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TOWANDA:

Sainrdan Morning, June 8, 1858.

(For the Bradford Reporter.)

THE STREAM .--- A SONG. In a forest wild and deep. Undisturbed by man, Where the silent shadows sleep,

And a breeze of balm Gently floats among the trees-Where the golden beam Glances thro' the parted leaves, Chiles a silver stream.

Often by this gentle rill, When the day had flown, In the twilight cam and still, Wandered I alone; As I watched its mimic play In the dancing gleams, Fancies wild would float away In elysian dreams.

On its margin sweetly grew Sky-blue vi'lets fair: Seemingly they shrank from view; With a modest care.
But I sought them 'heath the shade, Dwelling there so low;
Like the modest gentle maid,
I am seeking now.

Merrily those bours flew O'er my youthful head; Aught of sorrow if I knew, Shadow-like it fled. And when airy fancy floats That is still the brightest spot In fond Memory's waste. Herrick, Pa., May 1850.

THE \$250 NEW YEARS PRESENT.

BY MRS CAROLINE A. SOULE.

"That is he," exclaimed Ellen Lee in a joyous tone, as the street door was gently opened and

[From the Hartford Times.]

"How glad I am he has come at last; I thought it would never be two o'clock;" and rising hastily, she shook an apron full of gorgeous worsted upon the carpet tossed her thimble in the midst of them, and was down stairs ere he whom she had been impatiently expecting, had laid aside his over-

"Oh, father! father!" cried she, grasping the hand of a fine looking man and gazing earnestly at him, "I am so glad you've come! Do you know I have been watching at the window a whole hour for you? Pray, why did you stay so

"So long, Eilen! why it's not late; the clock is lea.

"Well, it has seemed an age since noon." "Two hours, an age! oh, the extravagance of

these girls!' and the parent, half reprovingly, half. jestingly, placed his fingers upon her lips. "Now don't, father, pray don't use that word.-

You know two hours do seem a long while, when one is waiting for them to pass. So now lay aside that frown for it was only because I wanted to see you so much, so very much that the hours dragged

"But why want to see me so very much ?" answered he, in a bantering tone, as he suffered her to lead him into the parlor and seat him in his easy chair; " not, I hope, to get my consent to giving away this life ----'

"Now, father, don't tease; you know I am never going to leave you."

Again were the imgers placed upon her lips. "Just now, an age meant two hours; and now never is synonymous with a year, and perhaps less If love and business can agree. Oh, Elly! Elly! I must chide you sometimes. But tell me, why lars? have you been so anxiously awaiting me?"

Then the daughter, nestling at his feet on a low stool, and resting her head on his knee, as she was wont to do when a little child, looked wistfully inthis face, parted her lips as to speak, and then fined aside her countenance as though she were half afraid to utter her wishes.

"You're strangely timid, Ellen. What is it you want so very much, and yet dare not ask me for? Come, let me hear it quickly; for, if my appeare deceive me not, the dinner bell will ring ere long. I never refuse you anything reasonable, do 132

"Oh, no no; and that " she hesitated. "Then you want comething unreasonable, do

you! another silk dress, ere the last has been worn a half duzen times; or ---" "A new dress!" and the lip curled. "No, indeed. But, father," said she, gazing into his eyes

as though going to express some startling fact, "do you know it is almost New Year's ?"

He laughed aloud. "Do I know it? Why, yes, I should think fid; at least F ought to; I have received billets

enough to that import, this morning." "Billets! father: what kind, pray?" "Those that must be answered by bank notes

Elly. But tell me, did you watch an hour at the window for me, and fret another away, merely to tell me it is almost New Year?"

"Oh, no; that is only the preface to my tale and I want to ask you yet another obestion, before I begin the proposition. Which is the wealthiest you or Mr. Grey ?"

" What are you trying to come at Ellen ?"

a Don't you think you are as rich as he?" "Why yes, I guess I am. But why ask me such a question? You and Julia have not been quarreling about your probable dowries T'

" Inlia and Fonarreling-why, father !- but you jed. Pilitell son now, why l'sa wanted to see you so much. Mr. Grex returned last evening from Boston, and he has brought Julia an elegant gold watch alid chain. But she is not lowear them yel, as he intended them for a New Year's present and she only told me of it, because she wanted me to have one just like it, as we have siways dressed very nearly alike

guess the remainder of your story. It is only this | would make you feel unpleasantly, to show to ling it would have been much better to have re- she wished yet did not dure, to speak; then falteryou want your dear father to be as generous as Mr. | your friends a gift valued at two hundred and fifty | celved a free-will offering, than what she feared he | ed outted her flushed cheeks. "But let me see, are you you thought of this Elly? you are not wont to be mean present, and had even said to her that he old enough to wear a watch?"

"Old enough!" repeated the young girl, in a tone of surprise; and rising, she draw up her graceful form to its extreme height. "Why, father, I was eighteen last month; why, I shall soon

"Old as the hills, shan't you, Ellen?" said the good-natured parent. "But come, there is the bell; we will talk of this at dinner."

At the table, Mrs. Lee had so much to say to her husband, about some preparations for the approaching holidays, that Ellen could not, without obtruding, speak a word of the costly gift, and could only wish, in secret, that the visuds were despatched and she again at her father's reet. But, alas for her! just as they were entering the parlor, he was portant business."

"Business-hosiness-how I hate the word!" muttered Eilen, as she proceeded to her chamber. "It's always business with men, just when their wives and daughters want them most. I wish," but she checked herself, good sense whispering to her, if it were not for that business, what would become of those wives and daughters? "Bot, after all," said she to herself, when she had again found her thimble, and commenced re-arranging her worsted, "it was provoking that he should be called away so soon, when it will be so long before he will be in again. Let me see what time it is;" and she glanced at the clock on the mantel; half past three; four, five, six, seven-three hours and a half Father may laugh or frown, they will certainly seem an age."

It it did not seem an age, it really did a very ong afternoon to that excited and impatient young creature.

"I do believe my clock is wrong; indeed I know t must be too slow," exclaimed shey as it struck five; " I will go down and see."

But it was only five by the clock in the parlor: and the others told the same story.

"What shall I do to pass away the time! I am almost ashamed of my-elf for being so childish, but I cannot help it; I do so want to know whether I am to have them or not. I cannot bear this suspense. Oh, I bethink me now," and her face brightened; "I will run" over to Julia's and look at her's again; I can then tell father all about it." Once closefed with her friend, she forgot the hours, and was only aware they had passed, by the entrance of a domestic, summoning them to

"Stop with me, won't you!" said Julia.

"Oh, no, not for the world !- pardon me. I wa rude in word only; I did not mean so. No I must see father to-night about it. Good bye;" and she did not draw a long breath till she found herself beside her parent.

"Why, what is the matter?" said he, in surprise, are you frightened Ella? You cant like a chased

It was some moments ere she could answer, and then, with blushes and broken sentences, she told him she had harried to talk with him about that gold watch and chain.

"You will give them to me for a New Year's present, won't you, father? Now don't-playfully covering his month as he was about to speak-"don't this time have a long string of prelimina; ties. Say yes, at once."

He shook his head. "Well, then, begin. What is the first thing to be considered ?"

"How much will it cost Ellen; a hundred dol-"A hundred dollars, father? Why, you don't

suppose you could buy a handsome watch and chain for a hundred dollars! Why, Julia's cost two handred and fifty."

"Two hundred and fifty! Bless me; that is twice as much as I had laid aside to purchase New Year's presents for all of you. I think you are growing modest. Ellen. What is the style of Julia's present?"

"Oh, it is beautiful-exquisitely so:" and then she went on with a long and minute account of it. concluding with..." Mr. Grey says he don't think day, a less expensive present than hers." there is one in the city like it, and there was only one more just like it where he purchased Julia's; so, father, I want you to decide soon about it; so that we can send for it, if we cannot find one len. But we have moralized long enough here:

here." "Yes, yes," answered the father, musingly; "bo Ellen, if Fgive you the watch and chain, I shall very soon have to give you a new breast-pin, and some new bracelets, for, as the man said in the his head, and whispered something to har; when story, the watch and chain will kill them."

"On, no, indeed. I would not exchange these for any in the town. They are as beautilul as I shall ever wear."

" But of what use will this present be?" "What use? Why, father, a great deal more thought I should like a watch; for the very reason wishes.

that it combines utility with ornament." "Utility! yes, it will be very useful to you, as we have only five clocks in the house."

"But when I am out, father" "Were you deaf, its mility might come in play then; but as it is, the town clocks acquaint us of the hours. And then, if it is only for the utility of ber, and laid her head upon her pillow. But as the thing you desire it, why, you can have a good her heart prepared to commune with holy things,

"A silver watch on a young lady in these days! why, father, how it would look !"

ALouk; sh. ves. I suspect look has a little more to do in the case than utility and see here. Ellen, if Lgive you this watch for a New Years present, I ought, in justice, to purchase for your mother those elegant silver propers hick this base much sine chiefly from the mortification of being out admired, and buy Harry the pony he has covered done by a companion. Shir began to wonder, too

eelfish."

"But, father, you are rich enough to buy the should give me a watch, and chain. If I thought you could only gratify my wishes at the expense of mother and brothers, I should despise myself for asking it of you. But I know you need not do so: so come, be a generous Santa Claus this time." "Is there nothing else you can think of, for a

New Year's gift ?" "No if I can't have these I don't want sorthing. said she rather pettishly.

"Two hundred and fifty dollars will buy a great many things; a good many barrels of floor and cords of wood-

"Why, father, you talk as though you were poor. summoned in haste to his counting room, "on im- You don't expect we'll have to use any the less pread or fael the coming year, if I have a watch?" "Oh, no; I was not thinking of ourselves, Ellen, I had the poor upon my mind. Such a sum would be a fortune to many a family in this city -How many, many comforts it would produce how

much sorrow and suffering it would relieve." The young girl bent her head, and was silent -There was a struggle going on in her heart; pride and pity were at war. Which shall conquer? Upon the lapse of some moments, she spoke; But, father, were you to give to the poor not only the money which I ask you to expend for me, but i even the value of the pitchers, pony and bird, it govery among the jewelry store of the town, inwould go unite a very little way towards relieving poverty, even in our own city. The mass would dancing a polka with the wildness of a northern

be as poorly off as ever." "That may be; but the reflection that I had nade two or three, or even one family, comfortable, and glad would add not a little to the pleasant memories, to the substantial happiness of my

every one who is blessed as we are, were to do the same, there would soon be but little misery but a little. Atoms make the world." There was silence.

When Ellen spoke it was in a subdued voice I wish I had not set my heart so man having trembled.

hem." "Oh no, not quite so bad as that father;" and

much disappointed." "And you really think the possession of the

"Oh, yes, a thousand"-she paused, funcying she felt the fingers on her lips.

"But why would they make you so much happier, Ellen, come, tell me that, and mayhap, if my purse is long enough, you can show as splendid a gift as Julia."

"Why-why-you see-you know, father," began the daughter; and then she stopped. "I hardly know why," said she, at length, "but I feel that they would

"Well, if you cannot tell me why you would be happier with them, perhaps you can tell me why you would be sail without them. Would you have thought of such a present, if Julia had not received one?"

She did not answer. "Come, now, be frank. Would not the greater part of your sorrow arise from the fear that Julia | quite at ease. "Draw a chair to the fire, it is very | ing down her cheek. At length, murmoring at inwould eclipse you! And would not the pleasure arise more from a feeling of gratified vanity than

anything else ?" Still she made no reply; she did not even look into his face. She il ought there must be a frown upon his brow; for she knew that few things were more despicable in his eyes, than the desires of making a show, or having certain things merely

because others did. "Am I not right, daughter?" said he, very gently. "You would not like to have lolks wonder why Ellen Lee's father did not make her as costly a present as Mr. Grey did Julia. You would no like to show your young beaux, on New Year's

"Do not go on, pray don't: I see I am verv

foblish-almost wicked; but I am so young.32 "Young! I thought you were old just now, El-I'll warrant the tea is stone cold. A word in your ear, for I see mother is watching us very closely, to see how our talk terminates; not, I suspect, without some selfish thought." He bent forward he again continued, audibly, "and now, daughter.

for a kiss and our tea." "A dozen, a dozen kirses, father!" cried the young creature in a tone of exstacy, ball smother ing him with passionate embraces; forgetting all the significant reproofs she had just received in the use than my pin and bracelets. Indeed, I always excitement begouen by the hope of soon gratified

> "Oh, I am so happy, so very happy;" and she sank upon a sofa, buried her head in its cushions, and dreamed away the evening hours in golden fancies, seeming-even her tather said so-to be imbood with the very spirit of happiness.

The illusion lasted till she had sought her chart. she realized that it was excitement, not happiness. which thilled her. Size could not conceal from so long; and George that mocking bird in the gill. What her father would have given her to a present "You needn't continue, Ellen. I can easily cage. It would look partial in me, and I am sure I whe heal not lessed him for his one sectiowing

Grey and give you a waich and chain for the New dollars, while your mother and brothers could only | would not give against his judgment. He was al. Year. Is it not so, daughter P and he playfully pat- exhibit those which cost five or ten dollars. Have ways generous to his family, never gave them a had appropriated over a hundred dollars for their New Years gifts. & "But how, -why, how much pitchers, poney, bird and all, even though you these holidays will cost him." said she; and began to calculate; but ceased when she had added the as these. But I have some very nice soup, which price of the watch and pitchers, and mused again. But then, he's rich enough," murmured she after awhile, and, stiffing her conscience closed her eyes and tried to slumber. But the words of her father, "I was thinking of the poor," would recur. to her mind. She kflow him to be very charitable 4 ard she knew, also, that if he were rich, his position brought with it many and heavy expenses .-Besides, there was a limit to his wealth, for he was very far from being a millionaire. Perhaps if he made his family such expensive New Year gifts.

many poor families would suffer, who otherwise would have received aid from his purse.

She had a kind, noble heart, and though vanity might reign in it for a time, with calm thought its crown would ever tremble. It was long ere she slept that night; and when at length she did, gold watches, and ragged children; brilliant chains and paled-faced men and women, were blended in strange confusion

She seemed a different being the next morning when she entered the breakfast room, so quiet and subdued was she in manner. When her tather remarked, as she rose from the table, that he should be at her disposal that evening for a voyage of disstead of half devouring him with kisses, and then maid, she answered only with a gentle smile and a "thank you, father" The change was not un observed by him, though he made no comment. Some three or four hours later, as Effen stood at the parlor window, she noticed a young girl pass

life. And then, though it would be but a mite, if by several times, pause a half moment and go on. She was evidently a child of poverty, and it seemed even of extreme destitution. Her patched calileft. Never refuse to do good, because you can do co dress and the cotton shawl, were but feeble protection against the keen air, while the snow had completely scaked her fir worn slippers. Her you some coarser sewing, which you need not harhands were purple and stiff, and as the wind swept ry with " to work form cowered and trembled be. "But, ma'am, you don't mean to pay me all this by her, her fragile form cowered and trembled besatch and chain, but it seems "-and her lips fore its cold breath. At length she placed a foot for one shirt?" rembled.

"As though it would break if you did not have seemingly irresolute, at last turned away. Ellen caught a glimpse of her countenance as she stood there, and was deeply moved by it, so thin, and she tried to smile; "but I should feel very, very pale, and sad it was, bearing traces, too, of recent

"I hope she will stop here," mur nured Ellen : ralf a mind to-open the door and speak with her," but as she turned from the window for that purpose. he young girl, apparently with a great effort, asconded the steps and pulled the bell. It was a tion." very gentle ring, and Ellen waited the time of no ibmestic, but answered it berself at once

"Is Mrs. Lee at home?" asked the stranger, in low, timid voice.

F She is; would you like to see her?" answered Ellen, in her sweet, pleasant way. I should very much indeed, it it would not dis-

turb her." I don't think she is engaged. Come with up spairs and I will see." And conducting her to you!" and she departed. the sitting room, she ushered her in, saying very gently, " a stranger, to see you, mother.

"Good morning," said Mrs. Lee, in a tone so condial as to make the poor trembling thing feel

Mr. Les directed me here, ma'am. He met melat a moment when I was in meat distress, and was kind enough to say I might call upon his wife, and perhaps she might furnish me with work -And oh, if you can, ma'am," her tears starting, "I shall be very grateful,"

She does not beg, said Elien to herself; no but with tears asks only for something to do. Poor tea, that he might go out with Ellen thing, so young, not yet as old as I, and amid strangerseeking for work. Beautiful charities began

germinate in her moved heart. What kind of work do you like ?"

Any plain sewing ma'am. I am used to all inds, and perhaps could make a vest, it it were not too nice. I had almost learned when mother

rak taken sick." Then you have a mother?"

Yes, ma'am; but she has been very aick, and alraid"-her voice was choaked. What has been the matter?" inquired the lady

very gently after a pause of some moments. Over exertion, ma'am. Since father lost his eight we have had to struggle very hard to live; for the oldest of six. It has been all we could do, half warm and halt fed; and when little Willie was taken down with the measles, we had to spend so delibrately as possible, if I could render her any as- loo deeply for words." much time with him that we got behind handwith sistance. "Oh, sir," said she, in a touching tone, our fient, and mother worked night and day for a fortnight, and it was too much for her; she almost died and I am afmid will never get well again." but I gathered that she was the sole stay of a large

"But you think her better?" "Aes, better, ma'am but she will never get well. till the has comforts which we cannot provide her, Oh, If you only will give me work! Life is sail ed herfiere; and I am glad I did so, for I know now); but should mother die"-and she wrang her thir cold hands, and went.

Mrs. Lee and daughter were unable longer to restrain their deeply touched feelings. There was something in the expression of her countenance. and in the tones of her voice, that made them feel cliain, not half so much as a gift to be treasured in of a stricken heart. The entrance of a domestic. gratify a feeling of vanity; and she felt the sormise and calming her feelings, she poured a cap of tea, was too true, that the pain of disappointment would | and filling a plate with cold paury, placed them bethough she were an old friend, to partake with was as yet but a temporary great; that, evil spirit length, energing from that lowly home, they many them.

It was it was, it would soon be east out by the angel of themsolves again in the fifthy street, which series She glanced at the delicacies, bleshed as though

"If you would not think me very rude. I would ask if I may take them to my mother; she needs them more than I." "Oh no, no," answered Mrs. Lee, smilingly: I

should lose forever my reputation as a skillful nurse; were I to allow a sick woman to eat such things I procured this morning for an invalid friend. I shall be happy to send her some of that; it is very innocent and strengthening."

"Thank you?" quickly responded the girl; "

shall be very grateful." " I will get it for you then; meanwhile, eat you lunch : it will perhaps refresh you—you seem very tired. Ellen I want you a moment;" when, with delicate tact, she left the timid girl to partake of the dainties, without the embarramment of eating

before strangers. "Oh, mother, mother," Ellen sobbed out, when they were alone, "do give her something. How wish I had not spent all last quarter's allowance. If you will only lend me some money, mother."

"No, Ellen; you know that is something I never do. If my children wish to give, it must come

"But you won't send her away without anything, mother 31 "Certainly not. What she asked for I shall give

from their private purse.

her, and such other things as I can present without paining her. She did not beg, and were I only to give her some money and let her go, her self respect would be humbled." "Ever kind and considerate. When shall I be

like you!" After giving their young visitor time to get thor-

oughly warmed and to eat a comfonable meal, they returned to the room, Mrs Lee bearing a bundle and basket, and Ellen a pair of lined rubbers. "He e is a fine shirt, which I want very much

this week; do you think you can do it?" "I think I can; and I will try to sew it as neaty as you can wish;" answered the young girl, modestly. "I will pay you in advance for this one," said

said the lady, placing a dollar and a half in the

small, thin hand; "and this sevening I will send

"I do. I know it is more than the usual price, but I am very particular, indeed quite old maidish about my sewing, and I know that one cannot aftord to do work neathy unless properly compensate ed. It is my usual price. And here," continued she, as she saw how earnestly the girl strove to thank her, " in this basket I have put up a small en stools, which the plane and the paint-brush had I think they will help her; indeed, I am sore they will; they are what I always recommend to persons recovering from illness caused by exhausta-

"I should be happy to lend my rubbers," said Ellen, as the stranger rose to go, too much overcome to speak the gratitude which glistened in her eyes. You can return them this evening, when the work is sent. I think you will find them very comfortable."

"It I could but find words to thank you both." aid she, at last, in a broken voice. "Oh, it is so new to have folks kind to me! God will bless

Domestic duties called Mrs. Lee at that momen o another part of the house, leaving Ellen to her own reflections. She sat a long time motionless, her hand upon her brow, a tear now and then stealtervals, " it is an opportunity-it would buy a great many things-perhaps this blindness might be cured-how very sad she was"-she left the room, and gaining herchamber, threw herself on a lounge, and suffered mind and heart to revel in sweet-day

dreams. Her tather did not return to dinner, but sent word he was too much engaged, and requested an early

Scarcely were they seated at the table when Mr. Lee remarked, "I sent a young girl here this morn ing, in quest of work. Have you seen her?" "We have," answered mother and daughter in

one voice. " where did you find her?" at was in one of the clothing stores, waiting see the proprietors when she came in. My hear ached for her as soon as I glanced at her, she was so ill projected against the cold. She drew near manner approached the counter, and in a plaintive voice, asked the clerk if they had any work to put out. "No, of course not to strangers," was the Hen extended, wet them with his tears, and with a reply, in a coarse impodent way; when he added with a leer, "not even to such a prefty one as you followed quickly, and overtaking her, inquired as pathy and kindness are so new to us, if ey move us "if you will but give me work." She was too much excited for me to learn much of her story, and afflicted family. I thought at first to give her alms and let her pass, but thinking female symnathy and advice might do her more service, I directtwo such kind hearts would devise many things a man would not think of. I think you said you saw

her Ellen ?7 the visit, in a manner which affected them all. She I upon earth as it does in heaven. knew but little of the sorrows of the poor: indeed. herself the truth that she had desired the watch and her tale was true, and her grief but the outpouring had never before been in such close contact with after years as coming from a father's hand, as to bearing a tray with luncheon, aroused the mother; have to entitive. Ref gentle heart was moved deeper than it had ever been before, and the pathos of may eat, and drink, and keep warm, though their her voice affected her father almost as much as her bodies starve and freeze ?" lore the weeping girl, invited , her as contailly as story. He telt that the vanity he had mourned over [CONTURED ON POCKETS PAGE]

love.

As they were preparing to go out, Mrs. Les entered with a bundle. "I intended sending this by a domestic, but as you are going in the same neighborhood, I should prefer your taking it: You can easily accertain then if the tale was true. You have the name and number, I think, Ellen !"

"Yes, she gave it to me at the door, as she was eaving. Do call, father."

"I will-but we must hasten?" They passed rapidly from square to square, giving only casual glances at the illuminated atore windows, where gifts of almost Oriental elexance dazzled the eye and tempted the purse, until they passed before the most brilliant of all a jeweler's

establishment." "We will first look in here. They have usually

the best and most costly assortment." Like gliding at once into fairy land, seemed it to Ellen as they entered; and like a fairy she seemed herself, as in her sparkling beauty she passed from one rich ornament to another, each new one seeming to outrie the last. "I am glad I knew before I entered, just what I wanted," said she. "I should have been bewildered, had I come here to choose a gift. It is really intoxicating to one's eyes to behold at once so much that is rare

and dazzling, and superb." But brilliant as was the display, and large as was the assortment, a watch and chain exactly corresponding to Julia's could not be found; and they continued their walk.

Turning up a cross street, a few steps brought hem to one of those dark, narrow lanes, which are at once the pest and disgrace of every city. "The sixth house from the corner, you said .-This must be it then"-as they stopped before a

gloomy looking wooden tenement. "In this cellar, was it?" "So she said;" and the young girl shaddered as they went down the rotten and yielding steps .-The street was so dark, the place so low, the neighborhood apparently so vile, that fear almost supplanted the feeling of charity. But her father seemed andismayed, and opening the door without knocking, they made their way through a long. narrow hall, to where, through a chink in the plastering, glimmered a feeble light. Feeling along the wall, he at length touched a door-latch, and gently tapping, was in a moment admitted by the

same young girl they had seen in the morning. In the kind way peculiar to him, Mr. Lee exchanged greetings with her, and said, that being out, he and his daughter nad brought her the sew-

ing his wife had promised. "Thank you, you are very, very kind," said she, and rather timidly invited them in, and offered them seats. Rude ones they were-old wood-

thought Ellen, as she glanced around. There was no filth, no disorder, but poverty-gaunt, threadbare poverty-stared at them with its hollow eves, and with skeleton fingers beckoned for charity.-The damp worm-eaten floor vielded fearfully at every footstep, while the crumbled ceiling seemed ready to fall at the least unusual jar. The winter wind shrieked dismally in the narrow hall, and found its way through a thousand crevices into the room-now coming with a fierceness that threatened to extinguish the dim light-and again making it flare so willly that the shadows seemed like a spectral host. Close to the fireside, were burned or rather smoked a single stick, was drawn a cot, upon whose straw layer reclined the pale and emaciated mother, covered only by one thin and tattered quilt. Beside her slumbered a little, meaure. purple child, some three or four years old. Upon a hear of straw, in a corner, at a little distance, slept two other children, an old worn woolen blanket wrapped closely around them. Upon a rickety chair, almost within the chimney place, sat the sightless father, soothing gently-as though he were a woman-the moans of a little one, which had known but two summers. A small pine table was near the bed, upon which stood an old bottle, the neck broken off, so as to support a chean tallow candle. Beside it, leaned a young lad, of about ten, his head bent closely to the pages of an old much worn book. A few plates, a single spoon, knife, cup and saucer, with a couple of tin pans, were arranged on the shelf over the fire-place; and

this was the summary of Ellen's inventory. "These, father and mother," said the daughter, are the kind friends to whom we are so much indebted." The mother strove to raise herself, but the store, stood a moment, then in a very timid fell back, and could only murmur in a faint voice, "God bless you-God bless you!" The blind father, as he took the hands which Mr. Lee and El-

choked roice, said-"These sightless eyes cannot see your faces, but are." The blood crimsoned her face, and her eves this poor, stricken heart will always keep your mehard as we would, to pay our rent and keep filled with tears; but she silently left the shop. I mories green. I would try to thank you, but sym-

Having gained the mastery of their emotions. Mr. Lee entered into conversation with the husband, and learned his history, while Ellen, by the bedside of the mother, listened to a whispered recital of her young daughter's devotion. Their story was sad, but trite; only one tone of that voice that goes wailing through the suburbs of every town; that voice, which, stealing up from damp cellars down from dusty garrets, out from gloomy alleys and dark courts-blends in a strain, which, low and plaintive at first, will swell and echo till the great soul of hu-"I did, father:" and then she gave an account of manify is moved to angel deeds-till love reigneth

"We have parted with all the comforts we ever had " said the father to his visitors, as he concludthem-never realized so vividly how much they sed his brief tale; "all, all save that old book, my mother's Bible. Thank God! poor men's epirits

Closely did Ellen ding to her father series as at