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LITTLE THINGS. A cup of water timely brought. An offered easy chair.

A WOMAN'S SECRET.

A Story of the Revolution.

CONTINUED.

I HOPE that your lordship does not look upon my part in this unfortunate business as amounting to culpable negligence or neglect of duty?

Why, as to that matter, my friend, replied his lordship, "you can hardly think that sitting here with you as my fellow officer and companion, when off duty, that I can attribute any moral blame to you for this accident.

Will your lordship have the goodness to advise me what course to pursue under these circumstances, as a friend—as one gentleman advising another, in a case of difficulty, and not as my superior officer?"

Why, my dear fellow," returned the stout earl, sincerely feeling for his young favorite in his awkward predicament, "the best advice I can give you is to ferret out these rascals, and find the orderly-book again, before it is missed.

But how much grace have I to make search, even if I could get a clue to the villainy, before it must be reported at headquarters?"

I can give you till next Saturday, when I must make up my full weekly report to Gen. Howe. There is no need of saying anything about it before then; and it gives you four whole days to work in, as it is now only Tuesday morning.

I am heartily obliged to you, my lord," said the officer, gratefully, for he felt much relieved and comforted by the kindness of Lord Percy's words and manner, "and you may be sure that I will lose no time in sifting this matter, to the best of my abilities.

Keep up a good heart, my lad," returned the earl, kindly, "and hope bravely for the best. You may rely upon my doing all I can for you, consistently with my duty.

With these words the heir of "the Percy's high-born race" bowed his visitor out of the room.

agreeable duty is in the anticipation than in the actual performance. His actual position was in no wise changed, and yet he felt as if it was bettered.

There is a great deal of one very excellent thing in this world. There is at least one article which every body is ready to give away, though there are comparatively few who are ready to accept it.

Now here was a case in point. Lord Percy had given Captain Ingram some very excellent advice; the perplexity was to know what to do with it, now he had got it.

But as suffumigation, though a powerful agent, did not seem to be alone sufficient to summon the powers most needed, the worthy surgeon, as one well skilled in potent mixtures, brewed a smoking caldron, in which he mingled many opposite ingredients, of various kingdoms of nature, to make the mixture "slab and good."

from a wish to whitewash their characters in the eyes of this water-drinking generation?

"By Jove, Ingram," said Major Ferguson, knocking the ashes out of his pipe, "this is the most extraordinary ghost I ever heard of, and one that will take a bishop, at least, to lay him."

"In default of a bishop," suggested Lyndsay, "here is the doctor, who, as a university man, and one of a learned profession renowned for making ghosts, must serve us for want of a better man."

"I wish to Heaven, you would undertake it, then," said Ingram, who thought his friends rather inclined to make light of a serious matter.

"No death to you, my dear fellow," interposed the doctor, "you are not so easily killed, as the Yankees knew, when they saw you running up Bunker's Hill faster than they ran down it.

"I wish, then," resumed Ingram, "that you would bring your professional artillery to bear upon the villain who has stolen the orderly-book; and you may call in the aid of your natural ally, too, if you please."

"I should like to have the treatment of the case," said the doctor, thoughtfully. "I think that I could manage it."

"And I should like to have the qualifying him for your treatment, doctor," said Lyndsay. "I am quite sure that I could manage that."

"No doubt, no doubt," replied Holcombe, "any fool can break his head. It takes a wise man to mend it again."

"And what," retorted Lyndsay, alluding to an operation he would persist in considering unnecessary in consequence of a knock over the head at Lexington, "and what if in mending the hole he makes two?"

"He puts at rest forever," replied the doctor gravely, "the disputed question, whether or not the party had any brains. There were not much to be sure; but it can never be denied again that there were some."

"True to banter," said the graver Major Ferguson, "and let us see what can be done to help poor Ingram out of this scrape."

"With all my heart," resumed the doctor, "it seems to me that the thing to be done is to set a trap for the thief. But what the deuce shall we do for bait? Unless, indeed, the commander-in-chief would lend us his private papers for the purpose."

"He cannot be a vulgar thief," said Ferguson, "or he certainly would not have left your tankard and spoons behind him, Ingram."

"Not only the plate," said Ingram, "but my watch and purse lay full in his sight. So plunder could not have been his object."

"He is an extraordinary fellow, certainly," said the doctor, "and we must as certainly contrive to catch him, if it be only for the curiosity of the thing. What is your plan, Ferguson?"

"I can suggest nothing better," said the major, "than to keep a strict watch for a few nights, both within and without the building. For it seems to me our only chance to find him at his old tricks, or prowling about the premises; as we have no idea of where else to look for him."

"I can see no other plan that we can follow," said Ingram.

"Nor I," said Lyndsay, "can you doctor?"

"We can try it, at any rate," returned the leech; "we shall probably have plenty of time, in the intervals of his visitations, to devise other schemes. I am ready for my share of the watch; that is, if Ingram's punch and tobacco are what they should be."

"You need have no fears on that point," answered he, "for John will brew you an Atlantic of punch, and pile you up a Chimborazo of tobacco, when

he knows that you have entered into an alliance, offensive and defensive, against the ghost."

"I am your man then," cried the doctor, finishing the punch, "and I will bet you a supper at the Green Dragon that I am the first man to see the ghost."

"Done!" "Done!" "Done!!!"

And the session was adjourned.

After the conference at the quarters of Captain Lyndsay was broken up, our hero walked deliberately down Hanover street toward his own abode.

"This is the first time," said the doctor, setting down the bowl, from which he had been in a most unprofessional manner, engaged in swallowing his own prescription; "this is the first time, in my life, that I was ever taken for a conjurer. But, as Ferguson justly remarks, as this is a case calling for the piety of bishops, I am certainly the only man in the company fit for the adventure."

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brilliant object before him was quite too much for any dimly remembered warnings of his distant family against American beauties, or for the fresher hints of his friendly commander, to keep him from flying at last into the flame.

I can't tell you how it was, my dear reader, but somehow or other, in less time than I have been writing these three lines, Ingram was by the side of Helen, his left arm encircling her slender waist, their right hands clinging together, and her sweet head gently drooped upon his shoulder.

But this silence, though deep and delicious, could not last forever. Alas! that it could not. Murmuring words soon displaced it, and the faith of two true young hearts was pledged to each other forever.

As soon as their young joy had subsided into a sort of tumultuous calmness, how they sat, with their hands looked together, talking over their love and their hopes!

Let sage or cynic prattle as he will, These hours, and only these, redeem life's years of ill."

Helen's doubts as to her reception into the family of her lover, were eagerly driven away by his earnest assurances of a cordial welcome.

But such interviews, though they live forever, must come to an end in time and space. The time came when the pledged lovers were to part for the first time since they had exchanged their sacred vows.

The necessities of the body often afford a healthful distraction to thoughts too highly strung to sensations of joy or sorrow. The body is a "homely nurse," but it is a faithful one. If it be not maltreated, and does its best to guard and help the immortal child that is entrusted to it, to be carried in its arms during its days of infancy.