

EPITAPH ON A CANDLE. A single one that burned long, Who died in a decline...

DR. HAVEN'S BIRTHDAY.

The last paragraph of the letter read thus: "My darling, though wayward, child, I feel that I have done all the best...

The young girl laid down the letter with a quick, impatient sigh, poisoning herself first on one foot and then on the other...

"Poor, dear papa! No one will ever love me again as you did. Mamma I never knew; but it is of no use—I never can be dull and stupid, as most girls are!

And, humming a gay tune, five minutes later she was flying down the lane at break-neck speed, followed hard by a young teacher who was straining every nerve to catch the streamers of a white morning dress...

Deacon Brian's wife, with whom Kittie had made her home since her father's death, merely gave her a hopeless, patient glance, murmuring to herself as she turned to pursue her morning's work...

"Only one week more—only one week more, and then, I am thinking Dr. Haven will rule the day as ever quieted his house. I have heard he was a stern sort of man, one not likely to be very patient...

I hardly think Kittie Westley had an enemy in the whole world. She was handsome and daring, though frank and cordial, the young people all loved her...

And so Kittie Westley, homeless, though not without a small fortune, entrusted for safe keeping, and with scarcely a relative in the whole world, went to live with Dr. Haven...

"She reminds me now of an unfledged eagle, and will want tending down, of course," she thought, "and then she will make a brilliant star, no doubt."

Kittie did not see the doctor until the second day after her arrival; but she was summoned to meet him in the library. "I shall hint him, I know," she muttered, between her shut teeth, "for he is pious—"

woman evidently of the poorest class, and who had been weeping violently. "And so you think, doctor, there can be nothing as you Jimmie!"

"My good woman, if I deal with you faithfully, I must tell you that Jimmie must die. It is a sad case, I know, for one so young to be stricken down in a moment, as it were, in the flower of his youth; the hardest of all, in that he is not prepared to meet his Master who has called him in an unexpected hour."

"And that is why his poor mother's heart is breaking!" And Jimmie says, "Ask the doctor—" for he don't want the minister— "if he won't come to me by-and-by," for he thinks he will pass away at midnight."

Kittie's heart throbbled with a great pain; she could never forget those piteous words so long as she lived, and in spite of all her pride and stern resolve, two large, hot tears fell upon her hand. She dashed them quickly away, and, with a hard, defiant look, gazed steadily at a painting, for she was almost sure the doctor had been covertly regarding her.

"And so I have at last the pleasure of addressing Miss Kittie Westley! Will you please to come and make my acquaintance?" The young girl came forward with the air of one to whom nothing could be more disagreeable. She made a desperate effort to look at him, to impress him at once with the fact that his vaunted guardianship over her, or anything like kind care, was a matter of profound indifference, if not extremely distasteful to her.

Of course she was not vanquished before the battle; he would find that he had caught a tartar, if he undertook to chain her down to the dull proprieties of life. It seemed to her that this keen, calm, self-possessed man, of almost courtly polish, had, in the few moments which he had surveyed her, read every page in the book of her life through many a stormy passage.

But she could not long remain a child in the difficult position in which she found herself between the children and the stern, exacting father. All her energies were bent to securing tranquillity in the household, and she was the pilot who, with ready skill and quick wit, carried them all safely through many a stormy passage.

The Frau Rask survived her husband twenty-six years, and this was the happiest period of her life, when she saw realized all her fondest anticipations of her son's genius, and felt that there was no prouder title than that of Goethe's mother. She concealed her joy and exultation behind no thin mask of shyness, but openly laid claim to the honor she thought her due. She was very fond of singing in the circle of her friends, her son's songs, which had been set to music by Reichardt; the song in "Faust," "Es war einmal ein König," she was especially fond of; she would call upon the company to make a chorus, and at the conclusion would place her hand upon her heart and proudly exclaim, "Den hab' ich geboren."

Was he mocking her? Kittie gave him a quick, fierce glance, and he laughed outright, putting back her hair very gently at the same time. Kittie felt that the scene was growing dangerous, and, fearing lest her reserve should show that she sprang up, and taking a few impatient turns around the room, said, pausing in front of him—

"I am afraid you don't understand me at all, and if you think my living with you will give you pleasure, you will be disappointed, for I like to do just as I please, and you will rule me with a rod of iron, and we shall quarrel, I know."

The doctor was vastly amused. "My dear young girl, you amaze me exceedingly; that would be impossible. Think what an unequal contest! The war would be all on one side. When you and I come to understand each other, we shall be the best possible friends."

Kittie doubted it, and went to bed that night more angry with herself than the doctor. I wish I had the time and space to tell you all the minute details of the battles and skirmishes, the victories and defeats, that did come off between Kittie and the doctor before the end came; they would nearly make a book. But I will tell you how it ended, though, for Kittie Westley's name was banished from the house.

She had been naughty all winter; had dared and defied her guardian in the most reckless manner. So the doctor came to her and said, "Kittie, I have given orders for your going wardrobe to be packed, for I am going to send you back to Deacon Brian's. My guardianship has proved a failure; our life has been one continual warfare. We have both fought well, but I have surrendered at discretion. I fear you no ill-will that is not possible—and I have prayed, and always shall, as long as I live, that some where, and at some time in your life, there will be a turning point for the better. I bid you good-by."

Kittie stood like one stunned and bewildered; then, springing to his side before he left the room, she exclaimed— "Oh, Dr. Haven, don't send me away—indeed don't do it!"

Could this pale, beseeching face be the proud, peerless, defiant Kittie? He sank down into a chair, himself pale and speechless; but, straining still, a pair of soft, clinging arms were about his neck, and warm, quivering lips were breathing in his ear. "I know I have been so bad that you never can forgive me; but one reason I liked you the first time I saw you, when I didn't mean to, and I have been fighting against it ever since."

stand. I did suppose before I knew you that I could lay some claim to sympathy; but in the shoes of a wife, if I ever those eyes should select one whose conduct was exemplary before the world, and who could sympathize with me in my religious doubts and aspirations. But what I am just as foolish and weak as most men are—my heart has made a fool of my head. So I love you, Kittie—oh, my darling—in spite of all your faults, and—yes, I shall dare to ask you, after my plainness of speech, you will consent to be my wife. And remember, I charge you, for I can't help believing you have a woman's heart somewhere, that if you accept my love I shall place in your little hands a sacred charge; my honor, my happiness, my very life."

Kittie was sobbing as though her very heart would break; but when she was pressed for an answer, after much soothing and caressing, her answer was— "Only try me, sir, only try me; for I feel as though all the wilfulness had gone out of my heart, and that a great rest had come to me now that I am going to let myself love you all I want to."

The doctor was satisfied; and when another birthday came round he accepted the present his heart had so longed for, and, though years have passed away, has never regretted it.

GOETHE'S MOTHER.

The most widely known and loved member of Goethe's family was his mother. She possessed the qualities which win affection—a joyous temperament, a strong desire to please every one, a lively imagination, hearty good-nature, and a great common sense. Her youth and experiences at the time of her marriage have already been alluded to. But she could not long remain a child in the difficult position in which she found herself between the children and the stern, exacting father.

All her energies were bent to securing tranquillity in the household, and she was the pilot who, with ready skill and quick wit, carried them all safely through many a stormy passage. The Frau Rask survived her husband twenty-six years, and this was the happiest period of her life, when she saw realized all her fondest anticipations of her son's genius, and felt that there was no prouder title than that of Goethe's mother.

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Vegetine will eradicate from the system every taint of Scrofula and torpid Humor. It has permanently cured thousands in Boston and vicinity who had been long and painful sufferers.

Cancer, Cancerous Humor. The marvelous effect of Vegetine in case of Cancer and Cancerous Humor challenges the most profound attention of the medical faculty, many of whom are prescribing VEGETINE to their patients.

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RAILROAD LINES, & CAROLINA & WILMINGTON RAILWAY CO. Change of Schedule.

Change of Schedule. ON AND AFTER SUNDAY, DEC. 18TH, THE following Schedule will be in effect.

General Sup'ts Office, WILMINGTON, COLUMBIA & AUGUSTA R. R. COMPANY.

Change of Schedule. ON AND AFTER SUNDAY, DEC. 18TH, THE following Schedule will be in effect.

Wilmington & Weldon RAILROAD CO. Office of Gen'l Superintendent, Wilmington, N. C., Dec. 17, 1878.

Change of Schedule No. 25. ON AND AFTER DEC. 19TH, PASSENGER Trains on the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad will run as follows:

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NEW ADVERTISEMENTS. DOMESTIC SEWING MACHINES.

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