JUST A WORD.

In the midst of life's toverses, When thy pathway all seems dark, Black as midnight, unflumined E'en by pleasure's faintest spark;

When deep gloom and sad foreboding Cradles thee within its arms, And thy soul is filled with broodinga Working ill like evil charms;

When thy labor all seems useless, And existence one great pain, Joy and hope are fied forever And to struggle on seems vain.

Do some tender deed of mercy To a soul with sorrow racked, Give the balm of loving kindness In some helpful little act.

That one deed thy soul will lighten, And its heavy gloom will lift, As a ray of brilliant sunshine Through the blackest clouds may drift, -- Good Housekeeping.

MR. HURD'S HOLIDAY.

"No business tomorrow, my dear," Mr. Hurd announced cheerfully to his better half as he stepped into the sitting room and deposited several brown paper bundles upon one of the chairs

"Why, to be sure," she responded, brightening up. "I had almost for- tated. "Oh, mum," she gasped breath- by an increasing odor of paint, which gotten that it will be a holiday. What are you going to do to celebrate? I suppose that we might all the ceilin's all wet an drippin down opened the door into the back entry go off somewhere for the day," she concluded thoughtfully.

Mr. Hurd shook his head. . "There are a number of things about the house which I am intending to look into tomorrow; it is only a few days ago that you were complaining that that you have flooded the house," she could withstand, and Mrs. Hurd's I was not more domestic, so now I called up stairs, adding, "quick, pent up indignation burst forth. am going to turn over a new leaf. I Johnny, bring me down all those have come to the conclusion that we sponges this very minute." are constantly paying out money to incompetent workmen for little odd jobs that I could just as well do myself. Any man with brains and the proper tools can turn off a good many dollars' worth of work in his spare moments," he went on as he removed the paper wrappers from the several bundles.

"Are you sure that you are feeling as well as usual, Theodore?" his wife inquired, watching him in anxious astonishment while she recalled her many fruitless efforts in the past to awaken in him a desire to help about some slight household detail which needed attention.

"Never better, my dear," he answered, unrolling a bottle of glue and setting it upon the mantelpiece. "Why do you ask?"

"Well, you see, Theodore, it is such a new departure for you that-Icouldn't help wondering if"---"Well, if what?"

"If anything were the matter-if you were quite yourself. You're not feverish, are you, Theodore?" she concluded, running her fingers over his forehead

Mr. Hurd smiled benignly as he produced a small can of paint and a brush, which he sat down next to the glue. "I'll tell you just how it happened, my dear," he said, "On

in these little household matters," sho, that he might be feeling somewhat murmured contentedly. "It is an education for the children, steps

too," she meditated as she listened to them running up and down stairs to bring their father first one thing all the faucets running in the bath nap while I'm gone?" she suggested, it in his bed. room and to bring him a pail and pausing with her hand on the front two or three sponges

In the course of five minutes her on her way. youngest son appeared at her elbow. "What is it, Johnnie?" she questioned.

"Father wants his other pair of odor of paint greeted her nostrils, plasses," he announced: "he's just smashed his best ones."

"What, those beautiful new pebblest" Mrs. Hard eried regretfully. "How did it happen?"

"Oh, he was just looking down into ther? the tank, and they dropped off and "Oh, he's up stairs painting the struck on a piece of lead pipe," Johnback entry," he responded. "I was nie answered, skipping gayly away with the other pair of glasses. To him me, and he sent me down here." these little casualties added greatly "On you," his mother exclaimed, to the enjoyment of the occasion. scrutinizing him hastily, "say, rath-In a short space of time a rap at cr, all over your lovely new suit.

Mrs. Hurd's door caused her to look Oh, Johnny, how could you be so up from her work. In the doorway careless stood the cook, apparently much agilessly, "somethin's a leakin. Will yez plainly bespoke the continuance of come down to the kitchen? Sure an Mr. Hurd's good resolutions. As she her husband's voice called to her to on me.

Mrs. Hurd sprang up. "They must "look out for paint. I've painted have let the bathtub overflow," she the door on both sides," he concluded, exclaimed. "Come, we must all turn but this warning came too late, for to with mops, cloths and all the already her velvet cape had swept sponges we can get hold of." against the newly coated surface.

"I suppose you know, Theodore, This was more than flesh and blood "I should think that you had done

enough harm for one day, Theodore, As Johnny came leisurely down she exclaimed reproachfully; "my stairs with the necessary sponges, he best cape is entirely ruined, and you remarked gleefully: "Pa couldn't know it isn't paid for yet! I meant clean it out much of any, after all. | to have told you that the bill for it He says that no one but the plumber came in only yesterday.

Mrs. Hurd hurried up stairs, guided

can get at it." At this point, having "Go back, don't come out here, my dear," Mr. Hurd cried excitedly. reached his mother's side, he whis-"We've just met with an accident. pered, "He's broken his other glasses, too, but he said we needn't say any They will happen in the best regulated families, you know." Here his

thing to you about it. A little later in the morning, when voice tool; on a more persuasive tone as he cast a hurried look at his wife. the household had once more resumed its usual atmosphere of tranwho stood like some avenging spirit quillity, Mr. Hurd entered the sitting in the doorway, and then he stooped down and continued to rub the car Leaves Salem for Portland Tuesday. room, with an air of quiet determipet energetically with a roll of cloth nation. "I am going to adjust that which he held in one hand. new gas burner that I bought so long

ago," he remarked, displaying it. "Have you decided to paint the en-"Oh, Theodore, don't you think try carpet with a whole roll of my emergency bandages, Theodore?" Mrs. Hurd said coldly. "I thought you had better leave it till the gas man comes?' his wife remonstrated. you had bought yourself a new brush DISSOLUTION OF PARTNERSH P "Nonsense," he responded. "1 for that purpose." Then she relented should hope that I could screw on a slightly at sight of his dejected counsimple fixture like that Boys," he tenance as he knelt upon the floor. added, "just run down cellar and bring me up the tallest steps, and What was the catastrophe this then ask Jane if she knows where time?" she questioned mournfully. that monkey wrench was put."

"I was opening that largest pot of paint, and very excellent paint it is, Mrs. Hurd withdrew once more to too," he responded volubly, "when the seclusion of her own apartments, after a timid protest regarding the Johnny knocked my elbow, wholly by accident, my dear, and sent the danger of allowing the gas to escape contents all over the floor. So we too freely. She embroidered peace fully for a few moments and was be have had rather bad work here with ginning to congratulate herself that it, but it's pretty much all up now,' all was well, when a dull thud, ac he announced, with an effort at great

HOW THEY WARTE.

lame after his fall from "the tallest Buffon studied to an old tower in his garden, and whenever at a loss for an idea left his room and took a walk among "I shan't be gone long," she said pleasantly, looking into the library, the flowers,

where her husband was settled comand then another and heard his voice fortably with his pipe and one of the philosophy" in prison, and in order to Boethius wrote the "Consolutions of from above instructing them to start magazines. "Why don't you take a keep the manuscript from the jailer hid

> Defoe always wrote in a hurry, and the door knob. Then she went cheerfully fact explains the innumerable mistakes and discrepancies in his "Robinson Cru-When Mrs. Hurd returned, three see" and other works.

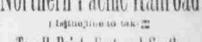
> quarters of an hour later, a strong Chancer talked over the stories of his Anterbury series with his friends, and der getting the narrative to suit him mingled with another unmistakally after getting the narrative to suit him like benzine. "Johnny," she inat down and wrote it. quired of her youngest boy, who was

> Buchanan's paraphrase of the Psulms buried in a book in a distant corner of David was composed in a prison of of the library, "where is your fa she Portuguese inquisition as a penance imposed by the monks.

Kant wrote 8 or 10 hours every day, with an occasional glass of beer as inhelping him, but I got some paint on spiration. His manuscripts are very lear, showing few changes



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To all Peints East and South.

my way down town I overtook Lovering, and as we walked along together I asked him casually how he was going to spend tomorrow. 'As I usually spend my holidays,' he replied, 'in repairing and tinkering up things about the house and doing my best to freeze out the carpenter and the plumber, besides sorting over old papers and putting things to rights that I seldom have a chance at.' After I left him I began to think how many holidays I had wasted when I might have been really accomplishing something and have had money 'papa?' in my pocket to boot.

"I have reformed, my dear," he concluded, opening the last of the paper bundles, "as you will see tomorrow. Here are half a dozen new tools which I find I need if I am to do anything of the sort really well. Isn't that a nice little hammer? And you remember that we hadn't any chisel globes. or screwdriver that a man could properly work with."

Mrs. Hurd gazed at her husband, while tears rose to her eyes. Theodore," she said huskily, "you have realized one of my dearest hopes. With all your faults, you have always been far ahead of other men, and now-now I am almost afraid you are too perfect. You're sure that you do feel quite well and haven't any sharp pain darting through your everything is left for me to attend to, chest?"

The following morning Mr. Hurd began to carry out his good resolutions immediately after breakfast, and when the younger children urged him to go for a walk he informed them that "father had some very important work to do, but that they might watch him if they liked."

out from its usual position and no Mrs. Hurd met him soon afterward tiounting the attic stairs, followed ceiling. by a procession of willing helpers. Where are you going, Theodore? said consolingly. "I'm thankful that it broke your fall. We shall have to she inquired.

"It is a long time since we had the tank cleaned out," he responded, "and I see no need of paying an incompetent and expensive plumber. who brings another man to stand around and look at him, for doing a simple thing like that."

"Very well, dear," his wife said encouragingly, "only are you sure that you understand all about it?"

"Of course I do," he replied a trifle their new neighbors across the way. indignantly, and Mrs. Hurd, realizing that she ought to have more confilence in him than to suggest such a possibility, retired mockly to her own room, where she quietly settled her | making calls. self to her embroidery. "It is such a comfort to have Theodore interested 'you," she said resignedly, thinking '-Chicago Inter Ocean.

companied by a crash, caused her to cheerfulness, as he gave a final rub spring to her feet. with the emergency bandage.

"After all, this carpet is about worn "Oh, what has happened?" she called out in agonized tones. "Are out," Mr. Hurd went on, "so a little paint on it doesn't matter. Moreyou killed. Theodore?" Mrs. Hurd rushed frantically down over, I told the boys that they might stairs in time to catch sight of her as well begin to take it right up, and husband picking himself up from the I would see about getting a new one floor, where he had apparently been | tomorrow. They're workers, I can seated amid shattered fragments of tell you! Why, they have taken out several glass globes which had ac all the tacks already-and, by the way, Johnny stepped on one and ran companied his sudden descent, while the voices of the children questioned | it into his foot, and I told him that he had better let you look at the anxiously, "Have you hurt yourself, place to see if there was any danger of his having lockjaw or anything of BOOK

Before his family could ascertain how badly he had been injured, he that sort. "I will go and bathe his foot in hot rose majestically, swelling with rightwater at once," she replied, turning eous indignation, and even refusing to depart. Then she paused and lookto allow Mrs. Hurd to examine the ed across the back entry at her huscut on his left wrist, which was

allowed them to rest regretfully on

the chandelier, which was bent far

longer hung at right angles from the

"Never mind that, Theodore." she

get the gas man here to fix it, and he

can finish adjusting the new burner

at the same time. So please say you

to it just now, won't you, Theodore?"

"I've been waiting for you to go

And Mr. Hurd said he wouldn't.

band, who stood confronting her in bleeding freely from too close a conhis shirt sleeves. "May I ask why tact with one of the defunct gas the stopper is out of that bottle of benzine?" she queried. "It is shameful to keep a pair of

"Oh," he answered meekly, putsteps like that in the cellar of any reting in the cork, "I got a little paint spectable house," he thundered, on my own coat, and I thought that crunching the broken glass under benzine would take it off I've heard foot. "They are only fit for kindling you say that it was the best thing"wood! They should have been chop Mrs. Hurd lifted her skirts gingerped up long ago, long ago! I never in ly and stepped across the entry carmy life saw such a shiftless set of pet. "I will take your coat and get people. Nobody takes a bit of inter off the paint, Theodore," she said reest in anything about the house, but assuringly, "if you will promise me one thing. Promise me that you will and I-I have nothing more imporunder no circumstances help any tant to do than to spend my time reg more about the house."

ulating the contents of the attic and "Very well," he assented, "then I the cellar. And now look at that!" won't melt up any of that glue I And he pointed upward to the half brought home to mend the chairs adjusted gas fixture. Mrs. Hurd turned her eyes in that direction and with.

"No, no, indeed," she protested earnestly. "If you have any love for me, Theodore, say that you will do nothing of the sort. It is all very well for ordinary men-men who haven't your talents and ability-to do such things, but with you it is quite different. You are capable of something better. Spend your holi- Infant, Connecting and Primary classes days anyway you like. Go to the

club, go fishing, eat, smoke, play bilhards, but give me your word that won't attempt to do anything more whatever happens you will never be helpful about the house again !"

And with his hand upon the ben-After luncheon, Mrs. Hurd urged zine bottle Mr. Hurd took a solemn that it would be a good chance for oath that he never would .- Caroline them to make a long talked of call on Ticknor in Boston Transcript.

Afraid of Fire. "Have you had your new house in-

with me. Theodore," she ventured persuasively, but he shook his head sured, Mrs. Dwighti" "Yes." "Your husband is afraid of fire, then?" and insisted that he didn't feel like Mercy, yes. He will leave the house any time before he will make one."

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