A Brave Mother.

Some years ago a lady living in the quiet city of the lakes, went to the far East—taking with her an only son, a promising boy of thirteen. Soon after reaching their destination, Frank complained of sore throat. He was not so seriously ill but that he could write a letter to his father, a cheerful letter, full of love and hope. In the letter he remarked that his throat was sore, but not alarmingly so. The night that the letter arrived the telegraph flashed out these words to the distracted father—'Frank is dead!' Loving friends gathered anxiously around the bed of the dear one, hoping in some way to alleviate his sufferings and restore him again to health. The physician examined him critically, showing by his anxious looks that he fears that hope is nearly gone, but dare not breathe it to the poor mother for fear the shock will kill her. She seems to understand the meaning of the look, and calmly asks:

'Doctor, how long before the crisis will have passed?'

'By midnight,' said the physician; 'if he rallies again he may live—but I fear for the worst. May God help you!'

Friends press around the bed, asking 'what they can do;' the dear mother turns to the grief-stricken friends and with tearless eyes says: 'You are all very weary—go and lie down. But little can be done for Frank. I can do all, and If I need you I will call.'

O the sacredness of that still hour when the mother is alone with her Maker and her boy whose life is going out! In that dark hour she prays, 'Not my will, but Thine, O God! but if possible let the cup pass.' She drew her boy closely to herself, and watched with breathless anxiety every shadow of change that passed over his face. About midnight Frank's breathing became short and a change came over him. 'Mother, *dear* mother, kiss me,' said Frank, faintly, 'I am soon going over the river Jordan.'

The candle of his young life flickered for some moments, then went out forever. The mother pressed her lips in a last despairing agony of love to the face of her boy from which the soul had fled—and then alone closing the eyes of her heart's love—and alone washed and dressed him for the tomb.

The friends, thinking as they were not called that all was well, slept on until three o'clock, when they came and found Frank dead. They each exclaimed through great sobs and tears—'Dear sister, why did you not call us? How could you do all this alone?' The brave woman answered: 'I wished to be alone with my dead. It comforted me to perform these last sad rites, to do all for him that I can. Only think of the father, so far away, who cannot have this comfort.'

The mother returned again to her home and took up the burden of life anew, bearing a lifelong hunger in her heart but never uttering a complaint or murmur. Kind words and loving smiles were her constant guests, as she scattered sun beams of happiness on all around her, until the summons came 'come up higher.'—*Ex.*

On Mount Ararat.

Dr. Bryce described his ascent of Mount Ararat at the royal institution in London the other evening. As Cossacks would not, from pride, act as porters, he engaged Kurds to carry his impediments, but was obliged also to engage Cossacks to protect him from his Kurds. Notwithstanding the fact that the ascent has been made several times, it is still a rooted superstition in the country that the mountain is under superhuman care—what the Kurds say of devils the Armenians say of angels—and that it cannot be ascended. His attendants gradually fell off and he completed the ascent alone. When far above the level of trees he came upon a small piece of wood, which he exhibited, though he was not prepared to account for its appearance at so great an elevation. Former travelers have alluded to the volcanic origin of the mountain. He found this to be so, though there was no trace of a crater no more than of the ark, though there is a firm belief through the district that the ark is still preserved in a recess. He thinks the whole surface has been carried away by denudation. The appearance of the mountain, rising as it does 14,500 feet above the valley level, is very striking and it naturally suggests that it would be the first spot of dry land in the district after the flood. Dr. Bryce said he believed the people of the district were retrograding rather than progressing.—*Ex.*

The Doctor and His Patient.

A wealthy manufacturer from the west of Scotland, while at Edinburg on business, called upon Dr. Gregory for his advice. He was a man of middle stature, rather corpulent, with a rosy complexion and whose whole exterior spoke the comfortable liver. After seating himself he said: 'Well, Dr. Gregory, I ha' come up to Edinboro' in the way o' business, and I thought I would take your advice about my health.'

'Your health, sir? What is the matter with you?'

'I'm not just as well in the stomach as I'd like to be.'

'Stomach! I suppose you are a drunkard or a glutton, then, sir?'

'Na, na, Dr. Gregory, ye canna' say that; ye maun ken that I am a sober mon and a temperate mon, and a deacon of the kirk, as my worthy father was before me.'

'Let us see. What do you eat and drink? What do you take for breakfast?'

'I take tea or coffee, wi' toast, and a fresh egg or a bit o' salmon, though I have na much appetite for breakfast.'

'Yes; and then you take something by way of lunch between breakfast and dinner?'

'I canna say I care much about the lunch, but can take a bit o' bread and cheese, and a glass of ale, if it be there, but canna say I care much about it.'

'Well, what do you eat for dinner?'

'O, I'm not very particular, though I maun say I like my dinner.'

'I suppose you take soup first?'

'Yes; I like soup.'

'And a glass of something with the soup?'

'Yes; I like a glass o' brandy wi' the soup.'

'And then you have fish, or beef, or mutton, with vegetables? And a glass of ale or porter with them?'

'Yes, I take a glass o' ale now and then with my meat.'

'And then you have boiled fowl or bacon now and then?'

'Yes; I maun say I like a bit o' fowl at dinner.'

'And a glass of something with them?'

'Yes.'

'And after the fowl you have some sort of pudding?'

'Na, I'm na fond of pudding, but I can take a bit, if it be there.'

'And you must take wine with the pudding?'

'I canna take over much of the wine, but if I have a friend with me I take a glass or two.'

'And then you have cheese or nuts?'

'Yes, the gude wife is ower fond o' them; but I canna say I care much about them.'

'But you take a glass of wine or two with your nuts?'

'Yes, a glass or two.'

'Well, you do not finish your dinner without whisky punch?'

'I find my dinner sits better on my stomach with a little punch, so I take a glass or two.'

'And you have tea, I suppose?'

'Yes, I maun take my tea wi' the gude wife.'

'And a glass of something with it?'

'Yes, I can take something if it be there.'

'But you do not go to bed without your supper?'

'Na, na, Gregory; I canna say I like to gang to bed without my wee bit o' supper.'

'And what do you eat for supper?'

'O, a bit of anything, a bit o' boiled tongue, or salmon, or boiled fowl.'

'And a glass of something with it?'

'Yes.'

'And can you go to bed without a nightcap of hot punch?'

'I maun say I sleep better for a glass of hot punch, though I canna say I'm fond o' the habit.'

'Well, sir, you're a fine fellow. You come to me with a lie in your mouth, and tell me you are a sober man, and a temperate man, and a deacon of the kirk, as your worthy father was before you; and you make yourself out by your own statement to be a glutton, and a drunkard, and a wine bibber, and a whisky tippler, and a beer swiller, and a drinker of that most abominable of all compositions—punch! Go home, sir, reform yourself and become temperate in your eating and drinking and you will have no need of my advice.'—*Selected.*

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