

"It is quite, quite impossible to let out another inch; she must have a new skirt, Miss Pincham.'

My mother knelt on the floor of our Little sitting-room. The green cloth had been removed from our table, which was strewn with scissors, cotton, tape and snips. On a square piece of drugget, put down by our landlady, Mrs. Lipscombe, to save the carpet, I stood, undergoing the agonies of being "tried on."

I was wondering whether it could be in any way connected with a letter which mother had received a day or two prewiouslyy-a letter which I had seen her take out and read several times since. I had not seen her answer it vet-mother so seldom wrote a letter that I should nave ben certain to notice it. Altogether was puzzled. The letter, I believed, concerned me in some way; else, why this new

Poor, darling mother! As she rose from the floor and arranged her widow's ap at the glass, I thought how sweet tury. was her pale, lined face. To me it was all so natural, our monotonous life together at Shipley-le-Marsh, that I never knew what she suffered.

Mother was the eldest daughter of In money. He bought Gray Ashtead, a beautiful estate some fifteen miles from Shipley, and added to it every modern Enxury that wealth could supply. His family consisted of two daughters-Emmeline and Rosalie. Emmeline was beautiful, with that fragile loveliness which so soon decays. A complexion like a conch shell, delicate features, hair of pale gold, and soft, blue eyes. On her be centered all his ambition. "Who marcied Emmerline, married her name," said he. She was to be heiress of Gray Ashtead; she was to perpetuate the line of Carewe. At the age of eighteen his ido! met, at Harrogate, a young Frenchman, Constant Damien by name. He was a member of a most ancient and noble bouse, deprived of its title and estates by the revolution of 1789. He was supremeby handsome, and, of course, penniless. When Emmeline petitioned to marry

Constant my grandfather almost had a fit. With much coarse language he dismissed the idea altogether, terming his would-be son-in-law a "beggarly adventurer. Beside himself with rage, Constant told him that it was a condescension on his part to stoop to the daughter of a parvenue-one who certainly did not derive her beauty and goodness from her father, but inherited them straight from the angels; but Mr. Carewe should know "that it was not for such canaille as he to insult a nobleman of France with impunity.'

So the two separated, and next morning Emmeline ran away with young Damien. They went to London and were married. My grandfather expected them to appear in a few weeks, suing for forgiveness and help. He much mistook the mature of Constant Damien. The young man, who was by profession an artist. worked night and day to keep his girl wife from want. He would have died a thousand deaths sooner than apply to Matthew Carewe for a pin. For a year the foolish couple were very, very happy. Success began to smile on Constant; peoble took him up. I was born, and their bliss seemed perfect. Then the shadow fell. Constant, walking home one day in the rain, took a chill. He neglected his cold-neglected the hollow cough which followed it-continued to go out in all weathers, and at last, one day, took to his bed. He was in a rapid decline; mothing could save him, and in a year he was dead, and beautiful Emmeline was a widow-just twenty years old.

Then, indeed, she wrote to her father, but too late. He would have nothing whatever to say to her. He could neither forgive nor forget. His darling, idolized daughter had dealt him a blow from which he could not rally. He desired his colicitor to write to her and tell her that £100 a year, which she inherited from her mother, would be paid regularly. That was all.

The despairing young widow next wrote constant's mother, who had married second time-a Devonshire gentleman mamed Burnside. The answer from her was that she could have no communication with any member of a family which "had insulted her Constant; Mrs. Damien's own grand relations might look after her and her baby. By the next post came a kind, bluff letter from Mr. Burnside, my grandmother's English husband, inclosing a ten-pound note, and promising to send amore when I should be old enough to meed education. But before that time behold, the house fronted me! An old, came he was dead. Poor mother was indeed friendless. She came to Shipley-le-Marsh, and settled there, for two reasons. First, it was within the reach of her sister Rosalie; secondly, it was a place where nobody knew her.

For some years mother was always froping that her father would relent; but when I was about four years old, Mr. Carewe adopted the son of his cousin-a boy about three years older than I. Then mother felt that our chance was gone. This adopting of a son and heir was a final blow. Day by day she lived on her quiet, dreary life, meek and crushed, hoping and expecting nothing.

All dinner-time that day moth silent and preoccupied. The kind attention and grave smile with which she esnally met my childish chatter were not mine to-day. Once I almost thought I saw her crying, but it might have been

Marianne Lipscombe had hardly finished clearing away the dishes when, from my post at the open window, I announced, triumphantly, "Here's Aunt Rosalie!" The elegant barouche, with its spirited destnuts, drew up at our humble door. Munt Rosalie marched into the room full of life and spirit. She was twenty-six years old, and a very striking-looking moman. She embraced mother warmly, and sat down, with me on her lap.

"Well, Tadpole," quoth she, "when's your body going to grow as large as your those pretty Normandy caps which

In answer to this inquiry I burrowed tadpole head in her shoulder and stant's little one," said my grandmother,

she's growing, Emmeline! I don't know

how you keep her in frocks." "It is difficult," said mother, sitting near, and watching with a smile of pleas ure as I dived into a basket of Gray Ashtead strawberries. "And that reminds me. Rosalie, I have been waiting most eagerly for your visit to-day, to consult you about something. I had a letter the other day from Mrs. Burnside."

"Mrs. --- ?" queried my aunt, puz-"Mrs. Burnside-my mother-in-law-old

Madame Damien, that was." "Oh, to be sure! What did she say?" "She wants to make Olga's acquaintance. She wants me to send her down to Burnside for a long visit, and I-I have

decideu to let her go." "Emmeline! All that distance!" "Here is the letter; read it for your-

Aunt Rosalie took the missive, in its cramped, angular, French handwriting, which seemed to belong to another cen-"Burnside, June 3.

"My Dear Madame Damien-You will, without doubt, experience a great surprise in receiving a letter from me after my long silence; but it is written in de-Matthew Carewe, a mill-owner, colling | femence to the wish of my late husband, Mr. Burnside. In his lifetime he expressed a desire to be at the expense of educating the daughter of my Constant, whose memory he ever held as dear as that of a son. According to my calculations, your daughter must be ten years of age by this, and be grown a great girl. would ask, let her come to Burnside and pay me a long visit. Let me ascertain her character, her mental capacity, her tastes, and her temper; I shall then be able to judge how best to carry out the wishes of Mr. Burnside. I trust that no foolish pride will induce you to stand in the way of your child's interests in this matter. Send me a letter, indicating the day and hour of her arrival, and she shall

> "Hoping for a favorable reply, I am, nadame, yours very faithfully. BLANCHE MARIE NICOLINE BURNSIDE."

> "I think the old lady's rather uppish," was my aunt's comment on reading this

epistle. "Only look on the matter rationally, Rose," said mother, pleadingly; "what other prospects have I for her? You courself must by this time despair of papa's ever coming round. It darling Olga had only been a boy it might have been different-but now! His adopting young Rayvenham Carewe has been my inal blow.

" You see," continued mother, with a hopeless sigh, "my only hopes for the poor child must come through Mrs. Burn side. She must have a little money, I should think, and when she dies she might

"But I don't want to leave you; I won't go anywhere," I cried, and therewith I

leave it to Olga."

burst into tears. But the fiat had gone forth. Mother and aunt set about to comfort me; but nothing could change mother's deter-

mination. I was to go and make my

CHAPTER II.

grandmother's acquaintance.

I will pass over the sad parting with my mother and the few incidents of my journey to Kingsden, where I was to be met by some of my grandmother's folks. When the train reached my descination scrambled up, the guard appeared, flung open the door and deposited me and my portmanteau on the platform.

A heavy step crunched on the gravel near me. I looked up. A very tall, and, as it seemed to me then, fabulously broad man stood over me. A rough, gray-cloth hat covered tangled yellow hair, blue Saxon eyes looked down from under squarely marked brows, the lower part of the face was hidden in thick blonde beard and mustache. "Miss Damien?" said he, in grave,

"Yes, I am Olga Damien," I answered,

looking up at him with a treacherous quiver of my mouth, which warned me that tears were not far off. Hercules lifted me up a tremendous

height into an airy "trap." I liked being there. It was not so pleasant when Hercules climbed in beside me, carefully arranging a dust-cloth over my knees, and easily gathering up the reins. We started off for our five-mile drive. Suddenly we took a sharp turn to the right, through a gate which stood open, over a bridge under which a stream murmured, and, low, long Elizabethan pile, gray, stonebuilt, and beautiful. We stopped at the and raised his hat, with looks of most front door; it was open, which struck me then, I remember, as odd. I was set on my feet by Hercules, who then strode to the wide door at the foot of the staircase, and called aloud, "Madame! I have brought her!"

A moment elapsed, during which, spite of June sunset, cold shivers ran down my back. Then a door opened, and through it came my grandmother, with hands outstretched. Ah! She was like an old picture-like a lady from another century. What a grandmother for me to possess! As she stood smiling, and never speaking, but holding out her hands to me, I held back no longer. I ran straight into the shelter of her arms, let her pull my hat off my tumbled locks, and felt her caressing touch as she held my head against her breast and murmured over

me, in the softest voice imaginable. "My dear granddaughter! My poor Constant's fatherless little one! So thou hast come to me at last, mon enfant! Art thou very tired, then? Nay, do not weep, the journey has been a long one for such small feet."

Drawing me into a room near, whereof was too tired to notice anything but that it smelt of roses, she rang a bell. In a moment a middle-aged woman appeared, with a sweet, sober face, dressed in black like her mistress, with one of framed the face like an aureole.

"Esperance, this is Monsieur Contremulously. Do you see a likeness,' "Long and lanky! What a gawky child asked my grandmother, with a kind of appeal in her voice. The cld serving woman shook her head.

"My Monsieur Constant had deep brown eyes," she said. "The young demoiselle's eyes are gray. His complexion was a perfect olive-her skin is fair under her black hair. But, madame, she reminds me strikingly of the old portrait of the Princess Olga, which was brought from La Chaudenaye."

"You think so?" said my grandmother, with evident delight. "Yes, you are right, Esperance, it is so. She has the same low brow and short upper lip; she is aristocratic to the backbone. Thank heaven, there can be very little of the Carewes about her!"

"She is tired, madame. It is seven o'clock. I shall take her straight to bed. Yes, my lamb," she went on to me, "cry if thou wilt, thou must be so weary. It is a frightful journey for so young a creature.'

I laid myself down in the strong arms and wept quietly. My grandmother stole up and stroked my hair.

"She must wait, then, until to-morrow to see her Uncle Remy," said she, softly. "I wonder, Esperance, will be, too, see the likeness which we have discovered?" "I think so," said Esperance, "and Monsieur Remy will also be a playfellow for her. I dare say the master scared Remey appeared to be in a drowsy and

"Yes," observed madame, regretfully, "my poor Victor is not a ladies' man." 1 wondered, sleepfly, whether Victor were Hercules, who had vanished miraculously as soon as my grandmother appeared; also, I wondered how my Uncle Remy, who must of necessity be grown up, could be my playfellow; and so I felt the touch of soft lips on my tear-stained cheeks, and was carried up the wide, shallow oak staircase, along a corridor, and into the sweetest little chamber im-

CHAPTER III.

I was awakened on my first morning at Burnside by singing. A young, vigorous man's voice was caroling in the garden below me. I sprang from my bed, drew aside my rose-colored curtains, and peeped forth; but the singer had disappeared. Esperance now entered and proceeded to wash and dress me.

At the door I paused, and demanded in a low voice of Esperance: "Who is the gentleman who drove me from Kingsden yesterday-what is his name?" "Bless me! Why, that is Mr. Burn-

side, the master of the house!" "But Mr. Burnside is dead," I objected. "True. Mr. Burnside who was husband to madame is dead; but this is his son, Monsieur Victor. Now, run in, dear child, and greet thy grandmother.

entered timidly. My grandm was presiding over a most tempting breakfast table. At the other end of the table sat Mr. Burnside, quietly unfolding the Times. The lion looked no less terrible with-

out his hat than with it. He turned on me a half-puzzled, half-amused glance. I drew reluctantly near, and received a grave and awkward "How do you do, Miss Damien?"

I retreated as far as possible from him to the other end of the table, and at that moment was heard an elastic step on the gravel outside, the French window was flung open, and a young man bounded in and flung his arms round my grandmother with effusion.

"Good-morning, my dearest," she replied to his ardent salutation; "see Remy, here is your little niece-poor Constant's little girl."

My uncle flung himself on his knees beside me and encircled me with his arm. His beautiful face was close to mine. I saw dark masses of clustering curls, a rich brown skin, sparkling black eyes, a slight dark mustache on the impetuous lip, and a warm flush of color in the cheeks. My heart went out to him at once. His smile of pleasure and amity won me. I gave to him willingly the kiss for which he entreated, and in a minute found myself enthroned upon his knee, shy, yet utterly happy.

"Tell me, Remy," said my grandmother, wistfully, "do you see any like-

"To my brother? None. But I tell you to whom I do see a likeness-to cur Muscovite ancestress, the Princess

Olga!" "I am enchanted," said madame. I do not know when my life at Burnside first became an ordinary thing to me. I was wonderfully happy there. Every day developed some new pleasure, though the life at the Manor House was of the quiestest and most retired order. My chief delight was in my rides with Uncle Remy. Esperance made me a little riding skirt, and together we scampered over Dartmoor, or traversed the old coach road, whence, at the high points, one could catch glimpses of the

One day, many weeks after my arrival, when I had settled down into all the Burnside ways, and ceased to feel a single pang of homesickness, my uncle and I were riding along the coach road, past a pair of old gates, evidently leading to some park or country seat. As we passed, at a foot-pace, the heavy gate swung open, and a young, pretty girl stepped out into the road. She glanced up as she was closing the latch, met my uncle's eye, and bowed, with a blush and a smile. He instantly checked his horse, evident pleasure.

"How do you do, Miss Lyndon? I did not know you were returned from Lon-

"How do you do, Mr. Damien?" was the answer, in a fresh and prepossessing voice. "We only returned yesterday evening. Who is your fair lady?" "It is my little niece, Olga Damien.

She and I are sworn brothers and the best of comrades." "I am delighted to see her, and hope we may be better friends," said this delightful young lady. "We are going to have a garden party next week; I shall

certainly inclose a card for Miss Olga Damien. Will Mr. Damien's pressing looking up, I beheld Mr. Burnside. engagements allow him to honor us with his presence?" Remy burst forth into a vehement declaration that ropes should not keep him from the Brooklands on the day mentioned; at which Miss Lyndon laughed.

waved her hand, and walked quickly away up the lane. After this meeting my uncle was silent and abstracted during a long portion of away from the little girl who trotted be. Then the light was extinguished—she had our ride. That day at bunch he an- side him-how amazed he would have lain down to sleep. I rose from bed. nounced suddenly, "the Lyndons are back at the Brooklands." The squire looked up, and I saw a frown of annoyance

"When did they come home?" growled the squire. are going to give a garden party next shoulder, and he passed his aym round

stepbrother looked defiantly at him.

"I give you due notice that I do not go," went on the squire. "That is a pity; you will be terribly missed," answered my uncle, with greatest gravity.

My grandmother, who had been listening to this jangle with evident uneasiness, now thought it prudent to interfere. "No more of this, please, my sons," said she; and neither of the young men spoke another word.

It was my first intimation that this peaceful Devonshire household possessed, like other households, a skeleton in their cupboard. I had never before seen the domestic quiet disturbed in any way. But, as I looked at the lowering brows of Mr. Burnside, under which his blue eyes seemed to shoot sparks, I pitied Uncle Remy from the bottom of my heart.

CHAPTER IV.

we should not go for a ride; instead, we would go for a walk through the hayfields. I acquiesced, as I should have done in anything he had proposed. So we took a lunch of strawberries and cake in a little basket, and went off together. We came to a stop at length in a delicious go to bed." meadow which, like all Devonshire meadows, lay on the slope of a hill. Uncle contemplative state of mind. He lay tor, I beg. What do you mean?" full length on the warm, fragrant hay, and allowed me to pile it up behind his head to keep off the sun. This done, I Miss Lyndon?" crept to his side and lay down with my head on his arm.

"What are you thinking about just now -this very minute?" I demanded. "I? Oh, nothing that would interest you, child. I say, Olga, did you notice an insult as the offer of your hand would Miss Lyndon, the young lady we met be. When you leave this house, as you yesterday?"

"Didn't you think her very pretty?" "I think she's the prettiest person I ever saw, and the nicest, too. Are you going to marry Miss Lyndon, Uncle Re?" He started.

"Why, yes, of course."

"I don't know, child. No one can say beforehand what he or she will do. If

only I were free____' "Are you not free? You are grown up," I said, wondering. On this he burst forth with bitterness.

"Free? I am chained like a captive! I wear a galling yoke! Almost as I raise my arms"-suiting the action to the word-"I expect to hear my chains rattle! I cannot do as I like half so much as you can, child Olga! No; may you never know the bitterness of being bound as I am-eating another's bread, and expected in return to do as I am told, and look pleasant! It is servitude-ignominious slavery."

I was fairly puzzled. I had certainly never before noticed any signs of the well spare it." bondage of which he spoke. He seemed as unshackled as the June, hay-scented breeze which cooled our foreheads.

"Yes," he resumed, "I am like the miserable French nation when Marat gripped her by the throat! I he unable to help myself, yet all the time obliged to gasp out 'Vive la Liberte!' Oh, where is the Charlotte Corday who will rid me of the tyrant?"

The allusion to Charlotte Corday was the only thing in this sentence which caught my attention. I reminded my uncle that he had promised me the history of this heroine, who, he had told me, was one of my French ancestors. His eye lit up.

telling it," he said. "So listen to me well, you little descendant of the noblest drughter of France."

So his emphatic, metodious, voluble French voice related the account of Marat's assassination, and, as he called it, the martyrdom of his murderess. I lay entranced, deep among the hay-buried derstood by his superior intellect." in it almost-so that all I could see was the blue, deep sky, with occasionally the flight of a bright bird across it. Uncle | ment?" pleaded madame. rang across the quiet English hayfield with a quaintly incongruous effect.

The next few days passed quietly. We likely to meet her. To me the days seemed to roll by on leaden wings-the slow days which stood between me and

that garden-party. I was awake by 6 on the eventful morning, and when the withdrawal of my window curtains showed me a cloudless sky. I could have cried with joy. The carriage came round at 3 o'clock-the large open carriage and pair which was only used on state occasions. What excitement and what with the awe of having Mr. Burnside's formidable beard opposite me, I never uttered a syllable durwas beating as the carriage shot past the old gateway leading to the Brooklands, and I squeezed Uncle Re's hand.

What a fairy sight met my gaze when we alighted! The broad terrace lawns were gay with ladies attired in every delicate hue of pale blue, coral, amber. terra-cotta, and cream. Tennis was going on in three separate courts, and the proceedings were enlivened by the strains of a band playing a soft, Germansounding waltz.

I cannot here describe the delights of that afternoon; how we swung, played tennis, ransacked the fruit garden, and constantly repaired to the marquee on a glimpse of Uncle Remy, now and then of grandmother, who was sitting under the trees, and now and then of the squire less. walking and talking, or, once or twice, standing still and blank, as if lost in unpleasant thought.

At last the wonderful, beautiful day came to an end. Miss Lyndon's nieces, Hugh and Chrissie, and I had finished our Re used to tell me. Suddenly a quick, firm step crunched on the gravel, and,

"Child, we have been looking for you everywhere; be quick, the carriage is waiting," he said, in a voice which sounded irritated and harsh.

Uncle Re never spoke to me like that, made my adieus, and followed him reluctantly. He walked on, his thoughts miles resentful feelings then working in her gather on his usually passive face. His door, his lips set, his face defiant. Liss Lyndon I could not see.

I was very tired indeed. The even trot

half roused to consciousness as my uncle lifted me out of the carriage, and the lamplight flashed in the hall at Bura-

"Remy, I should like to speak to you at once in the library," I heard the square

"With all my heart," answered Remy, defiantly. Uncie Remy, still with me in his arms,

walked into the library.

CHAPTER V. Uncle Remy carried me into the library, and laid me down on a sofa covered with a fur rug. The squire stood erect beforthe carved oak mantelpiece. In a low chair, over the back of which a stuffed pelican impertinently peeped, sar madame; and Remy's graceful limbs were dispersed over two chairs, his head resting Next day my unde Remy elected that on his elbow, his fingers buried among his black curls.

"Now, Remy, I want you to tell me at once, clearly and without equivocation, what you intend to do."

"My good friend, as soon as this momentous interview is over. I intend to "Without equivocation," said the squire,

in a muffled growl like distant thunder. "Explain yourself more clearly, Vic-"You perfectly know my meaning.

What do you intend to do as regards "I can't see what earthly right you have to ask." "You cannot? Well, I will tell you.

While you live under my roof I refuse to allow you to offer to any lady such are free to do at any moment, you can. of course, indulge in any such blackguardly meanness as you think fit, but while you live at Burnside I will not have it."

"Have you any further names to call me in the presence of my mother? I begin to see the reason why the virtuous squire so strongly disapproves of my proceedings," said Remy, sarcastically. appears that he, too, has cast an admir-

ing eye on the golden apple." "Such an attempt to waive the point will serve you nothing, Remy," was the firm reply. "I merely wish you to understand that I will not have you conducting yourself like this under my roof. If you wish to marry Miss Lyndon you can leave Burnside and take a house of your

"Noble, generous being," said Remy, through clinched teeth; "you are admirably consistent as well as essentially charitable. If you think so much of Miss Lyndon's broken heart, why not give me the wherewithal to mend it? You could

"You have asked me to tell you why, and I will," returned the squire, folding his arms and fronting Remy quietly. "I will not stir a finger to facilitate your marriage, because I consider that a man who refuses to do a single stroke of honest work is a man who would make any good woman miserable. You are totally

unworthy of Miss Lyndon." "Remy," said madame, raising her eyes for the first time and looking very pale. "my son, tell me, is your love for that beautiful girl deep and enduring? Would you be prepared to make sacrifices for her sake?"

"Really, sweet mother, I am hardly "I feel exactly now in the mood for prepared to answer such questions in public," he replied. "I must bow to my destiny. I admit, frankly, that a nobleman of France is totally unable to contend with the delicately put arguments of a Devonshire yeoman. Were I to explain myself more fully to Victor, I should doubtless fail to make myself un-

"Could you not give him something to do, Victor-help him to some appoint-

Remy began to sing the "Marseillaise." | "Madame, as you know very well, I How he could sing! The martial words once made Remy baliff of the estates. "Madame, as you know very well, I The result of that experiment was not such as to make me ready to repeat it. Remy has shown himself utterly unfit did not again meet Miss Lyndon, al- for a position of trust. Now we have had though I am sure, now I look back upon enough wrangling; let me go on to say it, that Uncle Remy purposely bent his what I asked to speak to you for. I resteps to the places where we were most quire from you, before you leave this library, a promise to go straight to Mr. Lyndon to-morrow and tell him exactly your circumstances. You have no money -you do not intend to try to earn any; you wish to marry his daughter. I wonder what he will say to the rapport of

kindred spirits?" "Such a promise you will never get from me," said Remy, between his teeth. "Mean, base and cowardly are the adjectives you have applied to me. Look at home and see if the cap fits. You. rolling in money, who, though born with the constitution of a plowman, have yet ing the whole drive. I know my heart never known what it was to want. I, born a descendant of one of the noblest families in the world, have all my life groveled in the dust, eating your breadflung to me grudgingly and with reproaches. You do not scruple to torture my finest feelings, you goad me to madness

with a sense of my obligations! I will not promise." "Here has that child been all the time." observed the squire, breaking a somewhat dreadful pause. "I will ring for

Esperance to take her to bed." Esperance carried me upstairs and undressed me. I was so silent all the time that she thought I was still half asleep. She heard my prayers, tucked me into the lawn for ices. I now and then caught my little white bed, and left me. As soon as she was gone I sat up, my arms round my knees, my eyes wide and sleep-

The whole of what I had just heard was ringing in my ears. "Oh, poor Uncle Remy!" What a sordid, merciless heart had the squire! Tears ruched into my eyes as I thought of the hisery of my uncle and sweet Miss Lyndon. game of tennis, and were reclining on a How they loved each other! What would garden-sear, while I regaled the others be the consequence if they were bewith a tale about a knight and a naiad, trayed! The next morning the tyrant which was one of the many that Uncle was going to the Brooklands to carry the fatal message which would ruin two lives. "On, could not some one stop him? Was there no one to help Uncle Remy? No one who could crush the tyrant? No

Charlotte Corday-" I paused. My heart seemed to give one leap and then stand still. Over me. like a revelation, came the thought of nor called me "child" in that way, as if I what I had the power to do. Motionless. had been doing something naughty. I hugging the dreadful thought, I sat till Esperance came up to bed. I heard her moving about, undressing in her room. been could he have known of the angit. There was no guardian angel sent to take my little misguided hands and keep me mind. Uncle Re stood at the carridge from my madness. If the tyrant were removed Uncle Re would have beautiful Burnside all to himself, and could bring Miss Lyndon home to it; so I reasoned of the horses' hoofs was soothing and in my ignorance. I rose and shook back "Last night," Cas the airy reply. "They sleepy. I leaned my head on Uncle Re's my hair. I knew exactly where there was a knife-a Damascene dagger, hang- I to themselves as in New York -New week, and Olga is to be included in the me. I shut my heavy eyes, and only ing in the hall, which Uncle Re had | York Sun. often drawn from its velvet sheath for

my benefit, making the bright blade flash

I paused and listened. The whole house was still. My whole being was centered on the awful end I had in view. I crept along the corridor to the door of the squire's room. It was not locked; it yielded to my pressure, and I stole in. The moonlight flooded the room. The only sound was the squire's regular breathing. He lay with one arm thrown up under his head, the other stretched on the counterpane. I felt as though he must hear the loud thumpings of my heart. I turned sick and faint. The very thought of blood to me was an abhorrence; but a tremendous power, not myself, seemed to have taken possession of me. It was my duty, and do it I would. I climbed on a large footstool by

the bed-

I scarcely know how to write it. I raised the knife in both hands, and brought it down with all my might. I heard a sudden, choking, smothered cry, and terror, such as I cannot describe. took possession of me. The sleeping man writhed and started up. I wildly tugged out my murderous weapon; I had aimed as near to the heart as I knew how. The dagger had something glittering wet upon it. I threw it to the further end of the room and fled. It seemed to myself hardly a second before I was back in bed in my own room, every limb shaking as if with the ague. I lay with my face buried in the pillows, hearing the monotonous beatings of my heart, as if it would burst. Should I ever sleep again, I wondered. Gradually the moon set, the stars faded, the dawn came up over the lovely Devon landscape. It was broad daylight at last; and, as I lay, hating the level beams of the hot morning sun, before I knew it my eyes closed, and I sank into an uneasy slumber.

In my sleep I enacted over again the dread tragedy of the night. I dreamed that I stole from the bed, procured the Damascus dagger, and entered the room of the sleeping squire. Again in fancy I raised the weapon and struck with all my force; and again I heard that cry. I sprang out of bed, my heart in my mouth. Surely that cry was not a dream; and as I stood, every nerve convulsed, on the floor of my room, the cry was repeated more loudly, in accents of horror and

alarm, "Murder! Murder!" I opened my door. Uncle Remy at the same moment opened his, and came out, without his coat, and with a white, scared face. One of the men-servants, with ashen lips and wild eyes, was running down the corridor.

"Oh, Lord, Mr. Damien, it's murder, neither more nor less! Oh, in heaven's name, come here "

"What do you mean?" "Mr. Burnside, sir-the squire-" I saw my uncle stagger and lurch back against the wall. "I went to call him this morning, sir, as

midway between the bed and the door. and all over blood." "Oh, you're dreaming-it can't be." "Uncle Re," I interposed, trembling

usual, and I found him lying on the floor,

with excitement. He never even saw me. He ran like an arrow down the corridor, and I heard his cry of agonized horror as he entered the chamber of my victim.

(To be continued.)

RAMS' HORN BLASTS



HE brave man is ever a believing

Love is a conviction that supersedes the senses. If you would

avoid sin do not seek out temptation. The only true di-

vine service is the se vice of humani. A man is worth what he gives.

Manliness is built on godliness. Fast living is really but slow dying. The Christian serves all men but

Reformers must be transformed.

Christ is his only Master. The heaviest cross of many Christians is the church collection. The man who will not serve others

cannot succeed himself. The light of a Christian life either shines out or it goes out. Spasms of spiritual indigestion are

produced by swallowing isms. A diamond must remain dirt if it be not willing to lose half itself. A balloon rises when you throw out

ballast but a man will sink that way.

He who would measure the sun with a foot-rule would judge God by him-Grit is a good thing to have so long as you don't fire it in your neigh-

bors' faces. The man who seeks to pillow on popular applause finds it hard to sleev

for fear the bubble will burst. The trouble with some scientists is that they live in the cooal-mine of their investigations and call their candle the sun.

Men Who Talk to Themselves. A Western physician made his first visit to New York last week and at a semi-public dinner on Saturday evening he happened to be seated with men who had spent all of their lives in this

city. One of them said to him: "Doctor, I have often wondered how New York would impress a thinking man on his first visit. What impresses you most in the streets?"

"The thing which first attracted my attention," said the physician, "and which still holds it is the fact that most of the men whom one passes in the street are talking to themselves. Why is it? Don't New Yorkers have friends to whom they may talk or are they so given to talking that they must talk to themselves when they are alone? Do they all talk in their sleep?

"Is it because men work harder here that they go along the streets mumbling to themselves? I don't know the true explanation of it, but I have been in many different cities and in none of them have I seen so many men talking