The Doctor's Pilemma

By Hesba Stretton

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CHAPTER XXVI.

December came in with intense severity. Icicles a yard long hung to the eaves, and the snow lay unmelted for days together on the roofs. More often than not we were without wood for our and unseasoned, and only smoldered away with a smoke that stung and irritated our eyes. Our insufficient and unwholesome food supplied us with no inward warmth. At times the pangs of hunger grew too strong for us both, and forced me to spend a little of the money I was nursing so carefully. As soon as I could make myself understood, I went out occasionally after dark to buy bread and milk.

I found that I had no duties to perform as a teacher, for none of the three French pupils desired to learn English. English girls, who had been decoyed into the same snare by the same false photograph and prospectus which had entrapped me, were all of families too poor to be able to forfeit the money which had been paid In advance for their French education. Two of them, however, completed their term at Christmas and returned home weak and ill; the third was to leave in

the spring. Very fast melted away my money. could not see the child pining with hunger, though every sou I spent made our return to England more difficult. Madame Perrier put no hindrance in my way, for the more food we purchased for ourselves, the less we ate at her table. The bitter cold and the coarse food told upon Minima's delicate little frame. Yet what could I do? I dared not write to

Mrs. Wilkinson, and I very much doubted if there would be any benefit to be hoped for if I ran the risk. Minima did not know the address of any one of the persons who had subscribed for her education and board. She was as friendless as I was in the world.

So far away were Dr. Martin Dobrec and Tardif that I dared not count them as friends who could have any power to help me. Better for Dr. Martin Dobree if he could altogether forget me, and return to his cousin Julia. Perhaps he had done so already.

Towards the middle of February Madame Perrier's coarse face was always overcast, and monsieur seemed gloomy, too gloomy to retain even French politeness of manner towards any of us. household was under a cloud, but I could not discover why. What little discipline and work there had been in the school was quite at an end. Every one was left to do as she chose.

Early one morning, long before the daybreak, I was startled out of my sleep by a hurried knock at my door. It proved to be Mademoiselle Morel, I opened the door for her, and she appeared in her bonnet and walking dress, carrying a lamp in her hand, which lit up her weary tear-stained face. She took a seat at the foot of my bed and buried her face in her handkerchief.

"Mademoiselle," she said, "here is a grand misfortune, a misfortune without Monsieur and madame are

"Gone!" I repeated; "where are they

"I do not know, mademoiselle," she answered; "I know nothing at all. They are gone away. The poor good people were in debt, and their creditors are as hard as stone. They are gone, and I have no means to carry on the establishment. The school is finished."

"But I am to stay here twelve months," I cried, in dismay, "and Minima was to stay four years. The money has been paid to them for it. What is to become

"I cannot say, mademoiselle; I am des olated myself," she replied, with a fresh burst of tears; "all is finished here. If you have not money enough to take you back to England, you must write to your I am going to return to Bordeaux. I detest Normandy; it is so cold and triste.

"But what is to be done with the other pupils?" I inquired. The English pupil goes with me to

"she has her Paris," she answered; friends there. The French demoisell s are not far from their own homes, and they return to-day by the omnibus to Granville. It is a misfortune without parallel, mademoiselle-a misfortune without a parallel."

To crown all, she was going to start immediately by the omnibus to Falaise, and on by rail to Paris, not waiting for the storm to burst. She kissed me on both cheeks, bade me adieu, and was gone, leaving me in utter darkness, before fairly comprehended the rapid French which she conveyed her intention. had seen my last of Monsieur and Mad ame Perrier, and of Mademoiselle Morel

All. I had to do was to see to myself and Minima. I carried our breakfast back with me, when I returned to Min-"I wish I'd been born a boy," she said

plaintively; "they can get their own living sooner than girls, and better. How soon do you think I could get my own I could be a little nursemaid you know; and I'd eat very little. What makes you talk about getting

your living?" I asked. "How pale you look!" she answered. nodding her little head; "why, I heard something of what mademoiselle said. You're very poor, aren't you, Aunt

"Very poor!" I repeated, hiding my face on her pillow, whilst hot tears force ed themselves through my cyclids.

"Oh! this will never do," said the child-"we mustn't cry, you know. The boys always said it was like a baby to cry; and father used to say, 'Courage, peal for aid. I darted forward and Minima! Perhaps, when all our money is gone, we shall find a great big purse make you his princess; and we shall all grow up till we die."

droll to resist, especially in combination with her shrewd, old-womanish knowledge of many things of which I was ig-

norant. It was now that across the darkness of my prospects flashed a thought that seemfire, and when we had it, it was green ed like an angel of light. Why should I not try to make my way to Mrs. Dobree. Martin's mother, to whom I could tell my whole history, and on whose friendship and protection I could rely implicitly? By this time Kate Daltrey would have quitted the Channel Islands, satisfied that I had eluded her pursuit.

The route was neither long nor difficult; at Granville a vessel sailed direct for Jersey, and we were not more than thirty miles from Granville. It was a distance that we could almost walk Mrs. Dobree could not help me, Tardif would take Minima into his house for a time, and the child could not have a happier home. I could count upon my good Tardif doing that. These plans were taking shape in my brain, when I heard a voice calling softly under the window. I opened the casement, and leaning out, saw the welcome face of Rosalie, the milk woman.

"Will you permit me to come in?" she inquired.

'Yes, yes, come in," I said eagerly. She entered, and saluted us both with

much ceremony. "So my little Emile and his spouse are gone, mademoiselle," she said, in a mysterious whisper. "I have been saying to myself, 'What will my little English lady That is why I am here. Behold

"I do not know what to do," I answer ed.

"If mademoiselle is not difficult," she said, "she and the little one could rest with me for a day or two. My bed is clean and soft-bah! ten times softer than these paillasses. I would ask only a franc a night for it. That is much less than at the hotels, where they charge for light and attendance. Mademoiselle could write to her friends, if she has not enough money to carry her and the little one back to their own country."
"I have no friends," I said desponding-

"No friends! no relations!" she ex-

claimed.

"Not one," I replied. I was only too glad to get a shelter for Minima and myself for another night. Mademoiselle Rosalie explained to me the French system of borrowing money upon articles. But upon packing up our few possessions, I remembered that only a few days before Madame Perrier had borrowed from me my sealskin mantle, the one valuable thing I had remaining. I had lent it reluctantly, and in spite of myself; and it had never been returned. Minima's wardrobe was still poorer than my own. All the money we could raise was less than two napoleons; and with this we had to make our way to Granville, and from thence to Guernsey. We could not travel luxuriously.

The next morning we left Noireau on foot, and strolled on as if we were walk-Every step which carried us nearer to Granville brought new hope to me. The face of Martin's mother came often to my mind, looking at me, as she had done in Sark, with a mournful yet tender smile a smile behind which lay many tears, "Courage!" I said to myself; "every hour brings you nearer to her."

I had full directions as to our route, and I carried a letter from Rosalie to a cousin of hers, who lived in a convent about twelve miles from Noireau. If we reached the convent before six o'clock we should find the doors open, and should gain admission. But in the afternoon the sky changed. The wind changed a point or two from the south, and a breath from the east blew, with a chilly touch, over the wide open plain we were now cross ing. The road was very desolate. It brought us after a while to the edge of

a common, stretching before us, drear and brown, as far as my eye could reach "Are you very tired, my Minima?" I "It will be so nice to go to bed, when

we reach the convent," she said, looking up with a smile. "I can't imagine why prince has not come yet."

"Perhaps he is coming all the time," I answered, "and he'll find us when we want him worst.'

We plodded on after that, looking for the convent, or for any dwelling where we could stay till morning. But none came in sight, or any person from whom we could learn where we were wander-I was growing frightened, dismay-What would become of us both, if could find no shelter from the cold of a February night?

CHAPTER XXVII.

There were unshed tears in my eyes-for I would not let Minima know my fears-when I saw dimly, through the nist, a high cross standing in the midst of a small grove of yews and cypresses, planted formally about it. The rain was beating against it, and the wind sobbing in the trees surrounding it. It seemed o sad, so forsaken, that it drew us to it. Without speaking the child and I crept to the shelter at its foot, and sat down to rest there, as if we were companions

It was too dark now to see far along the road, but as we waited and watched there came into sight a rude sort of covred carriage, like a market cart, drawn by a horse with a blue sheep-skin hanging round his neck. The pace at which he was going was not above a jog-trot. and he came almost to a standstill opposite the cross, as if it was customary to pause there. This was the instant to ap tched out my hands to the driver.

"Help us," I cried; "we have lost our full of gold; or else a beautiful French way, and the night is come." I could see prince will see you and fall in love with now that the driver was a burly, redyou, and take us both to his palace, and faced, clean-shaven Norman peasant. He crossed himself hurriedly, and glanced at the grove of dark, solemn trees from I laughed at the oddity of this childish which we had come. But by his side sat climax, in spite of the heaviness of my a priest, in his cassock and broad-brimeart and the springing of my tears. med hat fastened up at the sides, who attributed to tuberculosis, or more Minima's fresh young fancies were too alighted almost before I had faished than one-fourth.

ed, and bowing profoundly.
"Madame," he said, in a bland tone, "to

what town are you going? "We are going to Granville," I answered; "but I am afraid I have lost the We are very tired, this little child and I. We can walk no more, monsieur. Take care of us, I pray you.'

I spoke brokenly, for in an extremity like this it was difficult to put my request into French. The priest appeared perplexed, but he went back and held a short, earnest conversation with the driver, in a subdued voice.

"Madame," he said, returning to me, "I am Francis Laurentie, the cure of Villeen-bois. It is quite a small village about a league from here, and we are on the road to it; but the route to Granville is two leagues behind us, and it is still farther to the nearest village. There is not time to return with you this evening. Will you, then, go with us to Ville-enbois?-and to-morrow we will send you on to Granville."

He spoke very slowly and distinctly, with a clear, cordial voice, which filled me with confidence. I could hardly distinguish his features, but his hair was silvery white, and shone in the gloom, as he still stood bare-headed before me, though the rain was falling fast.

"Take care of us, monsieur," I replied. putting my hand in his; "we will go with

"Make haste, then, my children," he said cheerfully; "the rain will hurt you. Let me lift the mignonne! Bah! How

little she is. Now, mad me, permit me."

There was a seat in the back, which we reached by climbing over the front bench, assisted by the driver. There we were well sheltered from the driving wind and rain, with our feet resting upon a sack of potatoes, and the two strange figures of the Norman peasant in his blouse and white cotton cap, and the cure in his hat and cassock, filling up the front of the car before us.

"They are not Frenchwomen, Monsieur e Cure," observed the driver, after a short pause.

"No, no, my good Jean," was the cure's answer; "by their tongue I should say they are English. Englishwomen are exremely intrepid, and voyage about all the vorld quite alone, like this. It is only a marvel to me that we have never encountered one of them before to-day.

"Monsieur," I interrupted, feeling almost guilty in having listened so far, "I understand French very well, though I speak it badly.

"Pardon, madame!" he replied, "I hope rou will not be grieved by the foolish words we have been speaking one to the

After that all was still again for some time, except the tinkling of the bells, and the pad-pad of the horse's feet upon the steep and rugged road. By and by a village clock striking echoed faintly down the valley; and the cure turned round and addressed me again.

"There is my village, madame," he said. stretching forth his hand to point it out; 'it is very small, and my parish contains but four hundred and twenty-two souls some of them very little ones. They all know me, and regard me as a father. They love me, though I have some rebel

We entered a narrow and roughly paved village street. The houses, as I saw afterwards, were all huddled together, with a small church at the point farthest from the entrance; and the road ended at its porch, as if there were no other place in the world beyond it.

We drove at last into a square court yard, paved with pebbles. Almost be- than successful, and twenty-four girls fore the horse could stop I saw a stream | are now in the employ of Reuter's, and of light shining from an open door acros a causeway, and the voice of a woman, whom I could not see, spoke eagerly as soon as the horse's hoofs had ceased to scrape upon the pebbles.

(To be continued.)

4 Warning to Preachers.

"I thought it would be easy enough to convert the lay people of the town, but realized, of course, that the ministers would be a harder task. I remember one of the first sermons I preached with that idea before me. It was a hot summer day, and a gentleman very much under the influence of liquor slid into the rear part of the church and went to sleep. It was somewhat disquieting at first, but I soon warmed up to the subject and forgot him. What happened has always been a warning to me against very loud preaching-I waked him up. My vehemence so disturbed him that he arose, walked unsteadily up the aisle, and stopped in front of the pulpit. I was dreadfully embarrassed, I remember, but I retained sufficient presence of mind to take what I thought was an efficient and brilliant means of bridging over the gap, for, of course, I had stopped preaching when he stood still and looked at me. Leaning over the pulpit I remarked suavely: " I perceive that my good brother is

ill. Will some-"Before any one could move, however, he lifted his head, and, fixing his blinking eyes upon me, remarked in unpleasant characteristics, they may perfectly distinct tones heard throughout the church:

"'I sh'd think such preachin' 'ud make everybody ill? "-Cyrus Townsend Brady, in New Lippincott.

Chance for a Castle. The following advertisement appears

in a London paper: "A rock built crenelated castle, buffeted by the Atlantic surge, at one of the most romantic and dreaded points of our ironbound coast, in full view of the death stone; shipwrecks frequent, corpses common; three reception and seven bedrooms; every modern convenience; 10 gs. a week-Address," etc.

gleaned many new facts relative to Persons in need of a castle and who are fond of shipwrecks and corpses should not overlook this opportunity .in the southern sea, and mainly in the Pittsburg Commercial Gazette. vicinity of the Kergueles Islands,

The Chief Cost. Askit-And so you have given up your summer trip to Wetspot-by-the-

Tellit-Yes. I had to. I had money enough for expenses, but not enough more lively. Of human beings they for tips.-Baltimore American.

Tuberculosis in Paris

Of the 46,988 deaths which occurred they were dozing, and only a few were in Paris in 1899, as many as 12,314 are disturbed by him.



HE different manners by which people meet death are When an engine boiler blows up cated in his windpipe, choking him to without scratching the engineer, and death. when the prick from a needle causes death in a few days, one has reason to wonder.

Blanche Young, of Wabash, Ind., was the victim of a needle point. In sewing she stuck the point deep in her finger, but continued with her work. The polsonous fabrics caused the injured member to swell terribly. Blood polson de veloped and she died in agony.

Edgar P. Seeger, a Chicago traveling man, carelessly picked a pimple, which appeared on his face, with a pin at Ithaca, N. Y., and died shortly from blood poison.

Within a week the dentist's chair cost three lives in more or less direct way At Sloux City, Iowa, the filling of a tooth caused a stroke of apoplexy to Dr. Adelaide E. Kilbourne, and she died as she was leaving the chair. At Loyal, Wis., an aching tooth drove Kimbal J. Berry to a dentist. It was a molar, far back in the jaw, and was so firmly rooted that in the pulling of it the jaw bone was fractured. Blood poison set in, killing the patient in a few days. In Chicago the other day Miss Mamie Ferry, of Oak Park, died from felt a stinging sensation in his hands fear of the dentist's chair, to which she and fainted. It was found that two was going.

Little Barbara Bothman, of Jackson, Miss., was the victim of the acorn. She | the flow of blood could be checked. In complained of pains in her side and was obliged to submit to an operation. In the appendix the acorn was found, much enlarged from the heat and moisture. The child swallowed it at play. She died from the operation.

Lloyd Rogers, of Galesburg, Ill., got a grain of corn in his trachea and was seized with a violent fit of coughing list of these peculiar fatalities will be from which he died.

Managers Say They Give Better Serv-

ice than Boys.

There is a new kind of messenger

boy in London. The new messenger

boy does not smoke cigarettes, or lolter,

or swear, or fight. The new messenger

boy is always neat and tidy, never im-

pudent or unruly. This is because the

new messenger boy is a girl. Reuter's

Telegraph Company, in London, has

lately tried the experiment of employ-

ing girls as well as boys for messenger

work. The experiment has been more

more are being engaged all the time

LONDON MESSENGER GIAL

The girls are paid only \$2.50 per week.

ner which leaves nothing to be desired.

has proved so successful in London

that the extension of the idea to this

the American messenger boys take

warning and swear off on some of their

awake some fine morning to discover

blue uniform carrying telegrams and

GIANTS AMONG THE SEALS.

Habits of an Interesting Group of Am-

phiba of the conth Pac fic.

tist, has begun making a study of the

sea elephants, the gigantic seals found

in many portions of the South Pacific

ocean. He has been assisted in his

work by Robert Hall, a learned natur-

alist, and the two investigators have

These interesting seals are only found

where they go in August for the pur-

pose of pairing. They remain there un-

til February or March, During the win-

ter they are very dull and apathetic,

but as spring approaches they become

are not in the least afraid. Mr. Hall

says that he went several times through

a herd of forty or fifty animals while

their habits and life.

Professor C. Chun, a German scien-

than one male in a single herd, but there now seems to be abundant proof that each herd contains seals of only one sex. Thus, in one bay there will be five or six herds of males and in another five or six herds of females.

Edward Fisher, of Rockford, Ill., was

the child, which was thrown to the

pavement, fracturing its skull. Ordi-

Charles H. Ormond, of Milwaukee,

and in leaning over the animal to ad-

of the doctor's hand caused the nerv-

ous animal to strike out with its hoof,

striking the man in the forehead, kill-

David Gregg, of Salt Lake City, al-

most bled to death the other evening

without knowing it. He accidentally

thrust both hands through a plate glass

window, but did not mind it. Later he

arteries had been severed, one requiring

nine stitches and the other six, before

these last few days, however, no other

class of accidents has compared in

fatalities to the accidents in the hunt-

ing fields. Scores of men have been

killed or injured while deer hunting.

When one also considers the large

number of sick people who have taken

poison for medicine in dark rooms the

greatly swelled.

make a healthy baby cry.

ing him almost instantly.

curred in Baltimore.

Professor Chun, who has studied the seals thoroughly in their native haunts, says that for a long time after the animals return to the Kergueles in the autumn they do not take any food, but remain torpid in beds which they form until they have shed their old hair and those of our great plains region. put on a new coat. During the winter he saw several seals killed, and not a particle of food was found in their stomachs.

Mr. Hall, on the other hand, says that the seals during this period feed once a day, going down to the water to obtain a supply of fish. In any case, it is certain that these animals can live without food for a long time since they have under their skin a layer of fat which is fifteen centimeters in thick-

He Enjoyed It. At a large banquet two of the expect-

ed guests were unable to be present. The order of seating happened to be such that a particularly jovial and companionable gentleman sat with one of the vacant chairs on each side of him. The empty chairs and first course of oysters were left in place for some time, in case the expected guests arrived. The solitary gentleman, therefore, could move neither to the right nor to the left, but amiably beamed throughout the repast, seemingly none the worse for his enforced isolation. but they are well satisfied with their | After the banquet some one innocently pay, and perform their duties in a manasked him:

The plan of having messenger girls chap?"

enough. "I sat next to a couple of fel- to the body of an asbestos strap. country is being discussed, and unless lows who weren't there."

Duke of Connaught.

over 50 years of age, alone of all the a lot of pretty young girls in a neat royal family of Great Britain looks delivering notes and parcels in their ably due to the open-air life he leads | mark "that the children of these marand his love of sport and exercise. Court and society had few attractions for the godson of the Duke of Wellingceedingly popular with the army and is arithmatic and accounts. regarded as the best-looking of the sons of Queen Victoria. His marked features are distinguished by virility. He and the Duke of Cambridge are, it is believed, the only living members of dia in the business of shoemaking and the English royal family who have ever carpentry, which they have made their been under fire.

is Paddington to Exeter-194 miles. France comes next, with Paris to Calais -1851/2 miles. America's longest run is New York to Troy-148 miles. Russia's Asiatic Possessions.

Longest Railway Runs.

Russia's Asiatic possessions are three

times as large as the British, but have only 25,000,000 people, as compared with 297,000,000 under British rule.

Someone asks what is nervousness. It is the feeling you experience when These seals live in communities, and there is a boy coming down hill behind in a single bay may often be seen from you on a sled.

RAISING MACARONI WHEATS.

Well Adapted to the Semi-Arid Plains of the West.

About 15,000,000 pounds of foreign macaroni are imported into this country each year, solely because, being made from true macaroni wheats, it is considered to be of better quality than our domestic macaroni, which is made almost entirely from bread wheats. Moreover, the imported macaroni sells at a much higher price. With the fact in view that all the cost of the imported product would be saved to this country if the farmers and millers would furnish our factories with the right kind of material, the department of agriculture has been making extensive investigations on the subject.

eating peanuts when one of them lo-Macaroni wheats differ radically from the ordinary bread wheats, and in the Joseph Carter hit Edward Campbell field look more like barley than wheat. over the heart with his fist in a friendly | They are extremely resistant to drought scuffle and he died instantly. This ocand resist the attacks of leaf rust and smuts to an unusual degree. On the In South Chicago the other day the other hand, they will not withstand axle of a baby carriage suddenly broke hard winters, and are usually grown while Mrs. Mary Moran, of 8852 Buf- as spring wheats. South of the 35th falo avenue, was out wheeling her 11- parallel they may be sown in late aumonths-old boy. The collapse was so tumn. sudden that the mother could not save

In the case of macaroni wheats it is not only true that they can be grown in dry districts, but they must be grown narily, such an accident scarcely would there in order to produce the best quality of grain, and up to a minimum of about ten inches annual rainfall, the was treating a horse that was in agony drier the better, provided the rain falls at the proper time and the soil is of just a rope around its hoof, the touch | the right kind.

The thorough establishment of this new wheat industry will be of the greatest benefit to agriculture in the semiarid plains. A million or more of acres can thus be given to profitable wheat raising which on account of drought have heretofore either been entirely idle or less profitably employed. In a few years' time the result ought to be an addition of thirty to fifty million bushels to the annual wheat production of the great plains alone. The agricultural area will be extended much farther westward and the necessity of irrigation will thereby be diminished correspondingly.

If the demand for seed is sufficient to justify it, farmers and grain dealers can unite in importing a large amount of seed at reduced cost. Such importations if attempted should be made either from the Azov sea region of Russia or the region east of the Volga river near the Siberian border. Russian Inacaroni wheats are the best in the world, as shown by numerous compara-MESSENGER GIRLS IN LONDON. five to ten colonies. Hitherto it has tive tests and analyses and the fact been supposed that there is never more that they are chiefly used in the foreign factories. In a number of chemical analyses made their gluten content is shown to be nearly 50 per cent greater than that of varieties from Algeria and Argentina. This is probably to be accounted for by the unusual humus content of the soil in the Rus-

sian region. A careful study of the conditions in east and south Russia, says the Washington Star, shows that in both soil and climate they are remarkably similar to

RECENT INVENTIONS.

Trees and shrubs can be supported without danger of binding by a new tie which is formed of a single piece of spring metal with one end curved to grasp the support and the other end surrounding the tree, the coil expanding as the tree grows.

To support candles on Christmas trees a new holder has been devised, consisting of a split tube fitted with a suspending hook and a spring gate at the upper end of the tube which shuts over the candle when nearly burned out to extinguish the flame and prevent the dropping of grease.

Medicated steam and hot-air baths can be taken by means of a new bath gown, which is composed of flexible material and provided with gathering strings to close the gown at the neck and wrists, the bottom portion being closed and large enough to receive the chair on which the bather sits.

A Michigan man has designed an identification tag which cannot be destroyed by fire or water, the outer casing being made of metal and carrying "How did you enjoy yourself, old an asbestos tablet in which the name is stamped. The tablet is covered by a "First rate," he replied briskly metal cap, and the tag can be attached

Chinamen Are Emigrating.

The Englishman writing about Chi-The Duke of Connaught, although namen emigrating to Calcutta from the Canton districts, and then finding wives among the lower classes of the really in vigorous health. It is prob- Eurasian community, makes the reriages are generally educated on western lines, that is to say, they are taught to speak, read and write Enton. The Duke of Connaught is ex. glish, and are given a grounding in

"They are then apprenticed to their fathers' trades. This fact may partly account for the rapidity with which Chinamen are ousting natives of Inown in Calcutta." Burmah opens out a great field for Chinese immigration, says the Mandalay Herald, and the England holds the record for the long- only wonder is that the government st railway runs without a stop. This does not sufficiently encourage Chinamen immigrating hither.

Down at Australasia Chinamen have flocked in shoals, some contracting marriages with European women, and from past experience have been found to be good factors and formidable rivals not only in commerce but in the several handicrafts of trade, so much so that their immigration into the colonies has been made prohibitive by taxes and other heavy obligations.-Lahore Tribune.

It is almost as easy to fall in love as it is to fall out again.