

A MODERN MARTHA

BY MATE MATLAND.

CHAPTER VII.

Martha Potter had read and studied about the victims of poverty and wondered what she, with her aunt's fortune at her disposal, could do to alleviate their discomforts.

Just before leaving her home she knelt and very devoutly and earnestly asked God's help in the work she had undertaken and to give her an unbiased opinion of the true cause and the remedy for the trouble.

As the train sped on so fast she tried to scrutinize the men and women in the districts through which she was passing. She could only discern a bent form here wearing shabby clothes, driving an aged horse in an antiquated buggy, a stalwart form there whose resolute face showed traces of ceaseless conflict with debts and mortgages; while there were women whose looks plainly indicated that if they were not worried over the strife to keep hunger and want from the little children that were about them, and clinging to them, there must be some other enemy, real or fancied, for them to battle.

Martha went over to her and took hold of her hand and commenced talking very kindly to her. She said that her name was Bessie Kerns. And when Martha asked her what could be her object in doing such a dreadful thing, it seemed to Miss Hunter and Martha that she told her story very simply and truthfully.

"I was so discouraged," she said. "My sister, who is several years my senior, and I came here with a small sum of money at the time of the World's Fair. We invested it in a small restaurant. We did fairly well at first, and then there was a falling off in our receipts; until finally we had a chance to dispose of the restaurant and most of the attachments. We paid our debts and started a small lunch counter; but this venture proved unsuccessful, too. We made another sale, and after we had paid the debts which we had contracted the second time there was nothing left. Sister Sarah said that she was going to sell her watch that father and mother had given her before they died and buy a ticket to Indianapolis, which had always been our home until we came to Chicago. I told her that she could do so if she desired; but I was not going to part with my watch and go back among our acquaintances without a penny. I was sure I could earn some money here. I tried to secure employment in first one occupation and then another, and finally I noticed an advertisement for help by a lady living upon 19th street. But when I found the place she offered one dollar per week. I was so discouraged, I had walked a great distance and I had been eating very light meals. I think I must have been crazy after I left 19th street. My head felt as though it was going to burst, and I had such a strange pain at my heart. So many whom I met seemed to have friends, or money, or both. I had neither. The only ones that seemed to prefer any assistance offered it under such conditions that I could not accept it. The vast city, with its hurrying, edifying crowd seemed to be a perfect maelstrom which, if I did not get out of it, would bear me on to moral and physical ruin. Then I seemed to avoid the people whom I met and wandered to the lake shore, where everything seemed so quiet. At first the lapping waves seemed to sing a sweet, peaceful song, and afterwards they seemed to try to embrace me, as mother used to do when she took me in her arms and explained away some childish grievance; and then some one pulled me back from the lake and I came into the depot. And when I heard the sound of the approaching train on the rails I seemed to have had the same impulse as before of getting out of this friendless world into some other place. It didn't occur to me then as it does now that it was a weak and wicked way to meet despair."

"Poor girl," said Martha, as Bessie finished telling her story. "I will be your friend," and turning to Miss Hunter she said: "Can't she stay at your house until I go home?" Miss Hunter willingly gave her consent, and then added: "I verily believe, Martha, that you would have your house turned into an orphan asylum if you lived in Chicago."

Bessie asked Miss Hunter for some work to do as soon as she reached the house, and proved herself not only willing but efficient help in almost anything that she undertook to do. Martha decided that it was not because she was not competent, industrious, willing or intelligent that she had failed to secure work.

In the morning Martha Potter, under the guidance of Miss Hunter and Felix Paul, who was a young divinity student and a nephew of Miss Hunter's, started out to see the dark side of life in Chicago. After many changes from the horse cars to electric cars, thence to cable cars, and then came the jostling in the surging crowd; and after that they took long trips through devious alleys. They at last came to the tenement house which Felix seemed desirous of first showing Martha. She was partly prepared for the sights which it disclosed from the people whom she had met in the alleys. The densely crowded tenement with its filthy, rickety stairs; the babies of all ages and sizes and in various degrees of filth and rags, seemed almost incomprehensible to Martha. She thought, as she looked at the saucy, profane, hungry and stunted little mortals, that their old faces and experienced heads should have been upon the shoulders of men and women who had at least contended for forty years in the hard and uneven struggle with the world for something to eat and to wear.

One of the first rooms which they entered was neat, but was very scantily furnished. Upon a hard bed in one corner of the room lay a beautiful fair-haired girl of sixteen or seventeen years, whom Felix and Miss Hunter called Alice. She greeted them pleasantly and told them that she would soon go to live with the King; and that only last night she dreamed that she was there and that a whole group of dear, beloved friends in white angel robes came to greet her, and the beautiful angel, Death, as they glided over the shining waters in a golden boat to the bright shores of the Everlasting City.

"I used to think Death must be an angel with a cruel, stern countenance," said she, "but he had the kindest and sweetest face that one could imagine, and his voice was so gentle when he told me to sit quietly in the boat, and that we would soon come to the place where all was peace, joy, gladness, and love. It will be so beautiful," said she, and then added with a deep sigh and a sad look upon her angelic face, "I only wish I could take mother with me instead of leaving her to toil on through the fierce winter's cold and the summer's intense heat."

Little was said in this room, but they knelt down at a signal from Felix who sent up such a glad thanksgiving for the unbounded faith and sweet hope as is seldom granted to mortal's power to express. Miss Hunter left some substantial gifts for the mother and some fruit for Alice, and as they silently left the lovely, patient sufferer, Martha Potter thought that she almost caught a glimpse of heaven from that humble room.

They entered another room on the same floor in which they found two little children, aged perhaps eight and ten years, that had preceded Alice to the heavenly home. There were a sick woman and a baby of two years lying upon the bed. A member from one of the ladies' aid societies was moving quietly about, administering to their wants. She said that the sick woman's name was Mrs. Harrison, and that she had given her children laudanum yesterday and had taken some herself.

"You can talk to her yourself," she told Martha, "I think she is strong enough to talk now."

"How could I do such a thing, lady? I think you had better ask how could I see my children starve? I went to the women's serving room to procure employment and every chair was occupied. I went to the county agent's office to get bread, but there were so many there before me that I had to come away without any. I begged, but was refused and told to go to work; and then when I asked them for work they gave me none. Finally I could have had a place in a saloon restaurant as a waiting maid, but I didn't want my children to ever think I had sunk to such depths that I had degraded them. Besides I know that I couldn't endure the coarse, insinuating talk of those that would be about me. I went home utterly hopeless, as many another one has done. Little Nellie looked up so pitifully when I came without bread and said: "Oh, mamma, I am sure Jesus has something to eat. Let us die and go to Him. Don't you know the lady told us that He said: "Suffer little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God? And then the thought came. I was almost crazed with grief. Have you any dear, innocent loving children, lady? Well, then, you can't know how hard it was to see the children growing weak from insufficient food and sometimes from actual hunger, and trying to bear it so bravely. If only I had some laudanum, I thought I could end my miserable existence and the little precious darlings could go to Jesus. He would take care of them. I had failed. Then the thought came to me that I could cut my hair and sell it to procure the laudanum. It didn't take long to carry out the plan. I told the children that I would give them something that they would put them to sleep and that they would awake in heaven with Jesus. They kissed them all again and again, and gave it to them. One of my neighbors came in just as I was taking the last swallow and, suspecting something wrong, called a physician in time to prevent baby and me from leaving this cold, unfeeling world. I know that I am not fit to die; but it doesn't seem that I am fit to live either. Jesus seems to be so far away here in Chicago, but away out in the Vermont home He seemed so near. I haven't any friends left and I wanted to die. What would you have done if you had been situated as I was? Don't blame me too much," said she, as she looked at Martha while the tears ran down her cheeks and hollow cheeks.

"If my husband had lived," continued she, "I can't help but think all would have been different, although there are hosts of men out of employment here."

When they started for Miss Hunter's home, Martha was not only sick at heart, but was convinced that there were sufferings, sorrows and anguish the depths of which the printed page could not mirror. [TO BE CONTINUED.]

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"Friends, Romans, Countrymen!"

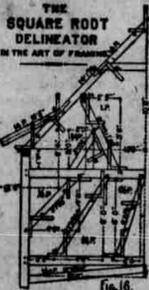
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The publishers of this paper have made arrangements for their sale, and will send them postpaid to any address upon receipt of \$3.00. No farmer or carpenter can afford to be without one. Address, Wealth Makers Publishing Co., Lincoln, Neb.

THE MARKETS.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Dec. 24.—WHEAT—Car lots by sample on track at Kansas City at the close sold as follows: No. 3 hard, 82 1/2c; No. 3 hard, 80c; No. 4 hard, 78c; No. 3 red, 76c; No. 3 red, 74c; No. 3 red, 72c; No. 3 red, 70c; No. 3 white, 68c; No. 3 white, 66c; No. 3 white, 64c; No. 3 white, 62c; No. 3 white, 60c; No. 3 white, 58c; No. 3 white, 56c; No. 3 white, 54c; No. 3 white, 52c; No. 3 white, 50c; No. 3 white, 48c; No. 3 white, 46c; No. 3 white, 44c; No. 3 white, 42c; No. 3 white, 40c; No. 3 white, 38c; No. 3 white, 36c; No. 3 white, 34c; No. 3 white, 32c; No. 3 white, 30c; No. 3 white, 28c; No. 3 white, 26c; No. 3 white, 24c; No. 3 white, 22c; No. 3 white, 20c; No. 3 white, 18c; No. 3 white, 16c; No. 3 white, 14c; No. 3 white, 12c; No. 3 white, 10c; No. 3 white, 8c; No. 3 white, 6c; No. 3 white, 4c; No. 3 white, 2c; No. 3 white, 0c.

Table with columns: Dec 22, Op'd, High, Low, Dec 21, Dec 20. Rows include WHEAT, CORN, OATS, PORK, LARD, S. RIBS.

Live Stock. KANSAS CITY, Mo., Dec. 24.—Cattle—Receipts, 2,333 calves, 41; shipped yesterday, 4,230 calves, 118. The market was fairly active and unchanged; stockers dull. Hogs—Receipts, 5,347, shipped yesterday, 191. The market was steady for good hogs and weak, closing lower on common hogs. The top was \$4.40, and the bulk of sales were \$4.05 to \$4.30, against \$4.45 for top and \$4.15 to \$4.35 for bulk yesterday. Sheep—Receipts, 121, shipped yesterday, 103. The feeling in the market was better for good sheep commoner very dull. The following are representative sales: No. 1, Wt. Price No. 1, Wt. Price 18 lambs... 123 3 00 88 W. S&L... 75 2 15 22 ewes... 88 1 50 35 ewes... 82 2 10

Visit the Folks For the Holiday season the Union Pacific will sell tickets from points on the system on December 24th, 25th and 31st, 1894, and January 1st, 1895, at greatly reduced rates. For full information call on Union Pacific Agent, 1044 O St., or Depot Fifth and O St.

320

320 acres of first class land for sale; all under irrigation ditch. 175 acres in cultivation. Price \$17 per acre. 1 1/2 miles from Champion, Neb. For further particulars address, M. Cook, Champion, Neb.

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If you use tobacco sit right down and enclose us in a letter ten cents in money or stamps and you will receive by return mail a free sample of Fine Leaf Tobacco of my own raising, with my low prices, and you will save money. I am a radical Southern People's Party man. My time, money, voice and pen have all been spent to promote this, the grandest, noblest and holiest cause since American patriots, inspired by the loss of liberty, unfurled the banner of freedom and struck for independence at Lexington, at Concord, and Bunker Hill. Address, WM. L. PARKS, Port Royal, Tenn.

SHIP Your Butter, Eggs, Poultry, Feed, Beans, Potatoes, Hides, Pelts, Wool, Hay, Grain, Green and Dried Fruits, or ANYTHING YOU MAY HAVE to us. Quick sales at the highest market price and prompt returns made. Write for prices or any information you may want. SUMMERS, MORRISON & CO., Commission Merchants, 174 South Water St., Chicago, Ill. Successors—Metropolitan National Bank, Chicago.

Given Away! If more good points can not be shown in than any other hay press made. Martin & Morrissey M'g Co., Omaha, Neb.

METAL WHEELS for your WAGONS. Any size you want, 20 to 60 in. high. These 1 to 8 in. wide—hubs to fit any axle. Saves Cost many times in a season to have set of low wheels to fit your wagon for hauling grain, fodder, manure, hay, etc. No rusting of tires. Call for free Address. KEMPFE MFG. CO., Quincy, Ill.

THE KEYSTONE Denorming Clipper. The most humane, rapid and durable knife made. Fully warranted. A. C. BROSIUS, Cochranville, Pennsylvania.

NEW 66 CATALOGUE AND GUIDE to Poultry Raisers for 1895. Contains over 100 fine illustrations showing a photo of the largest henery in the west. Gives best plans for poultry houses, also recipes and recipes for all diseases also valuable information on the kitchen and flower garden sent for only 10 cents. John S. Bunker, P. O. Box 7, Freeport, Ill.

THROW AWAY YOUR CURRY COMB AND BRUSH AND BUY BURLINGTON "Stay-On" Stable Blanket. Your horse is always clean, that keeps the hair smooth and glossy. No strapping required. No tight girths. No sore backs. No chafing of mane. No rubbing of tail. No horse can wear them under his coat. BURLINGTON STAY-ON over all imitations and old style blankets, send only one blanket to any address, express paid on receipt of price. Burlington Blanket Co., - Burlington, Wis.

SHIP YOUR Furs, Hides, Pelts, Wool, Etc. TO JAS. McMILLAN & CO., Incorporated. 200-212 First Avenue North, MINNEAPOLIS, MINN. Goods bought right out, no commission charged. Shipping tags furnished free upon request. Ship Furs by Express, other goods by Fair selection; immediate returns. Write for Circular giving Latest Market Prices.

Take Notice! We desire to warn all parties against one J. H. Whitmore, who has been going around the country claiming to represent the Farmers Mutual Insurance Company of Nebraska. He is a fraud, and never has and does not now have any authority to represent this company, nor is he allowed to ride with any of our agents. All parties are cautioned against doing business with us, through him. FARMERS MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF NEBRASKA. W. B. LINCH, Sec'y.

START SINGING CLUBS NOW The following sample notices given Armageddon show how it is appreciated: ARMAGEDDON, or the final battle between the wealth-makers and the wealth-takers. This is a splendid collection of stirring and patriotic songs with music. It contains 140 pages and over 60 songs set to music besides a dozen not set. A number of these same songs have been sold by us at 20 cents each. These songs are George Howard Gibson's best. Price, post paid 35 cents, or \$3.60 a dozen.—American Nonconformist. ARMAGEDDON is the name of a new song book published by "The Wealth Makers Publishing Company," of Lincoln, Neb., at 35 cents a copy. Armageddon is by far the best book of its kind it has ever been our pleasure to examine. The book contains 70 songs, 57 of which are set to music, and every one is a gem. There is no chaff in the whole book. The songs are strong and ably written, while the music is of the very best. George Howard Gibson, editor of The Wealth Makers, is the author. His name is never attached to any second class literary production. There is ever an elevated tone to his writings. His newspaper is one of the very best reform papers in existence and Armageddon is, we think, decidedly the best book of songs any Alliance or labor organization can possibly find.—The Sledge Hammer, Meadville Pa.

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GET A HOME IN LINCOLN! A CHOICE RESIDENCE three miles from postoffice for sale. It is just outside the city limits of Lincoln, in the shadow of two colleges, between them and the city; two blocks from street car line, and in splendid neighborhood which enjoys all the luxuries of a city without its taxes, noise and dust. It is a good garden, new house, barn, windmill, best well of water, with water connections in bath room and kitchen. A complete system of irrigation. Fifty cherry, twenty-five apple and other fruit trees, also 10,000 strawberry plants, planted in 1894, enough native firewood for cooking stove. Here is the prettiest and most valuable holding in real estate about the Capitol. If you desire to invest where large returns cannot fail to come your way, investigate this offer. The colleges afford an excellent market for garden, poultry or dairy products. The owner wants to sell and change occupation. No mortgages. If you want this offer address, J. H. DOBSON, 1120 M St., Lincoln, Neb.

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