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GRAHAM, N. C.,

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### THE GLEANER

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#### MISS MINT'S EBIEND,

Frank, do you know anything about the quer little person who sits opposite to us at the dinner table? Miss Mint, they call her. Is she a teacher, or

Frank Hastings-a young man who for six months had enjoyed all the comforts and conveniences of a private home' at Mrs. Starkweather's 'select boarding house, No. 16 - street -lighted a fresh cigar before he answered, rather languidly:

'No: she's something ten times worsea sort of reporter. She goes round to churches and lecture rooms, trying to pick up the few crumbs the other reporters leave behind 'em. There's only one paper employs her regularly, and that at a starvation price. She wears one dress all the rear round, sports a bonnet handed down to her by her great grandmother, and rooms in the attic, for which precious privilege and her dinner she pays Mrs. Starkweather three dollars a week. Bah! concluded Frank, in a tone of disgust, as he threw one leg over another, and sat gazing into the fire.

'Poor Soul! She's to be pitied, I'm sure,' said Caleb Darley, who, being a hard working reporter himself, and a tender-hearted man besides, feit some sympathy for the little creature they were discussing.

'Nonsense!' said Frunk, sharply, 'Why don't she try her hand at something else? dressmaking or teaching, or some other

work fit for a woman?" 'Perhaps she hasn't the chance or the talent to do either,' Darley replied.

'Theu let her stay at home and help about the house. Come to think of it, though, I believe she has no home. She's an 'orphing.' Spose 'tis rather rough for the poor thing,' said Frank, with a slight tinge of companction in his voice. 'But come, Darley, let's drop Miss Mint as a seedy subject. Have another cigar?"

'Thank you. no; I must be off. I've got to report --- 's sermon to-night.'

'Poor fellow! Glad I'm not in your line of business,' said Frank, who was clerk in a large whole ale store. Wouder if little Mint's going? You might escort her home Darley. It would be quite a new sensation for her, and just think how all the fellows would envy you.

'Oh, leave poor little Miss Mint alone! said Darley, as he walked towards the door. Remember she's 'swimming against a stiff stream,' like the most of us and finds it hard work to keep her head above water. Don't throw stones at

"Pon my word, you're developing a poetical vein. This is reatly getting dangerons. Well, good-bye for the present, old chap; look in again after church,

will you?" 'No; I must go to the office,' said Ca-

leb, as he went out. In her little room, two stories higher up. Miss Mint was putting on her bonnet, quite unconscious of how she was

being discussed below. She was very small and slight, this poor little beroine of ours, with a face that might have been prety before privation and anxiety stole its bloom and plumpness away, Her glossy brown hair was brushed in smooth waves over her fores head; she had large tender gray eyes, and a mouth that, for all its resolution and character, had a pathetic droop at the corners that seemed to have become

habitual. She was nearly twenty three

but looked at least two years older.

Her little room was as bare and comfortless a place as could be imagined. No turnace heat could penetrate up here, and Miss Mint's hands were so numb with cold she could scarcely pin her shawl. The floor of the room was unpainted and bare save for a strip of rag carpet by the bed; the ugly little wash stand in the corner, with its clumsy bowl and pitcher; the stifi looking wooden chair that made your back ache to look at it: and the bed itself. with its tawdry, faded counterpane-it was a dreary picture for poor little Ellen Mint's beauty loving eyes to rest on. She had done her best to brighten it; two or three pictures she had brought with her hung on the walls, the little table by the window was covered with books, and a delicate glass vase she was too poor to fill with the flowers she loved stood on the bureau. There were a couple of hanging shelves on the wall, of which only the upper one with her workshasket on it, was visible; a green and white calico curtain hid the

rest. This was her cupboard. But we return to Miss Mint herself who is down stairs and out of the door by this time. She is a quick walker, and in a few moments finds berself at the cutrance to the church, already besieged by an anxious crowd, who are Pept in check by the ushers and a couple of policemen. Miss Mint does not attempt to press in

an usher, who knows her by this time, plants a chair for her at no great distance ly down into it, and sits in a sort af stu- in quest of something. por for a while-the change from her Indade, sir, you'd think so if you saw

here; she slips round by a side door, and

ed her with dismay.

The grand voice of the organ echoes music, is soon absorbed in listening, and shoes!" feels for a time uplifted above the cares and sorrows of this world. The music she has to follow every word so closely listening.

Caleb Darley, seated among the other reporters, catches a glimpse of her, and that direction pretty often. There is a ling her remark. mingling of pity and interest in his glance -he is a hard herated, chivalrous sort of tected.

The services were over, and little Miss Mint, slipping her note book and pencil into her pocket, threaded her way through the crowd to the side door.

'Good evening, Miss Mint,' said to the tresh air.

Ellen started and looked up. 'Oh, good evening, Mr. Darley, she said, a rememberlittle confusedly, as she recognized him.

offering it in such a matter of fact way that Elien complied at once, though feelthe attention.

'I see you are in my line of business, Miss Mint,' said Caleb, pleasantly, as led to their boarding house. Ellen laugh- turned away. But her inward comment ed a little: and he went on, with a kind- was: 'The great foot!' to throw away his know.'

'You are very kind,' said Ellen. simply. 'As for the life, I try to like it, be pocket. cause there's nothing else I can do. I've tried to find a teacher's place; I've tried

I'm sure I'm thankful there is a way I beautiful to-night, Mr. Darley?"-anxious to change the subject.

'Yes,' said Caleb, rather absently, for his heart was tull of pity for the little creature beside him, and he was already

her relief. 'What a chill there is in the air tonight! he said, rousing himself. His overcoat was hardly a protection, and he thought with dismay how his companion

must be shivering under her thin shawl. Well, here we are, Miss Mint. I must be off to the office. Sit by the fire till you are thoroughly warm, and tell our landlady to make you something hot and comtorting; I see you have a cold com-

'Thank you, Mr. Darley; you are quite a doctor, laughed Ellen. 'I hope it hasn't taken you out of your way coming nome with me?

'Oh, it won't take me ten miuntes to walk to the office, said Caleb. 'Goodnight, Miss Mint; and he walked briskly

Caleb Darley was between thirty seven and thtrty-eight- a big broad shouldered giant of a man, with strongly marked feautures, a profusion of sandy hair, and an expression of mingled good nature and determination. He has had to fight his own way in life since he was twelve years old, but the battle, though a tough one, has never made him forgetful of the sufferings of others.

'I wonder, Norah, how long Miss Mint neans to keep this up? 'Kape what up, ma'am?"

'Why, lying in bed this way, and to be wanted on like a lady. I don't doubt but she's as well as I am.

Well, I guess you wouldn't say so ma'am, if you was to see her. She can't speak above a whisper, and is as white as the wall. As for 'waiting on,' it's not much she gets of it, poor thing, for Bridget and I has our hands full already.

·What's the matter with her?" spoke out Caleb, from a corner where he sat reading the newspaper. He had been away for three days, and only returned

Sakes alive! Mr. Darley, are you there? said Mrs. Stark weather, a little

Oh, she's got a bad cold, and so have I can tell you now.' I, but I can't go to bed, for all that."

'Is she very ill, Norah?" asked Caleb. from the pulpit. She sinks mechanicals as his landlady flounced out of the room

dark, chilly room to this warmth and her, said Norah, lowering her voice that dazzle of light makes her head swim and her mistress might not hear. 'It's my her heart tremble. But her nerves are belief the poor thing won't get over it naturally strong and steady, and she Her lungs and throat is that sore she soon rouses herself, determined not to can scarcely breathe; and her room as give way to a weekness she has never cold as al! out doors, and the water a telt before, and which for a moment fills lump of ice in her pitcher this morning rah.' I do my best for her, but it's a sin and a shame the way Miss Starkweather treats through the church, and Ellen, who loves her-she's no more feeling than my

'I'm sorry to keep you waiting so for your breaktast, Mr Darley.' said Mrs. and prayers are the richest part of the Starkweather, re-entering. She was service to her: in reporting the sermon generally very gracious to Calebhe always paid her promptly never comthat it takes away from the enjoyment of plained of his meals, and gave her little tionble in any way.

Do you know if poor little Miss Mint has any friends or relatives anywhere, atter that his keen gray eyes wander in Mrs. Starkweather?' asked Caleb, ignor-

'No, I don't,' said the widow, a little snappishly. Then, in a bantering tone a fellow, all the more ready to befriend a which ill concealed spiteful feeling: woman because she is lonely and unpro- 'You and she seem to have grown to be great friends these last three mouths, Mr. Darley.'

'The poor young lady seems to need triends.' said Caleb, coldly. Then altering his voice a little: 'You are the most suitable person to befriend her, voice at her elbow as she stepped out in Mrs. Starkweather, and I am sure you

Well, sir, I do my best, but you must

'See that she has a comfortable room Will you take my arm? said Ca! b, and a fire, and a doctor, and all the care ske needs,' said Darley, cutting her short and putting a roll of bills into her hands ing more embarrassed than pleased by say nothing about this to her, remember!' with emphasis. 'I don't wish my name mentioned.'

'Well, sir you're a generous man, l they left the crowded street for one that must say,' said Mrs. Starkweather as she ness of manner that made you pardon its money on that miserable little Miss Mint bluntness; 'And how do you like the life? when the overceat he's wearing don't Excuse me if I am rude, but I can't help look fit to go out in the street with! taking an interest in a fellow laborer, you But it's all one to me!' smiling to herself as she reflected that the result would certainly be some money in her own

'Well how is Miss Mint?' she said. entering the poor girl's room, an hour to find sewing to do; but it was no use. after. Eilen turned her head toebly too weak to show the surprise she felt. can earn my bread. Wasn't the music 'How are you?' repeated Mrs. Starkweather, trying to twist her acid face into a gracious smile as she took the white hand in hers. 'Pretty weak,' whispered Ellen, faint-

have you down stairs where you'll be more comfortable. Is the bed all ready Norah, and have you made the

'Yes, ma'am,'

'Well, do you think you can walk, with my help and Norah's? said Mrs. Starkweather. 'But you must let me belp you on with your wrapper first.'

Ellen looked at her with a strange mingling of anxiety, gratitude, and distrust in her eyes. She scarcely knew what to make of this untorseen kindness but she was faint, sick almost 'unto death,' and could not help welcoming it. Yet she manageded to gasp out: 'You know how it is with me: I gave you all the money I had last night. You had better semi me to the hospital-'

'Nonsense of hospitals!' said Mrs. Starkweather, as she put back a stray lock from Elleu's face, 'We're not going to serve you that way. Don't say another word about it. All you must think about now is how to get

A tear trickled down Ellen's cheek 'If I get well, your kinduess shall not-I will sew for you-anything.' Her voice died away.

The quick thought darted through Mrs. Starkweather's mind that here was a splendid chance to get her brown merino made over free of charge. But she said aloud: 'Dou't say another word. You don't s'pose I'm so hard hearted as not to teel for you, when you're sick, do you? Here, Norah, raise her up, and we'll put this wrapper on her. We mean to take good care of you, and get you well again, my dear.'

'Th' old crocodile!' said Norab, in dignantly, to Bridget, when she found berself in the kitchen again. To see her palaverin' over the poor thing as if she was the best triend she'd got. Hospital indeed! Only last night she talked of sendin' her there herself; and she'd be there before the day is out only for Mr. startled. 'I never saw you. What's Caleb. He's a good young man, at the matter with Miss Mint, did you say? kind hearted! there's not many like

Will you please put that stand by me, Norah, and give me the pen and

'Now, Miss Ellen, it's not Mr. Caleb would want you to be doing that copying for him, I'm sure, and you so weak you can scarcely raise a finger.'

'Oy, I'm much stronger than I was Norah, and I must really get to work agaiu. Please do as I ask you No-

'Well, miss but I tell you you're not fit to do it.' As Norah spoke she brought the little stand to Ellen's side.

During the three months that preceded Elleu's ii!ness Caleb had given her considerable copying to do for himself and had interested a few others in her. What he did with the numerous manuscripts she copied for him remains a mystery. My opinion is that they were stowed away in the bottom of an ola trunk in his room.

Ellen worked away for some time. when she was disturbed again by the entrance of Norah.

'Miss Eilen, Mr. Darley sends his regards to you, and would you like to take a little ride? He's got a couple of hours to spare, and you know the doctor said it would do you good to go out to-

'Yes. I would like to very much,' said Ellen her eye lighting with pleasure. Tell Mr. Darley I'm much obliged to him. How soon must I be ready?"

Norah returned with the message that she must be ready in twenty minutes. and made haste to bring Ellens wraps

pings and help her on with them. 'There!' said Eilen suddenly; 'I promised to rip Mrs. Starkweather's dress to-day.

'Bother Mrs. Starkweathers dress said Norah indignantly. 'Oh, Neran, think how very kind she's

been to me! Will you please bring it down and after I get back--But Norah could beat this no longer No Miss Ellen I won't. It passes my patience-to have that scaly old cretur get the credit of every thing! It's Mr. Caleb, bless him! that's done every thing for you, just as it he was your brother.

Elles turned red and pale alternately Norah, what do you mean? -- in a trem bling voice.

Then Norah told her everything, though not to speak of it to 'Mr. Caleb.' For he'd be fit to kill me, ma'am.

But Eilen would make no promises, I am so glad you told me, Norah'-in the same tremulous voice. 'I think I might move up stairs again. ' she added: "I am so much better.

'Indade you won't, and get a collapse, perhaps, said Norah, sharply. 'There's

Caleb took Elleu to the Park, he drove about for some time. It was a beautiful spring day; the sun was shine ing, the grass and infant foliage of the trees so fresh and green.

'Well, Mis Ellen, you are getting a little color into those 1 ale cheeks, said Caieb, breaking the long silence. 'You don't know how I've missed you'-with aftender glance into the downcast face beside him. Ellen's lip trembled, and in a minute more a tear rolled down. She tried to speak, but could not.

'Ellen, what is the matter?' said Caleb taking her hand.

Then Ellen sobbed out: 'Oh, I can't bear it! I've just found out all you've been doing for me, and how kind you've been, and I can't bear it! How can I ever repay -her voice was choked.

'Dear Ellen shall I tell you how? Say 'yes' to a question I've been longing to ask you these three weeks, and you will make me the happiest man in world.

Ellen looked up, bewildered, and Caleb's tender, questioning gaze. She crimsoned to the temple

Will you be my little wife Ellen, and shall we set up our 'ain fireside togeth-

'Do you really care so much for me as that?' said Ellen with a laugh that was half a sob. And what will your relations say to your marrying a poor little reporter?

and should please myself if I had. Come Ellen, will you have me? I can't promise you a very brilliant future; I'm a poor, hard-working dog, and expect to be to the end of my days, A strong arm to serve you, and a warm heart to love you-

#### Gleanings.

W. T. Blackwell & Co., of Durham, have sent \$100 to the Memphis suffer-

Nothing is more dangerous, so far as your general health is concerned than to verwork your tongue.

We esteem others not so much for what they are worth, as for what they are worth to us. A Western lawyer is now held up to

the scorn and derision of mankind because he only charged a man \$10 for col-A banker having married a fat old

widow with \$100,000, says it wasn't his

wife's face that attracted him so much as the "figure." Speaking of dancing, a clergyman hits the nail on the head with the remark that

people usually do more harm with their tongues than with their toes.' The youngster who was sent away from the table just as the pastry came on, went sadly up stairs singing, Good-

by, sweet tart, good-by." . All the theology in the world has never succeeded in answering the child's question: "Why doesn't God kill the

devil?" All money packages received at the Treasury Department from yellow fever districts are, by direction of the Treasur-er, disinfected by the use of carbolic

We have just been thinking how land guage came into the world. It was dur-ing Adam and Eve's first quarrel, when one word brought on another .- Cincinnati Saturday Night. Less wisdom is required in realizing a

future than is necessary to use it properly. A man of one idea may accumulate money, but it takes a broader mind to spend it judiciously. A Binghampton, N. Y. wife, the other day, found a letter in her husband's old

clothes given him to mail eleven years

sgo, the non-receipt of which estranged two families ever since. A well-known dramatist can say rude things. Some one said to him, last week, "You want a new hat." "Yes, that's quite true," he replied; "but why say it? never told you, you wanted a new

Memphis having called upon New York for help, a number of Sisters of Charity, with characteristic promptness, have left for the afflicted city, and others will follow as their services may be

In speaking of McLin, of Florida, Manton Marble calls him "an ague-smitten Parish." It won't be a week before Dennis Kearney hurs that epithet at some distinguished bondholder.— Baltimore Gazette.

"John, did you take the note to Mr. Jones?" Yes; but I don't think he can read it." "Why so, John?" "Because he is blind, sir. While I was in the room, he axed me twice where my hat was; and it was on my head all the

The fashion reporter who wrote with reference to a belle, "Her feet were encased in shoes that might be taken for fairy boots," tied his wardrobe up in a handkerchief and left for parts unknown when it appeared the next morning: Her feet were encased in shoes that might be taken for ferry-boats."- Ex.

For twarty-five years a family of eleven ersons has resided on a farm of forty cres in the fairest part of Devonshire, England, in a miserable hovel containing but one room. They hold no communication with their neighbors, abuse and attack any person who ventures near them, live by tobbery, and are no sooner out of jail than they take up again their formerly disorderly courses.

#### DISINFECTING FOUL PLACES."

The Boston Scientific Nems, calls attention to the importance at this senson of getting rid of all vile smells about dwellings, and makes this practical sug-gestion: The article commonly used to disintect foul places is chloride of hime, but in reality it is not or much value. It may, and generally does, remove bad smells, but the cause still remains, as the chloride simply destroys the gaseons emanations. The much advertised disintectants are usually catchpenny nos-trums and unworthy of notice. One of the very best known disinfectants is one tashbued copperas, or sulphate of iron, which can be had very cheap. A harred of copperas would weigh probably 360 pounds, and can be purchased at whole sale price at a cent and a half per pound. And every family ongut, especially in warm weather, to have a supply of it on warm weather, to have a supply of it hand. A couple of handfuls of coppe thrown into a bucket of water will a dissolve, and it can then be used from and is a valuable disinfectant. The i