with song and play, The golden afternoon; And now, in the wake of the mowers, We raked the green hay; Till over the upland's woody crest The sun dipped red and low.

In the edge of the tangled covert, Where the lush blackberries hung, Like a jewelled pendulum to and fro A meadow sparrow had retired, And slinking out of the shadow, At the feet of the spiny ferns, A wild rose held to the sunshine The dew in her crimson urns.

And low in a tuft of daisies, With grasses woven round, In a nest of cunning fashion, Three speckled eggs we found, Translucent spheres of ivory, Froaked with purple and brown, And we laughed aloud in thoughtless glee, And we bent the tall grass down.

But ere, in our boyish mischief, A sun-burnt hand had stirred To grasp the tempting treasure— "Hoys, think of the mother bird," Said Ruth, our little sister, Plucking in the surprise, Her red lips all a-tremble, And tears in her big blue eyes—

"Hoys, think of the mother birdie, And the pang in her tender breast, When she finds in the trampled daisies A ruffled and broken nest. And busily dicing out bare toes Deep in the hilly grass, We covered, with downcast faces, Before our little lass.

The springs have bloomed and faded, The summers waned away, Since out in the happy sunshine We tossed the fragrant hay; And under the silver daisies, And the clover white and red, Our little sister lies. A meadow sparrow had retired, But the tender truth she taught me, Beside the ground bird's nest, Still blooms like a flower, amid the cars, And cringes of a world-worn breast.

BROOKDALE.

BY ERNEST BRENT.

Author of 'Love's Redemption,' etc.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

A MENTAL PICTURE.

It was hard to listen patiently to such words from the lips of Mr. Grantley; but Laurence did not lose his patience. He was as quiet and as dignified in his way as Everard; but he had a different kind of dignity. Mr. Grantley's manner always betrayed a consciousness of his own superiority—a lofty pride and power of character that made him cynical and haughty in his bearing towards his fellow men; and, well-bred as he was, his intense silent hatred of the journalist would show itself in spite of him.

"Miss Temple's visit to me is a question on which we need not exchange opinions," said Drayton, tranquil in his impenetrable strength of nerve, "and I do not want to see your letter, Mr. Grantley. When Eugene chooses any guardian for his sister other than myself, he will let me know, I am sure; and till then you will permit me to consider her free to make her own selection. As for the word you used just now, it was, to say the least, ill-advised and in bad taste. Whether it was unworthy of you, I am not prepared to say."

Julia placed her hand timidly upon his arm, and looked reproachfully at her cousin Everard. Her instinct made her aware that a deep and bitter antagonism there was between these two men. She saw Laurence quite unmoved, and she saw Grantley wince fiercely under some subtle implication in her lover's last words; but Everard did not reply to them. Skillful as he was in the swordsmanship of language, he lost ground in a single-handed contest with the impetuous young man.

"Perhaps it was ill-advised, and I withdraw it," he said, bending his stately head, after a slow pause. "Will you read Eugene's letter, Julia? I should like to hear what he has to say."

Miss Temple read it with a feeling of unmixed regretful astonishment. Her brother had left England.

"It would take too long, my darling Julia, to explain in full the reasons that have prompted me to take this step," he wrote, "for the Osprey, in which I have taken passage for New York, sails to-day, and I must go on board at once. I will write to you from America as soon as I have settled on some course of life—not an easy thing to do for a man who never contemplated the possibility of doing anything in the way of work. My friends would help me, but I do not like taking favours from them."

"I went to Brookdale full of suspicion, as you know, and looking back even from this short time, I wonder I could ever have been so absurd. Everard is simply a princely fellow—a little bit unpolished, perhaps; but what is there in that to weigh against a heart of gold? He insisted upon my returning to Brookdale—before Margaret and Everard this was, indeed—returning to resume my old position; and he said all he wanted was a welcome. I shall always look upon him as a brother now."

"As for Mr. Drayton, whom I had pictured as a diabolically pleased villain, capable of anything, he is an over-dressed, middle-aged dandy, who performs his dress and wears bull-iron boots in the middle of the day—a harmless, contemptible personage, with an undercurrent of the resent in him—the kind of person who could never exert himself to steal a ten-pound note if he could get or borrow one instead. I caught a glimpse of his wife—a magnificent woman. Uncle Clarence might be forgiven for much of his infatuation for her. Everard does not know there is any stir upon her part. The circumstances under which the poor but who died was born were explained to him in their greatest light by Everard, and he is very willing to give them a home at Brookdale. There is plenty of room, as he puts it in his simple way, and plenty of money. He would make the estate a kind of commonwealth if he had his wish. He does not and will not understand why one portion of the family should have more than another."

"When I left Brookdale, it was with the intention of going to Laurence, and telling him how kindly I had been received. I was more than half-inclined to fetch you at once, as Everard wished; but I thought I had better first see whether Drayton would think it consistent with our dignity to accept of such a position. Everard and I might seem to think it the right thing, and so it would not be very odd if he did the same. But while I was in the train I took

a different view of the matter. I had been master there, and if I went back I could be nothing less than master. No matter how thoughtful Edward may have been, there would still have remained the fact: Brookdale belonged to him, and not to me. My position, put it in no matter what light, would have been that of a dependant.

"So I did some quiet thinking during those long two hours and a quarter, and came to a resolution to begin life on my own account. If I fall, I can but come back to Vale Cottage, and accept Mr. Wyatt's offer of a secretaryship, which one of his friends would give me. Or Everard might help me to some way of making money. He seems to have found a tallisman lately. It is something to do with public companies, and appears to be a kind of 'Open, sesame' to a gold mine. When I mention 'Open, sesame,' I have really no intention of suggesting any other application of All Buns and the celebrated forty to the public companies and Everard's system of getting money. I may fall—there are so few things I am fit for; but I shall be better satisfied when I have tried my best, and if I do have to come back beaten I must throw myself on the mercy of my friends.

"For you, my dear Julia, there is a chance that you ought not to throw away without much consideration. Brookdale is lost to me, but it need not be to you. I should like you to make it your home while I am away. You would be in Margaret's care, and under Everard's guardianship, and Edward is sure to fall in love with you. Much as I like dear old Laurence, it is more in accordance with my sympathies to think of you as Edward's wife.

"I do not except that he will have the experience of six months' travel, and settle at once and for ever his dream of picking up a fortune without first making out a definite way of making one. His journey will be simply purposeless, and he will come back what he has spent his money."

"For once, at least, Mr. Drayton, I agree with you. And you think, with him, that Brookdale is Julia's best place?"

"That is as Julia herself may think."

"I shall never go to Brookdale," said Julia, with simple resolution, "except to see my cousin Margaret. I appreciate and thank Mr. Everard's plan for his kind intention; but for my own part, I decline the offer of his hospitality at once and for ever. I am quite content with my little income, and the cottage that will be my home till I am married."

"It is a foregone conclusion, then," said Grantley, with a sleepy glitter in his eyes, "that you are to be married?"

Julia looked at Laurence. Her simple faith in him was sublime; and since he had said they were to be married she looked it as the most natural thing in the world. She saw nothing out of the way in talking of it freely to anyone.

"In rather less than six months, from to-day," said Drayton, quietly, "Julia will be my wife."

"Well, Mr. Drayton," said Everard, with a tinge of sadness in his tone, "you will permit me to congratulate you sincerely. I have the very highest respect for you personally—the most implicit confidence in your character. When the time comes, and I resign my guardianship, my regret will be lessened by the knowledge that her future happiness, at least, will be secure."

"The genuine, graceful courtesy of tone and manner took Laurence by surprise. Then was Mr. Grantley's hand offered him, and it felt like the hand of an honest man. Drayton would rather it had been otherwise."

"I suppose you will be prepared to return to-morrow," Grantley said. "I go back in the afternoon."

"Now that we know Eugene is safe," said Julia, "I shall stay for a few days with Mrs. Lucas. There is a late opera season, and Laurence is going to take me to hear the 'Huguenots'—isn't it the 'Huguenots'?"

"That was last night," said Mr. Drayton. "The 'Favorita' is the one I promised you. We shall have Glugliini, Santley, and Mademoiselle Borchi-Manno. Then there is a new play, and one of two minor despatches. I do not see very well how you can return till next Tuesday, if we carry out our programme."

"Tuesday will be time enough for me," said Julia, heedless of Everard's ominous frown. "It is so long since I had a holiday, and I shall be still by myself."

"Who is Mrs. Lucas?" inquired Everard.

"The lady of this house. Such a dear old creature. She makes me so comfortable that I have a great mind to shut up the cottage, and take apartments here."

In the independence of her perfect innocence she was quite capable of doing it, and she wondered why the two gentlemen exchanged a smile. It was impossible to tell her how she would have outraged the proprieties and compromised herself by such a course.

"Miss Temple will return on Tuesday," said

Laurence. "I myself will bring her to Brookdale."

Julia looked at him.

"Yes, little one. You cannot stay at the cottage alone through the dull winter; and there are reasons which Miss Grantley will, doubtless, explain to you why I can come and see you more frequently at Brookdale than there."

Miss Temple thought it strange and unkind of him but she raised no protest. She had accepted him as her lord and master, and was willing to do whatever might seem best in his eyes.

"I can offer you a room here," Drayton said to Mr. Grantley.

"Thanks; but I must make the most of my flying visit. You will bring Julia home on Tuesday, and stay with us a few days. Edward will make you welcome. I know, for Eugene's sake, and we ourselves shall, I hope, be better friends than we have been," returned Grantley.

Laurence bowed, and returned Grantley.

"I see they brought in a verdict of wilful murder at the inquest on that poor fellow who was thrown over the cliff," he said; "but they seem to have none."

"It is impossible that they should have. The verdict was senseless, for it leaves the case open. The man fell, there is no doubt. He missed his way in the uncertain light, and lost his footing. The path is so irregular as to be unsafe at night."

"It may be so. Still, if he were thrown over, the verdict must have an unpleasant effect on the criminal. It gives his life a hollow sound, made up of a wondering 'what if'—said in front of Lewis's door, and a thing like himself."

"All arguments are reasonable, Mr. Grantley. A man's opinion may be just and perfectly erroneous at one and the same time. So much for his opinion from the point from which he looks at his subject."

"I am afraid you are too accomplished a logician for me, Mr. Drayton. I have no cultivated language as a fine art or a profession, and

pinioned, and covered with a cap, swinging in the air."

"Laurence!" said Julia, with a shudder.

"He was treating you to a bit of literary realism," said Mr. Grantley, with an involuntary blush to his cheek, which his smiling irony could not subdue. "You will grow accustomed to that, Julia, when you are an author's wife."

He was always pale, but he was paler than usual when he said good night to them, and went into the dimly-lighted street. He possessed the linen collar round his powerful throat with an angry wrench, and drew a heavy breath.

"A wondering crowd—a sea-fowl in front of Lewis's goal—a something human pinioned, and covered with a cap, swinging in the air? What a trickery there is in words," he said, "when the fellow in a single sentence can make a picture that would haunt some men with horror."

He took a cab and drove to Pall Mall. The man put him down at White's, where he met Captain Brakenbury Wyatt, Edith's brother, and the two went forth to spend an hour or two in one of the gentlemanly pandemoniums that flourish elegantly, in spite of the police prohibitions; but Everard Grantley was not himself. There was nothing in the wines of the Rhine, the sparkle of champagne, or the liquid life in brandy, which could rouse him from a singular depression. He said he must have taken cold in the train, and perhaps he had, for a shiver crept through him now and then during the event.

They talked of Eugene and his letter in the old Chelsea drawing-room when Everard was gone. Laurence read it through again with reluctant scrutiny, as if wished it were possible to doubt its authorship; but the clear, unblotted, carefully-written lines were Eugene's, every one.

"I never thought he could grow so worldly," said Julia. "I wonder how he had the heart to write such a letter to me. It seems so spiritless of him to ask me to marry a man I do not care for, so that I may give him the luxury of a home, and save him the exertion of finding one for himself."

"He cannot have started yet," said Laurence. "At least the probabilities are in favour of his not having started yet. The Osprey is advertised to sail to-day; but ships are rarely punctual."

"Then, you think there would be time to see him, and keep him from going?"

"To see him before he goes. It would not be wise to keep him from going, Julia. Let him have his trial, and he will have the satisfaction of having tried; but if we dissuade him from it, he might reproach us in the future. I will go early in the morning, and take my chance of seeing him before the Osprey sails."

"May I come with you?"

"There would be the disappointment if he had gone," said Mr. Drayton, "and there would be the pain of a separation at the last moment if he had not. What do you think? You know he is safe, and after the fatigue you have had—"

Julia saw he did not wish her to go, and tried to think what motive he had. It was no consideration of trouble or expense. He had held something in reserve all through.

"Perhaps you had better go alone," she said. "As Eugene has chosen to go in that way, he might be angry if I said anything which would induce him to change his mind; and I should, for I know I could not bear to part with him."

Mr. Drayton went next morning. He had Eugene's letter to Julia with him, and Eugene's photograph, which had, as it happened, been taken in the identical overcoat with the fur col-

lar and cuff which Julia had persuaded him to wear when he went to Brookdale.

"He might have chosen a better time for a sea voyage," Laurence thought, as the scorching wind crept through the railway-carriage, and reminded him that winter was not far distant, in spite of the yawning-up and rages. "Eugene Temple must have changed greatly before he could find courage for the journey in such weather as this."

When the train arrived, Laurence went first of all to the docks, and made inquiries concerning the Osprey. It had set sail late on the previous afternoon.

"Was it foreseen that I might come here to find him?" Laurence asked himself, as he glanced moodily over the waters. "Everything which has taken place yet serves to strengthen my suspicion. Yet everything seems so perfectly natural, that even my friend Ringers would think me a lunatic if I told him what I suspected. But, then, the men who were capable of substituting Theodore Barrill for Edward Drayton's Temple are capable of substituting some one else for Eugene."

Mr. Drayton made his way to the Queen's Hotel, and went into the coffee-room. There were no customers in it at that early hour of the day, so Laurence had a little brandy-and-water by the fire undisturbed, and busied the waiter into conversation.

"You have had a gentleman named Temple staying here for the last few days?" he said.

"Mr. Eugene Temple?"

"I will see, sir. His name would be in the book if he stayed here; but there's a many come and go, that we never remember all our names."

"My friend was a fair young man, about two and twenty, and wore, I think, a dark blue overcoat, with a fur collar and cuffs."

"Yes, sir. Then he was here. Came here on Monday, and went yesterday morning. He sent me to pay a passage for him in the Osprey. He bought his outfit in the town, and had it taken straight on board."

"Would you recognize him by his photograph if you saw one?"

"I think so, sir."

Laurence showed him the one he had brought, and the waiter looked at it attentively.

"It is like him, and it isn't like him," he said, after a pause. "For these here coats de ville are not always like them they are made for. That's the coat, one month, and it isn't unlike him altogether. But he seems stouter here, and quieter looking."

"Are you sure that he went in the Osprey?" asked Drayton.

"Do you know whether he received a telegram making him to delay his journey? I want to know positively, and I thought you, or some one belonging to the establishment, might have gone with him the week."

"We do generally, sir; but Mr. Temple went in the morning; and as he had not his baggage taken on board, there was nothing to be taken on here. I received his bill, and he paid me out of a green velvet portemonnaie; and I was told, when he took the change, that there was a note in the palm of his hand."

"What made you notice that?"

"I never know an underwriter who got just such another through a bottle's breaking when he was drawing the work a nasty game, three- or four times that he feels even to this day in the cold water."

"My friend had no such fear," said Laurence, slowly; "there must be some mistake. Will you let me see his name?"

"Certainly, sir."

The waiter took him into the hall, and opened the visitors' book. There was the name unmistakably written in Eugene's peculiarly distinct hand. Laurence Drayton was too accustomed to his signature to mistake it.

"Yes, that is his," he said, giving the civil attendant half a crown for his trouble.

He left the hotel with a perturbed mind, not knowing which way to turn for the broken clue.

"I do not think he is dead," he said to himself; "I cling to that hope. But, then, what can have become of him? If he is not dead he is held captive somewhere. He never wrote this letter, he never signed his name in that visitors' book, he did not wear the coat which the waiter recognized, and he has not sailed in the Osprey. They have taken every step I can help out. They know that when I discovered he was missing I should have a long and patient search for him. They think they have thrown me off the scent; but I will keep my oath to find him if living, or hunt his murderers to the sea-bottom."

So that he might be secure on every point, Mr. Drayton went to the head police station, and gave instructions to have the Osprey watched on that arrived in America.

Let them answer through the Atlantic cable," he said, and told me whether Eugene Temple, or any one replying to his name and description, really did sail in the Osprey. I know he paid his passage, and I have been told he sent his baggage on board, but I doubt the truth of that. And I do not think he ever set foot inside the cabin which was paid for in his name."

CHAPTER XXIX.

IN THE CONSERVATORY.

When Mr. Drayton returned from Southampton it was late in the afternoon, and he went to his chambers direct. He wanted to take counsel with his friend the editor on some points upon which he could not confer with Laurence, but he was proud, and shrank from taking a man of Laurence's class into his confidence who delicate matters were involved.

"For a gentleman keeps at secret to himself," Mr. Drayton said; "or at most has one friend whom he can trust thoroughly, and with whom he exchanges confidence. A detective keeps a secret to his profession, and though it would never be made public, it is not pleasant to reflect that the hidden chapters in the history of a noble family are talked over and mentioned as ordinary bits of professional experience by several hundred men, to whom crime is crime simply, no matter by whom committed."

As it was Friday, Mr. Ringers was not so deeply engaged with gum and pen-knives. He was quietly busy, and had been working hard, and was not sorry for Drayton's arrival. It was a fair pretext for a rest.

"I suppose you have not the faintest notion of literature to-day," he said, as Laurence took the largest easy chair, and looked at him thoughtfully.

"Not the faintest. It is as far from me as if I had never written a line, and the work I did last week would be as strange to me as to a stranger."

"A bad sign, your mind is occupied with something else, and the sooner you get rid of it the better."

"I want to get rid of it, Ringers, and that is chiefly why I came here. You remember that I told you of my missing friend?"

"Yes. Have you found him?"

"Not yet. I have put a detective on the track, and I myself have begun a search which must, I think, result in full discovery. I am only following out a theory. I may tell you, and



EVERARD'S UNEXPECTED RETURN.

I should like to tell you on what it is based. I know you have plenty of inductive capacity, and I want you to set it to work for me."

"Then I am at your service," said Ringers, quietly. "I need not say—you know it already."

"Well, then, will you let me give you a brief résumé of the incidents that led up to Eugene's disappearance," said Laurence, and he did so, while the editor listened attentively.

He made some little careful notes of the main points, and seemed at the outset to connect Mr. Grantley with the mystery.

"It was through Everard Grantley, though not at his suggestion, then, that Eugene Temple caused the search to be made for Clarence Temple's son?" he said.

"Mr. Grantley chose the agents, had the entire management, and whatever he did was accepted by Eugene in good faith?"

"Unhappily it was so."

"And so, as a matter of course, if he chose to be efficient, he had the whole game in his hands."

"Yes; Eugene has drifted into that idle, helpless way of trusting him in everything—the habit became too strong to break. You cannot, after taking a man into your confidence and trust, deny him either without showing a fair reason."

"No," said the editor; "especially when the man is, like Mr. Grantley, cool, resolute and far-seeing. He has literally been master of Brookdale from the first, and I think you are right in supposing this to be a deeply-laid plot of his to remain so."

"I think so too. It is clear to me that he brought you in as a cover—Clarence Temple's genuine and legitimate son—and placed him at the invaluable in order that he might have him under his own immediate observation at all times, while he passed off that young adventurer—the son of the actress—as the real heir. He never anticipated the contretemps which took place when the lad was recognized by poor Hawkins."

"That placed him at bay," said Ringers, "and you associated him with the poor fellow's death. I should, too, if I could see its purpose. There was no further secrecy to be obtained, as the man had said the day before."

"I have thought of that," said Laurence. "Some of the points must necessarily remain obscure till the whole is revealed. It may have been a coincidence, merely; but it has a double significance, preceding, as it did, Eugene's disappearance. My theory is that he has Eugene safely locked up somewhere."

"Mr. Ringers shook his head.

"It would serve no purpose, give him no lasting safety, and the man who could do so much would not hesitate at worse."

Laurence looked grave.

"I do not give him up," said Mr. Ringers, unwilling to leave so solemn an impression on his friend. "He may be safe and living, and that letter may be genuine. But if that letter is not genuine, I fear that to look upon him as hidden away and living is a delusion."

"I should fear the same if it were not for this: Everard Grantley is fond of his cousin. He would not, I believe, injure a hair of his head, except when driven to desperation."

"But where could Eugene be hidden? There are no private madhouses where he might be placed, as he might have been fifty years ago. He would not submit to a voluntary captivity, and Grantley could not keep him shut up without the assistance of accomplices."

"I once heard Grantley say," said Laurence, "that it is easier and safer to hide a living person than a dead one, and he may have acted on that idea. At all events, it was not Eugene who went to the Queen's Hotel; it is that same young man who has been trained to take the place of Edward Danvers Temple. The entrance of his hand, and the slight resemblance he bore to Eugene, prove it."

"Then it must have been Eugene's coat he wore?"

"Or one made exactly like it—its *finesse*, in fact. Grantley knew that, as soon as I heard of Eugene's absence, I should begin to seek for him, and he has taken these steps to lull my suspicions. He knew it would be no use to attempt to deceive me with an incomplete imposture. The scheme must be perfect—carried out, in every detail, as if the impostor were the real man. All that has taken place is exactly what I thought would take place, and I have never let him see I have the remotest suspicion."

"Therein you have been wise. Lull him into a sense of security, and seem to be his friend, that you may the better watch him. Go to Brookdale, should you be invited."

"I am invited, and I am going. I shall be in the heart of the enemy's camp there; and amongst the many in completely true must be a few incautious moments, when something will be done or said while they are off their guard. I cling to my hope that he is not dead; but if he never reached London bridge, where can he be?"

"You must look for him nearer home," said Mr. Ringers. "If it was his substitute who wrote that letter from Southampton, why should it not have been his substitute who went up by the train last Tuesday? If they would be so careful in points of detail as to put his name in the visitors' book at the hotel, why should they not make use of his coat and the resemblance, and have a little conversation at the station, to deceive you at the very outset? I think, Drayton, you must look for him nearer home."

"By heaven!" said Laurence, rising, "that is the very thought which I have been struggling to shape; but it escaped me. I thank you for it, Ringers. You have touched the core of the mystery. I will look for him nearer home."

During Mr. Drayton's absence that day, Julia amused herself as best she might; but she was dull in her lover's absence, in spite of Mrs. Lucas, and that lady's quaint attempt at kindness. Her music and her books could not suffice to keep her from the demon of *ennui* the whole of the day.

Towards evening she went into the conservatory. It was, thanks to Mr. Drayton's love of horticulture, better stocked, and built with more finish, than might have been expected at Chislehurst. She was bending over a winter rose tree, when the firm footstep of a man came towards the door, and to her surprise Mr. Grantley entered.

"Alone?" he said. "You see I have returned, Julia. Where is Mr. Drayton?"

"Gone to Southampton."

Everard's countenance changed, and his eyes lowered with a strange smile. It was just what he had expected and prepared for.

(To be continued.)

HEAVENWARD AND EARTHWARD.

BY MAX.

The odour of the rose went up. The glory of the sun came down; At noon he kissed her lily face; When not a cloud presumed to frown; The ark ascended to the skies, And sank in Heaven his sweetest strain; The summer winds descended low, And brought to earth his notes again.

It may be nature's music wakes Within the heart a purer love; I know that noon I knelt and prayed, And lifted all my soul above. Night came—a million golden stars Were clustered in earth's royal crown; And in the peaceful blessed calm, The answer to my prayer came down.

(REGISTERED in accordance with the Copyright Act of 1868.)

IN AFTER-YEARS; OR, FROM DEATH TO LIFE.

BY MRS. ALEXANDER ROSS.

CHAPTER XVI.—Continued.

Lady Morton sat with closed eyes for a few minutes after her sister's departure from the room, thinking of the long ago, and of all the bitter trials that dear sister had suffered and borne in silence and alone with such patience and fortitude; so unselfishly bearing her own sorrows, and so willing to weep with those who weep;—her gallant young husband lying in an ocean grave; her beautiful child, so full of life and grace; to go from her sight one half hour in all his infant loveliness; the next, to search for him in wild alflight for days and weeks and months and years,—in vain, in vain!

Her beautiful Margaret, the pride of all the country round, the poor man's hope and stay, the glory and the darling of the old Castle—Lady Morton rose from her chair, and, throwing open the window, sought for some object which would change the current of thoughts that were too painful to be dwelt upon.

She saw, with pleasure, Ernest De Vere coming up the path in the middle of the Square.

"Dear boy," said she, almost aloud, "you always seem to come when most needed. I will find it as hard to part with you as if you were my own son. I can easily understand what Isabel feels for those beautiful twins by that which I feel for you."

As she turned from the open window her eye fell on the parcel containing the books she had purchased in the morning, and, untying the cord, she saw the newspaper folded over the books, the black cross directing attention to the article entitled—

"Sad escape in high life."

She lifted the paper, and, sitting down, read an account of Sir Richard Cuninghame's incarceration by his own son in an iron cage under the roof of the eastern tower, above the armoury of his Castle of Haddon, for a period of eighteen years; of the sufferings he endured in fasting and thirst, in cold and loneliness; of the grandchildren, A—and M—and C—name, who were his jailors, making his sufferings the subject of their mockery, and, for their amusement, poking him with long poles, given them for the purpose by their wicked father; of the time when the wicked son, Sir R—t C—name, died, and these gentle-looking girls became his jailors, more cruel a hundred fold than the son had been; of their leaving him almost to perish, and then feeding him with raw potatoes, thrown one by one into the cage; of his escape in the dark midnight, his creeping in silence and in fear from his own Castle, and of his return, confronting his girl-jailors and seeing their faces pale beneath his well-known glance; their flight from his home, where they ever seemed in terror lest they should be made to expiate their heinous crime by a residence in the iron cage, so long the silent witness of their hardness of heart; and last of all, the marriage of the eldest, A—and S—to Colonel L—and Y, of Her Majesty's Guards.

Lady Morton read the paragraph over and over with burning eyes and fluttering heart. It was the most horrible thing she had ever read or heard of, and she would at once have denounced it as a base calumny; but, alas, her memory brought her back to what she had seen and heard in Haddon Castle, forcing upon her strong conviction of its truth.

The resolute refusal of the girls to leave their lonely, desolate home, until suddenly one morning, without the subject being broached, Agnes declared her intention of going to Inchdrewer within the hour, then as anxious to be gone as before she had been averse to it; the strange scene she had seen the night of Sir Richard's arrival, when the sisters became pale with fear at being told a visitor was expected, and when that visitor was announced by Adam as one all others had believed an occupant of the tomb before these girls were born, they evinced no surprise, only shrinking under his glance as one they had terrible cause to dread; and last of all the until now inexplicable words of Agnes:

"I know too much of his evil deeds. The last words we heard our dear father speak were words of warning, bidding us beware of this awful man." And again, "I loathed and dreaded him before ever I saw his face. I could not let my eyes rest on his, were it to make me Queen of England."

These words of hers were to Lady Morton's mind confirmation as strong of that appalling newspaper story as if it had been written in the Evangel.

She sat as if she were paralyzed, both in mind and body. She dreaded speaking on the subject to Lady Hamilton, knowing, as she did, how both these girls were beloved by her sister; and yet she felt that if this story was true it must be known some day. Was the shock the knowledge of it would occasion not likely to be less felt now than at a time when her affection for them had become stronger, when it really was becoming day by day?

Ernest De Vere had a son's license in entering Lady Morton's boudoir. As she sat thus thinking what course she should pursue, the click of the door-lock, a firm step entering, told her he was in the room. She welcomed

his entrance. Whether she spoke on the subject to Lady Hamilton might be a matter of consideration; with Ernest De Vere it was otherwise. He was standing on the crater of a volcano, amid roses and lilies, sipping nectar from one, the pure dew of heaven from the other. He must be aroused from his pleasant dream, and the sooner the better.

"Come, Ernest," said her Ladyship, holding out her hand, "I wish to have a long chat with you."

"I am all attention," said the lad, seating himself near her. He was flushed from walking in the lovely autumn afternoon, and as Lady Morton looked on his tall, graceful figure and finely cut features, the large deep grey eye and chiselled mouth, speaking in a language understood by all, the pure mind, the true and generous heart, from which the emotions giving character to the handsome face emanated, she sighed in her very heart of hearts as she thought what a mate he would have made for the Margaret Cuninghame of yesterday.

"I am oppressed with trouble, Ernest, for your sake as well as for what we must all feel by the disclosure of circumstances I have just learned; but before I speak of it, I must put some questions to you; you have yourself given me a right to speak as I am going to do."

"Dear Lady Morton, you cannot ask of me the knowledge of anything concerning myself which I will withhold from you."

"I need not ask you if you love beautiful Margaret Cuninghame; I know you do."

"I do, most truly."

"Have you told her so?"

"There is no need for telling her."

"Then she does not know it?"

"As well as she will when she is my wife."

"Ernest, she can never be your wife."

He smiled, a merry, happy smile.

"I do not fear that; Margaret Cuninghame could no more marry another than I could."

"How are you sure of that if you have never talked to her on the subject?"

"Words are unnecessary to the knowledge of such things. I do not like the form of speech that takes, 'I love thee; I love thee; Margaret knows more than my tongue could ever tell of the love I bear her. I, on my part, am satisfied that her heart is mine. At the same time, I am aware that I must ask her to marry me, as well as ask Colonel Lindsay to give her to me. These are formalities which must be gone through."

"Ernest, read this," said Lady Morton, as she handed to him the newspaper, marked as it was to draw attention to the obnoxious article.

He took it from her hand without speaking, read it once over, and then returned it without making any remark.

Both sat looking at each other for several moments without speaking. At last her Ladyship said:

"That is a terrible revelation."

"It is no revelation," said the young man, his eyes sparkling in their grey depths with a light his listener had never seen in them before; "it is simply false, and so base is its falsehood as to be below contempt. When Margaret Cuninghame is Margaret De Vere, I will tell her of it, and ask her if she knows what it means; perhaps she may be able to point to the calumniator, and thus enable me to punish him. I will give myself a legal right to do so as soon as possible."

"My dear boy, you do not know what you say. Alas, alas, it is but too true. We all know that Sir Richard was for eighteen years of his life gone no one knows whither. His son said he was dead, but subsequent events proved this to be untrue. When Lady Hamilton persuaded me to go to Haddon I found it impossible to induce the two girls to accompany me to Inchdrewer, although they seemed to have little love for their own home as a home, a restless anxiety being the chief expression ever on their faces. All at once, one morning when we were not talking of Inchdrewer, and when I began to think I would have to go without them, Mrs. Lindsay proposed that they should pay their visit to Lady Hamilton that forenoon, and when they came they remained many weeks, each day, on Adam's coming to see them, asking him if he had not seen a stranger in the grounds—an old man with a grey beard. When I returned with them to Haddon, they were told that Mr. Waddel, the lawyer in Aberdeen, had ordered the carriage to be sent to meet the night mail, to bring a visitor to the Castle. When they were told of this, both girls became so demently pale that I feared they would have fainted, nor could they give their attention to anything that was said during the evening."

"When at last the sound of carriage wheels without, and then a stranger's voice was heard in the hall, the emotion they both displayed was painful to behold; so much so, that I was on the point of asking them what cause they had for such, what they had to dread, when Adam announced 'Sir Richard Cuninghame.'"

"At first I fancied there must be some mistake, but on looking at the stately old man, I knew he was a Cuninghame, far more like the old knights, whose pictures adorned the walls, than ever Sir Robert or his daughters were."

"Adam repeated the name a second time. He spoke, and I knew I was in the presence of one whom we all believed to have lain in his grave for eighteen years, one who had passed from death to life. Yet the presence which acted like an electric shock on Arthur Lindsay and myself produced not the slightest emotion of surprise in either of these girls. Their countenances certainly showed great dread of their grandfather, but evinced no wonder at his resurrection from the dead. They received him as a guest they expected, but feared and disliked in no ordinary degree. He sat looking at them with a searching eye, as if he would read their very souls; that he knew who they were was beyond doubt. After a few minutes' close scrutiny he turned his face from them, a glance of hate in his eye I shall never forget. The two girls never once looked in his face or spoke a word. The conduct of themselves and their grandfather filled me with astonishment then; it is all explained now."

"I left half an hour after Sir Richard's return, and while arranging my dress for the journey both girls entreated me to take them with me to Inchdrewer; indeed, I had to resort to argument to induce them to remain."

"I tried to persuade them to endeavour to give the love and affection due from grandchildren to a parent to Sir Richard, using every argument which I thought likely to influence them. With Margaret I certainly suc-

ceeded in some measure; poor child, she seemed willing to try and conciliate him at the expense of her own feelings; but Agnes used words which now are as strong against her as proof of Holy Writ: 'I know too much of his evil deeds. The last words we ever heard our dear father speak were words of warning, bidding us beware of this awful man. I loathed and dreaded him before ever I saw his face; I could not let my eyes rest on his were it to make me Queen of England.'

Lady Morton stopped. She expected Ernest De Vere to speak, but he was silent. After a few minutes she said, speaking interrogatively: "The knowledge of all this makes you very sad, Ernest?"

"Not in the least," replied he, in his usual manner; "I look upon it as one of those circumstances which are constantly occurring, which we cannot understand until we have the key. I have not myself curiosity upon the subject, as far as I myself am concerned; it might, for anything I care, remain one of the mysteries of life for all time; but I see the effect it has upon your mind, and it is probable it may have the same on others; for that reason, when I have the right to do so, I will tell Margaret of this false tale."

"But, Ernest, you cannot marry Margaret Cuninghame with a stain like that on her name. Alas, it is not unlikely that you may one day be the head of one of the proudest families in England, one whose daughters have ever been without reproach." As her Ladyship spoke her lip trembled, and the unbidden tears came to her eyes.

Her son, Lord Cranstoun, born a British Peer, with lands and tonnage which had owned his forefathers their Lords for eight hundred years, a wealth of gold almost fabulous, and more, far more, what neither lands nor gold could buy, one of God's noblemen, had been an invalid from his birth, and Ernest De Vere was next in the line of entail.

Ernest De Vere saw and knew well what caused the emotion Lady Morton could not suppress, and going up to her who was all the mother he had ever known, he lifted her hand to his lips in a loving, quiet way, saying as he did so:

"Dear Lady Morton, do you remember General De Vere and his two sons, and my own young father? I have no wish to become head of the house, and cousin Charles is stronger and heartier now than he has ever been in my recollection."

"Dear boy, you are always ready with comfort; yes, Charles both looks and feels better than he has done for years, but Sir James Clarke has always warned me he would never count his thirtieth birthday. I have strong consolation which many have not—he knows in whom he hath believed, and that when he lays down an earthly coronet, which must rust and decay, the Lord whom he serves will give unto him a crown eternal in the Heavens. If I ever reach the paradise of God, which, through the blood of the Lord Christ, I hope to win, I will surely meet my darling son there."

Ernest De Vere had given his own young heart to God. He knew that God Himself would comfort this mourning mother in her sorrowful anticipation of her noble son's untimely end, and he held his peace. He moved as if he would go, but Lady Morton put up her hand to stay his steps, and he sat down by her side, turning over the leaves of a fine library which lay on the sofa.

After a pause Lady Morton, laying her hand on the youth's shoulder, and looking thoughtfully in his face, she said:

"I am sorry to see you so unwilling to give up Margaret Cuninghame, but, dearest Ernest, it must be. You cannot marry without Lord Cranstoun's permission until you are twenty-six years of age. Such you know are the terms of your father's will; and that he never will give his permission to this alliance I am certain."

"I cannot give her up, Lady Morton; I would not now even if it cost me no penny to do so. But as it is the hope of oneday calling Margaret Cuninghame by my name is next to my hopes of Heaven."

As he spoke Lady Morton's face was turned towards his with a sad and serious air.

"I have myself to blame for much of this," said she, "and I fear Margaret Cuninghame will feel the parting as deeply as you do. As to your asking her to wait six years, it would be ridiculous as well as unjust, and Arthur Lindsay would never consent to such a disadvantageous arrangement."

"There will be no need for asking permission; there is no necessity for such an arrangement. Margaret knows my faith in her to be as strong as her own in me. We may never speak to each other on the subject, but neither will ever marry another. If I believed that story it would be otherwise, but I know it to be false; oh no," said he and as he pronounced the word no, the expression of his face turned to one of withering contempt, "it is not worthy a second thought, it is simply impossible."

He stopped: Lady Morton had enough of worldly wisdom to know that if his marriage with Margaret Cuninghame was only to take place at the end of six years, during which time he was to be in India with his regiment, and there was to be no formal engagement between them, in all probability it would never take place at all; she saw her advantage and determined to follow it up by being silent and seeming to acquiesce in the present proposition, trusting that his cadet ship or some other Indian appointment might be got for him immediately, through Lady Hamilton's influence with the great Duke, and hence he would be obliged to go to India at once instead of going to the continent with Colonel Lindsay's party as had been proposed.

Ernest De Vere was wrapped in his own train of thoughts as Lady Morton was in hers; he spoke more as if he were thinking aloud than as if he were speaking.

"Did you know Margaret Cuninghame as I do, you would see how impossible it would be for me ever to resign the place I have in her heart. We first met as you know in the drawing rooms of this house, amid a crowd of Court beauties, yet to me her innocent face was perfect beauty, she was the loveliest of the lovely there. In the balcony of the green drawing room where I brought her to enjoy the cool night air, we stood looking up into the starry skies; she spoke to me of that Great Power who reigned over all; He who controls alike the heart of man, and the mighty waves of the boundless ocean as with an adamant chain, of Him who stands sublime, the everlasting rock who ruleth in the Heavens, unmoved

amid the flood of time, and charmed me as she spoke; when I next saw her she knelt beside the sick bed of her old servant Adam, I saw her as she knelt and heard her words through the window of his room which opens over the flower beds—she knelt beside that old man's bed with all a daughter's love—to me she seemed as a glorious angel waiting to convey his soul to the mansions of eternal rest; the old man was weak and low he uttered only a few words of blessing on her whom he fittingly called the handmaid of the Lord, he blessed her and asked of God to bless her too, yet and she shall be blessed; then I loved her as I love her now in her divine beauty, for I knew the heart that warms her breast was worthy of the shrine in which it dwells."

Immediately upon Ernest De Vere's departure Lady Morton sought her sister's boudoir, and at once showing her the newspaper reported all she herself had heard and seen while at Haddon, dwelling particularly on the sudden determination of Agnes to visit Inchdrewer: which was now explained by the flight of the old man having just then been discovered.

Lady Hamilton was of a most undemonstrative nature, but she shed sad tears over the startling tale her sister told. That it was the truth she had not the shadow of a doubt, she had seen all she now heard, dimly as in a glass, wrapt in a misty shroud it is true, yet everything fore-shadowed but too surely on the night her daughter died the captive whom she knew not lying in his dungeon, again leaving it and the law of retribution coming down in rain, in lightning and hail, on the heads of those yet unborn girls.

Robert Cuninghame had not taken the warning she was sent to give, he had taught them to walk in his own ways; to her Agnes and Margaret Cuninghame abhorrent as the crime of which they stood accused was, were more sinful against than sinning, taught while mere children to make merry in seeing the poor captive leap in his cage, their hearts were deadened to his suffering, taught too, by a father whom they loved with an undying affection, one whom even now they could not talk of without emotion, a father who in all else, deserved and had won their purest love and best esteem.

"Poor Agnes, poor Margaret" were the first words she uttered in reply to Lady Morton.

"Isabel, I am sorry for you, you loved these girls so dearly; it seems hard they should be taken from you."

"It is hard to bear, yet my chief concern is for the poor girls, not for myself. I see a long sad future of silent suffering before them as clearly as I see the bright shadow of the window panes which the sun is throwing on the floor; for myself I am accustomed to disappointment and sorrow; as a child I never treasured a ring dove to love and pet, but it was sure to die; in my girlhood, year after year when the bell of roses, I so loved were glowing in all their fragrant beauty the biting east wind or the cruel hail storm were sure to come and beat my poor crushed roses to the earth; and in my early womanhood my glorious boy, my gallant husband, the brave and beautiful, and last and worst of all because it was the last, Margaret Hamilton struck down in her young beauty. It is ever thus with all that is best on this green earth since the light of sin came to mar all happiness, the glory of the garden, the pine that crowns the rock, the preat, best, and loveliest are always first to go; but thank God it will not be always so, there is a land we hope to win, where the river flows, the streams whereof make glad the city of our God, and by that river side under the many clouded leaves of the tree of life, I will yet walk and press the hands and look into the eyes of those who are waiting for me there, and then there will be no more sorrow."

As she pronounced the last word her eyes took that dreamy far off look they ever wore when her thoughts carried her to the lone grave she had never seen, far down under the waves of the stormy ocean.

"Ernest De Vere must not be allowed to continue his attention to Margaret," said Lady Morton anxious to attract Lady Hamilton's attention from her own sorrow, and at the same time desirous of getting her aid in weaning her son's heir from a connection which she now considered would be disagreeable.

"No," replied her sister, "it cannot be, that will be a bitter cup for poor Margaret, whom I love the best, and it is possible she will have to drain it to the dregs; alas, alas—"

"But Ernest, Isabel? he too will suffer and the sooner he is removed from England the better."

"Yes, Ernest, of course Lord Cranstoun's heir, his ancient name must not be mixed with the shade of crime. I will speak to the Duke and through his influence he will be sent abroad at once, he will soon forget all about Margaret as he walks with another love and listens to the song of the lory under the broad leaved palm trees; but she sitting alone on the bare mountain side where the fierce north wind blows amid the shadow and the rain under the pine, will never forget him."

"Isabel, will you tell Charles of this? I would rather not do so myself."

"I will."

"I have made up my mind not to go abroad. It is best you should not."

"Poor Arthur Lindsay?"

"It is possible he may never hear of this terrible story, you say the papers is of old date."

Lady Morton looked at the date.

"Yes six months back, four days after Arthur's marriage."

"A Scottish paper I think you said?"

"Yes," said Lady Morton, looking again at the paper lying in her lap, "The Rottenburg Herald."

"The Rottenburg Herald? I how could they have heard of the story there? in such an obscure little place and so far away from Haddon?"

"It is strange is it not?"

"It is, and that nothing should have been said on the subject by the Aberdeen papers, we could not have missed seeing it there."

"But Isabel, the Aberdeen papers would never have published such a story about the Haddon family."

"You are probably right, yet I cannot understand why it should appear only in 'The Rottenburg Herald,' in any of the leading papers we would have seen it. The Edinburgh papers would not have any reason for its non-publication."

"Perhaps Sir Richard published it himself in order to injure his grandchildren whom he hates, you remember young Cox told Charles

THE MARLBOROUGH.—A late traveller says that the terrible maelstrom of the coast of Norway has unaccountably disappeared. There is no such whirlpool, and it is only when the tide, current and wind are at loggerheads in the narrow straits between Moskenes and the isolated rock of Mosken that any agitation is visible at all. He is therefore of the opinion that some such phenomenon as this, seen from the shore and exaggerated by the horror of the beholder, gave rise to all the marvellous legends of the maelstrom. It is said to part with an old friend, but rarely there is no help for it. Science is inexorable, and that marvellous old myth of the sea, that has been swallowing ships in the school geography for generations, must come out of that truthful text book as myths and Charabais and as a good many other myths have done before.





A TRUE STORY.

I thought that few water-places were more amusing than Ryde when I visited it in the summer of 1854 for the first time. True, it is not so aristocratic as Cowes, for the snob of either sex riots in the wildest luxuriance on that long pier which extends so far into the sea. Without a doubt, the wealthy tradesman feels himself at home as he walks the pier-head, and complacently surveys his yacht riding at anchor hard by. The sea breeze which flutters out the gaudy petticoat of his wife or daughter, appears to blow from his memory his man-of-war origin and intense vulgarity. But in spite of this, Ryde is a most agreeable place. At any rate, during the time I was there, there were a number of people to whom the existence of a grandfather was a fact, and the proper pronunciation of the letter "h" not an impossibility.

Among that number none shone to more advantage than a little blonde, whose real patronymic of course I cannot tell, but whom I will call Adele (her Christian name) instead of hiding her under the cosmopolitan appellation of Jones or Smith. Adele was quite young, and had made her debut into fashionable society that season, heaving wheeled her husband into breaking through old habits by coming up to town for the spring. She was very pretty, and possessed manners so agreeable that before the month of May elapsed she had been quite able to dispense with the kind offices of the great lady under whose patronage she had been launched into fashionable society. Indeed, her success was so great that nine out of ten of her male acquaintances voted her charms, and, as a natural consequence, exactly that proportion of her own sex were envious of her.

Her husband was a great many years older than herself; an old man who had married so late in life as to drive a nephew, in the entail, out of his seven senses, and whom the prospect of their being no son and heir was slowly bringing back to sanity. It had been a marriage de convenience on her side, for she had not a sixpence, and he was very rich. In these practical days Adele did what my girl of the period would have done under similar circumstances. If she ever had any scruples on that score, the spectacle of her husband, crowned with a large family and an attenuated income, had long driven them out of her head, especially as that worthy lady had never lost an opportunity of dining into her child's comprehension that matrimony without money was worthy of a life-long residence in Bedlam.

Adele, when I first met her in society, looked happy enough, in spite of the ill-natured remarks of her best friends, who accused her of having sold herself for pounds, shillings and pence, and in all human probability would have continued so to the end of the chapter had she not met with a misfortune.

The contrivance was making the acquaintance of Arthur S—, for in spite of all the worthy teaching she had been subjected to, her heart had taken the bit between her teeth and bolted.

Few men could have known Arthur S— and not have agreed that he was a real good fellow. Handsome, and always made much of, he possessed the rare attribute of being natural and unaffected. I was fortunate enough to share his friendship largely, and his being appointed first lieutenant of a ship lying at Spithead was the reason of my going to Ryde, instead of turning my face westwards for the States. I can still recollect as well as if it were but yesterday handling from the Portsmouth steamboat within an ace of being seasick, and clambering up some steps the receding tide had left very slippery, suddenly to encounter S— talking so earnestly to a lady as not to notice my arrival. As they turned, I recognized Adele, whom I had always thought pretty when faded and worn by being out night after night, but at that moment, listening with pleasure to something her companion was saying, she looked quite lovely. The fresh breeze which helped to flow to much advantage the neatest pair of feet, had brought back to her cheeks the color that hot rooms and late hours had driven away.

I felt confident S— was very fond of me, but I saw at a glance, when I accosted him, that he wished me anywhere else. I do not mean to say at the bottom of the sea, but on it, and far away too. He introduced me to Adele as a great friend, and on that recommendation I met with a cordial reception; but, on the plea of securing rooms at the Pier Hotel, I relieved them of my presence, which I felt was a little out of place.

S— and myself dined together that evening, and to my surprise, from the jolly fellow I had hitherto found him, he had become as stupid and unresponsive a companion as I had ever sat down to a table with. "Hit at last," I thought to myself, as I surveyed my friend; and I found before many days had passed that this conclusion was not erroneous. So much so that the flirtation between S— and Adele marched so rapidly, that it soon reached the phase when friends began to wonder why the husband was so blind as not to see it, or such an ass as not to mind it. To give the devil his due—and by the devil I mean this wicked world—there were a few that believed there was really nothing in it—a limited number who knew how often a weak woman tarnishes her good name foolishly but not entirely; whilst on the other hand a cleverer wiser by far more genuine whose virtue is a thing of by-gone days is valued as spotless by the people she hoodwinks.

Poor Adele had found out that money and position, advantageous as they are, could not fill up the dreary blank her new position had stretched before her, or still the pulse that would beat quicker when S— approached. She soon perceived that many of her friends began to look shyly at her; but instead of taking this as a warning, like a thorough woman, she became defiant, rebelling against the world which she felt was judging her too harshly.

Why is it that the back of a poor, feeble woman should bear all the weight? Why should that the stronger animal carry his share? S— was envied by his male acquaintances for being *aux mains* with so pretty a woman, as they good naturedly imagined; and what is still more sad, their wives and daughters did not consider him one whit the worse for it; their anger was vented upon her, and not upon him.

There lived in those days—a she is dead now—a certain old lady D—, who owned a very pretty villa in the neighborhood, and was very fond of giving balls, and to one of those both myself and S— were invited. Lady D— had the character of being a most selfish individual, but whether that was the case or not, she had the happy knack of making her parties go off most pleasantly. On that night there were several pretty women in her rooms; nevertheless Adele, in spite of an anxious look, distanced them all far and away. S— danced with and spoke to her but little, for he knew well that their names had been coupled together, and being a gentleman, was above that vulgar, selfish vanity that leads a man to flaunt his success before the world, regardless of the cost the wo-

man incurs. And, after all, there is more in one glance than in a long string of words.

It was a lovely night, and not being what is termed a dancing man, though I can go through a waltz creditably enough, particularly if my partner does not want to go too fast, I strolled out into the garden, and, gaining the sea wall, sat myself down to gaze at the long silvery beam a summer moon so often lays across the ocean. There was not a breath of wind, as I watched, to move the fishing boat that lay in this ray of light so stationary as to attract my attention.

I was leaning against the trunk of a tree, so that any one walking along the path from behind could not possibly detect my presence, and the two people I had heard approaching stopped close to where I was sitting. There are occasions when events happen so suddenly, that unless endowed with great presence of mind, one does not know how to act for the best; and thus it fared with me, for I was unable to decide whether to cough or keep quiet.

"Will you or will you not fly with me?" I heard S— say.

"Oh, do not ask me to do that," pleaded Adele, in tremulous tones.

"As you like," he replied angrily; "but I will not be made a fool of any longer."

She clung to his arm, and murmured,—

"Oh, I cannot part with you."

"Then when will you come?" asked S—.

Division, he told me we should be able to see a great deal of each other, as the Naval Brigade, with which he was doing duty, was quartered in the same camp. S— appeared in such good spirits that I congratulated myself on his having quite forgotten poor Adele and her blue eyes; but I soon discovered that I had reckoned without my host, for beneath the wild, rollicking spirits that made him so agreeable a companion during those long winter evenings, I could discern some thought, some memory over at work, ever restless. I was never on duty with him, being employed on another "attack," but his brother officers assured me that there was no one in the brigade so reckless of his life as he was. Again, from being abstemious, S— had become a hard and habitual drinker, and that pernicious habit had begun to tell upon his health.

One evening—it was the 10th of March, 1855, I recollect—I was sitting in my tent, having just returned from the advanced trench, watching hungrily my servant preparing the usual dinner of cold pork and poited beef, when the flap of my tent was pushed back, and S—'s handsome face peeped in.

"Hallo, old man, is that you? Come in," I exclaimed.

"He did so, and on taking the hand held out to him, I perceived with surprise that he was very pale. He sat himself down at the foot of my

when I went in at the Crook Battery with the light company of my regiment, for I had determined to confess the whole truth, how basely I had acted with regard to her letter.

Adele was sitting by the fire when I was announced, and the color fled from her cheeks as she rose to greet me.

"I have brought a letter which I promised the writer I would myself place in your hands," I said.

She did not ask from whom it came, but I saw by the fright that tears were glistening in her eyes.

"Tell me all about his sad end," she said, laying first her small hand upon my arm, and then pointing to a chair, towards which she drew her own.

I did poor S— justice, for I told her how changed he had grown, how reckless he had become, and how certain I was that this was all owing to the love he had borne her.

"Then why did he not answer my letter?" she sobbed, more to herself than to me, as I finished speaking.

"Will you ever forgive me? Will you not always look upon me as the basest of men?" I exclaimed, passionately.

"I do not understand you," she replied, opening her large blue eyes.

"He never got the letter. I tore it up," I continued, my ears tingling with shame.

"You tore it up?" she repeated, with increasing surprise.

"Yes, I tore it up into atoms, in a moment of pique for your husband. Your letter arrived after Arthur had gone."

She sank back into her chair; and, seizing my hat I rushed from the room. I reached the hall, but she had followed me to the head of the stairs, and called me back.

"Captain F—, one word before you go," she cried, and when I returned she added, holding my hand, "I not only forgive you, but thank you most heartily, and so does poor Arthur now."

I have seen often since her bright, happy face, and the sight of it softens not a little my remorse.



FEEDING POLLY.

"I cannot think now, but will write to-morrow," she sobbed.

As an excuse—a feeble one, I fear, for my subsequent conduct—I must relate, before proceeding with my story, that I had received much hospitality from Adele's husband during my stay at Ryde. I was, therefore, heartily sorry for him, and my pique was enhanced by having remarked how utterly unconscious he was of the calamity so near his threshold.

The next morning I was awakened by S— entering my room at an early hour, and informing me that he was going over to Portsmouth to arrange about getting a month's leave.

"This is a sudden resolution of yours," I said, keeping my face half hid by the bedclothes.

"Yes, it is," he replied, as he left the room, and added, shutting the door, "don't forget to forward my letters."

Later in the day I was sitting staring out of the window of my sitting-room, when the waiter brought a letter in and laid it on the table. I took it up and read S—'s name on the envelope, penned by Adele's hand. With a heavy heart I re-directed it, for I could not help feeling for the man she was so cruelly taking in. I rose to place the note in the mantle-piece, when, all of a sudden, in an unaccountable impulse, I tore it into little bits.

In less than twenty-five seconds I would have given all my worldly goods and chattels to have been able to recall that action. From that hour I began to imagine that every one I met guessed I had been up to some blackguardly act. To make matters worse, I heard from S— inquiring if any letter had arrived for him. I answered in the negative, and my hand trembled when I did so.

I was on the point of leaving Ryde, for it was quite out of the question my meeting my friend again, when the letter welcome news arrived that his ship had been ordered to sail at once. No reproach to an inmate of a condemned cell could be more grateful than the sight of that frigate vanishing in the distance was to me.

Many months elapsed before we met again, and when we did, the place of meeting was many a weary mile from dear old England. We shook hands, standing up to our ankles in mud in that long truck which led from Balaklava to the "front."

"Nice, this, isn't it?" he remarked, laughing at my disconsolate appearance. "But you must rough it here."

bed, and did not speak till my servant had left the tent.

"What has happened?" I asked, with more fear than curiosity, for my conscience began to prick me.

"Do you believe in presentiments, Fred?" he began.

"Well, I have never given the matter a thought," I replied.

"Neither did I till last night," he said; and added, in a husky voice, "but now I do, and firmly believe that my end is very near."

"What on earth has put this nonsense into your head?" I remarked.

"I can't tell you," he replied, "but so convinced am I that my death is at hand, that I have written these two letters, one to my poor mother, the other to Adele."

On mentioning her name he hid his face in his hands, and I am glad he did so, for I had turned as red as a turkey-cock.

"Take them," S— continued, after a time; "the one for my mother you can send, but the other you must give yourself to Adele, and I have told my cousin that you had such a letter, in case anything should happen to you, old fellow."

I solemnly declare that I would then and there have confessed everything to him, had not a brother officer entered the tent that minute. S— rose and wished me good-by, wringing my hand with warmth; and as he went out I remarked he was going into the trenches, for from beneath his pea-jacket peeped the leathern case of his revolver.

Two days later I was strolling about the camp, when a staff officer rode up and asked me the way to my own tent.

"I am Captain F—," I replied.

"Then why on earth were you not at the funeral this morning?" he demanded hoily.

"Whose funeral?" I asked, as my heart began to sink within me, for it dawned upon me that S—'s cousin was on the staff.

"Why, poor Arthur's. He was buried this morning."

Somehow he has made up his mind he won't, or, if he has not made up his mind, the coaxing causes him to. Ordinarily the baby sees the one word of his vocabulary with readiness; but this time the company before whom he is being displayed makes him bashful or diffident, and he does not say it when first asked. This is the time for the mother to stop. If she urges him in such a case, when he is not inclined to talk, it will only induce a habit of setting his will in opposition to hers; a habit that will grow with his growth, and strengthen with his strength, and will become obstinacy.

Now, of course, she cannot reason with him; and there is no more moral wrong in his refusal than in refusing his milk when he is not hungry. But this, like all childhood, is good-time. Much may be done almost from earliest infancy, by inducing, unconsciously to the child, habits of obedience, and preventing their opposites—thus making the after-work easier for both child and mother. A content with a child can generally be prevented, and ought to be. Temporal and external obedience may be obtained by it, in some cases—though not always even that—but at what a fearful cost! Not only suffering, but affection and confidence between child and parent, are never the same as without it, and "breaking the will," as it is called, instead of training it, is a dire mistake. There can be no self-governing force, with readiness of character, without resolution, well-directed will. The young tree, you know, must be pruned—never broken. The colt must be trained by gentle firmness, not severity. And immortal souls and human hearts need no less care and watchfulness.

THE HARP OF CANAAN.

Second Edition Revised and Improved.

SELECTIONS FROM THE BEST POETS ON BIBLICAL SUBJECTS AND HISTORICAL INCIDENTS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT.

REV. J. DOUGLAS BORTHWICK,

Author of

Cyclopedia of History and Geography, The British American Reader, The Battles of the World, &c., &c., &c.

Selection of Contents.—Historical Incidents of the Old Testament, The Creation, The First Sabbath, Adam's First Sonship, The Garden of Eden, Eve's Recollections; Adam, where art Thou? Cain, David's Lamentation over his Sick Child, Absalom, Choral Hymn of the Jewish Maidens, The Presentation of the Waters, Jacob wrestling with the Angel, The Seventh Plague of Egypt, The Passage of the Red Sea, Samson's Lament for the Loss of his Sight, David's Lamentation over his Sick Child, Absalom, Choral Hymn of the Jewish Maidens, The Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

The whole containing over One Hundred and Fifty Choice Poems.

No Library complete without one. Single Copy, 75 Cents; by Post, 10 Cents extra. Liberal reduction to Societies, Libraries, Schools, &c., &c.

GEORGE E. DESBARATS,

Publisher.

1 & 3, PLACE D'ARMES HILL, MONTREAL, Q.

"THE HEARTHSTONE" IS SOLD AT THE FOLLOWING STORES IN MONTREAL:

- Adams..... 141 Main Street.
Acron..... 182 "
Bell..... 601 Ste. Marie.
Boucher..... 278 Main.
Bouquet..... 192 Ste. Antoine.
Branna..... 418 "
Chapleau..... 174 Notre Dame.
Clarke..... 222 Ste. James.
Clarke..... 17 Ste. Antoine.
Chielhelm..... Bonaventure Depot.
Cookburn..... 119 Wellington.
Cooke..... 10 Ladsgonde.
Collins..... 803 Ste. Catherine.
Galt..... 418 "
Carvallo..... 418 "
Carvallo..... 192 Bonaventure.
Dawson & Brothers..... Ste. James.
Dawson..... Place D'Armes Sq.
Dorion..... 458 Ste. Marie.
Dawes..... 334 "
Doutre..... 220 Notre Dame.
Gunnar..... 512 Ste. Catherine.
Elliott..... 625 Ste. Joseph.
Elliott..... 625 "
Galt..... 107 Ste. Pejore Hill.
Holland..... 512 Ste. Catherine.
Hills Library..... 666 Dorchester.
Humphreys..... 851 Ste. Catherine.
Kelly..... 667 Craig.
MacLeod..... 339 Ste. James.
Larvill..... 418 "
Larvill..... 451 Ste. Marie.
Larvill..... 156 Ste. Antoine.
Larvill..... 49 Ste. Joseph.
Murray..... 388 Ste. Catherine.
Oppenheimer..... 489 Ste. Joseph.
O'Meara..... Public Market 912 Ste. Catherine.
Perry..... 339 Ste. James.
Payette..... Cor. Main and Craig.
Payette..... 141 Notre Dame.
Pickup..... Francois Xavier.
Prouz..... 54 Bonaventure.
Prouz..... 384 Ste. Catherine.
Reay..... 654 Dorchester.
Rae..... 390 Ste. Joseph.
Stafford..... 612 "
Smith..... 416 Wellington.
Thibaultau..... 304 Ste. Marie.



EAGLE FOUNDRY, MONTREAL GEORGE BRUSH, PROPRIETOR. ESTABLISHED, 1823. Manufacturers of Steam Engine, Steam Boilers and machinery generally. Agent for JUDSON'S PATENT GOVERNOR. 3-25 m.

TELESCOPES.

The \$3.00 Lord Brugham Telescope will distinguish the time by a Church clock five, a flag staff ten, landscapes twenty miles distant, and will define the satellites of Jupiter, &c., &c. This extraordinary cheap and powerful glass of the best make and possesses achromatic lenses, and is equal to one costing \$20.00. No Tourist or Rifleman should be without it. Sent free by Post to any part of the Dominion of Canada on receipt of \$3.00.

MICROSCOPES.

The new Microscope. This highly finished instrument, manufactured to show microscopic in water, etc. in paste, &c., &c., magnifying several hundred times, has a compound body with achromatic lenses. Test object, Porcine Spine Glass, &c. In a polished Aluquany Case, complete, price \$3.00 sent free. H. SANDER'S. Optician, &c. 120 St. James Street, Montreal. (Send one Cent Stamp for Catalogue.)

C. C. C.

CHILDREN'S GARMINATIVE CORDIAL

THE MOST APPROVED REMEDY FOR

TEETHING PAINS, DYSENTERY, DIARRHCEA, CONVULSIONS, LOSS OF SLEEP, RESTLESSNESS, &c.

For Sale by all Druggists.

DEVINS & BOLTON, Chemists, Montreal. 2-30-m.

Marquis and Princess of Lome's Baking Powder

FOR EASILY MAKING

Bread, Biscuit,

Fried,

Griddle & Johnny

Cakes, Pastry,

&c., &c.

Infinitely Better, Sweeter, Whiter, Lighter, Healthier, and Quicker than can be made by the old or any other process.

Prepared by McLEAN & Co., Lancaster, Ont.

TO CHEMISTS & DRUGGISTS

WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS.

Our Stock of MEDICAL, PERFUM and LIQUOR Labels are now very complete.

GREAT VARIETY, BEAUTIFUL DESIGNS, AND ALL AT

VERY MODERATE PRICE.

LIBERAL DISCOUNT TO LARGE DEALERS.

Orders can be promptly sent by parcel post to all parts of the Dominion.

LEGGO & CO., LITHOGRAPHERS & c.

319 ST. ANTOINE STREET

AND

1 & 2 Place d'Armes Hill,

MONTREAL.

GRAY'S SYRUP OF RED SPRUCE GUM

In Coughs, Colds, Bronchitis, and Asthma, it will give almost immediate relief. It is also highly recommended for restoring the tone of the Vocal Organs. The virtues of Red Spruce Gum are well known. The Syrup of the Gum is held in complete solution.

For sale at all Drug Stores, Price 25 cents per bottle, and Wholesale and Retail by the Proprietor, HENRY R. GRAY, Chemist, 141 St. Lawrence Main St., Montreal.

THE HEARTHSTONE is printed and published by Geo. E. Desbarats, 1, Place d'Armes Hill, and 319 St. Antoine Street, Montreal, Dominion of Canada.